

= Stuart Scott =

Stuart Orlando Scott (July 19 , 1965 ? January 4 , 2015) was an American sportscaster and anchor on ESPN , most notably on SportsCenter . Well known for his hip @-@ hop style and use of catchphrases , Scott was also a regular for the network in its National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Football League (NFL) coverage .

Scott grew up in North Carolina , and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill . He began his career with various local television stations before joining ESPN in 1993 . Although there were already accomplished African @-@ American sportscasters , his blending of hip hop with sportscasting was unique for television . By 2008 , he was a staple in ESPN 's programming , and also began on ABC as lead host for their coverage of the NBA .

In 2007 , Scott had an appendectomy and learned that his appendix was cancerous . After going into remission , he was again diagnosed with cancer in 2011 and 2013 . Scott was honored at the ESPY Awards in 2014 with the Jimmy V Award for his fight against cancer , less than six months before his death in 2015 at the age of 49 .

= = Early life = =

Scott was born Stuart Orlando Scott in Chicago , Illinois on July 19 , 1965 to O. Ray and Jacqueline Scott . When he was 7 , Scott and his family moved to Winston @-@ Salem , North Carolina . Scott had a brother named Stephen and two sisters named Susan and Synthia .

He attended Mount Tabor High School for 9th and 10th grade and then completed his last two years at Richard J. Reynolds High School in Winston @-@ Salem ? graduating in 1983 . In high school , he was a captain of his football team , ran track , served as vice president of the student government , and was the Sergeant at Arms of the school 's Key Club . Scott was inducted into the Richard J. Reynolds High School Hall of Fame during a ceremony on February 6 , 2015 . The ceremony took place during the Reynolds / Mt . Tabor (the two high schools that Scott attended) basketball game .

He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill , where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was part of the on @-@ air talent at WXYC . While at UNC , Scott also played wide receiver and defensive back on the club football team . In 1987 , Scott graduated from the University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in speech communication . In 2001 , Scott gave the commencement address at UNC where he implored graduates to celebrate diversity and recognize the power of communication .

= = Career = =

Following graduation , Scott worked as a news reporter and weekend sports anchor at WPDE @-@ TV in Florence , South Carolina from 1987 until 1988 . Scott came up with the phrase " as cool as the other side of the pillow " while working his first job at WPDE . After this , Scott worked as a news reporter at WRAL @-@ TV 5 in Raleigh , North Carolina from 1988 until 1990 . WRAL Sports anchor Jeff Gravley recalled there was a " natural bond " between Scott and the sports department . Gravley described his style as creative , gregarious and adding so much energy to the newsroom . Even after leaving , Scott still visited his former colleagues at WRAL and treated them like family .

From 1990 until 1993 , Scott worked at WESH , an NBC affiliate in Orlando , Florida as a sports reporter and sports anchor . While at WESH , he met ESPN producer Gus Ramsey , who was beginning his own career . Ramsey said of Scott : " You knew the second he walked in the door that it was a pit stop , and that he was gonna be this big star somewhere someday . He went out and did a piece on the rodeo , and he nailed it just like he would nail the NBA Finals for ESPN . " He earned first place honors from the Central Florida Press Club for a feature on rodeo .

= = ESPN = =

Al Jaffe , ESPN 's vice president for talent , brought Scott to ESPN2 because they were looking for sportscasters who might appeal to a younger audience . Scott became one of the few African @-@ American personalities who was not a former professional athlete . His first ESPN assignments were for SportsSmash , a short sportscast twice an hour on ESPN2 's SportsNight program . After Keith Olbermann left SportsNight for ESPN 's SportsCenter , Scott took his place in the anchor chair at SportsNight . After this , Scott was a regular on SportsCenter . At SportsCenter , Scott was frequently teamed with fellow anchors Rich Eisen , Steve Levy , Kenny Mayne , Dan Patrick , and others . Scott was a regular in the This is SportsCenter commercials .

In 2002 , Scott was named studio host for the NBA on ESPN . He became lead host in 2008 , when he also began at ABC in the same capacity for its NBA coverage , which included the NBA Finals . Additionally , Scott anchored SportsCenter 's prime @-@ time coverage from the site of NBA post @-@ season games . From 1997 until 2014 , he covered the league 's finals . During the 1997 and 1998 NBA Finals , Scott did one @-@ on @-@ one interviews with Michael Jordan . When Monday Night Football moved to ESPN in 2006 , Scott hosted on @-@ site coverage , including Monday Night Countdown and post @-@ game SportsCenter coverage . Scott previously appeared on NFL Primetime during the 1997 season , Monday Night Countdown from 2002 to 2005 , and Sunday NFL Countdown from 1999 to 2001 . Scott also covered the MLB playoffs and NCAA Final Four in 1995 for ESPN .

