

Team

The Eastside Athletic Magazine

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Is Just
Playing Ball**

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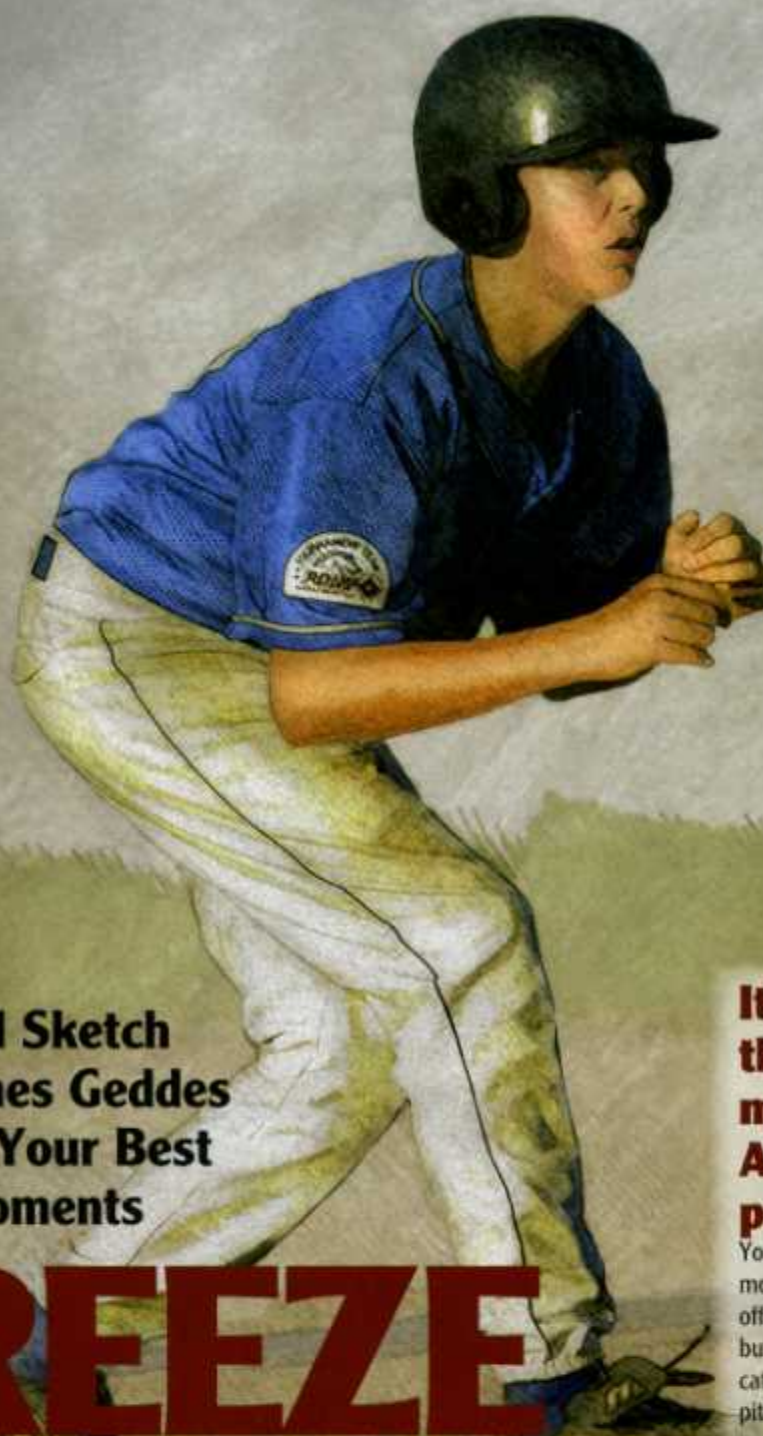
Try Running

