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Driven cyclist Grant Davis celebrated (and gives) life

DAVID L. TEIBEL
Tucson Citizen

While 16-year-old Stuart Grant Davis' life ended Monday, he will help others through the donation of some of his organs.

Grant, an aspiring Olympic bicyclist, died Monday from injuries he received last week when he hit a trailer attached to a parked pickup. His funeral is Saturday.



Davis, who went by Grant, was a driven youth who excelled in everything he tried, family and friends said.

He was an accomplished pianist who played before audiences at the University of Arizona's Centennial Hall and was on the verge of completing requirements to become an Eagle Scout. He was going into his junior year at Mountain View High School as a member of the honor roll, with a grade-point average of 3.97, and he was moving toward his goal of becoming an Olympic and a professional bicycle racer, said his father, Stuart Davis.

"Grant's next goal was to ride in the Tour de France five years from now," his father said of the 2,000-mile race.

Davis had bicycled in many events in Tucson and elsewhere in the United States, said Richard J. DeBernardis, president of the Perimeter Bicycling Association of America Inc., sponsor of the annual Tour de Tucson and other bicycling events.

"Grant rode all the events, except the Tour of the Tucson Mountains," DeBernardis said.

Davis was to leave in three weeks for the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., which would have put him on track to becoming an Olympic bicyclist, DeBernardis said.

"He finished 40th last year in El Tour de Tucson out of 8,000" riders, DeBernardis said. His time in the 109-mile race was four hours, 22 minutes and 30 seconds.

"He was so good he beat adults consistently," Stuart Davis said, adding his son bicycled an average of 12,500 miles a year.

Davis' death has touched the bicycling community in the United States and around the world, DeBernardis said, explaining he has received numerous e-mails and letters from bicyclists asking that messages of support be forwarded to Davis' parents.

His parents asked that their son's organs be donated to others, DeBernardis said.

"They want other people to live and to live a healthier lifestyle," DeBernardis said of Davis' parents' decision.

Stuart Davis said he and his wife, Carmelle, had hoped to donate 15 of their son's organs to others, but a blood infection their son developed just before he died prevented it. Instead, they were able to donate his kidneys and liver, but nothing else.

He called it a "great tribute to Grant."

Davis' father completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at University Medical Center five days before the accident that took his son's life.

"They loved him and they just did everything right in raising him. He was a good, good kid," DeBernardis said. "He certainly was one of our up-and-coming Olympic hopefuls."

Visitation is from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at Bring Funeral Home, 6910 E. Broadway. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tucson North Stake Center, 939 W. Chapala Drive. A private burial will follow.

"Grant lived his life like it was a celebration," his father said, adding the visitation and funeral service "will be a celebration of the true beauty that Grant was."

Davis was critically injured June 28 while bicycling north on Oracle Road near West Rancho Vistoso Boulevard in Oro Valley, said Oro Valley police spokeswoman Liz Wright.

PHOTOS & IMAGES

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Submitted photo

Tucsonan GRANT DAVIS, an aspiring Olympic bicyclist and an accomplished pianist, died Monday of injuries received in a cycling accident.

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Wearing a helmet and with his head down, Davis ran into the back of a trailer attached to a pickup legally parked in the northbound emergency lane, Wright said.

She said investigators theorized that with his head down, the youth did not see he was approaching the trailer. No citations were issued, Wright said.

Davis is survived by his parents; brothers Brady, 11, twin bothers Rhen and Kye, 8, and Max, 3; and sister, Leah, 14.

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1. *Comment by f c. (#3852) — July 6, 2006 @ 4:04PM*

my deepest condolences to grant davis's family. may god bless you and your beloved son. know that you are not alone in your grief, as many others whom you don't know are praying for you and your son.

2. *Comment by Tucson P. (#3380) — July 6, 2006 @ 6:43PM*

My deepest condolence to the Davis's family. R.I.P. Grant. Only the good die young....

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