

Dextro Energy Triathlon - ITU World Championship Series heads to Spain



AUSTRALIAN'S LUXFORD AND KAHLEFELDT LINE UP FOR ROUND TWO

This weekend Madrid will host round two of the inaugural Dextro Energy Triathlon – ITU World Championships Series after a successful start to the series in Tongyeong, Korea three weeks ago when Australian's claimed three podium places.

Olympic gold medallist Emma Snowsill was back on the top step of the podium in Korea following a hard fought battle with Olympic bronze medallist Emma Moffatt who finished second. Brad Kahlefeldt also finished second in a controversial photo finish to New Zealand's Bevan Docherty.

Kahlefeldt will have to shelve plans of a re-match with Docherty who will not take the start line this round but he will have to face long time adversary and home town hero Javier Gomez who was sidelined in round one because of an ankle injury. Also making his debut appearance in the series, Beijing gold medalist Jan Frodeno (GER).

Kahlefeldt has been based in Europe since round one and is hoping to be standing on top of the podium on Sunday.

Speaking from his training base in Tiszaujvaros (Hun), Brad says his training has been going well and is expecting another good performance on Sunday.

"I was disappointed with the decision, I felt at least it should have been a dead heat but was happy with my form," said Kahlefeldt.

He will line up with fellow Aussie Courtney Atkinson who has shown excellent early season form which saw him take ITU World Cup wins in Mooloolaba and Ishigaki and a tenth place finish at the World Championship season opener in Tongyeong. Also from the Southern hemisphere, New Zealand's Kris Gemmell will be looking for a strong performance in Madrid having just missed out on a top three finish in Korea as he recovered from a nasty crash sustained whilst racing back on home soil. The Kiwi has based himself at altitude in Boulder, Colorado for the past month before he heads to Europe to contest the Spanish race.

With the current World Championship leader Snowsill and Moffatt who sits second on the leader board both missing this race opting to focus on the third

leg of the series in Washington, DC, the door of opportunity is wide open for the women competitors to maximise their points total.

Also missing will be Portuguese sensation Vanessa Fernandes who was expected to make her World Championship Series debut in Madrid, however has withdrawn at the last minute as she continues to recover from a broken collarbone sustained in early season training.

Annabell Luxford, the Australian national champion will be the Aussie's sole competitor in the women's race but has a strong record on the course having finished second in 2005 and third in 2004.

Japan's Juri Ide heads to Europe on an impressive run of form which includes victory at the Ishigaki World Cup followed by a third place finish in Tongyeong. The rising star of Asian triathlon impressed with a fifth place finish in Beijing at the Olympic Games in 2008.

As the season heads to Spain a large European contingent will be making their way across the continent. Great Britain's Helen Jenkins, the 2008 World Champion, finished second on the Madrid course just a year ago whilst the big breakthrough of 2008, Hollie Avil, will looking to get her season underway with a bang. They will be joined on the pontoon with newly crowned British national champion Jodie Swallow.

Australian Team

Brad Kahlefeldt Annabell Luxford
Courtney Atkinson
James Seear
Peter Robertson
Gareth Halverson

Prize Money - USD\$150,000

Timetable

Elite Women, Sunday 31st May Start: 11.30am (19:30pm AEST)
Elite Men, Sunday 31st May Start: 2:15pm (22:15pm AEST)

About the Series

The Dextro Energy Triathlon - ITU World Championship Series is a new global triathlon series at the highest level of the sport. It represents an innovative change by creating seven first-class World Championship events and a Grand Final rather than a one-day world championship event. The world's best triathletes will compete head-to-head, featuring live international television for the first time from every event. A record of over USD 3 million (total prize money

available for world championship and world cup series) will be at stake in the battle to become triathlon's 2009 world champion.

For more information, please contact:

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