



# MUSSELMAN

## triathlon

**For Immediate Release**

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### **MUSSELMAN TRIATHLON TO SERVE AS WARM-UP TO OLYMPIC GAMES**

**(GENEVA, NEW YORK)** Organizers of the Musselman Triathlon have announced that two members of the USA Olympic Triathlon team will compete at the Musselman Triathlon ITU Pan American Cup race, to be held on July 12 in Geneva. Olympians Jarrod Shoemaker and Julie Swail Ertel will join professionals from around the world competing in the only Pan American Cup east of the Mississippi, a little more than a month before they toe the line at the Olympic Games.

Jarrod Shoemaker, the first qualifier for the U.S. Olympic Team competing in Beijing, China, qualified for the Games by finishing as the first American at the Beijing World Cup this past September. In doing so, he triumphed over some of the biggest names in the sport, including former Olympians Hunter Kemper and Andy Potts.

Shoemaker has a running background, competing at Nationals in high school and then for Dartmouth in college, where he contested the 5k at NAAs his senior year. Two months after graduation he entered his first triathlon, and his progression has been meteoric since then. In 2005 he won the Under-23 World Championships, and he has been a member of the Elite National Team since 2006. Jarrod has two top-10 World Cup finishes and last July he took 6th at the Pan American Games. [Note: Shoemaker's sister, Jenna, finished 20th at the Musselman Pan American Cup in 2007.]

Julie Swail Ertel, the second female qualifier for the U.S. Olympic Team competing in Beijing, China, will also compete at the Musselman in July. Ertel, 35, from Irvine, CA, qualified for the Games by winning the U.S. Olympic Trials in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on April 22.

This will be the second Olympics for Ertel, but the first in the sport of triathlon. In 2000, she traveled to Sydney, Australia and won a silver medal as a member of the U.S. water polo team. Following this success and a victory in the 2002 ITU Triathlon World Championships, Ertel turned pro. Her first qualification for the world championship team came in 2004, and her first World Cup win came at the close of the 2007 season in Cancun, Mexico. In that same year Ertel also won a gold medal at the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Ertel is currently the reigning U.S. Elite National Champion. She won a spot on the Olympic Team with a searing bike-to-run transition and a blistering run (35:19 for the final 10k) at Olympic Trials. She is currently ranked in the top 20 in the world ITU rankings.

“The Musselman comes just before the Olympic Games in late August,” says Musselman race director Jeff Henderson. “It’s a great opportunity for athletes to get a warm-up race in before the Games. I expect we may see even more Olympians before registration is complete.”

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Musselman Triathlon Weekend is an annual multisport weekend held in Geneva, New York July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. It consists of four races, including a half-iron distance triathlon and one of four ITU Pan American Cup races in the United States. Since 2004, the Musselman has raised nearly \$50,000 for local charities, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Geneva and Camp Onseyawa in Seneca County.

For more information on this release, or press coverage for the event, please contact C. D. Henderson, coordinator of public relations and media, at 305-851-5975 or [press@musselmantri.com](mailto:press@musselmantri.com). For information on the Musselman Triathlon weekend please contact race director Jeff Henderson at [jeff@musselmantri.com](mailto:jeff@musselmantri.com). For more information on the International Triathlon Union visit <http://www.triathlon.org>. For more information on Jarrod Shoemaker visit <http://www.jarrodshoemaker.com>.

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