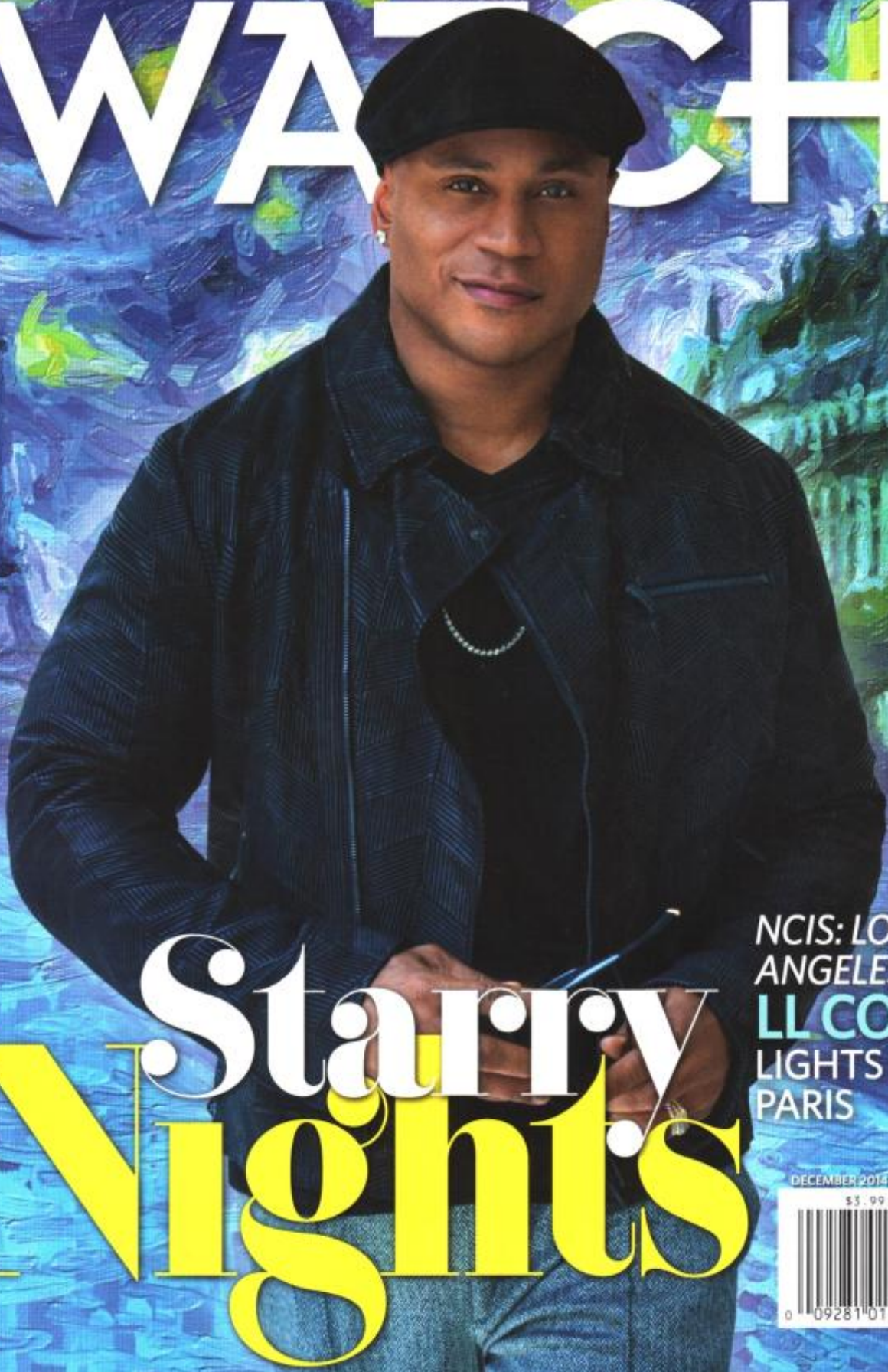


LIGHTS. GLAMOUR. ACTION.

WATCH!



