

All-Time U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team Rosters

2000



Ryan Bolton



Jennifer Gutierrez



Hunter Kemper



Nick Radkewich



Sheila Taormina



Joanna Zeiger

Name

Ryan Bolton
Jennifer Gutierrez
Hunter Kemper
Nick Radkewich
Sheila Taormina
Joanna Zeiger

Residence

Gillette, Wyo.
San Antonio, Texas
Colorado Springs, Colo.
Hudson, Ohio
Livonia, Mich.
San Diego, Calif.

Finish/Medal

25th
13th
17th
40th
6th
4th



2004



Hunter Kemper



Barb Lindquist



Victor Plata



Andy Potts



Sheila Taormina



Susan Williams

Name

Hunter Kemper
Barb Lindquist
Victor Plata
Andy Potts
Sheila Taormina
Susan Williams

Residence

Colorado Springs, Colo.
Alta, Wyo.
San Luis Obispo, Calif.
Princeton, N.J.
Livonia, Mich.
Littleton, Colo.

Finish/Medal

9th
9th
27th
22nd
23rd
3rd/Bronze



All-Time U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team Rosters

2008



Laura Bennett



Julie Ertel



Sarah Haskins



Hunter Kemper



Matt Reed



Jarrod Shoemaker

Name

Laura Bennett
Julie Ertel
Sarah Haskins
Hunter Kemper
Matt Reed
Jarrod Shoemaker

Residence

Boulder, Colo.
Irvine, Calif.
Colorado Springs, Colo.
Colorado Springs, Colo.
Boulder, Colo.
Maynard, Mass.

Finish/Medal

4th
19th
11th
7th
32nd
18th



2012



Laura Bennett



Sarah Groff



Manuel Huerta



Gwen Jorgensen



Hunter Kemper

Name

Laura Bennett
Sarah Groff
Manuel Huerta
Gwen Jorgensen
Hunter Kemper

Residence

Boulder, Colo.
Hanover, N.H.
Miami, Fla.
Milwaukee, Wis.
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Triathlon in the Olympic Games

Triathlon made its official Olympic debut in Sydney, where Simon Whitfield and Brigitte McMahon stamped their names in the history books as the first gold medalists. In Athens, it was Hamish Carter and Kate Allen's golden turn before Emma Snowsill and Jan Frodeno won the gold in Beijing.

Overall, Australia is on top of the Olympic medal tally with a total of four. In addition to Snowsill's gold, Australian women have collected two silver medals — Michelle Jones in Sydney and Loretta Harrop in Athens — and one bronze — Emma Moffatt in Beijing. New Zealand and Switzerland have three medals each, each with a gold, then Canada and Germany have two medals. Whitfield has both of those medals for Canada. Austria, Czech Republic and the USA currently have one Olympic medal each.

The holder of the most impressive statistic though goes to New Zealand's Bevan Docherty, who is currently the only triathlete to win an Olympic medal at each Games participated in. Docherty won silver in Athens and then bronze in Beijing.

OLYMPIC MEDAL TALLY

Men

Games	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2000 Sydney	Simon Whitfield (CAN)	Stephan Vuckovic (GER)	Jan Rehula (CZE)
2004 Athens	Hamish Carter (NZL)	Bevan Docherty (NZL)	Sven Riederer (SUI)
2008 Beijing	Jan Frodeno (GER)	Simon Whitfield (CAN)	Bevan Docherty (NZL)

Women

Games	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2000 Sydney	Brigitte McMahon (SUI)	Michelle Jones (AUS)	Magali Di Marco (SUI)
2004 Athens	Kate Allen (AUT)	Loretta Harrop (AUS)	Susan Williams (USA)
2008 Beijing	Emma Snowsill (AUS)	Vanessa Fernandes (POR)	Emma Moffatt (AUS)

Sydney • Women, Sept. 16, 2000

U.S. triathletes Joanna Zeiger, Sheila Taormina and Jennifer Gutierrez didn't win any medals, but did themselves and their country proud as they finished fourth, sixth and 13th respectively, in the inaugural women's Olympic triathlon race.



GETTY IMAGES

Sheila Taormina celebrates with fans in Sydney

Brigitte McMahon of Switzerland won the race in 2 hours, 40.52 seconds. The Swiss surprise stole the glory many thought would be reserved for Australia's Michelle Jones, who placed second in 2:00:42.55 (an Australian newspaper ran a photo of Jones on its cover with the headline "Our First Gold"). Switzerland's Magali Messmer took the bronze (2:01:08).

Zeiger was thrilled with her finish (2:01:25.74) and felt she, Taormina and Gutierrez had proven something to the world.

"A lot of people didn't give the Americans any credit at all and we have three girls in the first pack. We had two people finish in the top 10. I think we put on an unbelievable performance," Zeiger said.

