



## Last year's 'Iron DUCK' champ not coming back

DUCK Norris picks AFLAC motivational speaking gig over chance to defend his title

The 2016 lineup of competitors at this year's 'Iron Duck' Championships at Maris Farms took a bit of a hit when DUCK Norris announced last week that he will not be back to defend his 2015 title.

The upstart and dynamic Norris, who is known for his chirpiness and his uncanny ability to back up his quack-talking, has decided to do the motivational speaking circuit with a national insurance company that really likes ducks.

"DUCK Norris was a natural fit for something like this," race announcer Dennis Riley explained. "He's engaging, he's chippy and he can back up his words. He'll make a great motivational speaker."

It does leave the field of ducks with a bit of a hole, as the month-long duck race competition will only have five racers now, but it will make for an even more competitive battle for the title.

"I am preparing the same as I was before he announced this," said DUCKtor Drey, who was barely edged out by Norris in last season's final race to end up second in the series. "It's no different whether it's DUCK Norris, Kareem AbDUCK Jabbar or Snoop DUCKY Dog...I'm gonna ruffle feathers this season."

"We have fast, fit and plenty of finesse," said Riley, who's heading into his fourth season as the announcer. "Just the "quack-and-forth" chirping I've been hearing between the old timers during their training has been quite contentious. It's going to be a real "duck" fight this season."

Training started late this fall and continues up to opening day, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, when the Buckley farm hosts the *live* duck races - which helps raise funds for the Fisher House in Seattle.

As mentioned in an earlier press release, longtime, smart-aleck Disco Duck, who won the 'Iron Duck' title two years ago, is back and looking fit as a feather. So is churpy Sir Quack-a-Lot (runner up in 2015) and wise quackers Michael Quackson and Duck Rogers.

Even with all of the chatter, the mantra remains the same: swim, flutter and run! It's live duck racing with a triathlon twist!



This special event race is patterned after the famed Iron Man Triathlon, where competitors (human, that is) challenge one another over a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride and 26.2 mile marathon along the Kona (Hawaii) coast each October. However, instead of 1800 human racing machines, Maris Farms will serve up a dozen of the finest tri-QUACK-aletes in Pierce County and they'll cover a grand total of 200 feet!

The ducks will start at one end of an old cow feeder by swimming 100 feet one way, then climbing a ramp and "running/fluttering" back to where they started. First one back is the winner. In all, there will be 18 races during the season (Saturdays/Sundays only, two per day). The duck with the most victories over that period will be crowned "Iron-Duck" World Champion.

***The month-long event will help raise money for the Fisher House by allowing people to place bets on who they believe will win each race. Those bets will be given in the form of a donation to the Fisher House.*** To date, the event has raised more than \$1,500 for the Fisher House and Wounded Warrior Project since starting in 2013. Each "betting" participant will receive a special duck bill and if their duck wins the race, they'll be entered into a drawing for a special prize.

**Dates of Races:** Oct 1/2, Oct 8/9, Oct. 15/16, Oct. 22/23 and Oct. /2930 (weather permitting) 2065

**Time:** 1 pm and 3 pm each weekend day

**Price:** Included in farm admission (\$12/\$14/\$17)

**Details:** Public can wager (\$1 for one ticket or \$3 for five tickets) on which QUACK-alete they believe will win, with all wagers being donations to the Fisher House. All "bettors" will receive a special duck bill as well as entry into a drawing for more prizes should their duck win a race. The duck with the most victories at the end of the season is crowned "Iron-Duck" World Champion.

**Names of Competitors:**

#2 – Ducktor Drey

#3 – Michael Quackson

#5 – Duck Rogers

#6 – Sir Quack-a-Lot

#7 – Disco Duck