For Immediate Release

July 8, 2015

HBO SPORTS CELEBRATES THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF A PIVOTAL EVENT IN AMERICAN WOMEN’S SOCCER WHEN THE INSPIRING DOCUMENTARY DARE TO DREAM: THE STORY OF THE U.S. WOMEN’S SOCCER TEAM REPLAYS FRIDAY, JULY 10 EXCLUSIVELY ON HBO2

Last Sunday night in Vancouver, the U.S. women’s soccer team captured its third World Cup with a dominant 5-2 triumph over Japan, rekindling interest in the achievements of the 1999 squad.

In celebration of the 16th anniversary of the gold medal-winning performance by the U.S. women’s soccer team at the 1999 World Cup, DARE TO DREAM: THE STORY OF THE U.S. WOMEN’S SOCCER TEAM will replay FRIDAY, JULY 10 (7:30-9:00 p.m. ET/PT), exclusively on HBO2. The acclaimed 2005 HBO Sports documentary tells the inspiring story of a group of young women who not only excelled on the soccer field, but attained landmark status on the American sports landscape.

The film will also be available on HBO On Demand through Aug. 3.

DARE TO DREAM: THE STORY OF THE U.S. WOMEN’S SOCCER TEAM explores the unrivaled phenomenon largely created by five individuals who played together for 17 years on the U.S. National Team: Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, Kristine Lilly and Joy Fawcett. Their enduring perseverance and success reshaped the American sports landscape, empowering millions of young girls to dream and achieve their goals, as well as establishing themselves as powerful marketing icons.

The film chronicles the long road traveled by the team, from its first World Cup in 1991 to its historic gold medal victory in 1999 and beyond.

Contact: Kevin Flaherty (212) 512-5052
homeboxoffice.com
Championship appearance in 1991, to the final triumph, a second Olympic gold medal victory at the 2004 Summer Games in Athens. DARE TO DREAM shows how Mia Hamm became a cultural icon and how she has maintained her remarkable appeal, while revealing the obstacles that Chastain, Fawcett and Michelle Akers, among others, had to overcome to realize their lofty ambitions.

The watershed moment occurred on Sunday, July 10, 1999 at the Women’s World Cup in the Pasadena Rose Bowl. Before a crowd in excess of 90,000, not to mention the largest domestic television audience ever to watch a women’s team sporting event to date, the U.S. women’s team captured the World Cup in an unforgettable overtime shootout with China. The championship was decided on a penalty kick by Brandi Chastain.

The aftermath was astounding. Many believe it marked the first time athletes in a women’s team sport were taken seriously by a gender-blind audience on a large scale. The team’s performance, and Chastain’s provocative celebration following the victory, triggered an avalanche of publicity and opportunity. Doors opened for the team, and the women stepped into history.

DARE TO DREAM features compelling archival footage and interviews with soccer stars Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Kristine Lilly, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett, April Heinrichs, Briana Scurry, Carla Overbeck and Michelle Akers; national team coaches Anson Dorrance and Tony DiCicco; journalists Robin Roberts, Kelly Whiteside and Sally Jenkins; Olympic gold medal swimmer Donna de Varona; and former tennis champion Billie Jean King, one of sport’s most celebrated trailblazers.

The documentary is narrated by Liev Schreiber.

Program Highlights:
U.S. soccer player Julie Foudy: “My idols and role models were 300-pound football players and eight-foot-tall basketball players. I don’t remember ever having a woman that I pointed to and said, ‘That’s who I’m gonna be one day.’ ”

Julie Foudy on Mia Hamm: “She reached out beyond just soccer fans. She hit mainstream America. You know, we’d always joke, ‘Your shoulder’s sore because you’ve been carrying us for so long. How’s your back?’”

Mia Hamm: “I love these guys. They’ve pulled me through some of my darkest days and they have never once, ever, ever, made me feel as if I was alone. Incredible teammates, but [I’m] even more proud to call [them] my friends.”

Broadcaster Robin Roberts: “You had the perfect cast. They were the girls next door. There was a freshness to them, a wholesomeness to them. There was the right kind of mix of that sexuality with athleticism. And you know what? They were good.”

Mia Hamm on the team’s surging popularity at the 1999 World Cup in the United States: “Carla [Overbeck]’s husband [said], ‘Do you know what’s going on here? This is a revolution. You guys are making a difference.’ And we’re like, ‘Really? We’re just trying not to throw up before our next game.’”

Robin Roberts: “I remember seeing these teenage kids, boys, who had Mia Hamm written across their chest. And I’m like, ‘Ah-ha! We’re onto something now.’”

Journalist Sally Jenkins on the U.S. overtime victory over China at the 1999 World Cup: “At the time, you weren’t sitting around thinking about the historical context for women’s sports. All you were thinking was that it was one of the greatest goddamned games you’d ever seen in your whole life at anything, in any sport.”

Coach Tony DiCicco on the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta: “It was really the rebirth of our team, where we became the best in the world again. And the vision I have of my players standing on the top podium, having those gold medals put around their neck, I’ll never forget.”
Donna de Varona, a member of the 1999 World Cup Organizing Committee: “Can you imagine how we felt as an organizing committee on the day of the opening match at Giants Stadium, and we put more people in the stands than the Giants ever had?”

Journalist Grahame Jones: “July 10, 1999, probably was a defining moment in not just women’s sports history, but sports history. For the first time, a group of female athletes had captured the attention of the world.”

Journalist Kelly Whiteside on the 1999 World Cup final between the U.S. and China: “I would have never imagined this happening in my lifetime. Ninety thousand people sitting in a Rose Bowl to watch a women’s soccer game.”

###