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FREEZE FRAME

Photo & Sketch Artist
James Geddes Captures
Your Best Sports Moments





**Photo and Sketch
Artist James Geddes
Captures Your Best
Sports Moments**

FREEZE FRAME

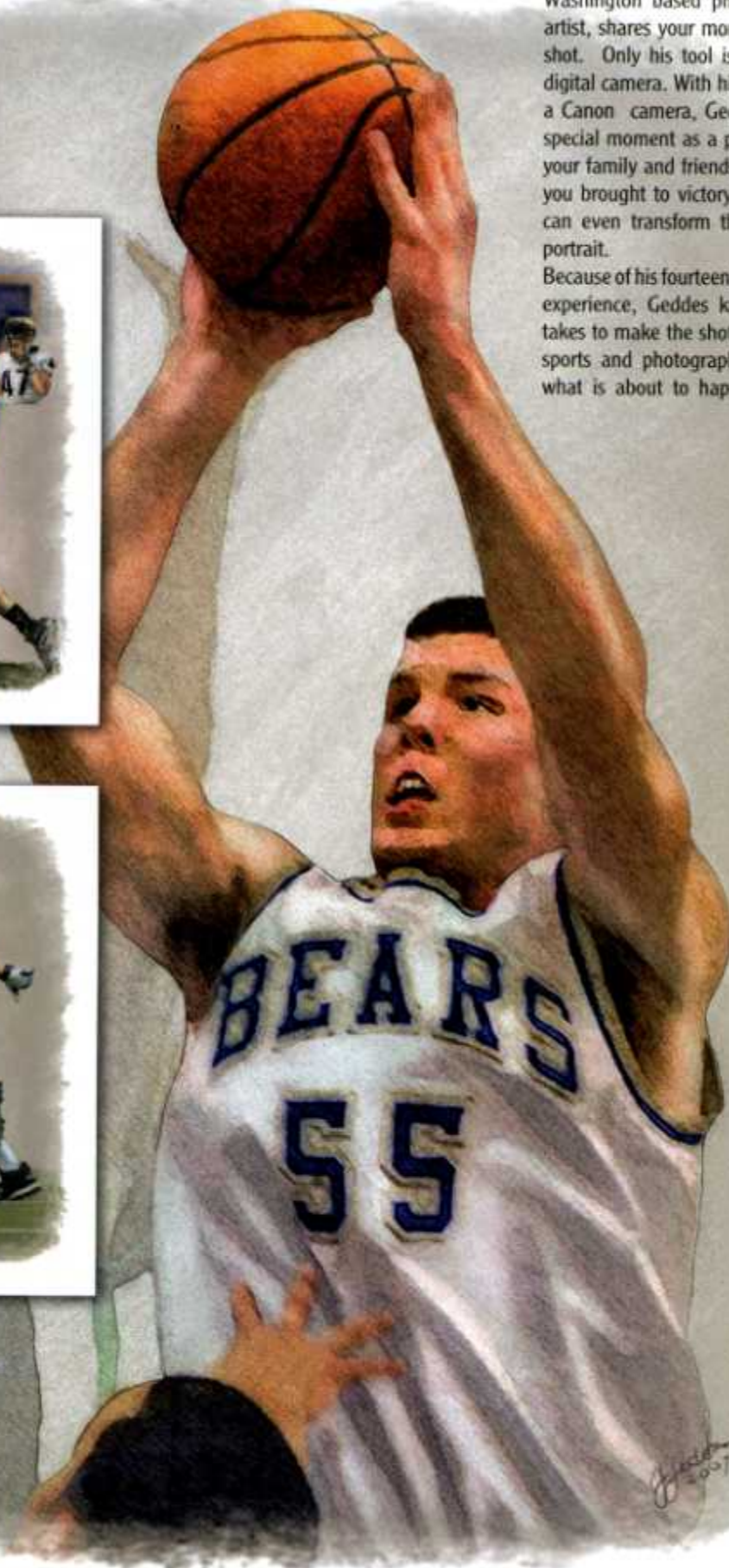
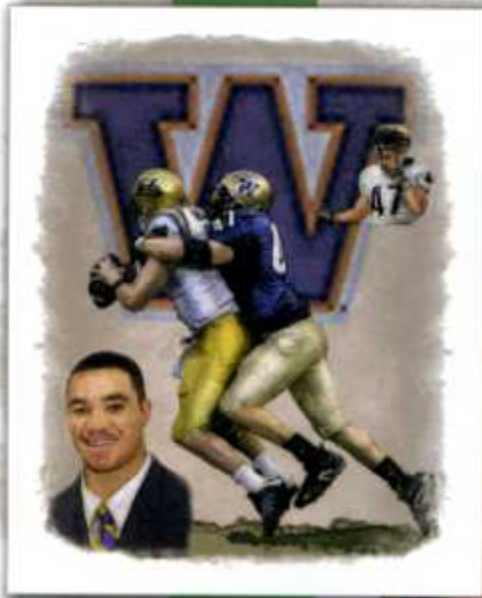
Christine Auda

