

Raphael Nkegbe Botsyo

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Ghana's Rising Paralympic Stars...

Going For Gold, Inspiring a Nation

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HISTORY:

Raphael was born in Sunyani - his parents were unaware of the disease, Polio, and as a result he was not vaccinated. He contracted the disease aged 6 and was unable to use either of his legs from this point onwards. Raphael crawled around and at age 10 he was able to get crutches to improve his mobility. His family showed a huge amount of support for Raphael and the courage and support of his mother meant that he experienced little discrimination in his community. He always had a keen interest in sport but never believed that he could become a professional sportsman himself – Raphael's sporting potential was spotted at a training camp where he was subsequently offered an opportunity to train at the University of Illinois, USA.

Through his involvement with the Ghana Society of Physically Disabled (GSPD), Raphael began to recognise how he could use his sport to achieve and help his community by being an advocate for the rights of people with disability and to help develop opportunities, especially through sport for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Athens Paralympic Games, 2004 - First and only male Ghanaian athlete to attend a Paralympic Games

All Africa Games, 2007 – 100m Silver, 200m Bronze, 400m Bronze

Beijing Paralympic Games, 2008 – only Ghanaian male athlete

Commonwealth Games, 2010 – finalist, 1500m

All Africa Games 2011 – finalist, 1500m

Vice Chairman for Sports Wing of Ghana Society for the Physically Disabled

"I have competed in two Paralympic Games but never won a medal because of poor preparation. Preparation is everything. Now I have the chance for good preparation to win and to change the perception of disability in my country."

RIGHT TO DREAM

Raphael 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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