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## OSCAR GETS SWEATY!

By Amy Parlapiano and Kyle Stack



Academy Award broadcast ratings ain't what they used to be, but this year sports fans have a reason to tune in. For just the 16th time in Oscars history, a sports flick (*The Fighter*) has a shot at the top spot. But as any true fanatic knows, "It's an honor just to be nominated" is strictly for losers. Win or go home, baby! But does *The Fighter* have a puncher's chance? We crunched the numbers.

Of the 15 sports films previously nominated (*The Champ*, *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*, *The Pride of the Yankees*, *The Hustler*, *Rocky*, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Breaking Away*, *Raging Bull*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Field of Dreams*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Gladiator*, *Seabiscuit*, *Million Dollar Baby* and *The Blind Side*), only 27% (*Rocky*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Gladiator* and *Million Dollar Baby*) have won it all.



**100%** of the winning sports movies were nominated in a Best Screenplay category; 100% had writers who had never won an Academy Award. *The*

*Fighter* is nominated for Best Original Screenplay; the four writers are all first-time nominees.

**75%** had a director who had never won an Academy Award; this is *The Fighter* director David O. Russell's first nomination.

**75%** featured a leading actor/actress who'd never won an Academy Award; Mark Wahlberg has never won an Academy Award.

**100%** of the previous winners had Best Supporting Actor/Actress nominees; Amy Adams, Christian Bale and Melissa Leo are all nominated.

**50%** featured a leading actor who had previously been nominated; Mark Wahlberg has previously been nominated.

**50%** were boxing movies. *The Fighter* is a boxing movie.

100% of the winning sports films were dramas. *The Fighter* is a drama.

**RESULT: *The King's Speech*. (Turns out the Academy Awards are fixed too.)**