

## **Australian's eye big prize in Des Moines**

The ITU circuit moves across the USA from Washington, DC to Des Moines, Iowa for the Hy-Vee Triathlon Elite Cup and Triathlon Team World Championships and once again a host of Australian's will be lining up amidst strong fields in both men's and women's races.

With the largest prize money for any triathlon race in the world on offer, the big guns are eyeing up the \$200,000 first place positions, making Hy-Vee one of the most sought after and exciting competitions for spectators and athletes alike. However the athletes will have to battle the oppressive conditions as well as each other with temperatures likely to peak in the mid-thirties on race day.

The big question in the women's race centres around whether Emma Moffatt can beat compatriot and Olympic gold medallist Emma Snowsill for the second weekend in a row.

The pair have dominated the Dextro Energy Triathlon – ITU World Championship Series thus far this year, Moffatt taking victory in Washington last weekend and Snowsill finishing second. While the pair are training partners and friends, Snowsill will be keen to defend her Hy-Vee title this weekend.

Brad Kahlefeldt who again failed to get himself into the lead group last weekend will have to pull out a brilliant swim to put himself in contention while Courtney Atkinson rejoins the circuit having elected to skip the Washington race in favour of some altitude training.

The men's race draws in the Olympic medallists, Jan Frodeno from Germany, Simon Whitfield from Canada and New Zealand's Bevan Docherty, as well as 2008 world champion Javier Gomez from Spain. Gomez faired the best last weekend at the Dextro Energy Triathlon – ITU World Championships with a second place finish, with Frodeno the strongest of the chase pack in sixth. Both Whitfield and Docherty failed to finish, with some observers speculating that they might be saving energy for this weekend's onslaught.

With the IOC selections for additional events for the London 2012 Olympiad approaching, the International Triathlon Union will be showcasing its latest World Championship race in Des Moines, Iowa, this Sunday with the running of the ITU Triathlon Team World Championships.

Australia will team up to contest the ITU Triathlon Team World Championships fielding two teams.

Their 'A' team consists of Olympic gold and bronze medallists Emma Snowsill and Emma Moffatt, with Commonwealth Games champion Brad Kahlefeldt and Australian national champion Courtney Atkinson. At present they look like the race favourites. Their 'B' team includes Beijing Olympian Erin Densham, Annabel Luxford, Dan Wilson and Gareth Halverson and has a good chance of a podium finish.

The event will bring together the world's top triathlon nations as their teams of two women and two men battle it out over the 250m swim, 7km cycle, 1.8km run. Each athlete will complete one leg with a transition area set up allowing them to tag their compatriots. The mixed format will see the women start before handing over to a male compatriot, and then back to the second woman leaving the second man on the final leg to bring the team home.

21 teams from four continents are entered with representatives from Australia, Canada, USA, Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Portugal, Japan, Mexico and the Ukraine are already entered.

**Australian Team - Hy-Vee Triathlon Elite Cup**

Emma Snowsill	Brad Kahelfeldt
Emma Moffatt	Courtney Atkinson
Erin Densham	Dan Wilson
Annabel Luxford	Gareth Halverson
	Greg Bennett
	Clayton Fettell

**Prize Money – USD Male and Female**

1 <sup>st</sup>	\$200,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$50,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$25,000
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$20,000

**Timetable**

Elite Women: Saturday 27th June Start: 12:30pm (3:30am Sunday 28 AEST)

Elite Men: Saturday 27th June Start: 3.30pm (6:30am Sunday 28 AEST)

Teams Championships: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, Start: 12.30pm (3.30am Monday 29 AEST)

**For more information, please contact:**

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