



Contenders revealed for the 2008 La Ruta de los Conquistadores

With less than 4 weeks to go for the start of the 2008 La Ruta the organizers have revealed some of the names to line up at the start of the toughest Mountain bike race in the world.

Three time Vuelta a España winner Roberto Heras will return to the cycling world after a 2 year ban, La Ruta will test the rider's fitness but this time on a mountain bike. Also at the start will be the Canadian Svein Tuft, silver medalist at this year's world time trial championships in Varese, Italy, the Canadian races professionally for the Symmetrics cycling team, and won the 2007 UCI Americas Tour.

Taking his second crack at the Costa Rican race is Frenchman Thomas Dietsch, the 2007 UCI marathon World Cup winner. Dietsch finished third at La Ruta in 2007, and won the final stage into Limon.

Dietsch's Bianchi-Agos teammate, Leonardo Paez of Colombia, is also returning. Paez dominated the 2006 edition of La Ruta, becoming only the second non-Tico male (besides Swiss Thomas Frischknecht) to win the race.

Also coming back is four-time La Ruta champion Federico "Lico" Ramirez, who is the defending champion. Ramirez will be joined by talented Tico riders Paolo Montoya, Deiber Esquivel and Southern Californian Manuel Prado.

[Read full article from Velonews here.](#)

[Check out the La Ruta event's website here.](#)

Thanks for reading.

