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U.S. bike trek honors dad

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PERINTON — Cycling about 90 miles a day for eight weeks has not worn down the spirit of a son with a mission.

Matt Klainer, 25, who grew up in Rochester, decided to fulfill his father's last dream of cycling across the country with riders from Cycle America. Jeremy Klainer, Matt's father, died about two months before his planned bike adventure.

Jeremy Klainer was always an entrepreneur and wanted to improve health care. He enjoyed starting businesses and watching them grow, but his passion was cycling.

By combining his love for cycling and his dream of improving health care in America, the Klainer family will give 100 percent of donations for Matt Klainer's bike ride to an entrepreneurial scholarship in the name of his father at the University of Rochester Graduate School of Nursing. In order to endow the scholarship, the family has to raise \$100,000. The Klainer family has pledged \$50,000; the rest is to come from fundraising in Jeremy Klainer's memory. Dressed in his late father's jersey and equipped with his bike, Matt Klainer started his nine-week bike ride on Father's Day, June 15. He dipped the rear wheel into the Pacific Ocean in Washington state to mark the beginning of his journey.

"He looks like me, but he moves like his father," said Pamela Klainer,



At Perinton Park, just outside the village of Fairport, Matt Klainer on Tuesday hugs his mom, Pamela Klainer, before resuming his cross-country bicycle trip memorializing his father, Jeremy Klainer, who died shortly before the tour.

Matt's mother, Pamela Klainer, a Rochester resident, has kept in touch with her son by reading about his weekly adventures on his Web site. "It's absolutely a hoot because it feels like I'm riding across with him," she said.

The ride was ideal for Matt Klainer because it passed through Perinton and ends in Boston, where he currently resides.

"It's good to be home," Klainer said as he joined former teachers, friends and neighbors at Perinton Park Tuesday afternoon. "I can't believe I rode here from Seattle."

The group consists of 35 riders from Cycle America.

Kari Winner, a fellow Cycle America rider, also took the opportu-

nity to stop in Rochester, her hometown.

Money donated in Winner's name will go to the Rotary Foundation, earmarked primarily to help children in the African nation of Malawi whose parents have died of AIDS. The donations will help the children get back into their own villages among and friends and family, rather than living in orphanages.

The riders expect to reach the East Coast in about a week. After cycling about 4,200 miles, Klainer will dip the front tire of his father's bike into the Atlantic Ocean to mark the end.

His father would be proud.

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