



Classy Capp claims title at Takapuna
State King of the Bays, Takapuna, April 18th 2015
www.oceanswim.co.nz

A dream finish to what has been an outstanding week for Nathan Capp.

Fresh from his record breaking feats at the New Zealand Open Swimming Championships, Capp has now claimed the National Ocean Swim Series title, after a thrilling finish in the season ending State King of the Bays at Takapuna.

One of four swimmers with a chance to claim the overall title and the \$5,000 first prize heading onto the final event, it was Capp who was out of the blocks the fastest in the most challenging conditions faced by the swimmers this season. Driving rain and choppy seas made navigation tough, but the 22-year-old Aucklander seemed unfazed as he rounded the first mark four body lengths clear of his nearest challenger.

However, he was soon caught by his rivals and a five strong lead group quickly formed, gradually pulling away from the field.

By the halfway mark, pre-race favourite Yasunari Hirai had worked his way to the front and as the leaders approached the final mark, the Japanese Olympic representative looked to be the man to beat.

Capp says he never panicked when Hirai took the lead.

“He got a bit of a lead on us but then the distance stayed pretty static and I wasn’t sure if it was because he’d slowed down or we had sped up”, said Capp.

“There were a few swells that you could use to close the gap heading towards the last marker and I had pretty much caught him up when we turned towards home.”

Sure enough, as they rounded the last marker, Hirai and Capp were neck and neck, with New Zealand Open Water Champion Kane Radford and series leader Philip Ryan hot on their heels.

As the quartet hit the beach it was Capp who was quickest to his feet, sprinting across the sand to claim victory by 5 seconds, with Hirai edging Radford for second place. That saw Hirai also finish second in the overall series with Radford having to settle for third and Ryan fourth.

"It's a bit of a dream really," said Capp of his victory.

"It's been an amazing week. It is one that will stay in my memory for a very long time."

Meanwhile, Charlotte Webby is also \$5,000 better off after claiming the overall series victory in the women's event. However, Webby had to settle for second behind Emma Robinson in today's race.

Like Capp, Robinson came into the event on a high, having qualified for the swimming world championships during the week.

"It's fantastic to win the King of the Bays," said Robinson.

"It's only the second event I've swum this season so I had no chance of winning the overall title, but it's just great to cap off the week with a victory."

Webby was happy to settle for second on the day, with the National title and a \$5,000 cheque more than compensating for being beaten.

"Most of the money will probably go on travel for swimming, but hopefully I can spare a bit for a spend-up on myself as well", she said.

Stefannie Gillespie finished third in today's race, to grab second in the overall series standings, while a sixth place finish was enough for Abi Chapman to claim third.

ENDS

2014 State King of the Bays:

Men:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Nathan Capp (Auckland) | 29:54 | |
| 2. Yasunari Hirai (Japan) | 29:59 | +0:05 |
| 3. Kane Radford (Rotorua) | 30:00 | +0:05 |
| 4. Phillip Ryan (Auckland) | 30:00 | +0:06 |
| 5. Troy Balvert (Waikato) | 30:21 | +0:26 |

Women:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Emma Robinson (Wellington) | 31:59 | |
| 2. Charlotte Webby (New Plymouth) | 31:59 | +0:00 |
| 3. Stefannie Gillespie (Dunedin) | 33:09 | +1:10 |
| 4. Lauren Boyle (Auckland) | 33:18 | +1:19 |
| 5. Josie Kozyniak (Wellington) | 34:24 | +2:25 |

2014/2015 Series Standings (after six rounds):

Men:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1. Nathan Capp | 400.00 |
| 2. Yasunari Hirai | 399.60 |
| 3. Kane Radford | 399.27 |

| | | |
|----|--------------|--------|
| 4 | Phillip Ryan | 399.06 |
| 5. | Troy Balvert | 395.28 |

Women:

| | | |
|----|----------------------|--------|
| 1. | Charlotte Webby | 399.96 |
| 2. | Stefannie Gillespie | 387.61 |
| 3. | Abi Chapman | 383.38 |
| 4. | Alessandra Colombini | 377.14 |
| 5. | Aimee Moss | 373.65 |

Photo: Courtesy Simon Watts/BW Media
Nathan Capp.

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