



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Getting2Tri Coaches Participate in ACA National Conference**  
***Coaches to Work with Paralympian to Train Athletes***

ATLANTA, June 18, 2008 – Coaches affiliated with the Getting2Tri Foundation (G2T, online at [www.getting2tri.com](http://www.getting2tri.com)) will be participating in swim clinics at this year's Amputee Coalition of America (ACA) National Conference. The ACA annual event will take place June 19-22 in Atlanta, Georgia. The six G2T coaches who will participate in the conference include: Dave Armento, Peter Farren, Robin Gerndt, David Philips, Heidi Smith-Philips, and Jack Spartz. The coaches will be working with Jason Wening, head clinician for the weekend and a 3-time Paralympic swimmer and a 5-time gold medalist.

G2T focuses on attracting and training the best coaches in the sports of running, swimming and cycling to assist its physically-challenged athletes. "It's important that our coaches continue to build their experiences of working with athletes of all levels and from all backgrounds," said Mike Lenhart, founder and president of The Getting2Tri Foundation. "The opportunity to work with and train aside a coach and athlete like Jason [Wening] is immeasurable and will only benefit our athletes."

More than 70 people have signed up for the three swim clinics being offered at the conference. Coaches will focus on swim techniques with amputees and those with physical challenges. The program was designed to help physically-challenged individuals feel comfortable in and around the water.

"Many individuals who've experienced some form of limb loss are beginners in the water, or at least, relatively new to the water, having limited experiences mostly through rehabilitation activities," said Jack Spartz, a swim coach affiliated with Getting2Tri. "As a coach, I've gotten the chance to help these individuals work on balance and forward propulsion in the water. Because every athlete is different based on his or her disability, I've had to rethink and adapt the basics of swimming techniques. It's an amazing – and an uplifting – experience as a coach."

G2T is a sports foundation that provides coaching, mentoring and training in the sports of running, swimming, cycling and triathlon to physically-challenged individuals. Specifically, G2T addresses the needs of individuals with limb loss, paralysis, muscular or neurological disorders and creates a unique community of support. In March 2009, G2T will host its annual "Pre-Season Mini-Camp" in Atlanta for physically-challenged athletes preparing for the triathlon season. The camp attracts both new and seasoned athletes from all over the country who train with experienced coaches focused on helping them get to the start line and accomplish their goals.

The ACA National Conference attracts nearly 1,000 attendees and is the only conference of this size dedicated to the limb-loss community. The meeting provides education, information, support and training for attendees.

### **About 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, and running 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.com](http://www.getting2tri.com).

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### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

#### **Interview Available:**

Mike Lenhart, founder and president, Getting2Tri Foundation  
Jack Spartz, swim coach affiliated with Getting2Tri

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