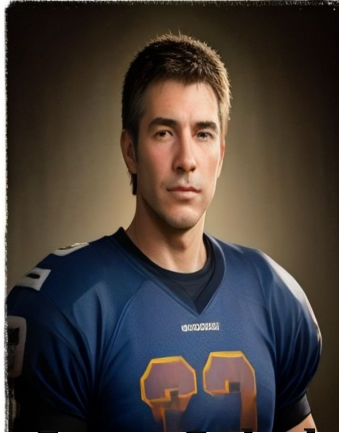




Steve Sabol

October 2, 1942 - September 18, 2012

Moorestown, New Jersey

Steve Sabol - Stephen Douglas Sabol - American filmmaker who helped invent the visual language of professional football at NFL Films, died in Moorestown, New Jersey, on September 18, 2012, of brain cancer. He was sixty-nine. Born October 2, 1942, in Moorestown, he joined his father Ed's fledgling film company and turned sideline footage into myth: slow motion, orchestral scores, gravel narration, and martial metaphors that made Sunday feel like Homeric contest.

As president and creative force, he shot, wrote, and curated decades of highlight films, documentaries, and Super Bowl packages that taught America how to watch the sport it already loved. Microphones on pads, ground-level lenses, and an almost poetic seriousness about blocking and tackling became the house style. The Pro Football Hall of Fame inducted him in 2020 for that cinematic stewardship - recognition that the game's popularity owes as much to editing rooms in Mount Laurel as to any single quarterback.

Diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in 2011, he kept working and joking until the end in the New Jersey town that had always been home. The league paused to honor him; fans who never knew his name still see football through his eye.

He died in Moorestown on September 18, 2012. Every dramatic replay still carries a little of his grammar.

Sabol's gift was epic framing - turning a violent game into shared American theater without losing the thud of contact. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 18 remembers the Jersey filmmaker who taught a nation to see football as film.

Services

Died in Moorestown, New Jersey, September 18, 2012. Filmmaker and president of NFL Films; Pro Football Hall of Fame (2020); co-builder of the modern visual language of the NFL.

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