

They Got Game: Sports Leaders Beating Cancer

A new roster of sports heroes are sharing their cancer journeys to educate the public and raise awareness

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Like many celebrities before them, a new roster of sports heroes are sharing their cancer journeys to educate the public and raise awareness.

In his memoir, *Heartbeats*, legendary Swedish tennis player Björn Borg, 69, shared that in 2023 he was diagnosed with an “extremely aggressive” prostate cancer and is now in remission after an operation. “Now I have a new opponent in cancer—one I can’t control,” he wrote. “I fight like every day is a Wimbledon final. And those usually go pretty well, don’t they?”

Stateside on the gridiron, Denver Broncos Coach Zack Grossi found a winning team at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, where he underwent treatment for a yolk sac tumor, a rare cancer that affects germ cells and starts in the chest. After chemo and the removal of 15% of his right lung, Grossi is now cancer-free.

Similarly, in the Netflix documentary series *America’s Team: The Gambler and His Cowboys*, iconic Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, 82, revealed that in 2010 he was diagnosed with Stage IV melanoma, a skin cancer, and that an immunotherapy clinical trial saved his life. “You don’t like to think about your mortality, but I was so fortunate to have some great people that sent me in the right direction,” Jones told the *Dallas News*. “I got to be part of a trial that was propitious. It really worked.”
