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FEATURE FRIDAYS: Lisa Fenn



Courtesy Thomas Lovelock

The U.S. Olympic Committee invited Dartanyon to live at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and learn judo for the Paralympics.

To tell you the Lisa Fenn story, I sit here with tears running down my cheeks. Lisa was a producer for ESPN. Sports stories for seven years. She's evidently a tender heart, Lisa, so her m.o. was always to be on the lookout for a story with deep emotion.

Well she found one. You'll learn more about it in today's edition of Feature Friday. But what you'll also learn is how deeply touched Lisa was by her two protagonists.....so much so that she gave her life, all her time, much of her resources, to them for a couple of years.

Lisa Fenn is a living example of empathy to the nth degree. She stood up for two people who had virtually nothing in this world.....tune in. I guarantee you will be crying in just a few minutes, too.

~ Diana



Brownie Harris for ESPN

Leroy Sutton, Dartanyon Crockett and Lisa Fenn grew close during the reporting of her 2009 story, "Carry On."

In lieu of our traditional "Feature Friday" interview questions, I invite you to read this powerful excerpt from Lisa's [ESPN.com](#) commentary 'Carry On': [Why I Stayed](#), to learn what compelled the former ESPN producer to care for her subjects long after the story wrapped. Then watch the heartfelt follow up story just below and share it with your friends.

"Why did you stay?"

He asked me, unprompted, as we waited quietly for the light to turn green. My heart revved. I always thought he knew.

"I love you," I answered.

"That's what I thought you'd say," he replied. "But...why...why did you stick around and do everything you did?"

The answer to Dartanyon Crockett's second question was not as tidy as the first. Because life can be a knotted mess and, sometimes, love is not enough.

Dartanyon and Leroy Sutton grubbed their way into my heart four years ago. As an ESPN television features producer at the time, I was always on the hunt for unique athlete pieces. For 10 years, I traveled the country, chronicling human-interest stories against the backdrop of sports. I covered Derek Jeter and Michael Jordan all the way down to disabled amateurs and terminally ill little leaguers who imprinted a special brand of heroics onto this world. What a privilege to be invited into their private pains and sacred celebrations.

But what I found on the wrestling mats at Cleveland's Lincoln-West High School in 2009 caused my spirit to sink and soar, all in the same moment.

For the full commentary go [here](#).

Watch the follow up story and prepare to be moved.

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Brownie Harris for ESPN

Leroy, left, lost his legs in a train accident when he was 11. Dartanyon, right, was born with Leber's Disease, which led to blindness.

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