



The HopeLine



March 2008

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WITH ALS

Advice Support Hope



SCOTT PFEIFFER AND DEREK THORN:
RACIN' FOR A CURE

WALK TO D'FEET ALS

2008 EVENING OF HOPE

A NOT-SO-PERFECT PAGEANT



Racin' for the cure

A hunt for the NASCAR circuit leads to a hunt for a cure



My friend and mentor Scott Pfeiffer has been diagnosed with ALS. We both live in Ft. Atkinson, WI. The disease has created a roller coaster ride for not only Scott's family and friends but for me as well. My name is Derek Thorn; I'm 21 years old and was born and raised over 2,000 miles away in the small town of Lakeport, California.

Scott's mom and step-dad, also residents of Lakeport have been watching me race tracks in and around Northern California since the summer of 2005. In the fall of 2006, they contacted their son Scott about the success I was having in a regional racing series. Scott quickly became interested in my story. Scott, who has always been very passionate about racing became my agent. He may have not known the exact path he wanted me to follow, but he knew he wanted me to end up in NASCAR.

Scott, my family, and 5K motorsports organized a 2007 racing agenda in the ASA Late Model Series. This series has been a stepping stone for names like Mark Martin, Jimmie Johnson and David Stremme. The season started off great with 3 top 3's in the first 4 races. These amazing wins were quickly overshadowed by what was to come.

When I got the phone call from Scott, it was one of those moments in life I'll never forget where I was and that I had been working on my car setup for the next race at Berlin, MI. Scott told me he had been diagnosed with ALS. I was dumbfounded. The phone conversation turned into Scott crying. I couldn't speak and didn't know what to say. I was in shock. It was one of those situations where you want to think it is a nightmare, there's no way this is happening, when am I going to wake up. A few seconds later the phone went quiet. I said the only thing that I could think, "I'm so sorry."

Scott has the most upbeat attitude that I've ever seen, so to hear him that upset, and my knowing that this is a terminal illness, was just overwhelming. He immediately followed up with: "You know . . . you got what you got. Let's get you to the top." I couldn't help but chuckle a bit after hearing him say this. It was just like Scott to say some-

thing like that. He puts everyone else's problems ahead of his own, even though his life is literally on the line.

My relationship with Scott continues to grow even as his disease progresses. I try to help him and his family out in any way I can. I've been helping Scott finish his home by doing tasks like hanging drywall, shoveling his driveway, hanging Christmas lights, and helping prepare his food. Recently I spent an afternoon sledding with Scott and his two kids Taylor and Cameron. It's always a good time and it has been a blast watching his kids grow. Living in the same town allows easy access for me to help with anything he needs. Scott's disease will continue to progress, and I will continue to help out in every way possible. I am joining the fight and will begin Racin' for a Cure.

Racin' for a Cure is going to be a tremendous program for helping raise awareness and finding a cure for ALS. Scott's vision has become a reality in the past months and I am excited to be a part of it. Scott isn't the first person I've known with the disease. My mom's best friend fought the disease for five years. I felt helpless then as well, but now with Racin' for A Cure, I can join the fight and be part of a program that can give hope back to the families affected by ALS. Scott has never given up on anything. He never takes no for an answer, and he never lets life get him down. I love his attitude and together we will be victorious as we Race for a Cure.

We need your help in our Race.

To donate please contact the ALS Association - Wisconsin Chapter office at: (262) 784-5257. Or send your donation to:

ALS Association - Racin' for a Cure
2505 North 124th Street
Suite 105
Brookfield, WI 53005

For more information go to: www.racinfocure.com