

Triathlon World Cup « Des Moines, Iowa »

Kathy Tremblay 16th in a Crazy race

Montréal, June 17, 2007 (Sportcom) – Kathy Tremblay (2h 08min 58s) ranked 16th at the Triathlon World Cup in Des Moines, Iowa. She was also the first Canadian woman to finish the race. American Laura Bennett was the fastest (2h 04min 32s), finishing ahead of Australian Annabel Luxford (2h 04min 47s) and Brazilian Mariana Ohata (2h 05min 30s).

The current sensation on the world circuit, Canadian Kirsten Sweetland, was fighting for first place before collapsing less than 1 km from the finish line because of the oppressive heat. Exhausted, the 2006 World Junior Champion was unable to finish the race.

“There were nothing but surprises in this race. I was confident after the swim, and I followed my line, but I missed the lead pack right after the first buoy.



I ended up coming out of the water first behind the lead group,” commented Tremblay, a native of Gatineau, just as voluble in an interview.

This race was very important for Canadian athletes because it was the first step in the qualifying process for the Olympics. Indeed, a top 5 finish meant a ticket to Beijing.

“On the bike, I was in the big pack, and there were only seven girls in the group ahead. I therefore had a chance to fulfill my goal. I didn’t start off too fast on the run, and I wanted to make it into the top 5, or the top 8. If I had left first in my pack after the swim, I would make the top 8. That goal was realistic, but the swim was a little strange, with girls swimming all over the place.”

The race on Sunday was marked with several withdrawals. Indeed, only 26 of the 50 participants crossed the finish line, which is unusual for a triathlon.

“With \$200,000 and a truck for the first place finisher, everyone wanted to win this race. And it was so hot that some of the girls who were not in the lead pack broke down mentally, and then withdrew.” For Tremblay, who had withdrawn from the race in Lisbon, it was totally out of the question that scenario repeat itself. “I definitely found it difficult, but even so, I didn’t stop!”

On the men’s side, Rasmus Henning, of Denmark, won the race. Canadian Simon Withfield finished in sixth place.

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