

Press Release – 28th March 2007

Swiss Pro Karin Thuerig Will Start at the IRONMAN 70.3 SWITZERLAND

Karin Thuerig is one of Switzerland's most popular athletes. In 2004 she won the bronze medal at the Olympic Games in time trial and subsequently the award of "Most Popular Swiss Female Athlete". On June 3rd, 2007 she will join the over 1'800 participants of the IRONMAN 70.3 SWITZERLAND in Rapperswil-Jona as one of the competition's top favorites.

Thuerig is very much looking forward to the race. She is convinced that the future of IRONMAN 70.3 will be brilliant, as the distance allows non-professionals to deliver a good performance, due to the shorter distances. However, she stresses that IRONMAN 70.3 cannot be titled "half-Ironman", as the distance effects a heightened racing speed which demands an altogether altered preparation and training.

The competition in Rapperswil-Jona is not Thuerig's first encounter with the IRONMAN 70.3. Last year she won the IRONMAN 70.3 of Monaco, thus qualifying for the Ford IRONMAN World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. Yet Thuerig's main goal in sports is momentarily set on the Olympic Games in Beijing 2008, where she is planning to start as a cyclist. This is why she chose to abstain from a participation in the IRONMAN Hawaii.

Hence Thuerig's presence at the IRONMAN 70.3 SWITZERLAND in Rapperswil-Jona will be her only excursion to the world of professional triathlon this year. Surely her results in Rapperswil-Jona will give a promising outlook on her possible return to IRONMAN competitions after Beijing 2008.

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