Scott appeared in each issue of ESPN the Magazine , with his Holla column . During his work at ESPN , he also interviewed Tiger Woods , Sammy Sosa , President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign . As a part of the interview with President Barack Obama , Scott played in a one @-@ on @-@ one basketball game with the President . In 2004 , per the request of U.S. troops , Scott and fellow SportsCenter co @-@ anchors hosted a week of programs originating from Kuwait for ESPN 's SportsCenter : Salute the Troops . He hosted a number of ESPN game and reality shows , including Stump the Schwab , Teammates , and Dream Job , and hosted David Blaine 's Drowned Alive special . He hosted a special and only broadcast episode of America 's Funniest Home Videos called AFV : The Sports Edition .

= = = Style = = =

While there were already successful African @-@ American sportscasters , Scott blended hip @-@ hop culture and sports in a way that had never been seen before on television . He talked in the same manner as fans would at home . ESPN director of news Vince Doria told ABC : " But Stuart spoke a much different language ... that appealed to a young demographic , particularly a young African @-@ American demographic . " Michael Wilbon wrote that Scott allowed his personality to infuse the coverage and his emotion to pour out .

Scott also integrated pop culture references into his reports . One commentator remembered his style : " he could go from evoking a Baptist preacher riffing during Sunday morning service (' Can I get a witness from the congregation ? ! ') , to quoting Public Enemy frontman Chuck D (' Hear the drummer get WICKED ! ') In 1999 , he was parodied on Saturday Night Live by Tim Meadows . Scott appeared in music videos with the rappers LL Cool J and Luke , and he was cited in " 3 Peat " , a Lil Wayne song that included the line : " Yeah , I got game like Stuart Scott , fresh out the ESPN shop . " In a 2002 segment of NPR 's On the Media , Scott revealed one approach to his anchoring duties : " Writing is better if it 's kept simple . Every sentence doesn 't need to have perfect noun / verb agreement . I 've said ' ain 't ' on the air . Because I sometimes use ' ain 't ' when I 'm talking . "

As a result of his unique style , Scott and ESPN received a lot of hate mail from people who resented his color , his hip @-@ hop style , or his generation . In a 2003 USA Today survey , Scott finished first in the question of which anchor should be voted off SportsCenter , but he also was second to Dan Patrick in the ' definitely keep him ' voting . Jason Whitlock criticized Scott 's use of Jay @-@ Z 's alternate nickname , " Jigga " , at halftime of Monday Night Football as ridiculous and offensive . Scott never changed his style and ESPN stuck with him .

= = = Catchphrases = = =

Scott became well known for his use of catch phrases , following in the SportsCenter tradition begun by Dan Patrick and Keith Olbermann . He popularized the phrase booyah , which spread from sports into mainstream culture . Some of the catchphrases included :

" Boo @-@ Yah ! "

" Hallah "

" As cool as the other side of the pillow "

" He must be the bus driver cuz he was takin ' him to school . "

" Holla at a playa when you see him in the street ! "

" Just call him butter ' cause he 's on a roll "

" They Call Him the Windex Man ' Cause He 's Always Cleaning the Glass "

" You Ain 't Gotta Go Home , But You Gotta Get The Heck Outta Here . "

" He Treats Him Like a Dog . Sit . Stay . "

" And the Lord said you got to rise Up ! "

" Make All the Kinfolk Proud ... Pookie , Ray Ray and Moesha "

" It 's Your World , Kid ... The Rest of Us Are Still Paying Rent "

" Can I Get a Witness From the Congregation ? "

" Doing It , Doing It , Doing It Well "

" See ... What Had Happened Was "

= = = Legacy = = =

ESPN president John Skipper said Scott 's flair and style , which he used to talk about the athletes he was covering , " changed everything . " Fellow ESPN Anchor , Stan Verrett , said he was a trailblazer : " not only because he was black ? obviously black ? but because of his style , his demeanor , his presentation . He did not shy away from the fact that he was a black man , and that allowed the rest of us who came along to just be ourselves . " He became a role model for African @-@ American sports journalists .

= = Personal life = =

Scott was married to Kimberly Scott from 1993 to 2007 . They had two daughters together , Taelor and Sydni . Scott lived in Avon , Connecticut . At the time of his death , Scott was in a relationship with Kristin Spodobalski . During his Jimmy V Award speech , he told his teenage daughters : " Taelor and Sydni , I love you guys more than I will ever be able to express . You two are my heartbeat . I am standing on this stage here tonight because of you . "

= = = Eye injury = = =

Scott was injured when he was hit in the face by a football during a New York Jets mini @-@ camp on April 3 , 2002 , while filming a special for ESPN , a blow which damaged his cornea . He received surgery but afterwards suffered from ptosis , or drooping of the eyelid .

= = = Appendectomy and cancer = = =

After leaving Connecticut on a Sunday morning in 2007 for Monday Night Football in Pittsburgh , Scott had a stomachache . After the stomachache worsened , he went to the hospital instead of the game and later had his appendix removed . After testing the appendix , doctors learned that he had cancer . Two days later , he had surgery in New York that removed part of his colon and some of his lymph nodes near the appendix . After the surgery , they recommended preventive chemotherapy . By December , Scott ? while undergoing chemotherapy ? hosted Friday night ESPN NBA coverage and led the coverage of ABC 's NBA Christmas Day studio show . Scott worked out while undergoing chemotherapy . Scott said of his experience with cancer at the time : " One of the

coolest things about having cancer , and I know that sounds like an oxymoron , is meeting other people who 've had to fight it . You have a bond . It 's like a fraternity or sorority . " When Scott returned to work and people knew of his cancer diagnosis , the well @-@ wishers felt overbearing for him as he just wanted to talk about sports , not cancer .

