

2015 GU Energy Extraordinary Courage Award

The Extraordinary Courage Award recognizes student-athletes who have persevered through challenging circumstances and overcome adversity to develop and excel as a model student-athlete.

Kade Brantington, Ridgway Composite, Colorado High School Cycling League



Kade is 6'2 and a solid 220 lbs., currently a star on the basketball team and a former star of his school's football team. Kade made the difficult choice to quit football and race mountain bikes. And while he may have accomplished far more on the football field than out on the mountain bike race course, this was a choice made for the love of the sport of cycling. Sadly, Kade has been subjected to bullying and abuse from students, teachers and coaches for his choice not to continue football, ranging from simple verbal taunts to actual physical damage to his car. This sort of behavior from his community is deplorable, but Kade has continually shown the fortitude to stand by his choices. He has been proud to be a part of a regional team, Ridgway Composite, that consists of six tiny southwest communities spread over

three counties in Colorado. The time necessary to make practices and continue to be a real leader on the team took great energy and commitment — but Kade stepped up. He has been described as one of the key student leaders to the young team and a truly good human being. He has displayed absolute courage in his choice to ride with Ridgway Composite in the face of constant pressure and ridicule in his small hometown. One cannot imagine what he goes through on a daily basis in the hallways of his school, yet he stands up to those sorts of pressures and abuses for the love of riding bikes. This shows an incredible display of courage and character that provides inspiration to the other student-athletes on his team.



“Sometimes in life you’ve got to use the naysayers as motivation. You’ve got to be willing to look those people in the face that want to see you fail--and prove them wrong. You’ve got to be what you want to be. Can’t be what everyone else wants you to be.”