

Herald Sun

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Painful warning to Snowsill

Amanda Lulham
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WORLD champion Emma Snowsill learned the painful meaning of being a Commonwealth Games gold medal favourite as she raced to victory in the Hobart Triathlon yesterday.

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The Queenslander was left nursing an assortment of bruises along with a sore jaw after her emphatic win in the 1.5km swim, 40km cycle and 10km run race.

Snowsill said she was a marked woman, claiming she was beaten up by rivals in the swimming leg.

"It was deliberate. I know you can't hit someone in the head that many times."

Snowsill beat New Zealander Debbie Tanner and Australian Games teammate Annabel Luxford.

"It was a brutal swim. I got hit, thrown under and my ears are still ringing from it and my jaw hurts. I had to go over to the side to get away from it."

Snowsill said the attention she received was a vital lesson in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games.

"It's never happened to me before so I wasn't expecting it," she said.

While her victory in her first race in three months was emphatic, the tiny triathlete admitted she had found the going tough and had made a number of errors during the racing, including dropping her bike during a transition.



Emma Snowsill.

"The first race back always hurts the most," Snowsill admitted after an event made tougher by light rain and wind squalls.

Snowsill picked up a few tips about her rivals, particularly New Zealander Tanner.

"She is going awesome and really looks fit," Snowsill said.

The replacement for pregnant Loretta Harrop in the Games team is expected to be announced today. Queensland teenager Felicity Abram and New South Wales' Emma Moffatt, who was third Australian in Hobart yesterday with her seventh place, are in the mix.