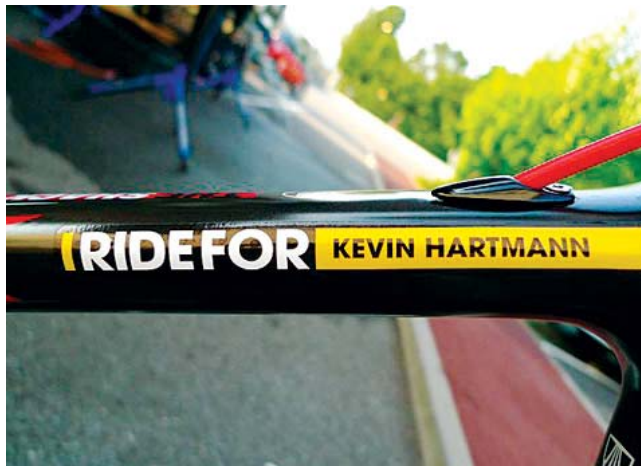


## Kevin remembered at Tour de France

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Kevin Hartmann's name appears on the top tube of Dmitriy Muravyev's bike at the Tour de France.

*Photo: Glenn Kasin*

Cayman Little League coach Kevin Hartmann, who passed away recently, had a poignant presence in the Tour de France this week. As part of the Lance Armstrong Foundation's cancer awareness work, members of Lance Armstrong's RadioShack cycling team are participating in the Tour de France with the names of cancer survivors, people battling cancer, or who have lost their battle against the disease, on their bikes. As part of the Unity campaign, Hartmann's name was selected from thousands of submissions and appeared on RadioShack cyclist Dmitriy Muravyev's bicycle during the second week of the Tour. The sticker read "I ride for Kevin Hartmann" and appeared on the top tube of the bike.

Muravyev, from Kazakhstan, is one of Armstrong's key helpers in the Tour de France. He was also by Armstrong's side in 2009 when the Texan made it onto the third step of the podium while teammate Alberto Contador claimed the win. According to Hartmann's sister Kim Piskorowski, the Livestrong message meant a lot to the family during his battle with cancer.

"During Kevin's battle with cancer we had turned to Lance Armstrong's story on survival for information and assistance," she said.

"In the course of working with [the Lance Armstrong Foundation's] website there had been so many inspiring stories and one of them was the chance to participate in 'virtual ride'. It involved nominating Kevin with the story of why I wanted to ride for him. Once we started the virtual ride, then everyone needed to go on to the website to 'vote/cheer' us on," recalled Piskorowski.

Their support started with immediate family, then friends, then friends of friends, until it spread to people throughout Cayman and eventually throughout the United States.

"Our 'cheers' started adding up and so did our ranking. Before long we were able to watch with Kevin as our ranking was in the top 100. This brought a smile to his face and his thumbs up sign-which meant so much from him," said Piskorowski.

The virtual race developed into a rallying call for the family as they kept pushing to get Hartmann's name higher up the list. The top three names would appear on Armstrong's bike during the three weeks of the Tour de France.

"As a family we all rallied around him with this race. He wore the Armstrong T-shirt, which read 'Livestrong'. We all started wearing the yellow Livestrong bracelets, which signified to us the attitude that united we were fighting this disease," recalled Piskorowski.

Although Hartmann did not make it into the top three, the family learned that his name had been selected to appear on one of Armstrong's team mates' bikes only days before Hartmann passed away.

"It's a great feeling, it's like Kevin keeps going. I think there are so many of us having such a hard time handling him being gone. This is like one more celebration of his life - a life taken entirely too soon," said Piskorowski.

"Even though Kev didn't beat this monster, someday maybe there will be a cure. No one who was loved, cherished, or admired as much as my brother should have to lose this battle."

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Kevin remembered at Tour de France  
Posted by Kim on 7/16/2010 6:50:54 PM

Thank you for remembering "Kev" in such a special way. It's a wonderful feeling to see all the love and admiration for him.

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Kevin remembered at Tour de France  
Posted by CaymanNational on 7/16/2010 1:41:02 PM

Kevin will always be remembered. He was like a uncle, dad, and friend to everyone. Love and miss you kev...

 agree ( 17 )  disagree ( 0 )

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