

SCOTT CARTER FOUNDATION

Fighting the Battle against Childhood CANCER

Every day in the sports sections of newspapers across the country, headlines reveal the results of the big games, while the stories go into detail on the teams, the plays and the athletes responsible for the outcomes.

What is not often reported are the people behind the stories, the people who have served as the inspiration to the men and women playing the game. Scott Carter was one of those people; he was the inspiration for the men's basketball team at Oklahoma State University for three years.

In 1991, at the age of 11, Scott was diagnosed with bone cancer. For three years, Scott battled the disease. His leg was amputated and he underwent limb salvage surgery, spinal surgery and two lung surgeries to remove malignant tumors. He spent two-and-a-half years in chemotherapy and radiation treatments. But none of this deterred Scott. His courage, sense of humor, positive attitude and faith in God,

not only served him in his battle against the disease, but also served as an inspiration to all the lives Scott touched.

OSU Men's Basketball Coach Eddie Sutton invited Scott to sit on the bench for home games and reserved a spot at the end for Scott, who soon became an inspiration to the team. Scott created the "Scott's Player of the Game" Award which he presented after each contest to the player who had the best spirit or gave his best effort in the game. A ritual was born in which every Cowboy who left the court gave Scott a high five. Coach Sutton even presented Scott with a Cowboys' practice uniform made in his size. On Thanksgiving Day in 1993, every member of the OSU basketball team filed into the Carters' family room to visit the now bed-ridden child who had become their inspiration. Those same students served as Scott's honorary pallbearers when he was buried in his black OSU warm-up uniform.

Scott's courage left such a deep impact on Bryant Reeves of the Vancouver Grizzlies that Reeves has credited Scott with maturing his perspective on life. In fact, Reeves has discussed this in several interviews with networks and publications.

The impact Scott had on Scott Pierce, a member of OSU's Final Four team in 1995 was featured in a chapter written by NFL Hall of Famer Steve Largent in the book *Profiles in Character*. Pierce, who had been a transfer student, was not eligible to play in 1992, so he sat on the bench with Scott and a friendship developed. Later in his collegiate career, Pierce looked toward the picture of Scott that he kept on his wall. Despite Scott's absence, Pierce found inspiration from Scott and led the Cowboys to the Final Four. Then, in appreciation for all that Scott had meant to him, Pierce presented his Final Four ring to



Paula and Mike Carter at the Scott Carter's Heroes Display at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex.

Scott's parents, Paula and Mike, the latter of whom is now the director of athletics at Oral Roberts University.

During this time, Scott Carter began a sports memorabilia collection. Entitled Scott Carter's Heroes, the collection contains autographed memorabilia including baseballs from Nolan Ryan, Mickey Mantle and Bob Feller; a World Series Dodgers jersey from Billy Russell; basketball jerseys from Chris Mullin and Charles Barkley; basketball shoes from Michael Jordan and Larry Bird; footballs from Steve Largent and Thurman Thomas; football helmets from Joe Montana and Troy Aikman; football jerseys from Barry Sanders and Emmitt Smith; boxing gloves from Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier; and the Final Four ring from Pierce.

Scott Carter's Heroes is part of the Scott Carter Foundation, created by Mike and Paula Carter. The foundation was begun shortly before Scott's death in 1993, just one week shy of his 14th birthday. The collection is currently on display in the fieldhouse at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. It contains more than 350 items of autographed sports and celebrity memorabilia. While only 20 percent of the collection is on display, the remainder is held in storage at the complex. Scott's dream was to display the collection for the enjoyment of the public and to raise money for children's cancer research. Scott believed if enough time, energy and money were devoted to children's cancer research, a cure could be found for the No. 1 disease killer of children in the United States.

Funds raised from the display of Scott Carter's Heroes and Scott Carter's Heroes Golf Classic are used in the pursuit of finding a cure for childhood cancer. To date, the foundation has distributed approximately \$30,000 per year to pediatric cancer research. Since 1993, this total has exceeded \$190,000, including more than \$70,000 from the 1998 golf tournament.

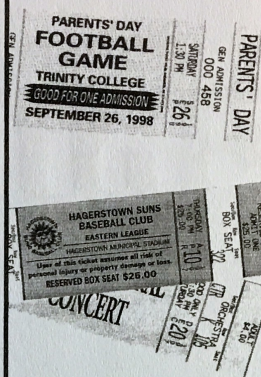
Athletes and coaches have embraced Scott Carter's vision, joining him in the battle against childhood cancer by taking part in the Scott Carter's Heroes Golf Classic and donating items for the collection. Appearing in the 1998 golf classic were coaches Bill Self of the University of Tulsa, Kelvin Sampson of the University of Oklahoma and Barry Hinson of Oral Roberts University. Sutton and Reeves were the tournament hosts. Also appearing were former NFL All-Pro, Don Chandler of the Green Bay Packers and Howard Twilley of the Miami Dolphins; and former major league all-star Mike Moore of the Oakland A's. Celebrities in previous years have included basketball coaches Rob Evans, now of Arizona State University, and Tubby Smith of the University of Kentucky.

Scott Carter's dream has been partially fulfilled. He has touched the lives of thousands who view his collection at Walt DisneyWorld and who benefit from the research which is being conducted. But the quest is not over. The search for a cure continues, as does the work for the Scott Carter Foundation. For additional information on the Scott Carter Foundation, contact Paula Carter at 918/495-7300.

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