



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Physically-Challenged Athlete Jason Fowler Competes at the Ford Ironman World Championship**  
***Triathlete Trained By Getting2Tri, Sponsored by 'Ohana Health Plan***

ATLANTA, Oct. 6, 2008 –Getting2Tri Foundation athlete Jason Fowler will compete October 11 at the world's most grueling triathlon: the legendary Ford Ironman World Championships in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Physically-challenged athlete Fowler will compete in the handcycle division after qualifying at the Buffalo Springs Ironman 70.3 in June by winning the handcycle category. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the race – colloquially known as Hawaii Ironman – includes three sequential events: a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run. Nationwide, more than 70,000 athletes vie each year for the 1,800 qualifying and lottery slots to the Ford Ironman World Championship.

“Jason Fowler is the kind of athlete that personifies the Ironman race,” said Mike Lenhart, founder and president of The Getting2Tri Foundation ([www.getting2tri.org](http://www.getting2tri.org)). “The training and preparation for any Ironman distance race is intense, disciplined and time-consuming, but to qualify for Kona requires an entirely different level of dedication. While getting to Kona seems impossible for many people, Jason has shown us through his work that it is possible no matter your challenges.”

This year marks an emotional return trip for Fowler. Fowler qualified and competed for the 2004 Ironman World Championship but was pulled off the bike course near mile 106 of the 112-mile route as he was beyond the mandatory completion time for that portion of the race. Since 2004, he has been determined to return to the World Championship event. In June, Fowler qualified for his return to the race by qualifying for one of two remaining male handcycle spots. Supporting his ability to compete this year, 'Ohana Health Plan ([www.ohanahealthplan.com](http://www.ohanahealthplan.com)) recently signed a sponsorship agreement to support Fowler and his training and travel. "We are delighted to be able to sponsor a remarkable athlete such as Jason Fowler so he can participate in the Kona Ironman race," said Erhardt Preitauer, executive director of 'Ohana Health Plan. "Jason's dedication and perseverance to achieve his goals are an inspiration to us and to the communities we serve. We wish him the best of luck in Saturday's World Championship."

The annual Ford Ironman World Championship is held each October in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, and has been the venue for some of the most gripping and inspirational athletic contests in history. The 140.6 mile journal begins with the swim that starts and finishes at Kailua Pier, the bike takes cyclists along the Kona and Kohala Coasts, along the famous lava fields, and the marathon run course travels

through Kailua-Kona. Fowler and his fellow athletes will finish their 140.6-mile journey on Alii Drive. The 2008 Ford Ironman World Championship will air on NBC on Saturday, December 13, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET.

### **Sports Organization: The Getting2Tri Foundation**

Getting2Tri believes that individuals with a disability deserve the inspiration, support and opportunity to participate in athletic endeavors that promote healthy, active lifestyles. Its mission is to provide services and programs through the sports of swimming, cycling, running, and triathlon to align physically challenged individuals with their athletic pursuits, create communities for knowledge sharing, and reduce the perceived barriers between people. More information, including ways to support the organization, can be found online at [www.getting2tri.org](http://www.getting2tri.org).

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### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

#### **Images Available:**

High-resolution images of Jason Fowler in competition are available by request.

#### **Interview Available:**

Jason Fowler, athlete, Getting2Tri  
Mike Lenhart, founder and president Getting2Tri  
Erhardt Preitauer, executive director, 'Ohana Health Plan

#### **Key Web Addresses:**

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