NCIS: LOS ANGELES'
LL COOL J
LIGHTS UP
PARIS

Starry Nights

DECEMBER 2014 VOL. 9 ISSUE 6

\$3.99

12 >



0 09281 01545 1



Grand Finale

Say goodbye to 2014 with some of the best and the brightest



Anyone who watched the Grammy Awards in 2012 the day after Whitney Houston's untimely death knows what a class act **LL COOL J** is. Still reeling from the loss of one of music's greatest superstars, the industry was in shock and mourning. How do you celebrate musical achievements during such a tragedy? It was a fine line to walk, but as the host of the awards ceremony, LL handled it deftly, with grace and compassion, and as music's ultimate statesman. This is a guy you want on your team—and we are thankful he's on ours! The musician/actor has infused *NCIS: Los Angeles* with grit, gravitas and heart. Together with co-star **Chris O'Donnell**, LL has made the action series one of TV's highest-rated shows. He is simply one of Hollywood's brightest stars, which raises the question: Which locale could hold a candle to Mr. COOL J? We'd wanted to do a cover shoot with LL for some time, but he is a force of nature and we were at a loss for a destination that could measure up. Then it hit: the City of Light—Paris! And so *Watch!* took LL COOL J to France this past summer for a photo shoot at the Mandarin Oriental hotel, a class act in its own right, located on Paris' ultratrendy rue Saint-Honoré. Together they make quite the package, with

special thanks to Gilles-Marie Zimmermann for capturing the magic. And we are incredibly pleased to have partnered with Air France on this feature. The airline flew LL, his team and our crew to Paris aboard its fantastic A380, which exudes the class for which Air France is known.

We are also happy to showcase three up-and-comers this issue, starting with the *NFL on CBS'* **Tracy Wolfson**, who was recently named a field reporter for the network's Thursday night and Sunday afternoon game coverage. Tracy is a dynamo who can talk fashion and sports in the same breath. She is universally respected on and off the field and is the subject of a terrific profile this issue, photographed at the fabled Greenbrier hotel in West Virginia. Michele Shapiro turns in a great portrait of Tracy, while photographer John Messinger captures her infectious spirit and love of the game.

Those of us who weathered the Northeast's intense winter this past year know **Lonnie Quinn** well; he's the handsome weathercaster from New York's CBS 2 who gained national prominence with his hands-on (and sleeves-up!) coverage of one dastardly season. Our own Hudson Morgan sat down with the weathercaster after the long winter for a rousing conversation, while Director of Photography Christopher Ross shot Lonnie in and around New York's trendy Carlton hotel. Finally, Hud also interviewed actor **Victor Rasuk**, who stars on CBS' new drama *Stalker* and is featured in next year's most anticipated movie, *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

It's an action-packed issue and a great way to end 2014. We'll see you next year!



Sincerely,

Jeremy Murphy
Editor-in-Chief





Southern Comfort

The Greenbrier provides the backdrop to our shoot with *NFL on CBS*® Tracy Wolfson



The Greenbrier, nestled among 6,750 pristine acres in West Virginia's Allegheny Mountains, is a sprawling tribute to historic American hotels. White Georgian columns on the building's facade evoke *Gone with the Wind*'s Tara and the hotel's grand exterior

is framed by an ever-changing, immaculately landscaped garden: red flowers and gold-leaved trees in the fall and butter-yellow daffodils in the spring. The gorgeous estate was a perfect site at which to photograph *NFL on CBS* sideline reporter Tracy Wolfson (see page 82).

Since The Greenbrier's first clapboard cottages were raised in 1778, the hotel has attracted the American and international elite—including President Eisenhower and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor—who are drawn to its luxurious accommodations, world-renowned golf courses and the area's proximity to the nation's capital.

