

# off the fence.

## Sports Detectives

6 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

### 1. Ali's Missing Gold Medal

Grainy black and white footage of a baseball game fills the screen. We hear the announcer's emphatic call, as he bellows, "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!" "The Shot Heard 'Round the World" is one of the most famous moments in baseball history. On October 3rd 1951, NY Giants baseball fans at The Polo Grounds erupted into pandemonium as Bobby Thomson's game-winning 9th inning home run landed in the left field bleachers, shocking the world and clinching the National League pennant for the New York Giants. If sold, that ball could fetch millions, yet no one seems to know where it is. That's where Brian, the Sports Detective's newest client comes in. He'll meet with the team and explain that in 1990, his father, Jack, purchased a baseball at a Salvation Army store for two dollars. As an old minor league ball player himself, Jack noticed something unique about the baseball – it had the autographs of practically the entire 1951 Giants team, was honey-colored, indicating it was vintage, had the official stamp of the N.L. president and even had the signature of Bobby Thomson himself.

### 2. 100 Point Game Ball

To start their investigation, the Detectives key in on an iconic photograph of the home run printed in the Daily News the day after the game. An editor at the newspaper inserted an arrow indicating where the ball had landed, essentially into the hands of a fan standing in the 1st row of the bleachers. The Detectives first step is to find out whom that person is. After high-tech photo analysis and 3-D rendering of the picture, the Detectives make a remarkable discovery. They determine that the fan originally suspected to have snagged the ball, could NOT have done so because of inconsistencies in the sight lines of other fans sitting near him. They're chasing the wrong man. With the first new information on the case in 60 years, the Detectives are forced to cast an even wider net as they try to discover who actually caught the ball. They decide to take their story to the press, hoping a call-to-action will reach someone with information on the case.

### 3. GehrigsBat - GibsonsBall

Sports reporter Lauren Gardner and private investigator Kevin Barrows go on the hunt for two priceless objects missing from the world of major league baseball: the home run ball hit by Kirk Gibson in the 1988 World Series and a rare bat that may once have seen game use by the Pride of the Yankees, Lou Gehrig himself.

#### **4. Miracle On Ice Flag**

Private investigator Kevin Barrows and sports reporter Lauren Gardner team up to locate the American flag that was worn by USA hockey goalie Jim Craig after the gold medal victory over Finland at the 1980 Winter Olympics. The image of Jim Craig wearing the flag has become iconic, symbolizing America's defeat over the Soviets during the Miracle on ice game. But what happened to the flag after the Olympics and where is it now?

#### **5. Dale's Car, Secretariat's Saddle**

The Sports Detectives investigate the world of racing on different tracks. Private investigator Kevin Burrows sets his sights on NASCAR icon and racing legend, Dale Earnhardt Sr., and his very first racecar – a Pepto Bismol-pink Ford that sparked the trailblazing path for the man who came to be known as “The Intimidator”. Switching from horsepower to horse racing, sports reporter Lauren Gardner takes on one of Sports Illustrated's Lost Treasures - the A1 saddle silk once donned by Triple Crown winner, Secretariat, in the 1973 Kentucky Derby.

#### **6. The Immaculate Reception**

The detectives explore a mystery surrounding an iconic NFL play, and a controversy involving an iconic NFL player. Private investigator Kevin Barrows heads to Pittsburgh to retrace the whereabouts of a football that was used in the legendary play, the “Immaculate Reception”, while sports reporter Lauren Gardner examines the details of a controversy involving the ownership of a 1964 NFL Championship ring originally owned by Cleveland Brown legend, Jim Brown.