"I hope that in the future, people will realize it's anybody's game in these races."

The weather was sunny but cool as the triathletes dove off the pontoon into Sydney Harbor for the first leg of the race. As expected, Olympic swimming gold medalist Taormina (Livonia, Mich.) jumped out to a 50-meter lead in the swim. She was followed out of the water by Germany's Joelle Franzmann and Australia's Nicole Hackett and Loretta Harrop.

After a smooth transition, Taormina jumped on her bike in the lead, but had trouble finding any help and realized she couldn't hold the lead by herself.

"I said, 'All right, the first lap of the bike, enjoy the crowd. Smile at 'em. Let the pack catch you because you know they're going to catch you anyway,'" Taormina said.

"There are a few girls who are really strong on the bike – Joelle Franzenmann (Germany) and Jennifer Gutierrez. I thought maybe we could make a break at one point. But then the other girls were just hammering to catch up. Halfway through the bike, I realized there's no point in making a break."

A crash on the second lap of the bike took Canadian running star Carol Montgomery out of the race along with Mariana Ohata of Brazil and Great Britain's Sian Brice. The Americans, however, were not aware that Montgomery was involved in the crash.

Gutierrez had held a brief lead on the bike, but lost track of the laps and took almost 30 seconds to transition from bike to run.

"On the bike, when I took off, I wasn't really paying attention when I was in the group," Gutierrez said. "All of a sudden, I saw them taking off their shoes. I said, 'Whoops, we're done.'"

Zeiger credited Gutierrez and Taormina with helping her on the bike. But she ran into trouble in the first kilometer of the third leg when she dropped her asthma inhaler. She said that without it, she was more cautious than she might have been.

"Going over the hills, I could feel my heart rate going up. I had to back off a little bit so I wouldn't have an asthma attack."

The event drew huge crowds and fans were lined 15 deep in places along the course. At times, as many as nine television helicopters hovered over the course, along with a blimp. Chelsea Clinton was among those who enjoyed the action at triathlon's Olympic debut.



DELLY GARRITU

Sydney • Men, Sept. 17, 2000

Another beautiful day in Sydney proved to be less than optimal for the U.S. men's triathlon team as it was shut out of the top 10 in the event's Olympic debut in Sydney.

Hunter Kemper (Colorado Springs, Colo.) led the U.S. team with his 17th-place finish. Simon Whitfield of Canada used a tremendous run to win the race in 1 hour, 48 minutes, 24 seconds. Stephan Vuckovic of Germany finished second (1:48:37.58) as he exhorted the crowd to cheer him on, and Jan Rehula of the Czech Republic was third (1:48:46.64).

Kemper, who left the water in 18th and stayed there through the bike, admitted he didn't run as well as he would have liked.

"At worlds earlier this year, when I got seventh there, after 5k I just kept getting faster and faster and I was flying at the end. I could feel it," Kemper said. "Today it was like, man, the legs just weren't there."

U.S. triathlete Ryan Bolton (Gillette, Wyo.) finished 25th and teammate Nick Radkewich (Hudson, Ohio) placed 40th.

Bolton was involved in a crash on the sixth lap of the bike that also involved Whitfield among others. Fortunately, Bolton was able to get up quickly and continue.

"It wasn't that bad really," said Bolton, who had a scrape on his leg and a hole in his uniform. Bolton said the crash happened too fast for him to avoid it. "It was on an incline and people ride up on people's wheels and it kind of causes a chain reaction."

Australia's Craig Walton and Great Britain's Simon Lessing came out of the swim with a lead of about six seconds; but the pack reeled them in on the bike.

While France's Olivier Marceau and South Africa's Conrad Stoltz made a break on the bike, the race came down to the run. One by one, the lead runners passed the two. Vuckovic and Whitfield battled for the lead until they neared the Sydney Opera House on the last lap, when Whitfield made his move and took the lead for good.

Radkewich said he tried to just enjoy the experience of the race from the back of the pack.

"I got on the run and just continued to not feel well. I kind of wanted to enjoy the spectacle of it and finish up. The whole thing is great. The crowd out there was an amazing experience," Radkewich said.

