

Carter “cooked” in rich US triathlon

Olympic gold medallist Hamish Carter has finished eighth in the rich Lifetime Fitness Triathlon, the mixed event for men and women in the United States today.

Carter, like many, succumbed to the extreme heat in Minneapolis today, requiring medical treatment as he collapsed on the line after finishing fifth male and eighth overall in the \$NZ740,000 event.

Australian Craig Alexander, who won the New Zealand long distance title in Mt Maunganui in January, won the overall honours and the winner's cheque for \$250,000.

World champion Bevan Docherty was 10th male and 14th overall, one place ahead of fellow Kiwi and training partner Kris Gemmell.

Meanwhile Kapiti's Coast's Evelyn Williamson placed sixth in the ITU European Cup race in Holten, Netherlands, with fellow New Zealander Shane Reed 20th in the men's race after a mechanical problem during the bike.

It is the first time the men have prevailed in the Lifetime Fitness triathlon claiming the first three places overall after the women had a 9min 32sec handicap, the smallest in the four year history of the race.

The Kiwi trio were in the bunch 30 seconds down on Australian Craig Walton out of the water. Carter and Docherty raced in a loose cover in the main bunch of the non-drafting 3race, while Gemmell dropped two minutes off the pace. The chasers were two minutes 45 secs behind Walton off the bike with the big Australian just 40 seconds behind race leader, and his partner Emma Snowsill, the 2003 world champion.

Walton fell to the extreme heat and did not finish as Alexander and 2000 Olympic gold medallist Simon Whitfield raced their way to the field before the Australian cleared out for the victory, with the Canadian 25secs behind and world No 1 Hunter Kemper (USA) third, just ahead of Snowsill.

Carter managed a 33m45s split for the 10km run, suffering badly in the heat and collapsing on the line.

“I passed out on the line and the next thing I remember was being in the medical tent,” Carter said. “The heat was incredible and it really got to me. I just cooked myself a bit.

“Overall I was solid today. It felt like I was in third gear out there. I guess that could have been the heat though. It was a pass mark but I would only give myself a C Plus today.”

Docherty also suffered in the heat dropping a further minute from Carter, while Gemmell, after a disappointing bike, made ground with a useful 1 33m09s run split.

Across the Atlantic, Williamson was satisfied with her sixth placing in the Premium European Cup race in Holten, won by Great Britain's Helen Lawrence.

Williamson, who won the ITU Asian Cup race in China last weekend, was in the main pack out of the swim and in a lead pack of 20 off the bike. She proved solid with a 37m07s split for the 10km run, finishing 1min 30sec behind the winner.

“It's early days in my season and I've done no speed work yet. I now head to altitude for a solid block of training as I prepare for the world championships. It's good to know I have some form going into this training.”

Fellow New Zealander Taryn McLeod (Dunedin) enjoyed her best performance in elite ranks to finish 12th.

Reed, who has been in superb form this year had to settle for 20th in the men's race after losing his chain on the bike. He lost nearly two minutes fixing the problem and closed to within two minutes of the winner, England's Andrew Johns.

North Harbour's Will Green was 37th, Liam Scopes (Auckland) 39th and Nick Hawken (Dunedin) 48th.

Attention turns to the ITU World Cup race in Corner Brook, New Foundland tomorrow where Auckland's Nathan Richmond defends his title on what is considered the toughest course on the circuit. There is also plenty of interest in the performance of North Harbours' Terenzo Bozzone.

Lifetime Fitness Triathlon, Minneapolis (handicap 9m 32s not included):

Men: C Alexander (AUS) 1:50:00, 1; S Whitfield (CAN) 1:50.26, 2; Hunter Kemper (USA) 1:50.35, 3; H Carter (NZL) 1:51.58, 5; B Docherty 1:53.10, 10; K Gemmell 1:53.16, 11.

Women: E Snowsill (AUS) 2:00.25, 1; J Zeiger (USA) 2:01.21, 2; A Luxford (AUS) 2:01.27, 3.

ITU European Cup, Holten, Netherlands:

Men: A Johns (GBR) 1:49.43, 1; B Kahlefeldt (AUS) 1:49.47, 2; Y Vincent (FRA) 1:50.01, 3; S Reed (NZL) 1:52.11, 20; W Green (NZL) 1:54.54, 37; L Scopes (NZL) 1:55.03, 39; Nick Hawken (NZL) 1:58.36, 48.

Women: H Lawrence (GBR) 2:03.00, 1; N Cortassa (ITA) 2:03.20, 2; I I Abysova (RUS) 2:03.40, 3; E Williamson (NZL) 2:04.21, 6; T McLeod (NZL) 2:06.53, 12.