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Remembering Mark Reynolds



Mark Reynolds: 1968-2004

January 12, 2004

Jim Kimball

Friday afternoon I was reading about the news-breaking tragedy in California involving mountain bikers and a mountain lion, and began to suspect that the victim could possibly be my friend Mark. I soon received word after that confirming my worst fear and felt a wave of nauseating grief sweep through me; I couldn't believe it – and still can't.

- Related: [OMS Sports' Mark Reynolds loses life in mountain bike tragedy](#)

These things aren't supposed to happen to people you care about. This is one of the most tragic events that has ever happened to a friend of mine. It seems while riding his mountain bike in Orange County, California, his chain came off, and while trying to fix it, the mountain lion attacked – even writing this now seems surreal.

I first met Mark, who worked as a rider rep for OMS Sports, last spring at one of the East Region Supercrosses; when he arranged an interview with one of his riders – thus began our friendship.

During the motocross series I saw Mark on a regular basis working with the various OMS

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riders. I was always so impressed with the enthusiasm, sincerity, and work ethic Mark displayed. He treated his riders as if they were family; Mark did his best for all of them. Typically he was one of the first to arrive and last to leave the track.

Mark was so helpful to me with regards to arranging rider interviews and helping collect rider gear for the recent USMotocross.com benefit auctions -- I never could have done it without him.

Later in the summer Mark and I began talking about things other than motocross like careers, hobbies and family. It was then when I learned about Mark's passion for fitness and mountain biking -- whenever he wasn't working he was mountain biking. Mark shared feelings, insights and gave advice to me about our various discussion topics even though I had known him for less than a year. You get a few rare chances in life to meet someone you can connect with immediately, and Mark was just such a friend -- we just hit it off.

When my wife Laura met Mark at the U.S. Open in October she felt the same way. He had such an easy and friendly manner about him; as I said earlier, sincerity is the word that comes to mind first when I think of Mark.

I feel robbed right now and angry with his loss. But in the spirit of my friend, I will remember that I'm very proud to have met and known Mark. He made a very positive impact on my life, as well as the many others who knew him.

He'll be missed. My prayers go out to the others in his life who are grieving his loss and especially to his family.

Godspeed Mark

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