Famed interior designer Dorothy Draper's exemplary style imbues the hotel's 710 rooms, 33 suites and 96 clapboard cottages,



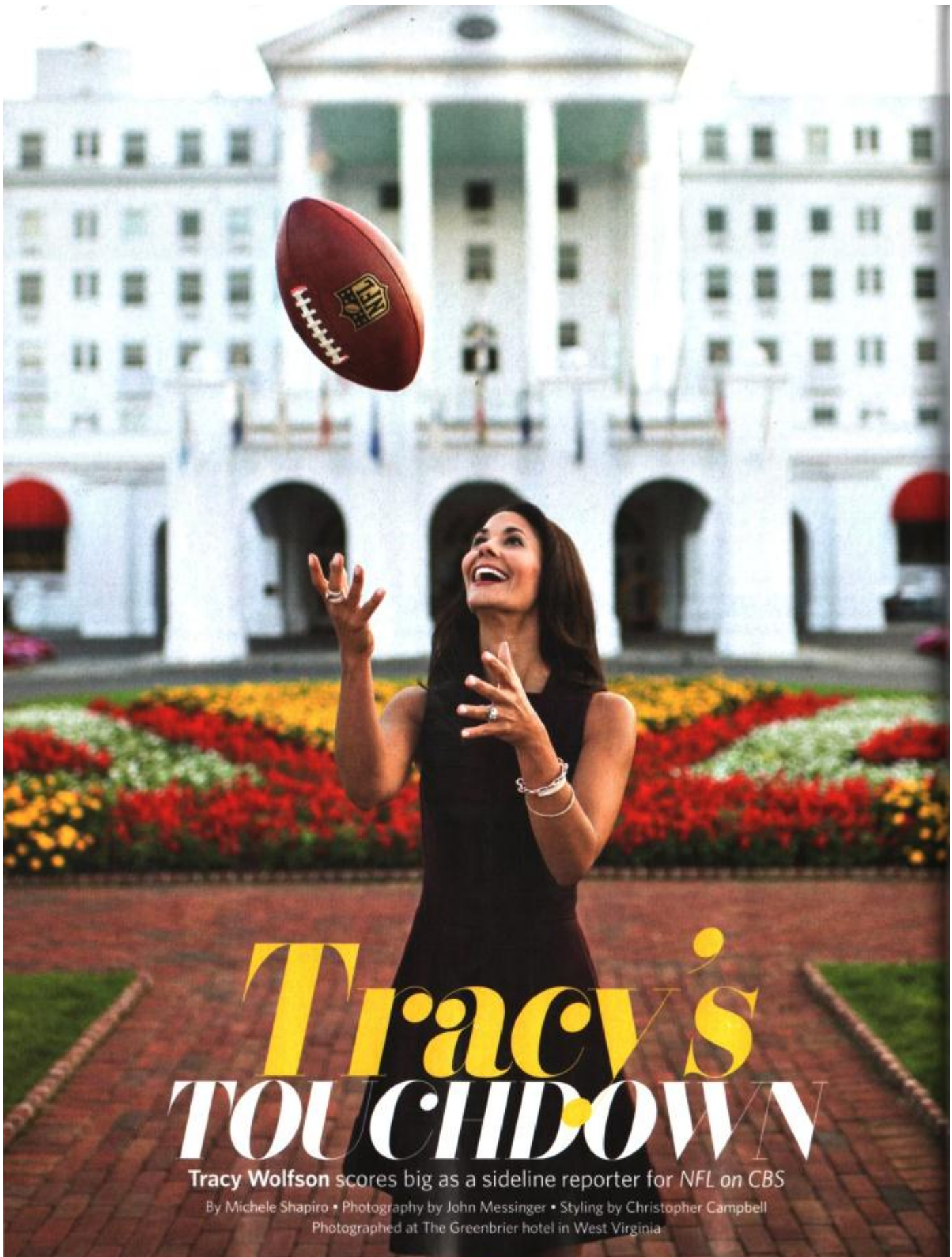
Above: *NFL on CBS* sideline reporter Tracy Wolfson, photographed at The Greenbrier. Dress by L'Agence. Jewelry by Avitan. Shoes by Prada. Right: One of The Greenbrier's three golf courses, top, and the Windsor Club suite in the hotel's exclusive Virginia Wing.

where vibrant color combinations like green and pink brighten up regal canopied beds, while elaborate wallpapers add texture to the spaces. The majestic Presidential Suite, where Eisenhower hosted the North American Summit Conference in 1956, includes seven bedrooms, a formal dining room and even a grand piano. All rooms include amenities like twice-daily maid service and free Wi-Fi.

