

MS Ride will be perso

Lynch family suffers from disabling disease

By DAN HOLSWORTH

Every step or hand movement will be personal for Mike and Pat Lynch, Carrie Ahern and Lori Waldner when they participate in the MS Bike Ride Aug. 7-8 on the Sioux Falls-Vermillion-Sioux Falls 150-mile circuit, which begins and ends at the Borrowed Bucks Roadhouse.

Pat Lynch, 40, is the brother of Mike Lynch, 37, a Madison educator. Pat suffers from multiple sclerosis, a chronic disease of the central nervous system affecting the brain and spinal cord.

The Lynches' mother Edwina

and sister Sheila also have the disease.

"I ride in the race in honor of them (Pat, Mom and Sheila)," says Mike Lynch. "I'm trying to do my part in helping fight MS. This is the second straight year that I've ridden with my brother, who has a hand-powered bike."

Pat has very limited leg movement due to MS, so he uses his unique bicycle.

"Don't feel too sorry for Pat," says the younger Lynch. "He's logged over 1,700 miles with his hand bike."

After biking during his high school and college years, Mike

Lynch let his biking skills go dormant.

"That went by the wayside last year when I decided to take part in the MS Bike Ride with Pat," he adds. "I usually ride around 20 miles three times a week. I even snuck in a trip to Sioux Falls last year prior to The Ride. My ideal route is from my home to Wentworth and back."

The Lynches will be joined by Madison's Carrie Ahern and Lori Waldner, comprising Team Forward Motion (FoMo). Pat Lynch is the team's captain.

Biking racing/riding is not new for Ahern, who has competed in other MS runs in the Twin Cities'



MADISON'S BIKING TRIO — Madison riders Waldner will be participating in the 2004 MS Bike Ride Aug. 7-8. (Submitted photos)