

2020 MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN SPORTS

In a year that brought season cancellations, Olympic postponement, and collective athlete voices speaking louder than ever before, the moments that define this year are varied across a multitude of dimensions.

10 NO SHAME



The fact that Sarah Fuller became the first female to play in a NCAA Power 5 Conference football game is not what earned her this spot. Rather it was a portion of the social posts that greeted her and her Vanderbilt team and coaches when they announced

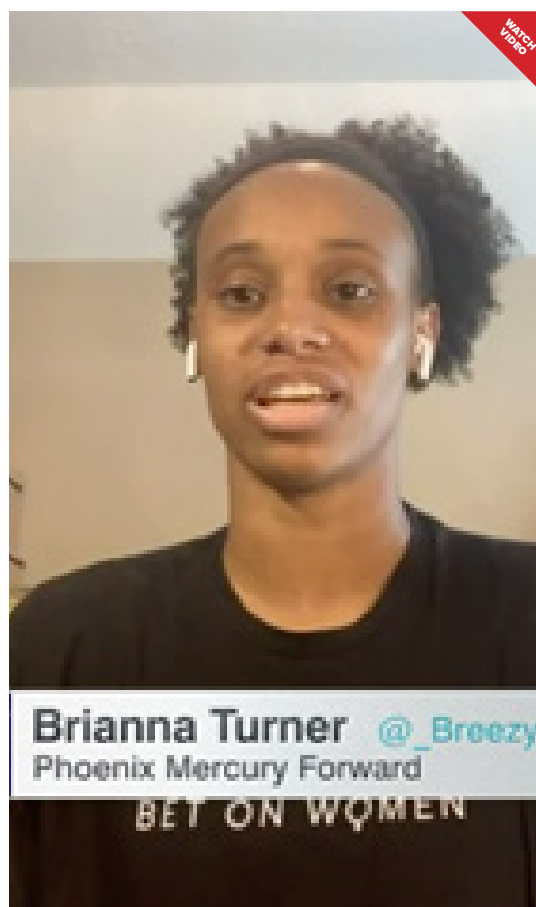
her roster addition amidst Covid-19 player ineligibility for the team's kicking squad that earned the spot. While there have been tremendous positive stories, it's important to realize how threatening it is to some when you challenge the status quo.

9 BE THE ONE



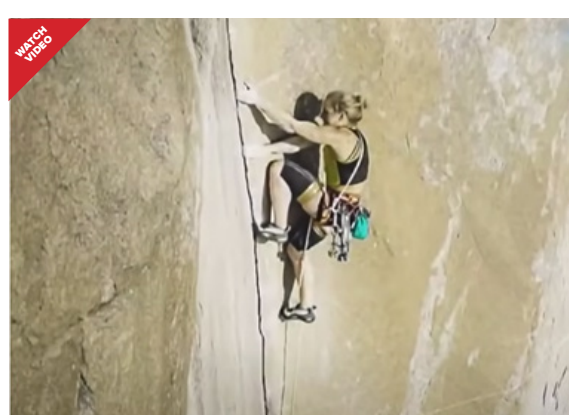
Super Bowl ads represent the pinnacle of the advertising world. This year, Microsoft used their spot to celebrate San Francisco 49ers offensive assistant coach Katie Sowers, who became the first woman and first openly LGBTQ person to coach in the Big Game.

8, 7, 6 IN HER WORDS



2020 brought forth a series of public incidents that ended in the shortened lives of black people at the hands of citizens and police. Athletes across sports stepped forward and shared personal stories and positions of conviction in an effort to further bring visibility to the systemic racism that exists in America with the intention to bring about a better, more perfect union. These athletes include: Naomi Osaka, and her 7 masks to victory at the U.S. Open, raising visibility for individuals who have died; Brianna Turner, who shared her story of being the child of two police officers, yet fearful that her family could be the next hashtag; and the WNBA, who dedicated its season to Breonna Taylor and the #SayHerName campaign.

