

Anita Fordjour

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Ghana's Rising Paralympic Stars...

Going For Gold, Inspiring a Nation

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HISTORY:

At age 6, Anita contracted polio. Her family was unaware as to what the disease was and therefore treatment was delayed by several weeks. Anita's father believed her disability was the result of evil spirits at her grandfather's funeral. She attended school until Primary 6, often encountering discrimination from other children, who made fun of her. Her experiences as a disabled child instilled a determination to prove to her father that she was not a waste of space. Anita took inspiration from watching disabled athletes on TV and believed that she could too. Aged 20 she started playing basketball and progressed into competitive wheelchair track racing.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

2007 – All-Africa Games: 1500m Silver; 200m Bronze

2010 – Commonwealth Games: 1500m Bronze

2011 – All Africa Games: 1500m Bronze

2011 – Female Athlete of the Year, Sports Writers Association of Ghana Awards

DREAM:

To succeed at London 2012 to be able to support her children.

"I am lucky I won a medal at the Commonwealth Games in India. Now I want to use this opportunity to say to African children with disability, anything is possible."

RIGHT TO DREAM

Anita is one of four Ghanaian para-athletes who are currently being supported by Right to Dream – the athletes are receiving specialised coaching, accommodation, sport psychology and opportunities to compete at international competitions to enable the athletes to focus all of their efforts on reaching their true potential, qualify for and fly the flag for Ghana at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

It is Right to Dream's vision that wheelchair track athletes Anita Fordjour and Raphael Botsyo Nkegbe, powerlifter Charles Narh Teye and paracyclist Alem Mumuni will become role models for society, challenging negative perceptions towards the disabled and inspiring the next generation of children with disabilities to get involved in para-sports and believe that they too can achieve great things. The long term vision is to establish a youth para-sport programme at the Right to Dream Academy where the most talented will be offered full scholarships to develop their sporting talent and enroll in our established education and character development programmes.



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