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Contact: Trey Garman 808-216-8606
trey@xterraplanet.com
www.xterrplanet.com for more info...



Hamish Carter wins 1st, Melanie McQuaid wins 3rd XTERRA World Title Each earn \$25,000 in Maui at the Nissan Xterra World Championship

MAUI PRINCE HOTEL (MAKENA, HI) – Hamish Carter, 35, from Auckland, New Zealand and Melanie McQuaid, 33, from Victoria, B.C., Canada won their respective pro divisions on a trademark hot and sunny day on Maui's South Shore this afternoon.

With the win McQuaid becomes the first pro – male or female – in the 11-year history of the event to win a third XTERRA World Championship. Carter, the 2004 Olympic triathlon gold medalist, won it in his first Maui attempt. McQuaid finished in 3:07:53, more than eight minutes ahead of fellow Canadian Danelle Kabush. Carter finished in 2:42:36, just 19 seconds ahead of Olivier Marceau, who he passed with less than a mile to go on the run.

"That course wasn't meant for human consumption" were the first words Carter spoke after crossing the line. "It's honestly the hardest, meanest course ever. The rocks and the hills don't go away. You get rid of them on the bike and you get stuck back up there on the run," said Carter, referring to the more than 3,000 feet of climbing on the bike and run up the dormant Haleakala Volcano.

Carter spent the entire day in a cat-and-mouse chase with Marceau, who was also the runner-up here in 2004. The chase started in the water as the two exited the 1.5k swim course in a little under 20 minutes alongside a handful of Olympic triathletes in Brent McMahon (CAN), Carter (NZL), Marceau (SUI), Eneko Llanos (ESP), plus his brother Hektor Llanos, American XTERRA Champ Seth Wealing and Honolulu's Chad Seymour.

From the beach it was Carter that hit the bike course the hardest and pulled away from the field. Behind him, in the first downhill section before the famed Heartbreak Hill less than three miles into the course, leading challengers Mike Vine, Dominic Gillen, Francisco Serrano and Chris Legh all suffered flats. For Vine and Legh, it would mark the beginning of the end of their day and for Gillen and Serrano – serious setbacks that took them out of contention.

While Carter powered to the front Marceau let him go, knowing the beast of a climb Haleakala had in store later on. Midway into the bike Marceau caught Carter and the two rode together for most of the second half of the course. A couple minutes back was Wealing and the hard charging Josiah Middaugh – who had the best bike split of the day in 1:33:18 to move from 38th out of the water to second into the bike-to-run transition.

About a mile before T2 Carter got a flat of his own, but rather than fix it he skidded and weaved the remaining distance into transition.

"I couldn't corner the last downhill but I figured I'd lose one-minute if I just tried to ride it in and I'd lose three minutes if I tried to stop and change it, so it was quite funny coming in because I had no control," said Carter.

Marceau took advantage and headed out on the run a little over a minute ahead of Middaugh, Carter and Wealing.

Carter caught Middaugh straight away and Wealing too. "I was around some pretty fast runners so I had my work cut out for me, and I wasted myself on the bike but that's what I had to do." said Middaugh, who finished 4th for his fourth straight top 10 finish.

For more than five miles into the run Marceau was golden, but his legs were running out of gas. The ultimate stopper on the run is the "Makena Mile" – a near mile long stretch of soft white sand just a mile from the finish. It was here, at the end of that stretch, where Carter took over.

"I went down and looked for the hard sand because he was running up on the beach and I thought that I had to try and do something different. I had looked at the beach the day before and it was definitely harder down by the water

and trying to find some hard sand was important,” said Carter. “Once I caught him I thought if he comes with me I’m in trouble because I got nothing left, but I just had a little bit more gas than him but man, that was so hard.” It certainly wasn’t the case that Marceau gave in as he stayed on Carter’s heels through the finish line just 19 seconds back for the closest men’s finish in race history.

“I think Hamish deserves the first place,” said Marceau. “He had a great run and came back on me at the end of Makena Beach. For sure I could’ve won this race if Hamish hadn’t come, but he was the strongest today.”

Wealing was strong too and put together the third best bike and run to place third as the top American in just his first-ever attempt on the Maui course.

“I’m very pleased. I felt awful when I got here and was aiming for a top six so third is better than I could expect,” said Wealing. “It was fun running through the people on the beach but that first sand section is ridiculous. There’s no line at all. The run is so bloody hard, it’s just a strong man’s run. You get off the bike and your legs are just shot and they shove you right up that hill and then to add insult to injury that beach is just unbelievable. I can see that this is the premier race and why it’s the World Championship.”

