



Line honours: Emma Snowsill celebrates at Mooloolaba yesterday. Picture: NATHAN RICHTER

Snowsill keeps cool in the heat

EMMA Snowsill and Brad Kahlefeldt battled extreme heat and quality fields to claim a winning double for Australia at the season-opening BG World Cup triathlon series yesterday.

On a day when more than a quarter of the women's field was treated for heat fatigue or dehydration as the mercury soared past 30C, Snowsill, 25, ended Portuguese superstar Vanessa Fernandes' bid for a 13th consecutive World Cup win in the 1.5km swim, 40km cycle and 10km run.

Snowsill beat Fernandes home in 1hr 59min 20sec, with Aussie Erin Densham third.

"I just didn't know what to expect out there today because

Amanda Lulham

Mooloolaba

it was my first race of the year," triple world champion Snowsill said. "But I didn't want to leave anything out there. I gave it everything I had.

"Sometimes when you know everyone is hurting as much as you, it can make you dig that bit deeper. That's how it was for me today."

Fernandes, who finished second to Snowsill in last year's world championships, said the loss would only provide her with extra motivation.

"I think this will be very good motivation for me," the 21-year-old said.

"It was a good race. But there will be more."

In the men's race, Brad Kahlefeldt raced to "the biggest breakthrough" of his career, almost a year after he and Snowsill won Commonwealth Games gold in Melbourne.

An emotional Kahlefeldt, who overtook Spanish champion Javier Gomez in the dying stages, hoped the victory would silence critics who said he was unable to win on tough courses.

"There was a real monkey on my back about whether I could perform on a hard, hot course like Beijing, and they don't come much tougher than this course in Mooloolaba," Kahlefeldt said.

"I hope the selectors were out there watching.

"I am so pumped up for the rest of the season. To win here at home on this course, it's a real dream come true."