

Dextro Energy Triathlon - ITU World Championship Series



Media Release

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KAHLEFELDT'S CAMPAIGN SHATTERED AMID LONDON CHAOS

In-form Australian Brad Kahlefeldt has had his world championship hopes shattered as chaos and carnage reigned in the London leg of the Dextro Energy Triathlon ITU World Championship Series.

Kahlefeldt suffered a cut to his left foot, most likely from a competitor's sprocket, during a crowded and chaotic bike transition. The 30-year-old was left writhing in pain in the transition area before being taken to hospital.

"There's obviously a fair cut because there was a bit of blood about and we have to check if there's a break to a metatarsal, so until we know the outcome of x-rays it's hard to say exactly how serious it is," said AIS Triathlon Head Coach Shaun Stephens.

"But he will be devastated. There won't be enough time for him to turn around and race in Yokohama next weekend and, at this stage, you would have to think he is in serious doubt to get on the start line for the grand final on the Gold Coast."

Kahlefeldt entered the race in fourth spot on the rankings having snared silver at the last event in Hamburg. But today's setback could not have come at a worse time. He not only failed to score points in London, but the following race in Yokohama is the only event scheduled on back-to-back weekends. The grand final is on the Gold Coast on September 12-13, leaving him precious little time to be fit to race in front of his home crowd, even if cleared of a break.

Alistair Brownlee continued his meteoric rise in the sport, with the British star powering to his fourth win to remain undefeated in the series. The 21-year-old, who was part of the breakaway group on the bike, had a poor transition, but quickly made up lost ground to reel in the pace-setters over the first kilometre of the run, before setting the pace and eventually winning by eight seconds in the blistering time of 1hr 41min 50secs.

Germany's Steffen Justus was second, with Kiwi veteran Kris Gemmell finally winning a hard-fought place on the podium after several near misses.

Australia's other main hope, Courtney Atkinson, put in a strong showing despite having only recently recovered from a stomach virus. The Queenslander was unusually sluggish in the water, but was part of the main bike pack and featured prominently early in the run to eventually finish seventh. Dan Wilson finished 28th, James Seear 35th, Gareth Halverson 38th and Josh McHugh 44th.

Earlier, the race of Spain's world champion Javier Gomez came to a spectacular end when he crashed during the middle stages of the 40km bike leg at a time when he was part of a 12-man breakaway group. That group was eventually caught, resulting in a pack of more than 40 riders minus Jarrod Shoemaker, the last-start winner in Hamburg, who was forced to withdraw with an unknown complaint.

Two low-profile competitors eventually broke away on the final lap of the bike leg to lead by 20 seconds but, bizarrely, they miscalculated the number of laps and rode right through the transition area unaware of their mistake.

The chaos continued when the main pack arrived in transition, with a handful of athletes falling in the middle of the group and Kahlefeldt suffering his race-ending injury.

Dextro Energy Triathlon - ITU World Championship Rankings

After Race Six of Eight

1st - Alistair Brownlee (GBR) - 3,200 pts

2nd - Maik Petzold (GER) - 2,493

3rd - Steffen Justus (GER) - 2,388

London Dextro Energy Triathlon - ITU World Championship Series

1.5km swim, 40km bike, 10km run

Elite Men - Unofficial Results

Gold - Alistair Brownlee (GBR)	01:41:50	
Silver - Steffen Justus (GER)	01:41:58	+:08
Bronze - Kris Gemmell (NZL)	01:42:01	+:11
4th - Sebastian Rank (GER)	01:42:01	+:11
5th - Laurent Vidal (FRA)	01:42:16	+:26
6th - David Hauss (FRA)	01:42:17	+:27
7th - Courtney Atkinson (AUS)	01:42:24	+:34
8th - Tony Moulai (FRA)	01:42:29	+:39
9th - Tim Don (GBR)	01:42:31	+:41
10th -Jonathan Zipf (GER)	01:42:32	+:42

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