Middaugh, who had been the top American the past two years, had a brilliant race in any circumstance, let alone having come back from major knee surgery in June.

Two-time XTERRA World Champ Eneko Llanos (2003 & 2004), fresh off a fifth place finish at Ironman, was amazingly fresh for this one and finished 5th here too. “I didn’t have the speed to stay with the guys in front. My legs are o.k. but not fresh. 5th here, 5th at Ironman, I think it’s been a good week.” That’s an understatement, and he became the first guy not named Peter Reid to win the Hawaiian Airlines Double award since 2001.

McMahon had the best swim and the best run to place 6th. Greg Krause was solid in 7th, and last year’s XTERRA World Champ Nicolas Lebrun finished 8th.

At 49-years-young Scott Tinley finished as the 44th pro. Tinley became the second inductee into the XTERRA Hall of Fame (Ned Overend was the first last year) at the pre-race dinner on Saturday night. He also had one of the better finish line quotes on the day, “It’s not a race fit for man nor beast.”

McQUAID’S THREE-PEAT

Coming into the race the women’s field was considered one of the deepest in recent memory with a handful of hopefuls given full consideration for the race win. In the end it was simply McQuaid, strong on the swim (5th), devastating on the bike (1st) and steady on the run (5th).

“Today all the preparation I put in during the last month came together and I felt like when I asked my body to do something it responded,” said McQuaid, who won her second straight and unprecedented third overall XTERRA World Title today.

At the very beginning the strong swimmers – Sibylle Matter and Candy Angle – put some time on the field and surged up the course, but before they could get comfortable there was McQuaid. Less than three miles into the bike she had already passed them both and set out on a blistering pace that left the closest riders more than six-minutes back by the midway point.

Several major crashes behind McQuaid – one involving 2004 Champ Jamie Whitmore on the plunge and the other taking down 2002 Champ Candy Angle near the Crossroads section – changed the dynamics of the race. Both Whitmore and Angle were done for the day with cuts and abrasions that left them unable to continue.

Filling the gap was Matter, Danelle Kabush, Jennifer Smith and Renata Bucher. Smith, as expected, had a magnificent bike – second only to McQuaid’s, and entered the bike-to-run transition in second, followed by Bucher, Kabush, and Shonny Vanlandingham.

With such a commanding lead McQuaid just had to keep moving. “I didn’t worry about what was going on behind me I just did my race and pushed myself as much as I could,” she said. “This year I had the luxury of riding well within my limits. I could’ve gone harder on the bike but I thought why not save some for the climb on the run. So I did and that paid off because the run was really hot and really hard.”

Nobody handled the run better than Kabush, who caught Bucher right away then Smith just before the end of the long climb and sailed into her best XTERRA finish – 2nd place. It was a great way to end the season having just come off a third place finish at the XTERRA USA Championship.

“I’m peakin at the right time feeling stronger and stronger as the season went on,” said Kabush, who was 6th here last year and 3rd in 2004. “Today everything went smooth and I was loving it on the bike because I had fast tires, no knobs, and that was good because it was hard packed, so I was lovin’ it. It was fun.”

Matter showed great form as well coming off a 19th place finish at Ironman and still having the legs to chase down Bucher and Smith on the run for 3rd.

“I’m so happy that I forget about all the things that are sore now,” said Matter. “I’m really surprised about this because I never thought I’d be on the podium again. I got to 5th place on the run then I saw Renata and I was surprised and down at the last beach I saw Jenny and went full speed and it was incredible. This is such a great race and there’s a lot of support from all the spectators and volunteers. I love coming here and I’ll sure come back.”

Smith held on for fourth, Bucher followed in fifth, and Jenny Tobin had the second-best run to finish in 6th and come in as the top American.

NOTES: The race consisted of a 1.5-kilometer rough water swim at the Maui Prince Beach, a grueling 32-kilometer mountain bike ride up the slopes of Haleakala and a 10-kilometer trail run. It was filmed for a one-hour “CBS Sports Spectacular” that will air on February 3, 2006 at 1 p.m. EST. A record field of 575 athletes were registered for the race, 518 started and 474 finished. Wendy Minor, 61, won her unprecedented 6th XTERRA World Championship, this time in the 60+ age group in 5:53:53, & also completed the Double for the second straight year (Ironman in 14:22:56 plus XTERRA time = 20:16:09).

