

Eric Olson- Luck, WI

About six years ago, I had to pause and look back on a life filled with lies, drugs, and hard core alcohol use. As much as you want to give it up, because it's bad for you... because it's illegal, and costs more money than you make, you just can't quit.

An addiction is like a big, ugly monster that is chained to you. You want to break free from him, but you can't!!! But, deep down, you know that "YOU" are the only person who can break those chains, and separate you , from that monster.

I needed to find something to replace all the BAD in my life... That's when I started running! I took off one night down the road. I was wearing blue jeans and a pair of my old Army Boots. (That's how we ran in the Army). I went about a mile, I think? I kept it up just about every day, eventually picked up a pair of shoes, and a month later I was at the Start-Line of my hometown 5k road race. I shook as the National Anthem was played, and the tears ran down my face. That's probably when I figured out that I don't have to spend the rest of my life a "Big Loser".

I just kept on running, and running (like Forrest did!), and it wasn't long until I had a Marathon Medal hanging around my neck.

So.. it's been a good trade. And now for the next challenge.....

I went to Madison last September to stand in line, in the rain, on the street, for hours to sign up for Ironman Wisconsin. I got in!! They say that's tough in itself.

I was a little nervous, probably because I had never done a Triathlon before! In fact, I had never even seen a Triathlon before. I didn't own a bike, and I knew I wasn't much of a swimmer.

Now it's getting down to "Crunch Time" with only a week to go! I wouldn't have made it this far without all my new friends I met through the Wild River Tri Club! They have offered great advice, and encouragement.

I look forward to seeing the five other Wild River Club members participating in Madison, and the people from the club on the sidelines as well. (Thanks for your support)!!

Anything is possible through Discipline and True Determination... I am living proof.

Eric Olson