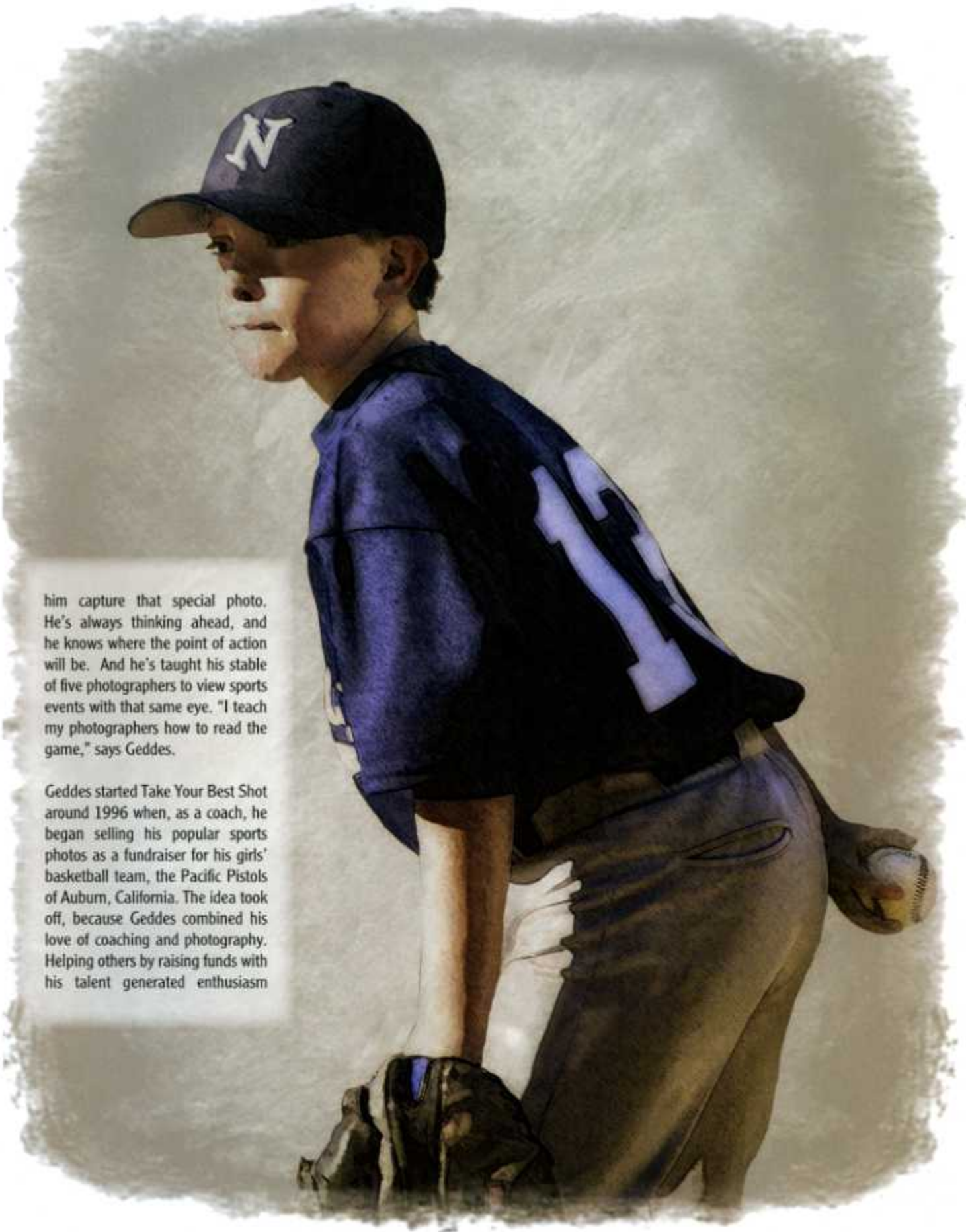
**It's the bottom of
the seventh. Your
mind is focused.
Adrenaline is
pumping.**

