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Weymouth man with ALS to throw out first pitch at Cape Cod League game



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GARY HIGGINS/The Patriot Ledger
Doug Oakley was diagnosed with ALS in November, and decided he didn't have any time to waste in fulfilling his lifelong dream of completing the four corners motorcycle trip. It's a more than 9,000 mile trip across the four corners of the United States. He just got back on Sunday, and it took 25 days. As part of the trip, he raised \$11,000 for Compassionate Care ALS, a Falmouth-based group that assists patients and families coping with the disease.

By Allison Manning
The Patriot Ledger
Posted Jun 27, 2009 @ 03:00 AM

WEYMOUTH — A Weymouth man battling the neurodegenerative disease ALS will throw out the first pitch at a Cape Cod Baseball League game in Falmouth on the Fourth of July.

Doug Oakley, 46, will throw out the first pitch at the Falmouth Commodores game on ALS night. Oakley was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in November.

Oakley will be joined by Compassionate Care ALS founder and executive director Ron Hoffman and Cape Cod ALS board member Bob Barry, who lost his wife to the disease.

Cape Cod ALS is a Falmouth organization that supports patients, caregivers and families affected by the disease. Oakley has raised nearly \$12,000 for the organization.

The Cape Cod event marks the 70th anniversary of Lou Gehrig's farewell speech at Yankee Stadium. He died two years later at the age of 37.

Oakley recently completed a "trip of a lifetime," driving his Harley Davidson to the four corners of the United States, a nearly 9,000-mile journey.

It was a trip he had planned on taking for 25 years, but never got around to until he was diagnosed with ALS. Oakley left Daytona Beach, Fla., May 14, and turned the last corner in Maine on June 7.

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Allison Manning may be reached at amanning@ledger.com.

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