

# Age Group Racing: Looking at the men's race, Part 1

## Jim Scott previews some of the age group racing we can expect on Saturday

Published Tuesday, October 7, 2008



This is perhaps the most fun I have all year when writing the male age group articles for Ironman.com. If you haven't seen this article in the last few years, I typically try to forecast the performances in each age group at the Ford Ironman World Championship. Given the number of qualifying races each year, and the number of qualified athletes, this is no easy task, but I need every excuse I can get if I fail miserably. With that said, here is how I see the age group races looking after the 30th running of the Ford Ironman World Championships.

### 18-24

Neither Rafael Wyss nor Max Renko is registered for this year's race, so my pick for this race comes from one guy who has yet to race in Kona, and another who finished in ninth place in 2007. Considering their 2008 results, I have to give them the favorite tag; they are also two sub-nine hour guys.

Wolfgang Teucher went a stunning 8:46 at Ironman Germany and was the seventh fastest qualifier in Ironman races in 2008. He holds a ninth place finish in 2007 despite a less than stellar 3:40 marathon. He can swim and bike with the best (with Ironman Germany splits of 52 and 4:32), and if he can put together a solid marathon, this could be his race to lose.

Robbie Steegink went 8:52 at Ironman South Africa and is generally new to Ironman racing. However, he is one of the fastest athletes to qualify this year and should be considered as one of the favorites. **Also, keep your eye on Stefan Schmid, who raced to a time of 9:17 at Ironman Wisconsin; this is a tough course and a great time.**