Challenges, Family Fun Found at 10th Annual Pacific Crest

by K_Guice

Thousands of athletes and families are lacing up their running shoes and preparing to head down to Pacific Crest Sports Festival in Sunriver.

June 23 - 25th the sports festival will be marking its 10th year. â€œItâ€™s the biggest event that we do,â€• said Cameron Dauler, a race manager with AA Sports, Ltd. It is an event that is both a challenge and fun for everyone in the family.

The Pacific Crest Sports Festival includes a half-iron triathlon, endurance duathlon, marathon and half marathon, Olympic distance triathlon, duathlon as well as a 5K and 10K walk and run.

Dauler says the half-iron triathlon is the TRI northwest Long Course Championship. â€œThe marathon is USA Track & Field certified and is a Boston marathon qualifier,â€• he said.

â€œThe biggest event of the weekend is the half-iron triathlon,â€• Dauler said. â€œWe have nearly 700 participates in that event on Saturday.â€• He says it is an event that truly puts an athlete to the test. â€œItâ€™s a 1.2 mile swim, 58 mile bike ride and a 13.1 mile run at the end,â€• he said.

â€œSince this event does offer prize money we do get a pretty good pool of elite athletes,â€• Dauler said. A total of $5,550 in prize money will be awarded to the first through fifth place winners of the half iron triathlon.

The fun isnâ€™t just for the adults; there is also kid's splash pedal-n-dash triathlon. The younger crowd can also test their skills in the one-mile and half-mile dash. Dauler says, â€œItâ€™s real laid back â€¦ and a real nice way to get kids involved without the intimidation factor.â€•

The Pacific Crest runs Friday morning through Sunday. The festivities will include a Health & Fitness Expo, great food, beer garden and live entertainment. â€œThe High Street band will be playing from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Michael Johns from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday,â€• Dauler said.

Entry fees range from $10 for kids events up to $150 for the half-iron triathlon. Entries are accepted until the morning of the race while space is available.

People can register and get more information by contacting AA Sports, Ltd. at 503-644-6822 or go online to www.racecenter.com/pacificcrest.

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