



A Message From Jan Ruhe's Son

By Clayton White

I played Football in High School. I played fullback. In one particular game, we were behind 6-0 and we got down to the two-yard line and there were 18 seconds left in the game. We got into the huddle and the quarterback called a play to the fullback. It was a "*slant right*" which meant I got the ball. I went up to the line and I was very nervous. The crowd was really into it. The quarterback said, "*Ready...go!*" and gave me the ball. I went for the endzone. Touchdown! Oh what a feeling!

I consider myself a leader because when I would go out on the football field, everybody in the stands were counting on me to make something happen. If I don't make something happen, I don't think anything really will. It was really fun to score eight touchdowns in one football game; I even broke 3 Colorado State football records while in High School. The game I scored eight touchdowns in was one of the only games my father watched me play. Since my dad was a quarterback in a big Texas University, I had something to prove. My mother has taught me that all successful people have something to prove. She also instilled in me not to be average, but to be a champion.

My mother is there for me when I get home from school. When I am there, we all eat dinner every night as a family and we discuss what's going on in our lives. It's really fun. You can tell my mother from my friends' moms, because when she walks in the room, you know who she is—because she looks and is a leader.

I have traveled many places with my mother.

Let me tell you about the Dominican Republic at Club Med. I was in the Kids' Club, when I was about nine years old. There was a big trapeze like in a circus. I said "I am not getting up there," and Mom said, "You go get up there, you need to try new things." I said, "Okay," and went up the tall ladder. I went for the trapeze and made it! I ultimately fell into the nets, but I survived. I would have been too full of fear, but my mother encouraged me and showed me that I could try new things.

There was another experience like that in Hawaii. My mother wanted me to go surfing and got me a private surfing coach. I really didn't want to go. But she told me I would have fun and I did. I did it, my big sister, Sarah and I, we just got on our surfboards and rode the waves. Most people do not get to experience what I have experienced through traveling with my mom.



My best friend in Aspen, Danny, talked me into getting a jeep with a stick shift drive. I didn't know how to drive a stick. My mother took us to Denver to pick out the car. Danny had to drive it back to Aspen because I was too scared! Of course I learned to drive it. We had so much fun getting that car. Several years ago, Danny was killed in a terrible car accident. At his funeral, I spoke and told the story about the day that Danny picked out my new car and that my Mom rode in the back of the jeep all the way home and never tried to force me to drive my own car! My Mom says she is sure that she will have a grandson named Danny some day.

Do you know what a Lucky Day is? A lucky day is a day when someone takes time to make you feel important and puts their time in to making your day a better day. I love Lucky Days with my Mom.

This is what she does. She wakes me up on occasional days of the year and says, "Today is your Lucky Day". And she takes me for the day and just spends the entire day focused on me.

Now that I am in college, my mother has furnished my apartment and when she comes to town I know that I am going to get 2-3 Lucky Days. She fills up my refrigerator, gets a housekeeper to come in, fills my car up with gas, takes me to incredible restaurants, private clubs, private parties, spends hours with me and she is so proud of me.

When my buddies need something, they all call their dad. When I need something, I call my mom. My mother is a very important person in my life, because I count on her and she's there whenever I need her. I keep in close contact with my mother. I love my sisters so much and one of the happiest times in my life is now that I am singing and playing the guitar in private clubs. I even from time to time dedicate songs from the stage to my mother. When I play "*Do not be denied*", I always think of my mother. I am proud to call Jan Ruhe, Mom.