The Greenbrier's roster of activities is sure to satisfy any visitor. Golfers will appreciate the hotel's three 18-hole championship courses, including the Old White TPC Course, which hosts the PGA's Greenbrier Classic tournament. Thrill-seekers will be drawn to archery, horseback riding or off-course driving classes. And divas will appreciate the Forbes Five-Star mineral spa, where pampering is also healthful, thanks to the natural white sulphur springs.

Indoors, it's hard to choose what to do next. Browse the avenue of shops or dine at one of the 16 restaurants, bars and lounges? Live music at Twelve Oaks or digestifs at the Lobby Bar? For a unique taste of American history, tour "the Bunker," The Greenbrier's legendary emergency Cold War fallout shelter. Once a top-secret U.S. government relocation facility for Congress, it's now a spooky and thrilling experience for Greenbrier guests. thegreenbrier.com

— Alaina Ambrosio



Tracy's TOUCHDOWN

Tracy Wolfson scores big as a sideline reporter for *NFL on CBS*

By Michele Shapiro • Photography by John Messinger • Styling by Christopher Campbell
Photographed at The Greenbrier hotel in West Virginia



sideline reporter **Tracy Wolfson** has a knack for being in the right place at the right time. Case in point: When she traveled to New Orleans to cover the Super Bowl in 2013, she wasn't supposed to get any airtime during the game. She was slated to do pre- and postgame interviews only. Her boss even joked that she wasn't getting on unless the lights went out. Lo and behold, with 13:22 left in the third quarter, the stadium went dark.

"I was sitting in the green room," she recalls, "and I said, 'Did the lights just go out?' Immediately, I went into work mode. They hooked up my microphone, and I started doing interviews on the sidelines."

The blackout at the Superdome caused a 34-minute delay, a true test for the players, the fans and Wolfson, 39. But it seems to have worked in her favor, since more than a year later, she was named sideline reporter, joining Jim Nantz and Phil Simms for CBS' *Thursday Night Football* as well as Sunday afternoon games. "It's the next step in my career," says Wolfson, who had been CBS' lead college football sideline reporter, and continues to be for NCAA tournament games. (She also worked as a sideline reporter for select NFL games last year.)

That step, while merited, is a big one that Wolfson admits has taken her out of her comfort zone. "The environment's new, the players are new, the cities are new," she says. But by far her biggest challenge is scoring interviews with coaches and trainers from the sidelines. "At college games, I'd have a lot more access,"

Tracy Wolfson outside The Greenbrier hotel. Dress by Proenza Schouler. Jewelry by Avitan.

For more about *The Greenbrier*, see page 60.

she explains. "In the NFL, there's very little of that. Maybe you'll get a pregame interview. The coaches aren't that accessible, so you have to come up with different angles and stories." Still, she's pleased that CBS decided to reinstate sideline reporters at NFL games in 2014—eight years after the network did away with them. "They are important because they give the game a big-time feel," Wolfson observes. "You need the eyes and ears on the field that you can't get from the booth."

