

Breakin' bodies

Any Given Sunday impresses

BY CHAD BEATTIE

As Superbowl Sunday inches ever so close and the hype for the big game is at its peak, this is a perfect time to go see one of the better sports films released.

Oliver Stone's *Any Given Sunday* is centred around the great comeback veteran quarterback and the hotshot, mouth-piece rookie, and follows the Miami Sharks — a member of the fictional AFAA football — through their first playoff win.

In contrast to the zero to hero scripts of *The Mighty Ducks* and *Major League* and *Youngblood*, *Any Given Sunday* focuses on the affects of pro sports on the lives of players, coaches and their families.

With Al Pacino and Cameron Diaz delivering phenomenal roles as head coach and team owner respectively, the movie was without a dull moment. Time and again Pacino rages into one of his beautifully acted tirades in order to motivate his players or to take a bite out of Diaz, who lacks respect for the highly acclaimed coach. Diaz is excellent as the adorable sports-fanatic character that simple males have come to love.

The acting core was backed with surprisingly good supporting roles from Jamie Foxx — who is great as "Steaming" Willie Beamen, the cocky rookie

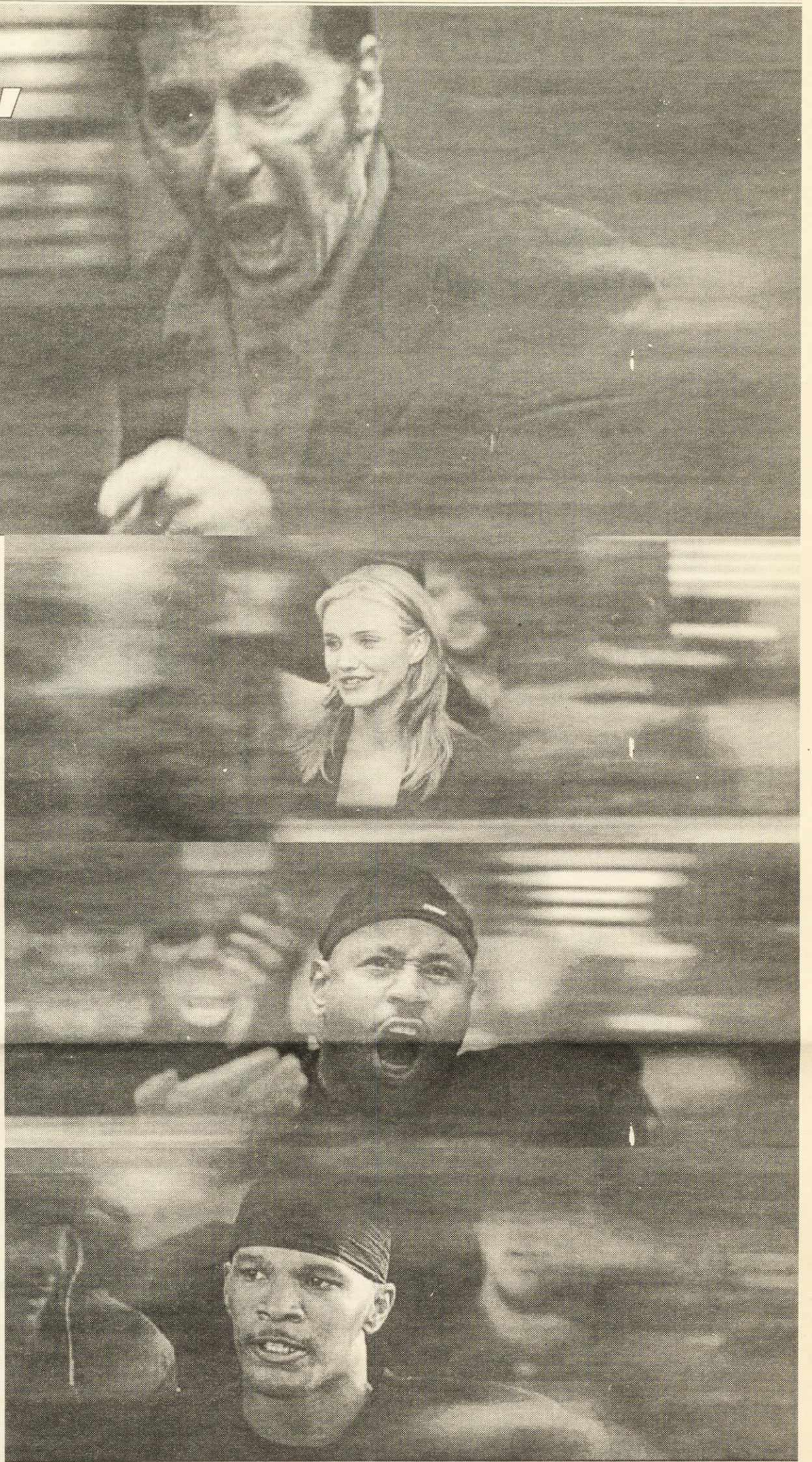
Quarterback who's career is in shambles until he gets his one chance to shine — Lawrence Taylor, who plays a hard-hitting, cortisone-addicted linebacker; and LL Cool J, who plays the typical high-priced, whiny running back who feels threatened by a new star athlete.

The movie delves into many facets of the lives of football players, coaches, management, and pretty much everybody else associated with the game. It depicts the players as sluts who cheat on their wives and raise hell off the field, and Pacino is a coach so obsessed with football that he lost his wife and children to divorce.

Diaz's character is so hung up on winning and trying to fill her fathers shoes as team owner that it drives her to turn on family members and team doctors break all ethical codes of conduct in allowing injured players to continue playing even though their lives are at risk.

One doesn't need to know the intricacies of football in order to enjoy this show. But there are a lot of football scenes and the camera work is choppy which causes a little Blair Witchian-nausea.

Any Given Sunday has the rich combination of beautiful looking people, great acting and a few Pacino halftime speeches that send adrenaline rushing through every vessel in your body, making this one impressive sports flick.



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