For complete results visit www.xterraplanet.com and to have race photos sent to you call or email Trey Garman at 808-216-8606/trey@xterraplanet.com.

2006 Nissan Xterra World Championship Race Results (\$125,000 Purse)

TOP 15 PRO MEN

PI	Name	Age	Hometown	Final Time	Purse
1	Hamish Carter	35	Auckland, New Zealand	2:42:36	\$25,000
2	Olivier Marceau	33	Cannes, France	2:42:55	\$15,000
3	Seth Wealing	27	Boulder, Colorado	2:44:05	\$8,000
4	Josiah Middaugh	28	Vail, Colorado	2:45:51	\$5,000
5	Eneko Llanos	29	Victoria-Gasteiz, Spain	2:46:49	\$3,000
6	Brent McMahon	26	Victoria, B.C., Canada	2:46:58	\$1,750
7	Greg Krause	29	Denver, Colorado	2:48:47	\$1,200
8	Nicolas Lebrun	33	Digne-les-Bains, France	2:50:51	\$1,000
9	Ryan Ignatz	28	Boulder, Colorado	2:52:16	\$800
10	Nico Pfitzenmaier	34	Besigheim, Germany	2:52:28	\$700

Also: Michael Simpson (\$600), Andrew Noble (\$500), Hektor Llanos (\$400), Jimmy Archer (\$300), and Sam Gardner (\$300)

TOP 15 PRO WOMEN

PI	Name	Age	Hometown	Final Time	Purse
1	Melanie McQuaid	33	Victoria, B.C., Canada	3:07:53	\$25,000
2	Danelle Kabush	31	Canmore, Alberta, Canada	3:15:58	\$15,000
3	Sibylle Matter	31	Bern, Switzerland	3:19:50	\$8,000
4	Jennifer Smith	33	Westport, New Zealand	3:20:08	\$5,000
5	Renata Bucher	28	Lucerne, Switzerland	3:22:14	\$3,000
6	Jenny Tobin	38	Boise, Idaho	3:22:42	\$1,750
7	Michelle Lombardi	38	Somerset West, South Africa	3:23:44	\$1,200
8	Mami Saito	29	Kawasaki, Japan	3:24:32	\$1,000
9	Shonny Vanlandingham	37	Durango, Colorado	3:24:58	\$800
10	Cameron Randolph	36	Ridgway, Colorado	3:30:17	\$700

Also: Carina Wasle (AUS), Ingrid Rolles (RSA), Nicole Newton (USA), Imke Schiersch (GER), Jackie Burt (USA)

Fastest swim: Brent McMahon (19:41), Sibylle Matter (20:51)

Fastest bike: Josiah Middaugh (1:35:08), Melanie McQuaid (1:49:55)

Fastest run: Brent McMahon (45:05), Danelle Kabush (53:51)

AGE GROUP RACE: Rom Akerson from Costa Rica and Suzie Snyder from Colorado Springs, Colorado won the men's and women's amateur world championships. Akerson was 17th overall and Snyder was the 13th overall female. Repeat XTERRA World Champions include Wendy Minor (6), Barbara Peterson (5), Tom Lyons (5), Kent Robison (4), Peter Wood (4), Ian Davidson Jr. (2), Snyder (2), Laura Home (2), and Cindi Toepel (2).

NISSAN XTERRA WORLD CHAMPIONS (MALE AGE GROUP)

Division	Name	Time	Hometown
15 - 19	Kyle Kennedy	3:33:37	West Vancouver, Canada
20 - 24	Rom Akerson	2:57:43	Costa Rica
25 - 29	Trevor Glavin	3:11:38	Salinas, CA
30 - 34	Conrad Snover	3:01:50	Truckee, CA
35 - 39	Calvin Zaryski	3:04:51	Calgary, Canada
40 - 44	Tim Johnston	3:11:10	Los Gatos, CA
45 - 49	\$ Tom Lyons	3:14:24	Reno, NV
50 - 54	* Ian Davidson, Jr.	3:22:59	Clemson, SC
55 - 59	# Kent Robison	3:38:47	Reno, NV
60 - 64	# Peter Wood	3:59:46	La Jolla, CA
65+	John Stover	4:51:22	Jackson, MI
<i>Challenged Athletes Division</i>			
	* Fouad Fattoumy	4:07:40	Honolulu, HI