2000 Olympic Games Results Sydney, Australia Sept. 16-17, 2000 1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10k run

Women

1. Brigitte McMahon (SUI) 2:00:40.52
2. Michelle Jones (AUS) 2:00:42.55
3. Magali Messmer (SUI) 2:01:08.83
4. **Joanna Zeiger (USA) 2:01:25.74**
5. Loretta Harrop (AUS) 2:01:42.82
6. **Sheila Taormina (USA) 2:02:45.91**
7. Isabelle Mouthon-Michellys (FRA) 2:02:53.41
8. Christine Hocq (FRA) 2:03:01.90
9. Nicole Hackett (AUS) 2:03:10.81
10. Nancy Kemp-Arendt (LUX) 2:03:14.94
11. Sandra Soldan (BRA) 2:03:19.86
12. Nina Anissimova (RUS) 2:03:26.35
13. **Jennifer Gutierrez (USA) 2:03:38.48**
14. Kiyomi Niwata (JPN) 2:03:53.01
15. Stephanie Forrester (GBR) 2:03:56.11
16. Kathleen Smet (BEL) 2:04:05.98
17. Akiko Hirao (JPN) 2:04:18.70
18. Anja Dittmer (GER) 2:04:36.88
19. Nora Edoesny (HUN) 2:05:20.03
20. Silvia Gemignani (ITA) 2:05:21.26
21. Joelle Franzmann (GER) 2:05:26.96
22. Evelyn Williamson (NZL) 2:05:38.30
23. Erika Molnar (HUN) 2:05:39.50
24. Maribel Blanco (ESP) 2:06:37.84
25. Wieke Hoogzaad (NED) 2:06:45.48
26. Silvia Pepels (NED) 2:07:05.01
27. Edith Cigana (ITA) 2:07:06.81
28. Marie Overbye (DEN) 2:07:17.51
29. Renata Berkova (CZE) 2:08:08.37
30. Lizel Moore (RUS) 2:08:18.19
31. Isabelle Turcotte Baird (CAN) 2:08:29.49
32. Dan Wang (CHN) 2:08:49.10
33. Ingrid van Lubek (NED) 2:09:29.00
34. Iona Wynter (JAM) 2:10:24.69
35. Beatrice Mouthon (FRA) 2:11:08.08
36. Sibylle Matter (SUI) 2:13:25.38
37. Maria Morales (COL) 2:13:43.38
38. Sharon Donnelly (CAN) 2:14:35.59
39. Aniko Gog (HUN) 2:14:50.55
40. Meng Shi (CHN) 2:16:40.73

Did not finish: M Suys (BEL); C Montgomery (CAN); M Ohata (BRA); C Moreno (BRA); K Fernandez Madrigal (CRC); H Hosoya (JPN); S Brice (GBR); M Dillon (GBR)

Men

1. Simon Whitfield (CAN) 1:48:24.02
2. Stephan Vuckovic (GER) 1:48:37.58
3. Jan Rehula (CZE) 1:48:46.64
4. Dmitriy Gaag (KAZ) 1:49:03.57
5. Ivan Rana (ESP) 1:49:10.88
6. Miles Stewart (AUS) 1:49:14.52
7. Olivier Marceau (FRA) 1:49:18.03
8. Reto Hug (SUI) 1:49:21.30
9. Simon Lessing (GBR) 1:49:24.32
10. Tim Don (GBR) 1:49:28.85
11. Andriy Glushchenko (UKR) 1:49:30.17
12. Andreas Raelert (GER) 1:49:31.28
13. Martin Krnavek (CZE) 1:49:38.01
14. Leandro Macedo (BRA) 1:49:50.69
15. Volodymyr Polikarpenko (UKR) 1:49:51.78
16. Craig Watson (NZL) 1:50:01.85
17. **Hunter Kemper (USA) 1:50:05.56**
18. Markus Keller (SUI) 1:50:15.25
19. Carl Blasco (FRA) 1:50:18.02
20. Conrad Stoltz (RSA) 1:50:24.39
21. Takumi Obara (JPN) 1:50:29.95
22. Juraci Moreira (BRA) 1:50:44.79
23. Eneko Llanos (ESP) 1:50:48.35
24. Jean-Christophe Guinchard (SUI) 1:50:50.76
25. **Ryan Bolton (USA) 1:50:52.95**
26. Hamish Carter (NZL) 1:50:57.17
27. Craig Walton (AUS) 1:50:57.66
28. Oscar Galindez (ARG) 1:50:59.48
29. Johannes Enzenhofer (AUS) 1:51:02.48
30. Csaba Kuttar (HUN) 1:51:05.74
31. Stephan Bignet (FRA) 1:51:12.15
32. Alessandro Bottoni (ITA) 1:51:18.13
33. Vasileios Krommydas (GRE) 1:51:28.94
34. Peter Robertson (AUS) 1:51:39.04
35. Joachim Willen (SWE) 1:51:40.80
36. Hideo Fukui (JPN) 1:52:04.79
37. Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN) 1:52:13.03
38. Ben Bright (NZL) 1:52:17.26
39. Armando Barcellos (BRA) 1:53:42.63
40. **Nick Radkewich (USA) 1:53:44.63**
41. Matias Brain Pena (CHI) 1:53:44.90
42. Eric van der Linden (NED) 1:54:32.04
43. Rob Barell (NED) 1:55:36.69
44. Jan Knoblauch Hansen (DEN) 1:55:42.06
45. Roland Melis (AHO) 1:56:11.95
46. Hiroyuki Nishiuchi (JPN) 1:56:59.76
47. Mikhail Kuznetsov (KAZ) 1:59:13.50
48. Dennis Looze (NED) 2:00:23.80.

