

## Media Release

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### **ATKINSON DOMINATES ITU MOOLOOLABA WORLD CUP**

In his first major international event since the Beijing Olympics, Australian Courtney Atkinson has claimed a crucial victory on home soil by beating off a world-class field to claim the ITU Mooloolaba World Cup in Queensland. He held off New Zealand's Kris Gemmell who recorded the fastest run split to grab himself second place ahead of Australian Brad Kahlefeldt.

The win in the 1.5km swim, 40km cycle and 10km run race at the Queensland resort town is a timely one with Atkinson about to launch himself onto the new eight-leg Dextro Energy world championship series which kicks off in May.

Atkinson will take confidence from today's victory in the opening World Cup of the year into the innovative new series which will decide the 2009 world triathlon champion.

This title is one which has eluded Atkinson in the past with Australia's last male world champion Peter Robertson back in 2005 in Gamagori Japan.

"I was confident I could have a good race but you can't expect to win these days," Atkinson said.

Atkinson stamped his authority on today's Mooloolaba World Cup early, exiting the opening swim leg first with fellow Australian's James Sear and Joshua Amberger.

The trio got a handy break on the bike leg working well together to keep the chase group away for seven of the eight laps before Amberger dropped off the pace.

He joined the second group that contained stellar runners including Gemmell and Australian's Brad Kahlefeldt and Dan Wilson

Atkinson and Sear headed out together onto the final run leg with a 50 second buffer from the chasers.

Seears fell off the pace in the second lap, Atkinson moved into another gear and was never challenged, taking his time down the finish chute to savour his victory.

Gemmell had a blistering run leg to grab the silver today while Kahlefeldt hung on for third.

"This was my first race and I'm pleased with that effort although my run felt a little sluggish," said Gemmell.

Atkinson was full of praise for the youngster Seear and Amberger but thought he had made a mistake going out alone with them.

"Halfway through the bike I thought 'why I have done this again', because I've been mowed down in the past.

"I like racing hard though, so when we got in that position it was do or die.

"I was disappointed I lost Josh, he's got the biggest heart out of the juniors, I went up the last hill a bit hard and dropped him," Atkinson said.

Kahlefeldt was a little disappointed with his third place today, his hip causing concern on the bike and run.

"I'm just glad to be back and glad to be on the podium," Kahlefeldt said.

"I didn't feel great out there today to be honest, lack of speed, couldn't prepare as well as last year.

"The season will be long, I want to get a couple of good results and build from there."

The Mooloolaba World Cup is one of only two major international triathlon events to be raced in Australia this year with the second the world championship series finale on the Gold Coast in September.

It is here that the 2009 men's and women's world triathlon champions will be crowned.

## Results

1.	Courtney Atkinson	Australia	1:52:05
2.	Kris Gemmell	New Zealand	1:52:16
3.	Brad Kahlefeldt	Australia	1:52:50
4.	David Hauss	France	1:53:24
5.	Laurent Vidal	France	1:53:30
6.	Dan Wilson	Australia	1:53:35
7.	Andreas Raelert	Germany	1:53:40
8.	Gareth Halverson	Australia	1:53:49
9.	Matt Chrobot	USA	1:54:02
10.	James Seear	Australia	1:54:16

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