

That inner voice whispered to {text:child\_gender\_2}, quiet but clear.

“What if Sam is really hurt? What kind of winner leaves someone behind who might be hurt?”

{text:child\_name} gripped the handlebars tightly. The pressure to win felt heavy. Every muscle wanted to keep pedaling.

In that moment, {text:child\_name} realized something important.

Courage is not always about being the fastest.

Sometimes courage means stopping when everyone else keeps going.

The tires skidded. The blue bike rolled to a stop. Then {text:child\_name} turned around and pedaled back toward the ditch.

The race might be lost. But something more important was not.

“Are you okay?”

Sam looked up, surprised, “I think so. But my knee hurts—and my chain popped off. I don't think I can pedal.”

Without hesitating, {text:child\_name} helped him out of the rocks. Together they examined the bike. The chain had slipped free and would take several minutes to fix.

Meanwhile, the other racers rushed past them one by one—across the bridge, toward the finish line. The chance for the prized trophy was gone.



*Did winning the race matter more?*