Did not finish: A Johns (GBR); J M Merchan (ESP); F Ospaly (CZE); M Marabini (ZIM)

Athens • Women, Aug. 25, 2004

U.S. elite triathlete Susan Williams became a media darling when she overcame high temperatures and a crash on the bike to win the bronze medal in the women's triathlon at the 2004 Olympic Games in the Athens municipality of Vouliagmeni.

Williams (Littleton, Colo.), once considered a long shot to make the 2004 Olympic team, put the crown on her Cinderella story by finishing third to Austria's Kate Allen and Australia's Loretta Harrop. Allen won in 2 hours, 4 minutes, 43 seconds, thanks to an amazing 10k run of 33:48, which she used to pass leader Harrop in the final meters of the race. Harrop finished in 2:04:50, and Williams' time was 2:05:08.

Williams' medal was the first ever won by the United States in the Olympic triathlon. Triathlon made its Olympic debut in Sydney, Australia, in 2000.



FRANK WECHSEL/TU
Susan Williams captured the bronze medal in Athens.

Interviewers from the "Today Show" and many local NBC affiliates have been touched by Williams' story. She participated in the Top 10 list on the "Late Show with David Letterman."

"It was the race of my life. I'm thrilled. I was the dark horse to even make the team and to wind up with a medal is a tremendous honor," Williams said. "The heat didn't bother me. It really is a drier heat and I kept myself pretty wet and stayed cool."

Williams' teammates did not have it as easy. Barb Lindquist (Alta, Wyo.), one of the pre-race favorites, was third out of the water and rode with Williams on the bike after Williams crashed into the padded barriers on a sharp turn. But she fell back on the run and finished ninth.

"Barb, bless her heart, waited for me," Williams said. "I think riding together helped both of us."

"The swim was tough for me today. I swam hard to keep up with Sheila (Taormina) and Loretta and it took something out of me,"

Lindquist said. "I just didn't have any legs on the bike. But still, I had a good race."

Taormina (Livonia, Mich.), the reigning world champion, was in second place coming out of the swim and shared the lead with Harrop on the bike, but slowed down on the run due to hamstring cramps. Taormina dropped back and rode the last lap of the bike with Williams and Lindquist. As they headed into transition, Taormina told her teammates to "go win some medals."

Taormina finished 23rd and after the race, reiterated that it had been her last.

"It's fun, but it keeps me from doing too many things that I enjoy," she said. "I have a lot of speaking engagements. I want to give back to my sponsors, the people who have supported me. I want to get a camper and cruise the country going to expos."

Williams was a favorite to make the Olympic triathlon team in 2000 when she found out she was pregnant shortly before the second Olympic qualifying event. She named her daughter "Sydney" and calls her "my gold medal from 2000."



The 2004 U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team

Athens • Men, Aug. 26, 2004

U.S. elite triathlete Hunter Kemper had the fastest 10k run split of the day in 31 minutes, 52 seconds en route to a ninth-place finish, and his teammate Andy Potts had the fastest 1.5k swim in 17:49 in the men's Olympic triathlon in the Athens municipality of Vouliagmeni.

But New Zealand's Hamish Carter and Bevan Docherty hammered the hill on the bike and won the gold and silver medals, respectively. Switzerland's Sven Riederer was third. Carter finished in 1:51:07. Docherty was second in 1:51:15 and Riederer was third in 1:51:33.

"I was proud of what I could do today," said Kemper (Colorado Springs, Colo.) who moved up more than 10 places with his run. "The bike ride didn't go well for me. I felt OK out of the water, but just never could get going on the bike. "The run for me was real solid. I gave all I had."

Kemper used a final sprint to get past Australia's Simon Thompson as the finish line neared. He also defeated his rival Simon Whitfield, the 2000 Olympic gold medalist from Canada, who finished 11th.

After his swift swim, Potts (Princeton, N.J.) was also a victim of the killer bike course, which at its worst had a grade of around 18 percent. Both Kemper and Potts rode with a large second pack that never made up much ground on the lead group that included Carter, Docherty and Riederer.

"This is the best sporting day of my life, bar none," said Potts, who went on to finish 22nd. "The results may not have been what I wanted, but that doesn't take away from my experience in Athens."

Victor Plata (San Luis Obispo, Calif.), the third member of the U.S. team, had a good swim and rode in the pack with Kemper and Potts for a lap before falling back.

