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ERIC LAGERSTROM AND LAUREN GOSS WIN 2015 BEIJING INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON

BEIJING – (September 20, 2015) Fresh off a win at the 2015 Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon, Eric Lagerstrom from the United States wins the 2015 Beijing International Triathlon becoming the first triathlete to win both races back-to-back. Top female professional triathlete Lauren Goss from the United States took first place among the women. This was the first time Lagerstrom and Goss competed in this race. More than 1,600 professional and amateur athletes from more than 23 countries participated in the fourth annual Beijing International Triathlon, on Sunday, September 20.

“I never thought I would ever be racing with ‘the greats’ Greg Bennett and Matt Reed,” said 2015 Beijing International Triathlon Winner Eric Lagerstrom. “I grew up seeing these legends, Greg and Matt, on the covers of *Triathlete Magazine* and to be racing with them and then sharing the podium here in Beijing is unbelievable.”

Top Finishers:

First Place: Eric Lagerstrom, USA, 1:54:42
Lauren Goss, USA, 2:07:16
Second Place: Greg Bennett, AUS, 1:55:06
Radka Vodickova, CZE, 2:09:43
Third Place: Matt Reed, USA, 1:56:59
Felicity Sheedy-Ryan, AUS, 2:10:07

“The bike course was technical and the run course too with 600-plus stairs,” said 2015 Beijing International Triathlon Winner Lauren Goss. “This was the most beautiful course I have ever raced and the biggest win of my career.”

For the second year, the race started and finished amongst the beautiful scenery of Garden Expo Park, in the eco-friendly Fengtai district of Beijing. The Olympic distance race featured a 1.5 km swim through Garden Expo Lake; a challenging 40 km bike race through the villages of Fengtai and up Qian Ling Mountain, the highest peak in Southwest Beijing; and a final 10 km run through the lush gardens and scenic trails of the Garden Expo Park, including a 606-step stair climb. A sprint distance race took place on Saturday, September 19 bringing the total number of participants to more than 1,600 as the popularity of triathlon continues to grow in China.

“Running through the lush gardens of the Garden Expo Park and cycling through the ancient villages was an incredible experience,” added Lagerstrom. “I would love to return to Beijing next year to defend my title.”

A prestigious field of the world’s top professional triathletes including Olympian Greg Bennett (AUS); Olympian Matt “Boom Boom” Reed (USA); 2015 Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon Champion Eric Lagerstrom (USA); Josh Amberger (AUS); Graham O’Grady (NZL), Cesc Godoy (ESP); Max Fennell (USA); Ruzhuang She (CHN); Olympian Laura Bennett (USA); Olympian Ricarda Lisk (GER); Lauren Goss (USA); Magali Tisseyre (CAN); Caroline Steffen (SVI); Felicity Sheedy-Ryan (AUS); Radka Vodickova (CZE); Mengying Zhong (CHN); and Yi Zhang (CHN) all competed in the Olympic distance race for \$100,000 in prize money.

The 2015 Beijing International Triathlon was presented by the Fengtai Sports Bureau of Beijing and produced by IMG. For more information, visit www.beijinginternationaltriathlon.com or follow at www.facebook.com/BeijingTri and www.twitter.com/Beijing_Tri.

About Fengtai

The Beijing International Triathlon will primarily take place within the Wang Zuo County, in the Fengtai District, with a history that dates back to 221 BC. With a population of 2.1 million, the Fengtai District is located in Southwest Beijing at the foot of the Western Hills, by the Yong Ding River. Dating back to the Liao and Jin Dynasties, the Fengtai District was the location of the Imperial City. Racers, family and friends visiting the area will be treated to several of China’s most famous sites including the 900 year old Lotus Pool; the Lu Gou Bridge (Marco Polo Bridge) that dates back 800 years and the Wan Ping Fortress from the 17th century.

About IMG

IMG is a global leader in sports, events, media and fashion, operating in more than 25 countries. The company represents and manages some of the world’s greatest sports figures and fashion icons; stages thousands of live events and branded entertainment experiences annually; and is the world’s largest independent producer and distributor of sports media. IMG also specializes in sports training; league development; and marketing, media and licensing for brands, sports organizations and collegiate institutions. In 2014, IMG was acquired by WME, the world’s leading entertainment agency, to form WME | IMG.

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