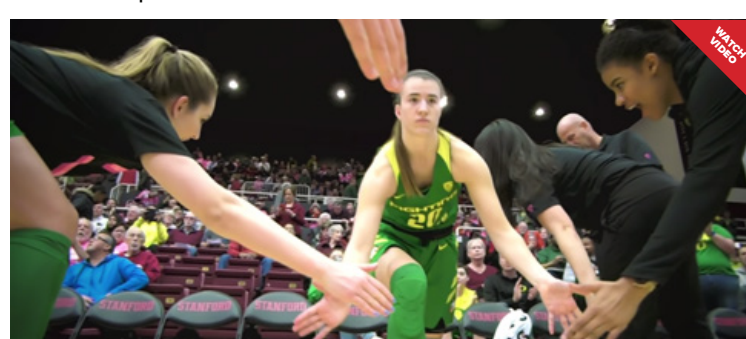
5 PERSISTENCE



2020 saw another first, when Emily Harrington conquered El Capitan at Yosemite National Park on a free climb in a single day.

4 POINTS MATTER

Yes, Sabriana Ionescu is the first NCAA Division I athlete, male or female, to record over 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists. While her relentless pursuit to help make her team better and her commitment to the team that put her on this list.



3 TRUTH EMPOWERS



In the ongoing gender-pay discrepancy case involving the U.S. Women's National Team and U.S. Soccer, court papers in early 2020 revealed that U.S. Soccer said it wouldn't pay women equally because they believe being a male player requires more skill. The outrage that followed ultimately led to U.S. Soccer removing the claim from court documents. On Dec. 1, an agreement was filed in U.S. District Court addressing workplace issues, that included USWNT games in the United States would be played on grass and access to charter flights and comparable budgets for overnight accommodations would be provided. The settlement also addressed levels of support and medical staff working with the team. The settlement paves the way for the team to appeal a decision from earlier in the year that dismissed demands for equal pay.



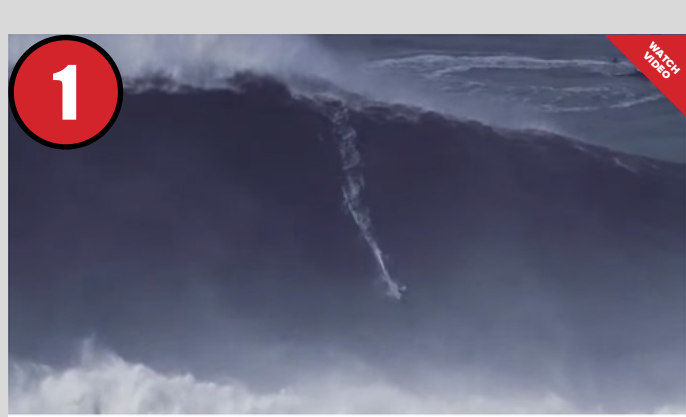
TRUTH EMPOWERS

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics was set to make its mark as the most gender-balanced Olympic Games in history and would have seen a gender balance of 48.8% female and 51.2% male.

In addition, all 206 teams had full gender representation. For perspective, at the 1900 Paris Olympic Games, when women first competed in the Olympics across five events with 22 athletes, their presence accounted for 2% of the total competitors.

SIMPLY THE BEST

There are few sports at the highest level where men and women compete head to head. One such sport is big-wave surfing. Maya Gabeira set a world record when she surfed a 73.5-foot wave in February. However, she didn't get her due for the accomplishment. So it's our honor to recognize her for her amazing ride and yet another first in 2020. (Watch Video)



Maya Gabeira surfed a 73.5-foot wave in February, breaking a world record in the process. (COURTESY USA) Watch Video

2020 SPORTSPERSONS OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Kim Ng, who became the first woman to become general manager in any of the major men's sports leagues in North America. She has worked in Major League Baseball for more than 30 years, working her way up from intern. Ng worked with Derek Jeter as an assistant manager at the New York Yankees when Jeter was a player. Jeter, now CEO and part owner of the Florida Marlins, sought her out and hired her.

1,099 Congratulations to Tara VanDerveer on congratulating Pat Summit, past University of Tennessee Coach, for the most NCAA Women's Division I Basketball wins. VanDerveer tied Summit's record on December 13, 2020 when the Stanford Cardinal defeated the University of California Berkeley Bears. VanDerveer cemented her place in the records on December 15, 2020 when the Cardinal defeated the University of the Pacific Powercats.