Your heart seems to stop. You're on the mound. The batter is waiting. You shake off the catcher. He wants a change-up, but you want to throw heat. Finally, the catcher relents. You're throwing your best pitch. A number one. The batter knows it's coming. He digs in. Everybody knows it's coming. Doesn't matter. Doesn't change a thing. You're still throwing it. You breathe deep, then wind-up. Here's the pitch. And as the ball leaves your hand, you think to yourself, go ahead, take your best shot.

In that same instant, James Geddes of TakeYourBestShot.com, a Newcastle, Washington based photographer and sketch artist, shares your moment by taking his own shot. Only his tool is not a baseball, but a digital camera. With his extraordinary eye and a Canon camera, Geddes has captured your special moment as a photograph so that you, your family and friends can recount the game you brought to victory for years to come. He can even transform the photo into a sketch portrait.


Because of his fourteen years of sports coaching experience, Geddes knows firsthand what it takes to make the shot when it comes to both sports and photography. The anticipation of what is about to happen on the field helps





him capture that special photo. He's always thinking ahead, and he knows where the point of action will be. And he's taught his stable of five photographers to view sports events with that same eye. "I teach my photographers how to read the game," says Geddes.

Geddes started Take Your Best Shot around 1996 when, as a coach, he began selling his popular sports photos as a fundraiser for his girls' basketball team, the Pacific Pistols of Auburn, California. The idea took off, because Geddes combined his love of coaching and photography. Helping others by raising funds with his talent generated enthusiasm

A young girl with her hair in a bun, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with "RAIDERS" printed on the front, blue shorts with yellow and white trim, and white sneakers. She is jumping in the air with her arms raised, holding blue and black pom-poms. The background is a textured, light brownish-grey wash.

within the local athletic community.

Geddes is usually invited by a league or tournament event as a fundraiser. He donates a percentage of the profits from the sale of posters, collages, photos, and sketches to the league or tournament. Geddes is on the right track, because customers keep returning for more and the business keeps growing.

When asked about his portrait work, Geddes remarks, "Something inside of me always sees how things go together... what to include, what creates balance, the importance of light. It's all about combining things and how to get that balance." His sketching process goes like this: A



customer sends him a photo that he scans into his computer as a digital file. Then he traces the image and often removes most of the background. He works with the photo using virtual tools in Corel Painter 9 software, rendering a completely new image. He also uses a Wacom computer pen and tablet to help achieve a realistic portrait.

A testimonial from Debbie Howie, one of Geddes' portrait customers, sums it up, "We had friends over the other day, and everyone who saw the sketches that you did wanted your name. They are so beautiful."

Geddes can be commissioned to record any young athlete's best sports moments. As he says, "The photograph is just the beginning of the art."

