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Special Edition

Around the world by tandem

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LIVESTRONG Ride 2007 in Portland, Oregon, September 30th

GO, Tandem, GO!



Rain is pouring down on a legion of cyclists. It is early and the sun is not up yet, a look at the cycling computer tells us: It is 7:30 a.m. and we do have a refreshing temperature of 8 °C. Impatiently we wait in the wet and cold and finally Lance Armstrong steps on stage and asks: "So this is Portland?" Cheering arises, the town is famous for nasty weather.



He thanks everyone for joining the ride, over 1.7 Million USD has been raised. After the starting shot we got going. The rear wheels pushed up water fountains. In between all the fancy racing bikes we got a few comments on our heavy-duty bicycle such as: "That is the Hummer of bikes" or "Look, Sylvester Stallone's bike!" In spite of the good mood the reason for the ride was sincere and we were always reminded of that, because a lot of riders dedicated their ride to a departed friend or a member of the family. A rider ahead of us had a plate saying "In Memory of Mom"

We did the 70 mile ride, the longest route (100 mile) had been closed due to extreme bad weather conditions. It rained all day long and despite of our Gore-Tex we were soaking wet after a while. But Lance was just 200 meters ahead of us. What do you guys think of that? 200 meters! That was at the starting line. We have to admit, after that we did not see him anymore. There were a couple of stops and the volunteers were very busy keeping up with the demand for tomato soup and hot chocolate. At one stop a group of pirates shouted encouragement to the riders, and as I was also wearing my pirate jersey they quickly hired me! The route went around a lake and over heaps of rolling hills. We put the hammer down and passed a lot of motivating posters of Livestrong, such as: „Livestrong means to pedal your heart out, even if it hurts“.



After five hours we crossed the finish line and we were really wet. There was an after race party and while we were putting those calories away, riders with cancer were being interviewed and the work of Livestrong was presented. Livestrong finances cancer research, helps victims and tries to help to better understand the disease. On a slide show we saw pictures of victims, whom riders have dedicated the ride to. Pictures of kids, whose parents have chosen the subtitle „We will never forget you, this ride is for you“ or pictures of fathers, whose children have signed with "We miss and love you".



The pictures were really heart breaking and we had to fight back the tears seeing so much suffering, sorrow, but also the encouragement and bravery. We were glad that - with the over 1,500 Dollars collected - we can help others with cancer a little bit today. A big success which we never thought would have been possible. You made it happen and we would like to thank our donors wholeheartedly:

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