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CONTACT:

Contact Person: John Lierle – Co-Race Director
Organization Name: Trisports.com Desert Classic Duathlon
Voice Phone Number: (602) 953-3260
Cell Phone Number: (602) 625-1695
FAX Number: (602) 953-1779
Email Address: JohnLierle@earthlink.net
Website URL: www.DesertClassicDuathlon.com

Phoenix to Host Duathlon World Championship Qualifier

Phoenix, AZ, 9/1/2007 – Co-race director, John Lierle, announced today that the TriSports.com Desert Classic Duathlon has been named a 2008 Short Course Duathlon World Championship Qualifying Event by USA Triathlon (USAT). The event will serve as a way for athletes from across the United States to qualify for the 2008 Short Course Duathlon World Championship that will be held in Rimini, Italy on September 27-28, 2008. The top two athletes in each age group will qualify for the world championships with spots rolling down to 5th place. USAT is the national governing body for the sports of triathlon, duathlon, winter triathlon and aquathlon that provides rules, guidance and governance to set the standard for safe and fair multi-sport races.

The TriSports.com Desert Classic Duathlon, which consists of a 3.5 mile run, a 21 mile bike ride and a final 2.7 mile run, will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday February 24, 2008 at McDowell Mountain Regional Park located just north of Fountain Hills. “We are honored to host this prestigious event,” said Scott Perrine, co-race director and President of the Phoenix Triathlon Club. “It is a great time of year to race in the Arizona desert and you will see some of the fastest age group athletes in the United States compete for a coveted spot at the 2008 World Championships.”

Now in it’s 11th year, the TriSports.com Desert Classic Duathlon is the premier short course duathlon in the southwest. “This race is for everyone, from first-timers to elite athletes, along with friends, family and spectators” said John Lierle, a USAT certified race director who has been involved in producing the event for six years. “There is even a kid’s race that makes the entire day a family affair.” The event has become a favorite among professionals who use the race as an early season test of their fitness. Past winners include: World Duathlon champion, Michael Tobin; Olympian, Julie Swail; 2007 Ironman Hawaii 2nd place finisher, Desiree Ficker; 2007 Ironman 70.3 world champion Samantha McGlone; Olympic gold medallist, Simon Whitfield and men’s course record holder Armand van der Smissen of the Netherlands.

The Phoenix Triathlon Club, whose members serve as the volunteers who put on the race, produces the event. The Phoenix Triathlon Club is a 501(c)4 not for profit organization and one of the largest multi-sport clubs in the United States with a membership that ranks in the top 4% of U.S. triathlon clubs.

Trisports.com, the title sponsor of the race, is a Tucson based retailer and on-line supplier of multi-sport equipment, clothing and accessories, and has served as the event’s title sponsor since 2005. The TriSports.com Desert Classic Duathlon raises money for special exhibits in the new McDowell Mountain Regional Park visitors center.

For additional information, contact John Lierle or visit: www.DesertClassicDuathlon.com

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