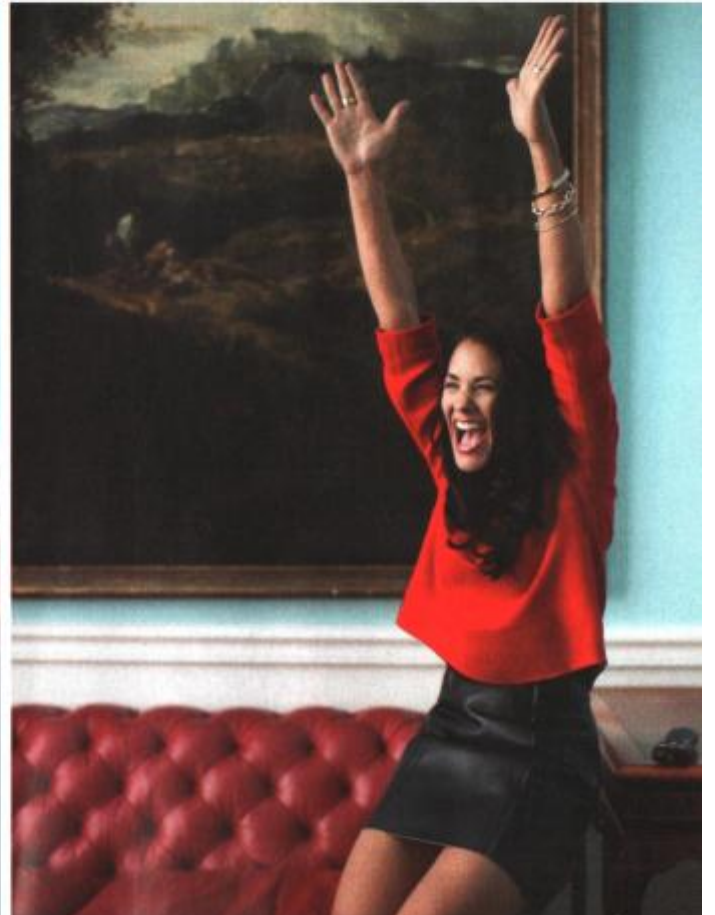
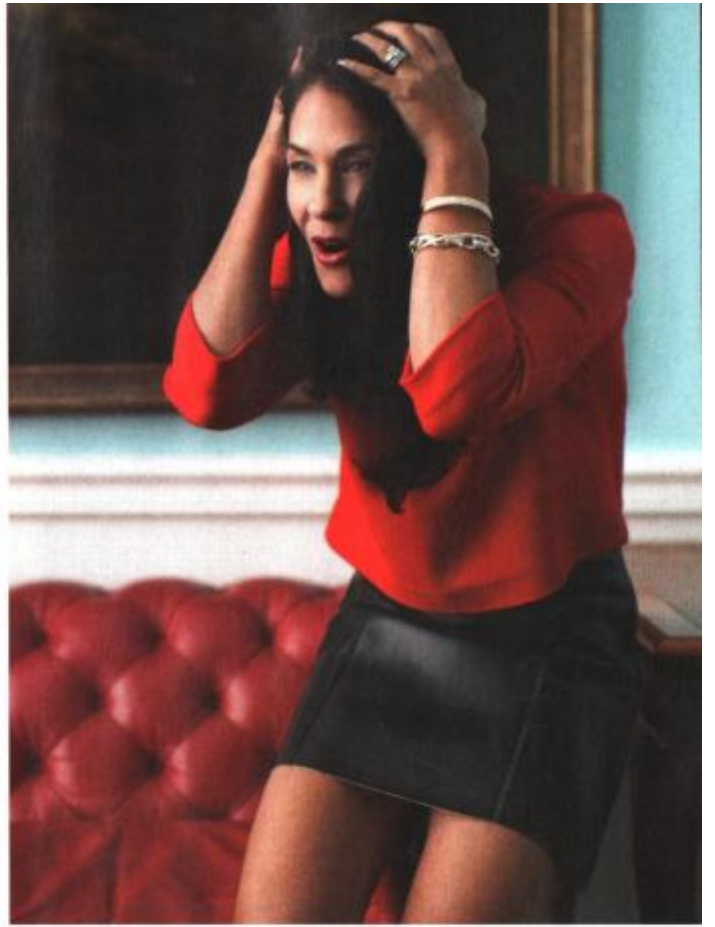
Wolfson's eyes have been fixed on televised competitive sports for as long as she can remember. Surprisingly, the reporter, who grew up in Congers, N.Y., a suburb of New York City, doesn't come from a sports-obsessed family. "My father's a casual sports fan. He didn't grow up playing sports, and I have one sister—no brothers," she says. Still, as a child, while her peers were swooning over singer **George Michael**, Wolfson preferred *The George Michael Sports Machine*. By the time she entered sixth grade, Wolfson had decided on a career. "I would watch **Willow Bay** co-host *NBA Inside Stuff* with **Ahmad Rashad** and I'd think, 'I love sports. I can talk sports. I want to do that.'"

