



NEXT GOAL WINS

Autumn
Season
2014

Release: 2014

Cert (UK): 15

Language: English

Runtime: 97 mins

Directors: Mike Brett, Steve Jamison

Cinematographer: Steve Jamison

Cast: Thomas Rongen, Jaiyah Saelua, Nicky Salapu

Mike Brett and Steve Jamison travelled across the world to film a group of people determined to prove they weren't the worst in the world. What they have produced is a documentary which has won plaudits from every critic who has reviewed it. Maryann Johanson (Flickfilosopher) goes as far as saying it had the best reception by critics at any film she had watched in 13 years. What is it all about?



'American Samoa famously lost to Australia 31-0 and were declared the worst football team in the world. Next Goal Wins is a heartwarming documentary that captures their gritty determination to improve.

Thomas Rongen is the Dutch-born coach who arrives to whip them into shape and inspire a team full of guts and commitment but singularly

lacking in skill and stamina.

Even if you have no interest in football, you will be swept along by the emotional pull of this story, willing the team on to experience the joy of scoring their first goal never mind winning a match.

There is also the appeal of team members such as goalkeeper Nicky Salapu and Jaiyah Saelua, the first transgender player to compete at international level.

What really hits home is that the team are all unpaid amateurs playing for the love of the game and pride in their country. How refreshing is that?' – Allan Hunter, Express

'They are amateur players, we discover, who work other jobs, if they're lucky; American Samoa is poor, with little opportunity and almost no hope of leaving short of joining the U.S. military. An earthquake and tsunami in 2009 devastated parts of the islands, and people are still living with the impact and the lingering trauma. These guys have a lot of heart and a lot of guts to even think about going up against well-funded teams and professional athletes' - Maryann Johanson, Flickfilosopher