

## **Australian's claim triathlons richest prize purse**

Australian Olympic triathletes Emma Moffatt and Emma Snowsill continued their world dominance and claimed a bumper pay day by winning gold and silver in the world's richest triathlon, the Hy-Vee ITU Triathlon Elite Cup in Iowa, Des Moines.

Moffatt earned \$US200,000 for two hours work blitzing the field in hot and windy conditions to finish a minute and a half ahead of Olympic champion, Snowsill, who took home \$US50,000 for her troubles.

In the men's race, Brad Kahlefeldt came within a fraction of a second of claiming first prize, beaten to the line by Canada's Simon Whitfield amid a thrilling sprint finish that saw six of the world's best runners battle down the finish chute.

Moffatt was ideally placed throughout the race, exiting the water after the 1500-metre swim near the head of the field and settling in a pack of seven riders, which picked up early lone leader, Sara McLarty (USA), halfway through the 40km bike leg.

Snowsill missed the lead group out of the water and was relegated to the larger chase group for the entire 40 kilometre bike leg.

In a repeat of last weekend's performance, Moffatt immediately went on the attack early in the run, dropping everyone except for Hewitt. But after lap one Moffatt stepped up the pace to drop the Kiwi to cruise to victory and her largest payday ever. Never taking her foot off the gas for a moment Moffatt still posted the fastest run of the day with a 35:35 10-kilometre split.

"Wow, it's amazing, it hasn't sunk in at all yet," commented Moffatt at the finish. "It's great to put together two great races in six days and to come away with the win, I'm ecstatic. It was good to make the break and get a lead and I was a bit concerned when Andrea [Hewitt] came with me for the first lap. I was just trying to focus on running and not on the money. I don't know what I'm going to do with it, I haven't given it any thought."

"I'm very happy with that race – it all went well for me," Moffatt said. "Our group worked well on the bike and we kept pushing hard because we knew the quality of the girls in the chase pack. I always like to make sure I'm near the front at the end of the bike, so that I get a clear break and can set the pace on the run. I certainly knew Andrea was right behind me and, while I was focused on the pace I was setting, I did throw in a few hard efforts to try and make her work and thankfully it paid off. And it was nice to enjoy it over the home stretch; it had cooled down a little by that stage."

Second place Snowsill showed her run prowess reeling in the entire lead group, except for Moffatt, with the second fastest run split of the day. After an up and down 2008, Canadian Lauren Groves showed her run form keeping within striking distance of Snowsill all day to claim her first major podium.

"It's a bit of a groundhog day for me," said a frustrated Snowsill. "We probably didn't work together as well as we could have on the bike, but that's the nature of the beast – there's not much you can do about it. I felt it in the legs a bit today and for some reason it just didn't quite happen. That's the way it goes."

In the men's race a huge pack finished together off the bike, leaving them to chase down four runners with a slender lead. It came down to an all-star cast over the final of four laps, with six big guns fighting it out. Positions changed several times over a manic last few hundred metres, with Sydney Olympic gold medallist and noted sprinter Whitfield inching ahead to claim the \$US200,000 winner's cheque.

A desperate lunge from Kahlefeldt ensured he snared \$US50,000, just inches ahead of Beijing Olympic gold medallist Jan Frodeno, of Germany.

"That last lap was so nerve-racking, but I'm very happy with second place, given this is virtually an unofficial world championship with that sort of quality field," Kahlefeldt said. "I got jostled a bit with about 400 metres to go and Simon managed to get a little break on me. I thought I had him at one stage, but all credit to him; he's an outstanding sprinter."

"I gave it everything and just dived for the line. At least I collapsed over the line – that's the main thing! I have been in a fair few close finishes now but I think that was the best of them; it was pretty chaotic out there. That was an incredible race and I'm very satisfied with how I performed. To get on the podium in that company . . . well, I'm very happy."

Of the other Australian men Gareth Halverson finished 12<sup>th</sup>, Dan Wilson 16<sup>th</sup>, Greg Bennett 29<sup>th</sup> and Courtney Atkinson 41<sup>st</sup>.

### **Hy-Vee ITU Triathlon Elite Cup 1.5km swim, 40km bike, 10km run**

#### **Elite Women**

Gold - Emma Moffatt (AUS)	1:59:46	
Silver - Emma Snowsill (AUS)	2:01:19	+1:33
Bronze - Lauren Groves (CAN)	2:01:31	+1:45
4th - Magali di Marco (SUI)	2:01:48	+2:02
5th - Liz Blatchford (GBR)	2:02:04	+2:18
6th - Andrea Hewitt (NZL)	2:02:26	+2:40
7th - Lisa Norden (SWE)	2:02:37	+2:51
8th - Daniela Ryf (SUI)	2:02:59	+3:13
9th - Sarah Haskins (USA)	2:03:26	+3:40
10th - Helen Jenkins (GBR)	2:03:45	+3:59

#### **Elite Men**

Gold - Simon Whitfield (CAN)	1:49:43	
Silver - Brad Kahlefeldt (AUS)	1:49:44	+ :01
Bronze - Jan Frodeno (GER)	1:49:44	+ :01

4th - Kris Gemmell (NZL)	1:49:45	+:02
5th - Jarrod Shoemaker (USA)	1:49:47	+:04
6th - Javier Gomez (ESP)	1:49:51	+:08
7th - Brent McMahon (CAN)	1:50:07	+:24
8th - Tim Don (GBR)	1:50:21	+:38
9th - Danyl Sapunov (UKR)	1:50:26	+:43
10th - Ryosuke Yamamoto (JPN)	1:50:32	+:49