

In Good Company

The part that has to dream: Marvell Scott's adventures on the field, on the air, and on call

For Marvell Scott, M.D. ('01), there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

Scott isn't a pessimist — quite the opposite, actually. Instead, for more than a decade he has maintained a consistently exhausting schedule, and far from looking forward to a break, he is eager to keep up the pace.

While attending medical school, Scott worked as a sports anchor for WDTN-TV in Dayton. Balancing his education and a budding career in broadcast journalism was challenging enough, but he also decided to pile on a stint as a pro athlete. For two seasons, Scott was the top running back for the Dayton Skyhawks, a professional indoor football team that called the city home until 2000.

"I would practice at night," Scott said, and "then Friday would come around, and I would anchor broadcasts from the studio, sportscast the news from the game beforehand in my uniform, (and then) play in the game... It was quite a scream."

If at first you don't succeed, try 70 more times

Sports have always been an important part of Scott's life. As a high school senior, he was ranked as the country's second-best running back. In college, despite a series of injuries, he played football at the University of Illinois and the University of Delaware. After graduation, with his injuries ruling out an NFL career, Scott applied for jobs in sports broadcasting.

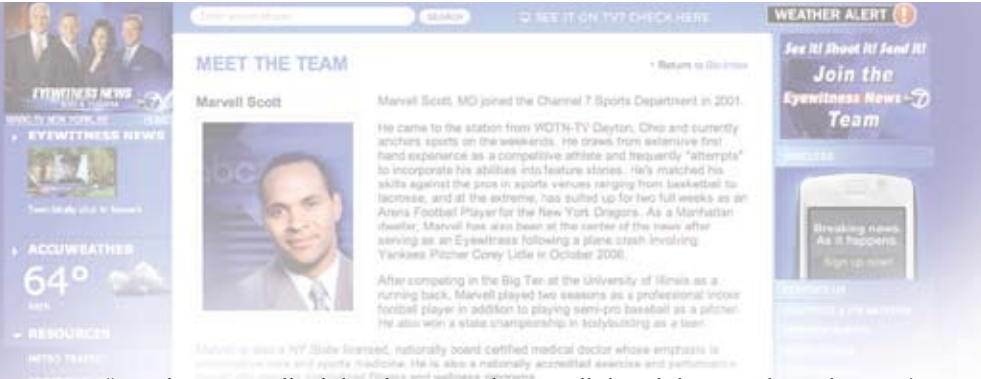
"I got rejected by about 70 stations," he admitted. "They said everything from my voice didn't sound right, I needed to lose weight, I didn't carry a presence on camera."

The rejections didn't deter him, though: "Part of you has to remain realistic, but the other part has to just dream," he said. "Don't be the person who sets your own limits, and definitely don't let someone else stump your potential."

Scott's persistence finally earned him a television job in Chicago, which led to the opportunity in Dayton. In applying to medical school a year later, Scott was following a very specific dream, again facing long odds — until he interviewed with Wright State.



Alumnus Marvell Scott combines passion for medicine, sports, and broadcasting into a successful career in the Big Apple.



“Wright State really did its best to make sure you could pursue the great field of medicine but retain your individuality,” Scott said. “I had a goal of opening up these multi-purpose sports medicine/fitness-rehab centers.

“They said basically from the beginning, ‘We’ll support you as long as you show that you’re committed to helping people and to the field of medicine, and keep your grades up and so forth. The sky’s the limit.’”

A big break in the big city

Scott’s hard work paid off in his fourth year with a job offer from WABC-TV in New York City, one of the top local television stations in the country. For a very hectic few months, he shuttled between New York and Dayton to finish up his clerkships, but after graduation he relocated permanently to the city and began covering the Yankees, Mets, Giants, Jets, and everything else in local professional sports, from the Belmont Stakes to the PGA.

“I’m graced that one of my main hobbies pays my bills,” Scott said. “I get paid to go to games, paid to talk about sports... I can’t lie. I get to live a little bit vicariously through a bunch of athletes I cover.”

All the while, Scott knew he wasn’t finished with medicine. Before long, he began applying to residency programs, where he faced a familiar uphill climb to find a program willing to accommodate his television career. Eventually, he became an internal medicine resident at Cabrini Medical Center in Manhattan. Scott would often cover the early morning and evening news broadcasts, spend all day at the hospital in between, and then be on call at night.

“I actually had problems. I had to put Post-It® notes everywhere around the apartment,” he said. “It was hard for me to keep track of not only what day it was, but when I looked at the clock a lot of times, I didn’t know if it was five o’clock p.m. or five a.m., because I was running so much.”

Good things happening

In addition to completing his residency, Scott achieved another longstanding goal by creating a unique program integrating sports and rehabilitative medicine, and non-medical fitness, nutrition, and therapeutic services. With facilities on Madison Avenue and a Web site at drmarvellph.com, the program realizes the dream that first inspired him to enter medical school.

For now, Scott sees patients in off-hours on a case-by-case basis, largely because he just began a sports medicine fellowship created for him by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). Flexible as it is, the fellowship accounts for the two days each week not already devoted to his work with WABC-TV.

Scott recently moved to Harlem with his girlfriend, and a niece has relocated to the city to work as his personal assistant. After so many years of doggedly pursuing his goals in relative isolation, Scott finds the support and companionship a welcome change. Even so, he has no plans to slow down — or start looking toward the end of the tunnel — anytime soon.

“Ultimately, you’re only on this Earth for so long,” he said. “You might as well get as much from it as you can. If you have the right attitude and your heart’s in the right place, good things will happen.”