

## 2009 Ride for the Students SUMMARY

As many of you know, I enjoy endurance sports. I have completed numerous running events and triathlons. Among my accomplishments are two Ironman (2.4 mile swim/112 mile bike/26.2 mile run) finishes. I remember the first time I drove the 100 miles from Boise to McCall through the mountains along the Payette River and across the very scenic countryside. Remember I am an endurance athlete who loves to venture into new areas to train and race, so obviously I thought to myself "I could ride this on my bike some day." After all, how hard could 100 miles be, even if means climbing through the mountain roads? After sitting on the thought for a while, the plan came to me. I could do this ride and get people to sponsor me per mile to raise money for our student groups for the 2009-10 school year. Since 100 miles is way too short for a fundraiser ride, I would have to not only ride *to* McCall, but I would also need to ride *back* from McCall to Boise and make a 200 mile round trip out of it to make it worth it. The plan was born and many of you were contacted to support the ride by a per mile sponsorship. We started receiving donations almost immediately and sent out press releases leading up to the ride. The Idaho Statesman newspaper printed an article and a local Christian Radio station also mentioned it on the air.

On Friday, September 25, as I was preparing to leave from the BBC parking lot, a crowd including students, faculty, staff and even the board of directors, gathered to give me a big send off. At 8:00 AM the ride was underway. My wife, Kippy and a good friend, Tracy drove a support vehicle along for safety and to carry supplies. The temperature was perfect and the skies were clear, making the day very pleasant for a tough mountain ride that started at 2700ft. and would peak at 5300ft. before slightly descending into McCall. The ride to McCall, which ended up being a total of 103 miles, went smooth. Only one time was I in danger and it wasn't because of traffic. After all the hard riding through and over the mountains I only had 6 miles to go to my destination on day one. I was just wanting to peddle comfortably in and rest my legs, when out of nowhere a mean looking dog was on my back wheel sounding like it wanted to take a chunk out of my leg! Instead of a nice and easy peddle to the hotel I was up out of the seat sprinting as fast as I could to stay in front of this dog. I ended up swerving clear across the road to get the dog to back off. As soon as he turned away, I crossed back over and took it easy the rest of the way. I arrived at the Super 8 Hotel in McCall just after 3:00 PM. After I got checked in and got all my gear to the room Kippy and Tracy left to return to Boise. After 7 hours and 15 minutes and 103 miles now complete on day one, I could now rest for the 103 miles back to Boise on day two.

Saturday morning I woke up at 6:00 AM to eat breakfast and get ready for the ride back to Boise. Two BBC students (Jakob King and Tim Ellis) had driven up Friday evening to stay the night and drive the support vehicle on the way back. The temperature was 40 degrees in McCall at 8:00AM when it was time to get started back. I put on a jacket and gloves and began the slightly easier ride back to Boise with 103 miles to go. Much of the ride back was slightly downhill, which was good since my legs were still sore from all the climbing the day before. A flat tire just 15 miles into the day caused me to stop early, but 10 minutes is all it would take to get back on the road. The next 65 miles after the flat was very smooth. The hardest part of the entire ride (both days) came with only 20 miles to the end. The hill climbing out of Horseshoe Bend is 5 miles long with a very steep incline. I prepared myself mentally for this tough climb and when it was time I shifted into the easiest gear, put my head down and just pounded it out. It took about 40 minutes to go 5 miles, but I did it and it sure felt good reaching the summit. From there it was all downhill and flat for the next 20 miles to the BBC parking lot. I would have to stop one more time to change another flat after running over a piece of metal. After

being on the road for 6 ½ hours, I finally reached the end. It was a great ride and a great experience. Over \$2200 was raised for our student groups and we got some added exposure for our school through the local media.

## Special Thanks to:

- \* God, for protection and a safe trip
- \* Ryan Faber at Eastside Cycles for making sure my bike was ready and I had the equipment I needed
- \* Teri Hunt from the Holiday Inn Hunt Lodge in McCall for donating a room for the night
- \* All of you who participated by a per-mile sponsorship of any level



Student, faculty, staff and board members gathered in the parking lot for a big send off on Friday morning at 8:00 AM.



The road was smooth and the weather was perfect all the way to McCall