"It unfolded exactly the way I expected it to," Plata said. "I had a great swim, but lost contact on the bike on the first hill. That was the race right there."

Australian Greg Bennett, then-fiancée of U.S. elite triathlete Laura Reback (North Palm Beach, Fla.), had one of the most exciting runs of the day, and pulled into fourth place, finishing eight seconds behind Riederer.

2004 Olympic Games Results

Athens, Greece Aug. 25-26, 2004

1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10k run

Women

1. Kate Allen (AUT) 2:04:43.45
2. Loretta Harrop (AUS) 2:04:50.17
3. **Susan Williams (USA) 2:05:08.92**
4. Kathleen Smet (BEL) 2:05:35.89
5. Nadia Cortassa (ITA) 2:05:45.35
6. Michelle Dillon (GBR) 2:06:00.77
7. Ana Burgos (ESP) 2:06:02.36
8. Vanessa Fernandes (POR) 2:06:15.39
9. **Barbara Lindquist (USA) 2:06:25.49**
10. Brigitte McMahon Huber (SUI) 2:07:07.73
11. Anja Dittmer (GER) 2:07:25.07
12. Akiko Sekine (JPN) 2:07:34.02
13. Pilar Hidalgo (ESP) 2:07:37.34
14. Kiyomi Niwata (JPN) 2:07:42.79
15. Beatrice Lanza (ITA) 2:07:59.26
16. Joelle Franzmann (GER) 2:08:18.33
17. Elizabeth May (LUX) 2:08:29.22
18. Samantha Warriner (NZL) 2:08:42.07
19. Nicola Spirig (SUI) 2:08:44.46
20. Machiko Nakanishi (JPN) 2:08:51.06
21. Silvia Gemignani (ITA) 2:08:56.94
22. Mieke Suys (BEL) 2:09:12.57
23. **Sheila Taormina (USA) 2:09:21.08**
24. Ainhua Murua (ESP) 2:09:27.91
25. Wieke Hoogzaad (NED) 2:09:47.21
26. Lenka Radova (CZE) 2:09:54.47
27. Samantha McGlone (CAN) 2:10:14.24
28. Eva Bramboeck (AUT) 2:10:19.60
29. Tracy Looze (NED) 2:10:35.81
30. Julie Dibens (GBR) 2:11:46.01
31. Olga Generalova (RUS) 2:11:48.06
32. Renata Berkova (CZE) 2:11:50.94
33. Rina Hill (AUS) 2:11:58.86
34. Jodie Swallow (GBR) 2:15:06.78
35. Carol Montgomery (CAN) 2:15:25.62
36. Megan Hall (RSA) 2:16:26.53
37. Mariana Ohata (BRA) 2:16:52.97
38. Erika Molnar (HUN) 2:17:53.38
39. Jill Savege (CAN) 2:18:10.99
40. Wang Hong Ni (CHN) 2:18:40.07
41. Ekaterina Shatnaya (KAZ) 2:19:26.75
42. Fiorella D'Croz Brusatin (COL) 2:21:03.46
43. Nancy Alvarez (ARG) 2:21:38.66
44. Delphine Pelletier (FRA) 2:22:39.28

Did not finish: Nina Anisimova (RUS); Lucie Zelenkova (CZE); Maxine Seear (AUS); Sandra Soldan (BRA); Carla Moreno (BRA); Lin Xing (CHN)

