



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Atlanta Athlete Jason Fowler Competes for Spot at Ironman World Championship
*Vies for One of Two Qualifying Slots in Handcycle Division***

ATLANTA, June 24, 2008 –Physically-challenged triathlete Jason Fowler of Atlanta will compete this Sunday, June 29, at the Buffalo Springs Lake Triathlon in Lubbock, Texas, to vie for one of the race’s two coveted male handcycle qualifying slots in the legendary Ford Ironman World Championships in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. The Buffalo Springs Lake race, part of the Ironman 70.3 triathlon series, includes a 1.2 mile open water swim, a 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1 mile run and is considered one of the most difficult in the traditional half-ironman distance. Fowler will compete in the handcycle division of the race.

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.

“The Ironman World Championship is the ultimate challenge and an international showcase for triathletes at any level. Jason’s tenacity and dogged commitment to qualify for the Championship is a reflection of his determination to reach the elite level of triathlon” said Albie Whitaker, president of the Atlanta chapter of Getting2Tri. “To see an athlete reach the elite level in any sport is remarkable, but to see physically-challenged athletes compete in the most grueling triathlons in the world is an inspiration to the potential that we all have.”

The Getting2Tri Foundation provides coaching, mentoring and training in the sports of running, swimming, cycling and triathlon to physically-challenged individuals. Specifically, Getting2Tri addresses the needs of individuals with limb loss, paralysis, muscular or neurological disorders and creates a unique community of support. The Atlanta chapter currently supports nearly a dozen athletes of various ability levels.

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. Amateur competitors can gain entry into the Championship by qualifying in certified qualification races or by winning a slot through a lottery process. There are 22 races worldwide that award qualification slots for the coveted 1,800 Championship starting spots. The race receives international television and press coverage and encompasses three sequential endurance events: a 2.4 mile ocean swim in Kailua-Kona Bay,

a 112 mile bike ride across the Hawaiian lava desert to Hawi and back, and a 26.2 mile marathon along the coast of the Big Island.

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, 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.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Images Available:

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

Interview Available:

Albie Whitaker, president, Getting2Tri Atlanta Chapter
Jason Fowler, athlete, Getting2Tri

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