



Jump Shot

Film Study Guide

Director: Jacob Hamilton

2017 | Documentary | 79 Minutes | USA | English | Unrated

<http://www.jumpshotmovie.com/>

Synopsis: This agile documentary tells the story of Kenny Sailors, a young Wyoming athlete who pioneered his “leaping one-hander” in the 1940s. Featuring the charismatic Sailors, who can still swish at 91, *Jump Shot* pays tribute to a man—and the move—that changed the sport forever.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. What are the cartoon sections designed for? Why did the filmmaker include them? What does this add to the understanding of the film and its characters? How about the use of archival footage? What does this mix, along with interviews of Sailors and players of today, bring to the film?
2. What does the film reveal about the way basketball was practiced in college before World War II?

3. Have you ever felt like sport might be a strong part of one's personality? What are the values basketball brings, in comparison with other sports?
4. World War II halted the 1943 Wyoming Cowboys dream team by sending players to the front. In your family, is there any example where world history had an impact on your family history?
5. How would you describe Ken Sailors' personality?
6. Kevin Durant says "I'm a millennial, so I thought the jumpshot just appeared." What does he mean by that?
7. The segments with modern basketball stars show them learning about Ken Sailors at the same time that we do. How did this shared experience impact the film for you? Would you expect people who are good at their jobs to know its history?
8. How do you think Ken Sailors' height had an influence on his career? Have you ever experienced a moment when you took advantage of a distinctive physical character of yours that society does not tend to consider an asset?
9. Sailors is often referred to as *the white guy* by some of the speakers. What does it say about race assumptions in sport? There is only one female basketball player amongst the speakers. Did this surprise you?
10. Can you name someone who totally transformed their discipline forever?
11. What does legacy mean when it comes to sports? What kind of role does the National Basketball Hall of Fame play in the world of basketball? Why is it so important to professionals?
12. According to the testimonials, what significant differences do you perceive between basketball in the 1940's and today? How did basketball evolve?
13. Why do you think did Sailors raise the hackles of the journalist Jimmy Breslin?
14. How would you define a living legend?
15. Does this film only speak to basketball fans?