

Snowsill upbeat in Chicago on World Title defence

Abridged report August 28, 2006

Emma Snowsill is confident she can successfully defend her world triathlon title this weekend despite finishing a big Chicago race in a disoriented state on Monday.

The ailing Snowsill was put on an intravenous drip by medical staff after finishing second to Canada's Sam McGlone - the first time the Commonwealth Games champion has been beaten in seven races this year. Snowsill said she'd suffered from a stomach upset leading up to the race and that may have contributed to her problems.

"I'm feeling a bit better now but I wasn't so good after the race," said Snowsill, who clocked 2 hours:04min:14secs to McGlone's 2:02.25.

"Once I got onto the run, I just felt my petrol tank had a hole in it. I was going nowhere and it was just emptying really quickly.

"I even thought I wouldn't even have enough fuel to finish. It's quite unusual for me to feel that way. "I just finished and I couldn't even talk properly & I didn't comprehend anything for some reason. They took me over to the medical tent and assessed me". said Snowsill, 25.



"They thought first thing that it was dehydration and got some fluids back into me. I went straight on an IV drip and after an hour it made me feel a lot better, so (dehydration) definitely had something to do with it. It made me recover fairly quickly, so it's not serious." "It was one of those things. Unfortunately you don't really know it's happened until you are in the middle of the race and by that stage it's too late."

While still a little uncertain of the cause of her temporary problem, Snowsill remained positive about her form and fitness for the world championship in Lausanne, Switzerland on Saturday and the US event in Los Angeles on September 10.

"If I can still finish in second place, feeling the way I felt, then I've got to be really happy with where I'm at." Snowsill said she would fly to London on Monday night en route to the world championships. "Traveling can also deplete your reserves so it's also a matter of being aware of all that," the Gold Coaster said.

Despite achieving her main goal this year of winning at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, Snowsill said he felt like "I still have to prove myself".

Sydney's Craig Alexander won the men's event in Chicago from Briton Simon Lessing.