



## UCI Track World Cup Cambridge - Global Wrap, Day 2

Australia has once again cemented itself as a top pursuing nation winning both teams titles on the second day of competition at the UCI Track World Cup in Cambridge, New Zealand.

Despite strong support for the New Zealanders, Australia claimed a convincing triumph in the Trans-Tasman team pursuit battle.

Alex Edmondson, Jack Bobridge, Michael Hepburn and Luke Davison rode a blistering time of 3:53.010 to take the gold medal and in doing so set a new Australian record.

The New Zealand quartet of Cameron Kawowski, Regan Gough, Alex Frame and Pieter Bulling started strongly but the Australians were able to pull away to eventually win by more than four seconds.

“New Zealand has the world champion bands on and they’re in their home town. Of course it was going to be a big ask, but we had to back ourselves and know that we’ve done the training,” said Edmondson.

“We wanted to go fast. In round one we went 3:55 with catching Switzerland, so we knew we wanted to go fast, but to ride 3:53.00 is an Australian record for us. We’re pretty rapt that we’ve come away with a very fast time and the gold medal. I don’t think we could do much better than that so it is just making sure that we can do that for the big dance in Rio.”

Germany proved too fast for the Netherlands in the race for the bronze medal, although their victory was only by less than a second.

Earlier in the evening the Australian women’s team pursuit had claimed an emotional victory in a close race against Canada

It was a tight competition over the 4000m with Georgia Baker putting in a heroic effort in the final laps to deliver Australia the gold by a mere five hundredths of a second.

Canada finished just 0.05 seconds behind Australia to take the silver medal and retain the World Cup lead.

“It was a really close battle out there,” said Amy Cure who joined on the podium by Australian team-mates Ashlee Ankudinoff, Georgia Baker and Isabella King.

“We knew it was going to be tough so we just had to stick to our schedule. The last couple of laps we were just racing them and we knew they were up the whole time.



To get across the finish line and look up and see number one was very special for all of us.”

The victory had extra special meaning for Baker as today is her late father’s birthday.

“It is special to all of us, especially to wear these black bands. We all went out there and wanted to do it for Pat, and we did that,” said Cure. “Georgia really proved how much she wanted it in that last turn and she really finished the team off - full credit to her, we couldn’t have done it without her and really made her Dad proud. It was quite an emotional victory for all of us.”

New Zealand’s Rushlee Buchanan, Lauren Ellis, Jaime Nielsen and Georgia Williams did not disappoint the home crowd in the ride for bronze taking a convincing win over the USA.

In the men’s team sprint it was Germany who emerged the victors, relegating New Zealand into silver.

The 2014 world champions Ethan Mitchell, Sam Webster and Eddie Dawkins managed to out-power the Germans in the first two laps but couldn’t sustain the pace for the final lap, finishing just a split second down on the German trio of Rene Enders, Max Niederlag and Joachim Eilers.

“We won the qualification yesterday and today we wanted to be a little bit faster but that’s ok,” said Enders.

“I think we have to do a lot of work for the Worlds (Championships) and the Olympic Games but we’re on our way.”

The race for bronze saw Australia’s Nathan Hart, Peter Lewis and Matthew Glaetzer riding for outclass Great Britain’s decorated squad of Philip Hindes, Jason Kenny and Callum Skinner.

Women’s team sprint world champions Jinje Gong and Tianshi Zhong of China were able to put away the Australian pair of Stephanie Morton and Kaarle McCulloch in order to continue their World Cup dominance.

Following on from his team sprint success, Eilers made it two Keirin World Cups in succession with a brilliant victory in the final.

The 25-year-old German made a late run on the final lap to secure the narrowest of wins, holding out compatriot Maximilian Levy and American Matthew Baranoski.

Three-time Olympic champion Jason Kenny (Great Britain) drew well to lead the way,



reclaiming the lead from Baranoski at the bell.

But the Englishman was joined in a three-way battle with Eilers and Levy before the German pair pushed clear in a close battle to the line.

“It was an amazing race tonight,” said Eilers. “I just did my best in an absolute top field. Everyone is here and you have to give everything to have such a result.”

Australia’s Stephanie Morton proved no match for world champion Kristina Vogel in the battle for the women’s sprint title.

Vogel (Germany) won both heats by a bike length to claim the gold medal after a solid performance by 25 year old Morton.

“I’m really happy,” said Vogel. “A month ago in Cali it was hard for me, and wearing the world champion’s jersey it brings a bit of pressure. I’ve found my way back to not put a lot of pressure on myself, and just be free,” said Vogel.

Lithuania’s Simona Krupeckaite claimed the bronze medal after three close races against China’s Shuang Guo.

Christopher Latham (USA) and Kirsten Wild (Netherlands) lead the Omnium competition after the first three events.

Racing concludes on Sunday with the final Omnium events, men’s sprint and women’s Keirin.