The cancer returned in 2011 , but it eventually went back into remission . He was again diagnosed with cancer on January 14 , 2013 . After chemo , Scott would do mixed martial arts and / or a P90X workout regimen . By 2014 , he had undergone 58 infusions of chemotherapy and switched to chemotherapy pills . Scott also went under radiation and multiple surgeries as a part of his cancer treatment . Scott never wanted to know what stage of cancer he was in .

= = = Jimmy V Award = = =

On July 16 , 2014 , Scott was honored at the ESPY Awards , with the Jimmy V Award for his ongoing battle against cancer . He shared that he had 4 surgeries in 7 days in the week prior to his appearance , when he was suffering from liver complications and kidney failure . Scott told the audience , " When you die , it does not mean that you lose to cancer . You beat cancer by how you live , why you live , and in the manner in which you live . " At the ESPYs , a video was also shown that included scenes of Scott from a clinic room at Johns Hopkins Hospital and other scenes from Scott 's life fighting cancer . Scott ended the speech by saying , " Have a great rest of your night , have a great rest of your life . "

= = Death = =

On the morning of January 4 , 2015 , Scott died of cancer in his home in Avon , Connecticut , at age 49 .

= = = Tributes = = =

ESPN announced : " Stuart Scott , a dedicated family man and one of ESPN 's signature SportsCenter anchors , has died after a courageous and inspiring battle with cancer . He was 49 . " ESPN released a video obituary of Scott . Sports Illustrated called ESPN 's video obituary a beautiful and moving tribute to a man who died " at the too @-@ damn @-@ young age of 49 . " Barack Obama paid tribute to Scott , saying :

I will miss Stuart Scott . Twenty years ago , Stuart helped usher in a new way to talk about our favorite teams and the day 's best plays . For much of those twenty years , public service and campaigns have kept me from my family ? but wherever I went , I could flip on the TV and Stu and his colleagues on SportsCenter were there . Over the years , he entertained us , and in the end , he inspired us ? with courage and love . Michelle and I offer our thoughts and prayers to his family , friends , and colleagues .

A number of National Basketball Association athletes ? current and former ? paid tribute to Scott , including Stephen Curry , Carmelo Anthony , Kobe Bryant , Steve Nash , Jason Collins , Shaquille O 'Neal , Magic Johnson , Dwyane Wade , LeBron James , Michael Jordan , Bruce Bowen , Dennis Rodman , James Worthy and others . A number of golfers paid tribute to Scott : Tiger Woods , Gary Player , David Duval , Lee Westwood , Blair O 'Neal , Jane Park and others . Other athletes paid tribute including Robert Griffin III , Russell Wilson , Jon Lester , Lance Armstrong , Barry Sanders , J.J. Watt , David Ortiz and Sheryl Swoopes . UNC basketball coach Roy Williams called him a " hero . " Arizona Cardinals head coach Bruce Arians said : " We lost a football game but we lost more this morning . I think one of the best members of the media I 've ever dealt with , Stuart Scott , passed away . "

Colleagues Hannah Storm and Rich Eisen gave on @-@ air remembrances of Scott . On SportsCenter , Scott Van Pelt and Steve Levy said farewell to Scott and left a chair empty in his honor . Tom Jackson , Cris Carter , Chris Berman , Mike Ditka and Keyshawn Johnson from NFL Countdown shared their memories of Scott .

During his acceptance speech for his 2015 Sports Emmy Award for Best Studio Host , Ernie Johnson , Jr. and gave his award to Scott 's daughters , saying it " belongs with Stuart Scott " . At the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards , Scott was included in the " in memoriam " segment , a rare honor for a sports broadcaster .

= = Filmography = =

He Got Game (1998)
Disney 's The Kid (2000)
Drumline (2002)
Love Don 't Cost A Thing (2003)
Mr. 3000 (2004)
Herbie : Fully Loaded (2005)
The Game Plan (2007)
Enchanted (2007)
Just Wright (2010)

= = Television = =

Arli \$ \$ (2000)
I Love the ' 80s (2002)
Soul Food (2003)
She Spies (2005)
I Love the ' 70s (2003)
One on One (2004)
Stump the Schwab (2004 ? 06)
Dream Job (2004)
Teammates (2005)
I Love the ' 90s (2004)
I Love the Holidays (2005)
I Love Toys (2006)
Black to the Future (2009)

= = Publications = =

Scott , Stuart ; Platt , Larry (2015) . Every Day I Fight . Blue Rider Press . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 399 @-@ 17406 @-@ 3 .