Since there wasn't much of a market at the time for preteen sports reporters, Wolfson fed her competitive side by playing golf and tennis in junior high and high school. At the University of Michigan, she played flag football and met her husband, David, a financier who shared her love of college football. Her father encouraged her to take business classes, but she eventually dropped out of accounting and majored in communications instead. Determined to gain experience as a sports reporter, she finished college a semester early and worked as an intern for ABC Sports in New York, where she boldly asked announcer **Verne Lundquist** if she could be a runner for him. (He later left

This page: Jacket by
Nina Ricci. Top by
Salvatore Ferragamo.
Pants by Vince. Shoes
by Miu Miu. Jewelry
by Avitan.

Opposite page: Top
by Marissa Webb for
Barneys New York.
Skirt by T by
Alexander Wang.
Vintage earrings and
necklace by Kentshire.
Rings and bracelets
by Avitan.







Her tenacity carried over to her personal relationships. While she continued to date David after they moved together from Michigan to New York, she refused to marry him until she had an on-air job as a sports reporter. "I wanted him to know what my life would be like if we moved to the middle of nowhere. I didn't want someone holding me back," she says. "That can be the case when you fall in

love." Fortunately, after sending a demo tape that she made of herself to network affiliates around the country, she landed her first job at what she calls "a mom and pop operation" close to home in Trenton, N.J.

With that all-important first reporting job on her résumé, Wolfson again found herself in the right place at the right time. "Every local station wanted a female reporter to pair with a male. Knowing sports and being in New York also gave me a leg up," she says.

After she was hired by CBS, Wolfson married David and they now have three sons, Dylan, 8, Ari, 5, and Evan, 3.

"All my boys were born

in the summer," she says. "I planned their births around football season because I wanted to be home for their birthdays."

Wolfson's fall and winter travel schedule is even more brutal now than when she covered the SEC. "I used to be gone Thursday to Sunday; now I'm away Wednesday to Monday every week during the season," she says. "We all really appreciate the time we're together." Somehow, Wolfson also finds time to support charities with which she has a personal connection, such as March of Dimes and The Foundation for Diabetes Research. "My mother-in-law and her sister both have diabetes, so the cause is near to my heart," she says.

Wolfson's work schedule often prevents her from spending major holidays with the family. But as with everything else, she has found a way to make every moment count: "We celebrate Thanksgiving a few nights early. Same with the Jewish holidays and Mother's Day," Wolfson says. "We make it work." **H**

Travel Pro

In addition to becoming an expert at scoring scoops on the sidelines, Wolfson has become a pro at packing. Here are the three things she never leaves home without:

[1] A hair dryer. "You never know if the one in the hotel will actually work."

[2] A pair of flats. "I always wear heels when I work because I'm short, so by the end of the game, my feet are killing me."

[3] Sneakers and gym clothes. "It's hard to work out on the road, but I love spinning classes. My husband recently made me a spreadsheet of the cities where this season's NFL games will take place and marked the ones that have a spinning studio nearby."

ABC for CBS.) "That's how I ended up working with him for the past 10 years," she says.

In between the internship and being named a sideline reporter for college football games, Wolfson encountered a few instances in which she had to prove herself to men on and off the field. In fact, when she was working as a researcher in the sports department of a network at one point, an executive said to her, "I know you love sports, and you know sports—but not like the guys do." Her response? "I left the job. It was the best thing I ever did. After that, I was in front of the camera."

Top by Nicole Miller.
Ring by Avitan.

CREDITS

HAIR/MAKEUP
AUDREY BETHARDS
STYLING ASSISTANT
MARC ANTHONY GEORGE
PHOTO ASSISTANT
ERIKA NIZBORSKI
DIGITAL TECH
AYDEN GOTZMER