

THE STORY OF LUCAS SITHOLE: SYNOPSIS

Born and raised in Kwa-Zulu Natal, east of South Africa, Lucas Sithole grew up in a small township village with his mother, aunts and sisters. One day in 1998, 12-year old Lucas was asked by a friend to help assist his uncle. The uncle who was a small freight train driver had asked the two children to change a railway line, while he manned the train. The children had successfully pulled the lever that switched the lines but on their way back to the train, Lucas had lost his footing trying to get on and slipped under the moving wheels.

Lucas Sithole's almost lifeless body lay under the train. Lucas retells this experience as being painless but even at that young age; he realized the horror of his situation. He tried to move his legs and right arm but there was nothing...his three limbs were ripped off during the horrific train accident leaving him with just his left arm.

After years of depression, Lucas found solace in sport and finally found something he was good at- tennis. Training day after day, Lucas' hard-work paid off and is now South Africa's number 1 ranked disabled tennis player and placed 9th in the world.

At the time that we had aired this story, Lucas was on his way to Japan in the final leg of qualifying matches for the Paralympics in London. Lucas has since made the cut for the Olympics and will be representing the country in tennis.

Lucas' life journey is one of hope and determination. After a life-altering moment, any normal person would have given up but Lucas' strong will and perseverance made him determined to make the most of his second chance to life. Maneuvering his wheelchair in different directions at high speed is difficult enough but doing it with half an arm is something else... Lucas' skill and sheer optimism to life has made him South Africa's number one even off the tennis court.