

Stuart Scott

I chose Stuart Scott as my celebrity hero. Stuart Scott has inspired me for many reasons. I have grown up knowing him for his catchphrases such as “As cool as the other side of the pillow,” and “BOO-YAH!” to just name a few. But when he was diagnosed with cancer is when I found a different interest in him. Stuart has inspired me on how hard he fought. He never once gave up because he refers his two daughters as his “heartbeat” and what keeps him going because he can’t lose this battle for him. Now that gave me chills. You don’t find selfless people these days. He didn’t let cancer kill him, he kept fighting, because fighting is winning, fighting isn’t quitting. Stuart was a leader in his job and outside of it. His quotes truly make you think and realize how blessed I am and how thankful I am to being able to live another day. I wish I would have met that amazing man. I guess they say the good do die young.

Stuart Scott lived a rollercoaster ride type of life. Stuart Scott was born on July 19, 1966. He was an American sports broadcaster. Stuart is widely recognized as an anchor on ESPN and more specifically *SportsCenter*. In 1993, he united with ESPN2 and hosted *SportsNight*. He rapidly became one of the best and interviewed the top athletes. Stuart also hosted *Monday Night Countdown*. He worked on ESPN for twenty-one years. Stuart was also known for being a great father for his two girls, Taelor and Sydni. His life may seem to be one only people could dream of, but it was not even close to that. In April, 2002 he dealt with an eye injury from getting hit by a football in the face at the New York Jets small-camp. This made him encounter a surgery. After the surgery, he experienced ptosis, which is the drooping of the eyelid. He overcame that with a smile. If that wasn’t enough he went through the longest and hard battle he would go through in his entire life, cancer. He was diagnosed in 2007. Stuart went into remission in 2012, but was determined to again test positive for cancer in 2013. In 2014, Stuart was awarded the Jimmy V Perseverance award for his courageous battle with cancer and persevering while continuing his on-air work during a hard time. He gave an awe-inspiring speech that I know touched my life and many others. On Sunday, January 4, 2015, Stuart lost his fight with appendiceal cancer at age 49. From a famous quote from Stuart’s ESPY speech: “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.”

Stuart improved the world for more reasons than one. He brought his wit, attitude, and lust for life on television and to people around the world. He not only built his career as a sports anchor, but his passionate experiences on his battle with cancer, and the encouragement and motivation to others fighting the disease, made him a role model. Before his speech at the ESPYS a short video was shared about his struggle. In this video, the one thing Stuart probably will never realize is how much of an impact he has on people all across the world. He has been a beacon of light that people can relate to. People see strength in how he has continued what he loves to do and hasn’t seemed to be paralyzed by the illness. Talk about leaving such a positive imprint on people’s lives. Stuart talked about how he found out he was receiving this award he didn’t believe he was suitable for it. That was until he watched Jimmy V’s speech twenty-one years ago, Stuart was inspired by “Don’t give up . . . Don’t ever give up.” He said he is not special, he just listened to what the man said, and all that he asked for. He goes on saying that just a week before the ESPYS

that he became very sick and wasn't even sure he could make it. Stuart was in the hospital for seven days and underwent four surgeries with tubes in every part possible. He says how he couldn't fight, but the nurses could, his girlfriend could, and his daughters could...you can't fight there are always people to fight for you. "This is what the foundation is about, support because you can't fight alone," Stuart said. His ability to know he can't control everything and to know he couldn't fight alone has also inspired many. Stuart has never, ever, ever, given up. Stuart never let the disease dictate how he would live, and for seven years he continued to battle, until he couldn't. "When you die, it does not mean that you lose to cancer. You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and the manner in which you live. Fighting is winning, fighting isn't quitting. It's not saying I have cancer or I can't do anything, I'm just gonna lay down and cry a pity party for myself. That to me is the only way you lose." And that is just a few ways Stuart has inspired the world.

It is easy to see why Stuart Scott is an iconic hero. When Stuart was faced with adversity he didn't give in. He inspired and will continue to for his hard fight that he never gave up. I hope to touch as many lives as Stuart did. In conclusion, "Don't give up . . . Don't ever give up."