

Media Release

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ROCKSTAR RACER TOO GOOD – WRIGHT WINS

Rockstar team racer Hamish Elliot mastered the toughest 100km mountain bike course successfully defending his title at the Noosa Enduro this morning in convincing style while Brisbane rider Nina Wright conquered the course best to claim the women's division.

The conditions were a lot milder this year with all three courses relatively dry in comparison to the rain soaked tracks last year.

"It was a lot of fun out there today, the course was much quicker than last year with a faster bunch of guys to contend with," said Elliot.

Elliot is wrapped to be back in Noosa and to defend his title.

"It was a tough day at the office. Our team had a few technical problems and we were a little worried at the half way mark but knew we would be strong in the back end of the race with all the climbing that needed to be done," said Elliot.

At 25 Elliot is an exceptional talent. His style and skills are both unique and exciting.

Now in its fourth year the Noosa Enduro continued its momentum and was well attended by the MTB community competing across the 100km and 50km distances which included two 50km options – advanced or intermediate and the new 10km course attracting competitors from every capitol and territory.

Warmer temperatures were a bonus for everyone this morning and riders were keen to hit the trails despite the challenge and pain that was to come. Supporters and cheer-squads also took to the course seeking out the best vantage points to watch some of Australia's top mountain biking teams challenge each other and themselves over the gruelling terrain.

It didn't take long for the field to be split with local Tewantin rider, Ian Cuthbertson making a strong break at the half way mark from Rockstar riders Elliot and Andrew East. With a three minute lead it looked like the event would have a new race winner but the Rockstar riders worked hard and well together to bring themselves back into contention over the harder, more demanding part of the course.



holiday noosa style



Elliot made his move at the renowned hill nicknamed the 'Mother', just before the Tablelands Lookout and the 'Demoralizer' at Mt Tinbeerwah, from there Elliot showed his class and moved into a zone of his own.

"Ian was really strong but once I caught him, I surged to make a strong break and felt really good. I didn't have a lot of racing under my belt or good form coming into today so I was really happy with my performance and the result," said Elliot.

Further back it was now a race for the minor medals with Mark Frendo from Corinda quickly making his way through the field to claim second place with early race leader, Ian Cuthbertson holding on for third.

In the women's 100km event and in the absence of 3-time winner Imogen Smith, it was left to Brisbane based cyclist Nina Wright to make her mark proving her late decision to race today was a good one.

"The course was dryer than I thought and I was counting down how far to go with every check point I passed. At times I had to convince myself to keep pushing but once I got in front with 8km to go I wasn't about to give up," said Wright after crossing the line.

Wright was quick to congratulate fellow Brisbane rider, Meg Carrington who was ecstatic to finish in second place with Kim Beckinsal from Noosa in third.

In the Advanced 50km the hard slog paid off for Bradley Nightingale from Wavell Heights who was a clear winner from Aaron Benson of Highfields with local rider, Colin Dick from Tewantin taking out third place.

Brisbane's Connie Silvestri proved a class above in the women's event with a convincing win over local riders Jay Pattson and Katriona Caddell from Cooroy.

"The Enduro is firmly established on the calendar for the adventure enthusiasts and we're excited going forward for its future. It's also pleasing to see so many travel from outside the Sunshine Coast and interstate to compete," said Sam Adam, USM Events Project Manager.

"The Noosa Trail Networks provide us with a challenging but stunning courses which is a big part of the attraction and of course we are pleased to be helping a very worthy charity – SHINE Project," he added.

Results

100km

Male

1. Hamish Elliot	Manly Vale	4:30:10
2. Mark Frendo	Corinda	4:40:51
3. Ian Cuthbertson	Tewantin	4:44:28

Female

1. Nina Wright	Woolloongabba	6:07:34
2. Meg Carrington	Toowong	6:10:14
3. Kim Beckinsal	Noosa Heads	6:14:10

50km – Advanced**Male**

1. Bradley Nightingale	Wavell Heights	2:32:32
2. Aaron Benson	Highfields	2:40:18
3. Colin Dick	Tewantin	2:42:31

Female

1. Connie Silvestri	St Lucia	3:06:10
2. Jay Pattson	Cooroy	3:07:30
3. Katriona Caddell	Cooroy	3:19:26

50km – Intermediate**Male**

1. Lee Stariha	Cleveland	2:26:25
2. Jason Blair	Carindale	2:30:50
3. Peter Humberdross	Zillmere	2:36:23

Female

1. Sally Smalley	Miami	2:52:56
2. Yolanda Brady	Noosaville	3:03:53
3. Michelle Prutton	Brisbane	3:20:48

A full set of results will be posted later today on www.usmevents.com.au

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