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Kalinowski wins torturous Ultraman Australia challenge

Steele Taylor | 12th May 2015 5:00 AM

EXHAUSTED TRIO: Sunshine Coast locals (left) Steve Gage and (right) Robbie Andrews finished second and third, respectively, flank winner Dave Kalinowski at the Ultraman Australia finish line at Noosa Main Beach.

Iain Curry

TRIATHLON: The winner spent two-and-half hours throwing up along the bike route while and the runner-up was hit by a car; such was the torture test of Ultraman Australia.

The three-day 10km swim, 420km ride, 84.4km run event culminated at Noosa Heads yesterday, when Brisbane's Dave Kalinowski stopped the clock in 21 hours, 40 minutes and 43 seconds.

The 29-year-old finished eight minutes ahead of Alexandra Headland's Stephen Gage, with Kawana Island's Robbie Andrews 54 minutes adrift in third.

"It was a massive deal, far and away the best result I've ever had," Kalinowski said.

"It was a big three days. The swim was pretty tough in the salt water and it really knocked me about."

For the first 70km of the bike leg, Kalinowski was violently ill but his support crew nursed him through the pain and he was only three minutes down on Gage after day one.

On day two, he "really suffered" for the first five hours on the bike with back troubles. But some pain-relievers later he attacked and finished day two with a nine-minute lead.

Supported by Maxine Seear and girlfriend Mel Gorman, both ex-Olympians, Kalinowski held on to his overall lead during the double marathon yesterday.

Gage admitted he was "gutted" to have finished as the a runner-up.

"I really was aiming for the top spot, but I ran as hard as I could and got beaten by a better athlete on the day.

That's sport isn't it," he said.

"I gave it my all.

"There's no way I could run any quicker than 6hrs35min for a marathon."

In what is believed to be the second-quickest run time in ultraman, the 44-year-old battled gamely despite a badly bruised hip, suffered during the bike leg. He was knocked to the ground by a car at Coolum Beach.

"An old bloke just pulled into a roundabout in front of me and skittled me," he said.

The blisters show on winner Dave Kalinowski's feet post-race at the finish of Ultraman Australia at Noosa Main Beach.

Iain Curry

As a result, he battled to sleep on Sunday night, and walked laps of Hastings Street in the dark at 3.30am "trying to get it mobile".

"I had an obvious limp to start (the run leg), but then ran through it. It came good once it warmed up a bit," he said. He said Kalinowski proved too strong on the bike leg.

Kalinowski and Gage expect to compete at Ironman Cairns next month, in an effort to qualify for the Ironman World Championships. Gage may also contest the Ultraman World Championships at Hawaii next year.

Ferny Grove 43-year-old Penelope Holland was the first female to cross the finish line, in 26hrs, 34min, 55sec.

There were 37 competitors. Late yesterday, two had failed to finish and nine were racing the clock to finish in time.