

David versus David?

Elite triathletes set up
'high-stakes' wager
for Brian's Hope

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BRANFORD - Message to all high rollers on the Shoreline: It's game on this Sunday at the Hammerfest triathlon at the Owenego Beach and Tennis Club. Specifically, David Demres, 2016 Olympic hopeful, going head to head against David Ellis, devoted family man and triathlon hobbyist.

Demres placed first in 2011, Ellis in 2012. Now each is betting \$20 on himself to prevail, the proceeds of which go to Brian's Hope, an organization formed

to raise research funds and awareness of adrenoleukodystrophy, or ALD, and named for Branford's Brian Kelley, 25, who's suffered from the debilitating genetic disorder since he was 6.

For those interested in getting in on the action — the Davids are requesting \$5 or more — here's the lowdown. Demres, 24, the Olympic hopeful, fractured his wrist earlier this summer; that wrist spent six weeks in a cast. Ellis, 30, the family man-hobbyist, just posted a personal best in an Olympic-distance triathlon in late August.

But perhaps the ultimate tell: in 2011, Demres shot by Ellis in the final stretch of the race.

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David Demres left, and David Ellis, right.

The Davids: Rivalry at Hammerfest

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Ellis seeks revenge.
Demres wants to prove

that his victory was no
fluke.

If Ellis wins, his back-

ers donate to Brian's Hope. If Demres wins, his backers donate to Brian's Hope. Bet on someone else and the same applies. This is not an automatic donation.

Either way, as Demres put it, "make a pledge and come out to Hammerfest, one of the greatest triathlons in Connecticut supporting one of the greatest causes around." And, of course, bet responsibly.

If you can't make it to the race on Sunday, place a wager at www.david-demres.com/pledge/. For more information on the race, visit www.hammerfesttriathlon.com.



Running are David Ellis (left) and David Demres in final stretch of 2011 Hammerfest.

— Lisa Reisman