

The Best We've Got

THE CARL ERSKINE STORY

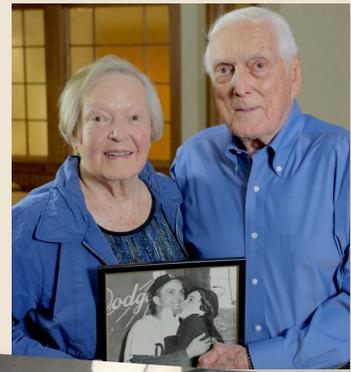
In the classic baseball novel "The Boys of Summer," Carl Erskine was referred to as a philosopher, a poet, an "existential man." A New York sportswriter called him "the gentleman from Indiana." Dennis Schmidt, former CEO of Special Olympics Indiana, said Carl is the most decent man he's ever met. Former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, in giving Carl the state's highest honor, said simply: "He's the best we've got."

Now 95, Carl Erskine is the last man standing of those fabled Brooklyn Dodgers Boys of Summer. And does he have a story to tell.

A story of the Golden Age of Baseball, playing in five Subway Series, setting the Series strikeout record, throwing two no-hitters, taking Pullmans from town to town with Pee Wee and Campy and Duke.

But that's only the beginning. Carl played a seminal role in two of the great Civil Rights movements of the past century, first as a teammate and close friend of Jackie Robinson, then as a pioneer in the fight for people with special needs. Carl and his wife Betty raised their Down syndrome son Jimmy at home when there was no schooling or services. They started grass-roots programs, pushed for legislation that ultimately abolished prison-like institutions and is leading to full societal integration. Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver would fly Carl around the country to give his call to action: Holding his World Series ring in one hand and Jimmy's Special Olympics gold medal in the other, he would ask the audience which was the greater achievement. Tears all around.

There is not a better man alive than Carl Daniel Erskine. As the country searches for true heroes, a new PBS documentary will capture Carl's inspirational, beautifully Indiana story for posterity.



"Without the Carl Erskines of the world, we would never know the real power of sport."

- Tim Shriver, Eunice Kennedy Shriver's son and CEO of Special Olympics International





“There are two Halls of Fame, I believe. One is for baseball, and the other one is called heaven. And I really and truly feel that heaven will have their hands wide open for that right-hander from Anderson, Indiana. And they’ll say, come on, Carl, come on in, and pull up a chair!”

– Broadcaster Vin Scully

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Starring: Carl and Betty Erskine and family, Vin Scully, Bob Costas, Mitch Daniels, Jim Morris, Richard Lapchick, Branch Rickey III, Tim Shriver (son of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and now CEO of Special Olympics International), Bobby Leonard, plus the president of the national Fellowship of Christian Athletes, of which Carl was a charter member, and many more.

Narrator: Charley Steiner, multiple national Emmy winner at ESPN and the lead radio voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Platform: American Public Television, which airs on 350 stations nationwide, including in all top markets.

Budget: \$500,000. The fiscal agent is the Indiana Historical Society, a 501(c)(3), and all donations would receive those tax benefits. All net proceeds from the film (DVDs sales, streaming, broadcast deals, etc.) will be donated to the Special Olympics.

Timing: To premiere in August 2022.

Director: Ted Green. His films have won 21 regional Emmys, including Best Documentary for his past four (pictured below). His most recent film, “Eva: A-7063” about Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor, also won the national Gabriel Award for Human Dignity, and “Undefeated: The Roger Brown Story” aired on ESPN Classic. Bio supplied separately.

