



## **World-Class Athletes to Converge on Downtown St. Pete This Weekend**

*Local Triathlon Draws International Attention*

St. Petersburg/Clearwater, FL - April 23, 2008 – What do you get when you take 4,000 of the world’s top athletes and mix in the stunning waterways of downtown St. Pete? How about -- the third largest Olympic-distance triathlon in the world!

The St. Anthony’s Triathlon makes its splash into downtown St. Pete this Sunday with some of the world’s top athletes representing 45 states and 17 countries. All will test their endurance against some unforgiving opponents like a 1.5K (0.9-mile) swim, a 40K (24.8-mile) bike race and a 10K (6.2-mile) run. According to Visit St. Pete/Clearwater’s Executive Director, it’s the perfect way to celebrate the event’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

“Having a backdrop like downtown St. Pete to showcase to these world-class athletes is one of the best ways to promote tourism,” said DT Minich. “It allows visitors from all over the world so see why downtown St. Pete is so special.”

The race begins at 6:50am Sunday morning with a running dive into the waters near Spa Beach, located just off the St. Petersburg Pier. Athletes will then bike nearly 25 miles through the streets of downtown St. Pete and finish with an invigorating run.

Among those vying for this year’s prize of \$60,000 is 2008 Olympic medal contender, Australian Greg Bennett. American Andy Potts and Australian Miranda Carfrae, the male and female winners of the 2007 Ford Ironman World Championship 70.3 held last November in Clearwater, will also compete.

St. Anthony's Triathlon has been named "Race of the Year" by USA Triathlon and served as a qualifier for the Ironman Triathlon World Championship.

For a complete listing of all the weekend’s race events, which include Saturday’s Meek & Mighty Triathlon for children 7-10 years old, visit [www.satriathlon.com](http://www.satriathlon.com).

*Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater is the official destination marketing organization for Pinellas County.*

*For more information: [www.FloridasBeach.com](http://www.FloridasBeach.com)*

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