Men

1. Hamish Carter (NZL) 1:51:07.73
2. Bevan Docherty (NZL) 1:51:15.60
3. Sven Riederer (SUI) 1:51:33.26
4. Greg Bennett (AUS) 1:51:41.58
5. Frederic Belaubre (FRA) 1:52:00.53
6. Andreas Raelert (GER) 1:52:35.62
7. Rasmus Henning (DEN) 1:52:37.32
8. Olivier Marceau (SUI) 1:52:44.36
9. **Hunter Kemper (USA) 1:52:46.33**
10. Simon Thompson (AUS) 1:52:47.18
11. Simon Whitfield (CAN) 1:53:15.81
12. Carl Blasco (FRA) 1:53:20.16
13. Hirokatsu Tayama (JPN) 1:53:28.41
14. Stephane Poulat (FRA) 1:53:51.35
15. Igor Sysoev (RUS) 1:53:51.37
16. Andrew Johns (GBR) 1:54:15.87
17. Daniil Sapunov (KAZ) 1:54:33.15
18. Tim Don (GBR) 1:54:42.13
19. Maik Petzold (GER) 1:54:50.92
20. Eneko Llanos (ESP) 1:54:52.37
21. Marko Albert (EST) 1:55:26.59
22. **Andy Potts (USA) 1:55:36.47**
23. Ivan Rana (ESP) 1:55:44.27
24. Peter Robertson (AUS) 1:55:44.36
25. Dmitriy Gaag (KAZ) 1:56:28.97
26. Sebastian Dehmer (GER) 1:57:02.88
27. **Victor Plata (USA) 1:57:09.09**
28. Daniel Fontana (ARG) 1:57:14.20
29. Filip Ospalý (CZE) 1:57:17.58
30. Vladimir Polikarpenko (UKR) 1:57:39.28
31. Leandro Macedo (BRA) 1:57:39.36
32. Hiroyuki Nishiuchi (JPN) 1:57:43.51
33. Nathan Richmond (NZL) 1:58:01.94
34. Paulo Miyashiro (BRA) 1:58:16.76
35. Tyler Butterfield (BER) 1:58:26.99
36. Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN) 1:59:12.20
37. Norbert Domnik (AUT) 1:59:13.25
38. Eligio Cervantes (MEX) 1:59:27.81
39. Brent McMahon (CAN) 1:59:44.57
40. Reto Hug (SUI) 2:01:40.43
41. Juraci Moreira (BRA) 2:02:35.99
42. Martin Krnavek (CZE) 2:02:54.59
43. Daniel Lee (HKG) 2:03:30.39
44. Javier Rosas (MEX) 2:04:03.97
45. Marc Jenkins (GBR) 2:05:33.60

Did not finish: Xavier Llobet (ESP); Andriy Glushchenko (UKR); Vassilis Krommidas (GRE); Conrad Stoltz (RSA) Did not start: Csaba Kuttar (HUN)

Beijing • Women, Aug. 18, 2008

If it weren't for a bit of cramping on the run, U.S. triathlete Laura Bennett (Boulder, Colo.) would have found her place on the Beijing Olympic Games medal stand at the Ming Tombs Reservoir.

"I'm pleased with fourth. I started cramping on the third lap and lost touch with third place, so that's a little disappointing, but I feel I tried to pull out what I could today and I'm really happy with fourth," Bennett said.

Triathlon fans were able to witness the much-anticipated head-to-head matchup between three-time world champion Australian Emma Snowsill and Portuguese sensation Vanessa Fernandes. But the race was over by the time the run started as Snowsill pulled away from all the other competitors to grab gold in 1 hour, 58 minutes, 27 seconds. Fernandes won the silver in 1:59:34, with Australian Emma Moffat finishing third in 1:59:55.

Bennett's result in 2:00:21 led the three-person American team, with Sarah Haskins (Colorado Springs, Colo.) finishing 11th in 2:01:22 and Julie Ertel (Irvine, Calif.) finishing 19th in 2:02:39.

The U.S. athletes were among the top five out of the water after the 1.5k swim and were part of a large lead group of close to 15 athletes on the bike. The team strategy of gaining an edge with a breakaway on the bike didn't come to fruition as this group stayed together throughout the 40k bike course that took the competitors in front of the grandstands, filled with close to 10,000 supporters, six times.

"There was a big group on the bike. I tried to attack on the bike, but the pack kept us in it," said Haskins. "So it came down to a strong run. I felt good on the run. But 11th place, you know, I can't complain."

Ertel said the challenging bike course set the tone for the rest of her race. "It was a hard bike," she said. "I just got a lower back cramp on the first hill and it was hard for me to recover. It lasted the first three laps of the run. The last lap I felt great. I wish it was a 20k.



DELLEY GARRITTU

Julie Ertel finished 19th in Beijing.

"I was still happy with my performance, but the bike was definitely the hardest part today. I knew going in that this wasn't a course that played to my strengths. I feel I did well. My goal was to stay with that lead pack [on the bike]. I can't say it was easy but I managed to do that. And then the run, I was kind of out of gas."

Once the athletes started the 10k run, the lead group began to separate. Snowsill quickly put space between herself and her pursuers, gaining a 15-second advantage by the time the first of four laps was complete. Bennett, Fernandes and Moffatt led the group in pursuit, with the American pulling into second for much of the second lap. Unfortunately, that's when the cramps set in, and Bennett lost three places, as Fernandes began to find her legs, Moffat gave chase and Juri Ide pulled into fourth.

"I felt great after the swim, getting on the bike and staying with the girls. We all worked the hill quite well. I felt strong and was ready to get out on the run where I knew it was going to come down to," said Bennett, a first-time Olympian who was team alternate in 2004.

"I knew it was going to be fast and was going to take some deep digging to keep with the girls. I did my best to dig and stay with them. A little bit of cramping set me back, but that's part of racing."

Bennett was smiling as she entered the stadium for the last time, on the heels of Ide, but out of reach of a medal. She passed the Japanese athlete in the

homestretch and maintained her smile across the finish line.

