



MUSSELMAN

triathlon

For Immediate Release
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July 15, 2007

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CROWD TURNS OUT TO SEE INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON UNION RACE

(GENEVA, NEW YORK) The expected winner took the men's race and a hometown favorite the women's and, only a few short hours after it began, the first-ever International Triathlon Union race became history in Geneva, New York on Saturday.

The event drew hundreds of onlookers, as the streets of Geneva were closed to traffic for several hours, creating more than a mile of backed-up traffic on Rte. 5 & 20, a main thoroughfare. Spectators lined the street, hoping to catch a glimpse of racers roaring down the Hamilton Street bridge, a fairly steep decline more known for rushing traffic than a peloton of speeding cyclists. In the International Triathlon Union races participants are allowed to draft, or ride in the slipstream of other cyclists. This creates pelotons, or "packs" of racers, and created for some excitement among local residents who turned out to watch the race from restaurant patios and balconies throughout the city.

Victor Plata, 34, of Sacramento, CA, a member of the 2000 and 2004 Olympic triathlon teams, won the event with a time of 1:50:22. Ranked number four in the world in 2005, Plata has served on the USA Triathlon Board of Directors and the U.S. Olympic Committee Athlete Advisory Council and, on Saturday, followed his win by serving as the Musselman Triathlon honorary dinner speaker, giving a speech about – ironically – winning. "I supposed I've lost some of my credibility on this topic, since I just finished first," Plata began, going on to discuss how those who believe that winning is the only thing will do anything to win – an obvious reference to doping scandals which have plagued the world or sport in the past year.

Second-place finisher was Plata's long-time training partner Doug Friman, 32, of Tucson, AZ, coming in with a 1:50:30. Third went to Mark Fretta, 30, of Colorado Springs, CO, with a 1:51:11. "You can see by the fact that the times were so close together that this was a tight race," says Henderson. "That's part of what makes the ITU series so exciting, for athletes and fans alike."

In the women's race, a hometown favorite, Sarah Groff, 24, originally from Cooperstown but now training out of Boulder, CO, took victory with a 2:00:00. Close behind were Jasmine Oeinck, 22, of Colorado Springs, CO, second with a 2:02:19, and Mary Beth Ellis, 30, of Thornton, CO, third with a 2:30:13.

"Sarah was excited about coming home to race," says race director Jeff Henderson, noting that this is the only ITU series race on the east coast; the other four are in Honolulu, Hawaii; Longmont, Colo.; Des Moines, Iowa; and San Francisco, Calif. "The ITU Pan American Cup series is the pipeline to the Olympics for top triathletes," says Henderson. "We expected top-caliber athletes to come to New York for this, and we weren't disappointed."

Complete ITU Pan-American Cup race results: <http://www.score-this.com/2007races/multisport/071407ITUResults.pdf>.

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The fourth-annual Musselman Triathlon, a fundraiser for the Geneva Boys & Girls Clubs, was held July 14-15, 2007. Contact C. D. Henderson at 315-383-3333 or pr@musselmantri.com for more information on this release. For more information on the Musselman Triathlon contact race director Jeff Henderson at jeff@onemillionrevolutions.org or 315-636-4268.

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