NISSAN XTERRA WORLD CHAMPIONS (FEMALE AGE GROUP)

Division	Name	Time	Hometown
15 - 19	Valeria Curridori	4:10:50	Villacidro, Italy
20 - 24	* Suzie Snyder	3:36:19	Colorado Springs, CO
25 - 29	Kim Hill	3:50:48	Honolulu, HI
30 - 34	* Laura Home	3:40:35	Santa Cruz, CA
35 - 39	Janice Fliegler	3:53:46	Carson City, NV
40 - 44	Barbara Alber	3:56:18	Dettingen, Germany
45 - 49	Catherine Dunn	3:52:50	Wellington, New Zealand
50 - 54	\$ Barbara Peterson	4:08:44	Berkeley, CA
55 - 59	* Cindi Toepel	4:25:14	Littleton, CO
60+	Wendy Minor	5:53:53	Honolulu, HI
* Two-time XTERRA World Champ # Four-time XTERRA World Champ			
\$ Five-time XTERRA World Champ			
Top Amateurs			

HAWAIIAN AIRLINES DOUBLE: Eneko Llanos and Sibylle Matter won the men's and women's pro double awards and Thomas Vonach (Austria) and Barbara Alber (Germany) won the amateur titles. Hawaiian Airlines awarded \$2,500 each to Llanos and Matter and awarded airfare from the West Coast to Hawaii for Vonach and Alber. Here's a look at the complete results.

Pro Men

First	Last	Ironman	XTERRA	Total
Eneko	Llano	8:22:28	2:46:49	11:09:17
Dave	Brown	9:36:14	3:14:08	12:50:22
Alexander	Lang	9:45:12	2:59:15	12:44:27
Taro	Shirato	10:10:06	3:23:38	13:33:44

Age Group Men

First	Last	Ironman	Xterra	Total
Thomas	Vonach	9:14:09	3:02:43	12:16:52
Max	Renko	9:24:16	3:09:16	12:33:32
Xavier	Boineau	9:30:45	3:13:45	12:44:30
Scott	Thorne	9:33:54	3:10:48	12:44:42
Ryland	Garnett	9:35:41	3:14:51	12:50:32
Antonio	Ferreira	9:41:28	3:38:14	13:19:42
Daniel	Weil	10:06:09	3:42:29	13:48:38
Reinhold	Garnitschnig	10:16:14	3:31:30	13:47:44
Andreas	Redl	10:20:33	3:50:56	14:11:29
Brian	Grasky	10:25:57	3:57:01	14:22:58
Detlef	Profasaka	10:26:53	3:42:16	14:09:09
Paul	Gibbons	10:51:35	4:11:40	15:03:15
Bruce	Wilson	11:49:18	3:44:53	15:34:11
Bruce	Moore	11:59:31	4:28:53	16:28:24
Al	Truscott	12:13:43	4:36:56	16:50:39
Brad	Miller	12:55:19	5:03:04	17:58:23
Dave	Kerr	15:50:48	5:42:30	21:33:18

Pro Women

First	Last	Ironman	Xterra	Total
Sibylle	Matter	9:54:16	3:19:50	13:24:06
Yasuko	Miyazaki	10:32:42	4:00:26	14:33:08

Imke	Schiersch	10:49:47	3:43:26	14:33:13
Claudia	Frank	10:40:33	3:37:19	14:17:52

Age Group Women

First	Last	Ironman	Xterra	Total
Barbara	Alber	10:51:59	3:56:18	14:48:17
Jessica	Stacey	11:26:02	4:30:06	15:56:08
Beate	Kleindienst	11:34:30	4:06:34	15:41:04
Janell	Petalver	12:14:00	4:20:40	16:34:40
Wendy	Minor	14:22:56	5:53:53	20:16:49

The Nissan Xterra World Championship is the final stop on the XTERRA Global Tour - a national and international series of 100+ qualifying events held in Brazil, Saipan, Germany, New Zealand, Mexico, France, Denmark, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, South Africa, Japan & the United States. The field boasted 575 entrants who represented more than 25 countries & 39 U.S. States.

The Nissan Xterra World Championship is title sponsored by Nissan Xterra, and presented by Paul Mitchell, XTERRA Gear, Hawaiian Airlines, Maui Visitors Bureau and the Maui Prince Hotel. Sponsors include XTERRA Wetsuits, Gatorade, Travelocity, Zorrel, Pacific Radio Group, Suunto, Cannondale, GU, and the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

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