"The whole experience has been fantastic," said Bennett as she made her way through the post-race throngs of reporters. "We had a great time at the Opening Ceremony. We're taking in the whole experience and taking in what the Olympics is all about."



GETTY IMAGES

Sarah Haskins (left) and Laura Bennett (right) exit the swim in Beijing.

Beijing • Men, Aug. 19, 2008

Improving on his ninth place finish from Athens in 2004, Hunter Kemper (Colorado Springs, Colo.) led the U.S. with a seventh-place finish at the Ming Tombs Reservoir at the Beijing Olympic Games with a time of 1 hour, 49 minutes, 48 seconds.

Jarrold Shoemaker (Maynard, Mass.) placed 18th with a time of 1:50:46, while Matt Reed (Boulder, Colo.) was 32nd in 1:52:30 in the first Olympic Games for each athlete.

In his third Olympic Games appearance, Kemper tried not to place any extra pressure on himself by having expectations of a top finish. That plan had backfired in Sydney and Athens.

His only expectation this time around? To enjoy himself.

"It was a great day for me. I felt like I was soaring on wings like an eagle. The Lord carried me through. He blessed me so much today," said Kemper. "My run fitness wasn't quite there, where I wanted it to be. I think the maximum result would've been sixth. I laid it all out there today. I came off the bike in great position. I started the run well. It was a hot one, but I did all I could. That's all I had."

The gold went to Jan Frodeno of Germany, who posted a time of 1:48:53, using a strong sprint to overtake silver medalist Simon Whitfield of Canada down the final stretch. Bevan Docherty of New Zealand won the bronze medal with a time of 1:49:05. Whitfield returns to the medal stand after winning the event at the 2000 Sydney Games, while Docherty was the silver medalist in Athens.

Another hot day put the athletes to the test throughout the 1.5k swim, 40k bike and 10k run event. Kemper came out of the water with the leaders with Shoemaker and Reed exiting near the back of a pack that made up more than half the 55-man field. Soon the main pack was circling the six-loop course with all breakaway attempts pulled back to the group. Reed was among those trying to pull away near the end of the second lap, but his legs just weren't cooperating.

"I got on the bike in good position, right where I needed to be. I tried to attack the bike as best as I could, but I didn't have good legs," Reed said.

Three athletes were able to break away late in the bike and had a 45 second lead as the run started, but that lead was gone by the time the first 2.5k run lap ended and the sport's top runners took over. Kemper was among the top 10 throughout the entire run and moved steadily toward the front. Reed, however, struggled.

"I struggled relaxing on the run and I didn't have the legs to have a good day today," said Reed, the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials champion. "It's something I had worked on and improved on this year. So to have such a bad run was a bit of a surprise."

Unlike Kemper, Reed had hoped for a much better performance, especially considering his recent races that had him finishing among the best in the world.

"It's definitely disappointing. I can't explain why I felt so bad out there today. But you have to play the cards you are dealt," Reed said. "I struggled all day. Even in the swim I had a lot of trouble, fighting the guys out there. I had to swim pretty hard in the end to catch back up to the lead group."

Competing in his first Olympic Games, Shoemaker tried not to set his expectations too high and was pleased with his experience.

"I pretty much hit my expectations. I wanted to be in the mix and see what would happen," said Shoemaker, who was the U23 World Champion in 2005. "My goal for finishing was between seventh and 20th place, so I'm very happy. I was coming on strong at the end, but I was a little too far back coming off the bike. When you're down 30 seconds, it's hard to make it up."



