



Media Release

September 11

MOFFAT READY FOR HEAD TO HEAD SHOWDOWN TO DECIDE TITLE *Australia snares silver in Under 23 World Champs*

Australia's Emma Moffat is hoping familiar conditions and a wave of local support will help propel her to a maiden world triathlon championship when the Gold Coast hosts the series grand final this weekend.

"Australia will have more than 900 people competing in the age group races over the weekend so hopefully they won't be too tired to cheer us on," Moffatt said. "It should be a great atmosphere out there with plenty of family and friends to support us, so I'm really looking forward to race. I've loved moving to the Gold Coast to train with Craig (Walton) and Emma (Snowsill) and that has helped me step up this year. Hopefully I can finish it off on Sunday."

Moffatt has missed the last two races with a foot injury and in that time her series lead has been eaten away by Sweden's Lisa Norden. With Olympic champion Emma Snowsill not competing due to a hip injury, Sunday's race is likely to come down to a head to head battle between the pair.

"I've had my best year yet and been very happy with what I have achieved so far but the whole year is built up around the grand final this weekend so hopefully I can have a good race and finish off the year well," Moffatt said. "Obviously the incentive is there to become world champion if I win but all I can do is treat this as another race and take things as they come when we're on the course – that's all I can worry about."

Norden, too, is in familiar surrounds this weekend.

"Having an Aussie coach (Darren Smith), I have been to Australia for a number of training camps based on the Gold Coast, so this feels a bit like my back yard. I have been here for a couple of weeks now and the move was all very smooth," she said. "This is certainly where I picked up on my English . . . maybe I even have a bit of an accent now."

While her accent is questionable, her credentials are not, with the former Under 23 world champion ready for a tactical race to decide the title.

"There are two races in one on the weekend and we might find that this one is a bit more tactical. It will be hard to break away though because this is a pretty flat and fast course, not like somewhere like Kitzbuhel where it is quite technical because there are quite a few turns and opportunities to make a break. I don't think many of the girls will be letting any of the series leaders get too far out of sight on the bike, so it's likely to come down to the run."



Aussie James Seear snares Silver in Under 23 World Championships

Queensland's James Seear gave the home crowd an early boost, snaring silver in a hard-fought Under 23 World Championship.

A leading pack of almost 20 riders made the final transition together, leaving the race to those strongest over the final 10km run. Seear stationed himself among the leaders and always looked among the likely contenders, but Germany's Franz Loeschke gradually pulled away over the final kilometre to take gold, with Portugal's Joao Pereira claiming bronze.

"It would have been great to get gold in front of my home crowd, but I'm ecstatic with silver – it was a fantastic feeling running down that home straight with the crowd cheering," Seear said.

"I felt pretty good coming off the bike, but it's hard to tell how the other guys are feeling when you don't know them too well. It was great to have our coaches spread around the course and they kept telling me to be patient because I do have a tendency to try and make things happen too early. I just put in a couple of surges every now and then to test the leg strength of the guys around me, then tried to finish it off.

"The first thing I'm going to do is eat some chocolate but I can't wait to cheer on the rest of the team now over the weekend. The atmosphere is fantastic."

In the women's Under 23 World Championship, Great Britain flexed its muscle and showed it will be a leading triathlon power during the 2012 London Olympics in boasting three of the top four women. Hollie Avil won from compatriot Jodie Stimpson, with Canada's Paula Findlay third.

Dextro Energy ITU Triathlon World Championship Series

Grand Final, Race 8: Gold Coast

Elite Men: Saturday, September 12, 3.15pm AEST

Elite Women: Sunday, September 13, 2.45pm AEST

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