

# Sports

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# Film

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team together for almost two decades. Alford, who is 40 years younger than her film subjects, was considering quitting pick-up basketball because her body wasn't holding up, but the Fabulous 70s changed her mind.

"After spending time with these women and all of their problems, they just keep playing regardless," Alford said. "That was very inspiring to me. They were really role models in a way."

When she started filming, Alford thought she knew where the documentary was headed. Over time, that changed.

"The story took a turn that I wasn't expecting," she said. "I thought it was going to be all about are they going to win the championship or not. It really turned out to be a matter of priorities and would the players be able to overcome obstacles."

In fact, while in Houston for the national championships, one of the players suffered a medical crisis and was rushed to the hospital by ambulance.

For the players, the crisis was a wakeup call to their own mortality. The women didn't seem to realize that society considers 70 old.

For Alford, it opened her eyes to ethical dilemmas when filming documentaries. In the end, that's probably the biggest challenge she faced during the project.

"Where do I cross the line between just being a fly on the wall in practice and being more involved," Alford said.

When the player ended up in the ambulance, Alford was there with her, even going as far as making medical decisions.

"I had an inner turmoil," Alford said. "This is an important part of the story, but do I feel like it's the ethical thing to turn my camera on now and show this? When she signed up to be in the documentary, I don't think this is what she was envisioning."

Alford has done everything on the film to this point, including funding it out of her own pocket. Now, in the final stages, she would like to find an experienced executive producer to guide her to the finish line.

In order to do that, Alford is seeking donations to help fund the film. Her plan is to finish it this summer and submit it to film festivals that will be held in early 2013.

While she has high hopes for this documentary, Alford doesn't plan to stop here. She's not, however, a budding Michael Moore. Activism documentaries don't interest her. She envisions herself more a personal historian, helping people document their own history.

Said Alford, "I feel like every person has a story that is worth telling."

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## Basketball film has local ties

**B**umps and bruises, sure. Maybe even a few broken ribs. Those things you expect when filming a basketball documentary.

What you don't anticipate are heart arrhythmias, breast cancer and post-polio syndrome.

Then again, basketball documentaries usually don't

feature players in their 70s.

Former Wilson Memorial basketball standout Angela Gorsica Alford, who played collegiately at Vanderbilt,

is in the final stages of filming her documentary, "Granny's Got Game."

Alford followed the Raleigh, N.C.-based Fabulous 70s women's basketball team for a year, culminating with the National Senior Games in Houston last June.

After a successful career as a software engineer, Alford started her own video production



Angela Gorsica Alford poses with members of the Fabulous 70s, a Raleigh, N.C.-based women's basketball team.

Submitted

**Patrick Hite**  
Columnist



company in 2007. She had first edited video while in high school at Valley Vocational Technical Center in Fishersville.

She went on to study electrical engineering and computer science at Vanderbilt and recently graduated from Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies after two years of taking evening and weekend

classes. "Granny's Got Game" is her first film, and she's hoping the story is strong enough to overcome any inexperience on her end. What she does know is that this isn't just a movie for sports fans. Alford thinks it's more about relationships than basketball.

"Not only is it an interesting story about just

### DETAILS

For more information or to donate: [www.indiegogo.com/GrannysGotGame](http://www.indiegogo.com/GrannysGotGame)

their season, this one year," said Alford, "but the history they have."

Some of the players have known each other since high school and they've been playing on the senior

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