USA TRIATHLON

The 2008 U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team

2008 Olympic Games Results

Beijing, China Aug. 18-19, 2008

1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10k run

Women

1. Emma Snowsill (AUS) 1:58:26
2. Vanessa Fernandes (POR) 1:59:33
3. Emma Moffatt (AUS) 1:59:55
- 4. Laura Bennett (USA) 2:00:21**
5. Juri Ide (JPN) 2:00:22
6. Nicola Spirig (SUI) 2:00:30
7. Daniela Ryt (SUI) 2:00:39
8. Andrea Hewitt (NZL) 2:00:45
9. Kiyomi Niwata (JPN) 2:00:50
10. Debbie Tanner (NZL) 2:01:05
- 11. Sarah Haskins (USA) 2:01:21**
12. Jessica Harrison (FRA) 2:01:30
13. Magali Di marco Messmer (SUI) 2:01:49
14. Kate Allen (AUT) 2:01:59
15. Ricarda Lisk (GER) 02:02:07
16. Samantha Warriner (NZL) 2:02:12
17. Ai Ueda (JPN) 2:02:19
18. Lisa Norden (SWE) 2:02:26
- 19. Julie Ertel (USA) 2:02:38**
20. Ana Burgos (ESP) 2:02:42
21. Helen Jenkins (GBR) 2:02:54
22. Erin Densham (AUS) 2:03:07
23. Vendula Frintova (CZE) 2:03:27
24. Yuliya Yelistratova (UKR) 2:03:33
25. Barbara Riveros Diaz (CHI) 2:03:42
26. Christiane Pilz (GER) 2:03:45
27. Tania Haiboecq (AUT) 2:04:02
28. Ainhua Murua (ESP) 2:04:48
29. Carolyn Murray (CAN) 2:04:55
30. Ewa Dederko (POL) 2:05:08
31. Kathy Tremblay (CAN) 2:05:22
32. Kate Roberts (RSA) 2:05:33
33. Anja Dittmer (GER) 2:05:45
34. Carole Peon (FRA) 2:06:03
35. Maria Czesnik (POL) 2:06:12
36. Olga Zausaylova (RUS) 2:06:24
37. Emma Davis (IRL) 2:06:28
38. Zita Szabo (HUN) 2:06:45
39. Mariana Ohata (BRA) 2:07:10
40. Lin Xing (CHN) 2:07:34
41. Elizabeth May (LUX) 2:07:55
42. Yi Zhang (CHN) 2:08:37
43. Mari Rabie (RSA) 2:09:27
44. Charlotte Bonin (ITA) 2:09:41
45. Lisa Mensink (NED) 2:10:17

Did not finish: Irina Abysova (RUS); Hollie Avil (GBR); Eva Dollinger (AUT); Lauren Campbell (CAN); Lenka Zemanova (CZE); Daniela Chmet (ITA); Adriana Fabiola Corona (MEX); Deniz Dimaki (GRE); Flora Duffy (BER); Tania Mak So Ning (HKG)

Men

1. Jan Frodeno (GER) 1:48:52
2. Simon Whitfield (CAN) 1:48:58
3. Bevan Docherty (NZL) 1:49:05
4. Javier Gomez (ESP) 1:49:13
5. Ivan Rana (ESP) 1:49:22
6. Daniel Unger (GER) 1:49:43
- 7. Hunter Kemper (USA) 1:49:48**
8. Rasmus Henning (DEN) 1:49:57
9. Igor Sysoev (RUS) 1:49:59
10. Frederic Belaubre (FRA) 1:50:00
11. Courtney Atkinson (AUS) 1:50:10
12. Alistair Brownlee (GBR) 1:50:19
13. Axel Zeebroek (BEL) 1:50:30
14. William Clarke (GBR) 1:50:32
15. Christian Prochnow (GER) 1:50:33
16. Brad Kahlefeldt (AUS) 1:50:36
17. Bruno Pais (POR) 1:50:40
- 18. Jarrod Shoemaker (USA) 1:50:46**
19. Olivier Marceau (SUI) 1:50:50
20. Filip Ospaly (CZE) 1:50:53
21. Danylo Sapunov (UKR) 1:50:58
22. Dmitry Polyanskiy (RUS) 1:51:10
23. Sven Riederer (SUI) 1:51:19
24. Alexander Bryukhankov (RUS) 1:51:22
25. Dirk Bockel (LUX) 1:51:31
26. Juraci Moreira (BRA) 1:51:35
27. Peter Croes (BEL) 1:51:40
28. Paul Tichelaar (CAN) 1:51:45
29. Reto Hug (SUI) 1:52:04
30. Ryosuke Yamamoto (JPN) 1:52:11
31. Sander Berk (NED) 1:52:17
- 32. Matthew Reed (USA) 1:52:30**
33. Daniel Fontana (ITA) 1:52:39
34. Shane Reed (NZL) 1:52:47
35. Volodymyr Polikarpenko (UKR) 1:52:51
36. Laurent Vidal (FRA) 1:53:02
37. Reinaldo Colucci (BRA) 1:53:13
38. Simon Agoston (AUT) 1:53:23
39. Kris Gemmell (NZL) 1:53:49
40. Emilio D'Aquino (ITA) 1:53:58
41. Marko Albert (EST) 1:54:13
42. Christopher Felgate (ZIM) 1:54:31
43. Daniel Lee Chi Wo (HKG) 1:54:39
44. Francisco Serrano (MEX) 1:54:46
45. Duarte Silva Marques (POR) 1:55:06
46. Daqing Wang (CHN) 1:55:40
47. Csaba Kuttar (HUN) 1:55:53
48. Hirokatsu Tayama (JPN) 1:56:12
49. Omar Tayara (SYR) 1:56:40
50. Colin Jenkins (CAN) 1:56:50

Did not finish: Tony Moulai (FRA); Tim Don (GBR); Andriy Glushchenko (UKR); Marek Jaskolka (POL); Pavel Simko (SVK)