

# **What Makes a Great Sports Photograph?**

**1. Capturing Action**

**2. Capturing Emotion - winning, losing, failure, humour, struggle, the unexpected**

**3. Isolate or separate the subject from the background or include an interesting background**

**4. Timing - capture the peak action or essence of the competition - e.g. winning goal**

**5. Lighting and visual elements of design**

**6. Catastrophe and Tragedy**

**As with all types of photography you want to capture the audience's attention, make them look, feel and think about the subject. In most cases you also want to capture a face. The following are examples of Great Sports Photos - the rights belong to the original photographers.**



**CAPTURE ACTION NO MATTER HOW SLOW THE SPORT MIGHT BE**





**A GREAT WAY TO SIMULATE THE FEELING OF SPEED IS TO PAN AND USE A SLOW EXPOSURE**









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**BARCELONA OLYMPICS - INCLUDES VIEW OF THE CITY**





**SIMPLE BACKGROUND - SELECTIVE FOCUS**





**THE WINNING GOAL**





**WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP - CAPTURE THE EMOTION**





**PERSONAL BEST**





WINNING GOLD





**WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP**





**THE CHAMPION**



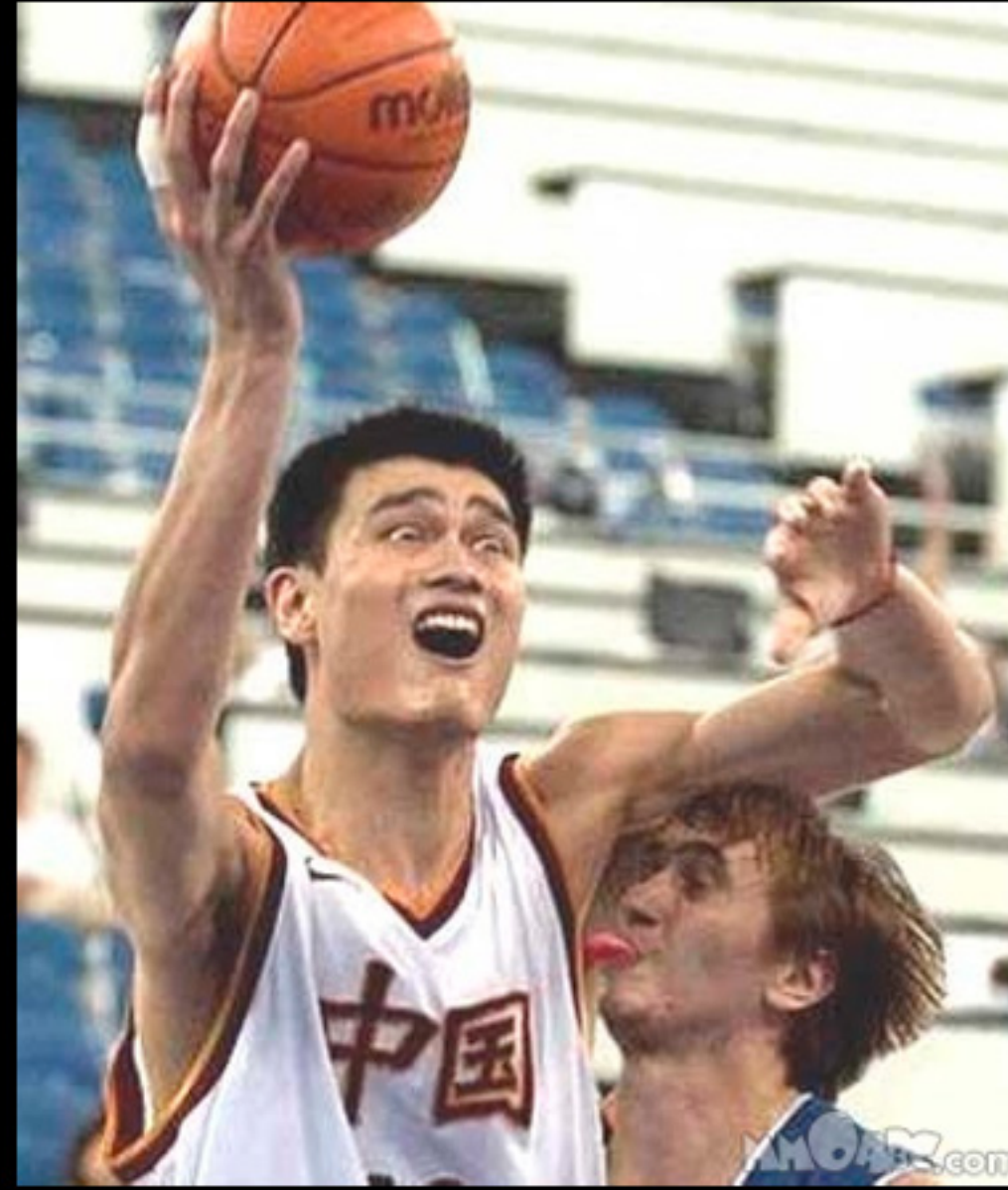


**ACTION - THE STRUGGLE & THE PAIN**





**BAD LUCK**



**HUMOUR**



**UNEXPECTED**





**TIMING**





**TIMING AND HUMOUR**





**TIMING AND TRAGEDY**





PAIN





## ACCIDENTS & TRAGEDY





**UNEXPECTED**





**LIGHTING AND AN EFFECTIVE BACKGROUND**





**UNUSUAL ANGLE OR VIEWPOINT**





**PHOTOGRAHER FRENZY**





**SLOW SHUTTER SPEED CAN SPEED UP A SLOW SPORT**





**EFFECTIVE LIGHT AND DESIGN - USE OF ANGLES AND NEGATIVE SPACE**





**OUTDOOR SPORTS USE THE WEATHER TO ADD MOOD**





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IMAGE CAPTURED FROM VIDEO?





**THE DECISIVE MOMENT FOR THE ATHLETE AND THE PHOTOGRAPHER**



# **SUMMARY**

- 1. Sports is about action and movement**
- 2. Sports is about emotion, the struggle, triumph, tragedy and defeat**
- 3. Take note of the background and position yourself accordingly**
- 4. To capture the decisive moment you need to concentrate and anticipate**
- 5. Know your camera so you can react without thinking - practice and be ready**
- 6. Look for unexpected angles - use both a wide angle and telephoto lens**
- 7. Know as much as you can about the sport and your camera equipment**
- 8. Hard work - understand how lighting and design affects emotional impact**
- 9. Luck - but remember that “chance favours the prepared mind”**