

## Australian Double at ITU World Triathlon Championships

**11 September, 2005: Gamagori, Japan:** For immediate release:

one country won gold medals in both the men's and women's elite races at the ITU World Triathlon Championships in Gamagori.

Australians Peter Robertson and team-mate Emma Snowsill were awe-inspiring in hot, humid and trying conditions as they raced to victories in the 1.5k swim, 40k cycle, 10k run men's and women's races.

In the men's race Robertson, a Sydney and Athens Olympian was considered a rank outsider before he unleashed a courageous run to beat Swiss athlete Reto Hug and another Australian, Brad Krahefeldt.

In the women's race it was an Australian one-two with Emma Snowsill beating her team-mate Annabel Luxford with American Laura Bennett finishing third.

The men's race came down to the final run with a pack of more than 50 triathletes entering the final transition together. It was Robertson, a world champion in 2001 and 03, who took the initiative early and led throughout, just holding off fast-finishing Hug in an exciting finish which had spectators on their feet. Krahefeldt beat Athens Olympic Gold Medalist, Hamish Carter of NZ by 5 secs, with Belaubre of France fifth and Sydney Olympic Gold Medallist Simon Whitfield sixth. The men's gold medal was won in a time of 1 hour, 49 minutes, 39 seconds.

The women's race result was set up in the opening swim leg with Snowsill, Luxford and Bennett in the front pack leaving the water along with former World #1 Barb Lindquist and defending World Champion Sheila Taormina. These five friendly foes worked brilliantly together to keep the rest of the field at bay, including recently crowned European Champion, Vanessa Fernandes of Portugal. The 5 Americans and 2 Australians gained a good lead over the main field in the bike and entered the final run together more than 2 minutes ahead of their rivals with Snowsill, Luxford and Bennett able to gain medal-winning lead.

