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By the mid-1980s **Paul Westhead** had worn out his welcome in the NBA. The best offer he could find came from an obscure small **college** with little history of **basketball**. In the same city where he had won an **NBA championship** with Magic and Kareem, Westhead was determined to perfect his **non-stop run-and-gun** offensive system at Loyola Marymount. His shoot-first offense appeared doomed to fail until **Hank Gathers** and **Bo Kimble**, two talented players from Westhead's hometown of **Philadelphia**, arrived gift-wrapped at his doorstep. With Gathers and Kimble leading a **record scoring charge**, Westhead's system suddenly dazzled the world of college basketball and turned conventional thinking on its head. But then, early in the 1989-90 season, Gathers **collapsed** during a game and was **diagnosed** with an **abnormal heartbeat**. Determined to play, Gathers returned three games later, but less than three months later, he **tragically** died on the court. Working with both Westhead and Kimble, Oscar-winning director Bill Couturié will tell a fast-paced and **emotionally** moving story of innovation, triumph and tragedy.

In 2006, Couturié finished "Into The Fire" featuring the music of Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and many others. Earlier that year, Couturié wrote, produced and directed "Boffo! Tinseltown's Bombs and Blockbusters," for HBO. It was an Official Selection of the 2006 Cannes Film Festival, and nominated for an Emmy for Best Music.

In 2005, Couturié wrote, produced and directed "Last Letters Home," for HBO. The documentary was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in a Documentary. Couturié's other recent work includes everything from commercials for Apple to the Academy Award-nominated documentary for The Southern Poverty Law Center, "Mighty Times," to an episode of "The West Wing," which won him his sixth Emmy, and the hit mini-series for NBC, "The Sixties."

Couturié executive produced with Nicholas Pileggi, "Loyalty and Betrayal: The Story of the American Mob," a four-hour mini-series for Fox Television. For HBO, Couturié also directed, produced and wrote "Earth & the American Dream," which won an Ace Award, an Emmy for best editing, a Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, and the Grand Prize at the Telluride Film Festival.

Couturié produced the film "Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt" for HBO for which he received the 1989 Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary as well as a Peabody Award. Couturié directed, produced and co-wrote the feature documentary "Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam" that won two Emmy Awards for Best Special and Best Writing, and a Peabody Award. The sequel "Memorial," was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Short Documentary in 1991.

Couturié produced, wrote and directed the 1982 documentary "Vietnam Requiem" for ABC that received two Emmys for Best Special and Best Director and a Peabody Award. Couturié associate produced "Who Are the DeBolts and Where Did They Get 19 Kids?" The acclaimed film won the 1978 Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary, an Emmy for Outstanding Program, a Peabody, and many other awards.

Other short-form projects Couturié directed include music videos for such artists as Michael Jackson, Joe Cocker, Bruce Hornsby and Paul Hardcastle. Couturié is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, as well as the Writer's and the Director's Guilds.

30 FOR 30

Personal Statement

Hank Gathers was the heart of the Lions until his own heart failed him. Then the rest of the Lions, led by Hank's homey Bo Kimble, picked up the slack and against all odds came a game shy of reaching the Final Four. On the road to the Elite Eight, they scored 149 points in a victory over defending national champion Michigan. Bo's on-court tribute to his fallen friend—the lefty foul shots—is the stuff of basketball legend. A ton of heart.

But there is another heart to this lion: "The System" that provided method to the seeming madness of "Paul Ball"—named after the guru of go himself, Paul Westhead. Paul's system was magic (and big fun to watch)—if you had the right players. Without them, the system looked like crap. Just ask the Enver (where's the "D"?) Nuggets.

But at Loyola Marymount, a small L.A. college completely off the radar for college ball, a non-entity in the NCAA, Westhead got the players he needed—two transfers from Philly, via USC. Paul caught a little luck in that he was from Philly, too. A preacher from back home told the boys to go with Paul. They did. The rest is pure basketball history.

You can't make this stuff up. In fact, that's the yardstick I use to measure great doc material—is it too amazing to be fiction? The story of Gathers, Westhead and Kimble, set against the Loyola Marymount years and the run at a national title, is too dramatic to *not* be real. As a fictional film, it's over-the-top. But as a doc, it's pure gold.



Bill Couturié