

38 MEDALS IN HAMBURG

ben collins



team usa in hamburg

TEAM USA PULLS IN 38 MEDALS AT AGE GROUP WORLDS

Ben Collins (Seattle, Wash.) captured the overall men's title to lead 38 U.S. age group athletes with top-three finishes at the ITU BG Triathlon World Championship in Hamburg, Germany on September 2.

Team USA took home 17 gold, 10 silver, and 11 bronze medals on a cool day in the beautiful city of Hamburg. Included in the medal tally were 13 earned by athletes competing in the physically challenged division. The medal count exceeded last year's total of 31 medals.

The race featured close to 2,500 athletes representing more than 50 countries. The U.S. contingent totaled 250 athletes, including 20 juniors (age 16-19) racing in the first ever ITU Sprint Distance World Championship. **Brian Duffy**, 19, of Westchester, Pa., and **Natalie Russell**, 16, of Oswego, Ill., each won overall and age 16-19 sprint world titles.

The 24-year-old Collins – the current overall USA Triathlon National Champion – finished the 1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10k run course in 1:57:16, more than a minute

ahead of second place **Andrew Curtaigne** of New Zealand.

"This is the stepping stone I wanted before I turned pro. Hopefully this is going to be the start of a great rookie year," said Collins, who got his elite license on September 3 and raced his first professional ITU race in Poland on September 9. "I felt great. The whole week I felt good; the whole race I felt good. I don't think I did anything wrong."

"Team USA is great. Everyone I passed said 'let's go, Ben.' The team spirit is incredible. It's so much fun. If anyone gets a chance to do this, don't pass it up. It's a chance of a lifetime, a lot of fun, just do it. It's entirely worth it."

Collins led a group of three American men to crack the top-20. **Jesse Thomas**, 27, of Eugene, Ore. grabbed sixth place in 2:01:00 and **Chuck Sloan**, 30, of Oklahoma City, Okla., finished 14th in 2:01:49. The three top American men also finished 1-2-3 at USAT Nationals at Hagg Lake outside Portland, Ore., in June.

Unfortunately for Sloan, he was stuck in one of the toughest age groups. Despite his overall finish, he placed fourth in the men's 30-34 age division. Collins won the 20-24 age group, while Thomas earned bronze in the men's 25-29 division.

In the women's race, the top finisher was **Leah Larson** (Boulder, Colo.), who finished second overall and second in the 20-24 age group. She was joined in the top-20 by **Katie Ellis** (Phoenix, Ariz.) in third overall and third in the 20-24 age group, **Alicia Parr** (Durham, N.C.) in 14th overall and first in the 35-39 age group, and **Caroline Walden** (Paradise Valley, Ariz.) in 17th overall and third in the 30-34 age group.

Regular Team USA participants **Steven Smith** (Granger, Ind.), **Richard Robinson** (Bonita, Calif.), **Patrick Wickens** (Redondo Beach, Calif.), and **Peggy McDowell-Cramer** (Santa Monica, Calif.) returned to the medals stand with outstanding performances.

In the Physically Challenged race, gold medal results were turned in by seven athletes, including below knee amputee **Paul Martin** (Natick, Mass.), above knee amputee **Sarah Reinertsen** (Mission Viejo, Calif.), and below knee amputee **Amy Dodson** (Adrian, Mich.).

"It was fabulous. It was a really good race today. It's such a beautiful city. You're in the middle of the world championship, you want to give it everything you've got," said Dodson. "It's so special. I'm so incredibly lucky to have this opportunity. It's a good day for the physically challenged. Triathlon has been so welcoming to us. I just feel so blessed to be here and to be able to do it."

Added Martin: "As an amputee this is an amazing blessing to come back and be an athlete, to be able to represent your country in a sport that you never would have. Able-bodied, disabled, whatever... representing the USA is the ultimate high and I'm very proud to do that."

The day's festivities closed with the traditional post-race party and awards ceremony, where Team USA team members **Charley French**

(Ketchum, Idaho) and Peggy Gudbrandsen (Lake Forest, Ill.) were given a standing ovation by competitors from all over the world for their gold medal performances. French, 81, and Gudbrandsen, 80, were the oldest athletes to compete in the championship.

Age Group Olympic Distance World Championship Results

Gold

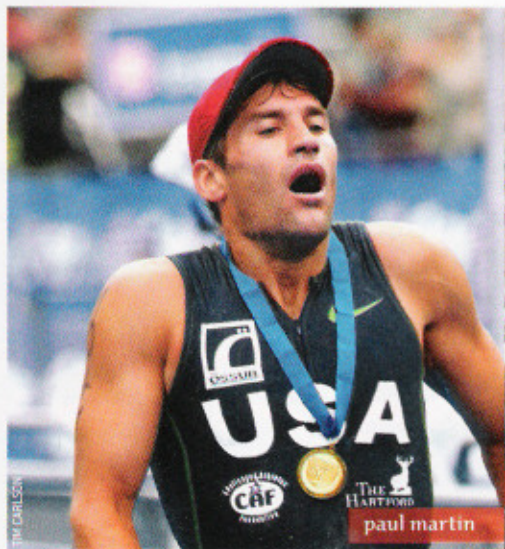
W35-39: Alicia Parr (Durham, N.C.)
 W70-74: Gerry Fitch (West Chester, Pa.)
 W75-79: Molly Hayes (Bozeman, Mont.)
 W80+: Peggy Gudbrandsen (Lake Forest, Ill.)
 M20-24: Ben Collins (Seattle, Wash.)
 M60-64: Steven Smith (Granger, Ind.)
 M75-79: Richard Robinson (Bonita, Calif.)
 M80+: Charley French (Ketchum, Idaho)

Silver

W20-24: Leah Larson (Boulder, Colo.)
 W45-49: Annie Carrino (Portola Valley, Calif.)
 W50-54: Donna Smyers (Adamant, Vt.)
 W60-64: Lauren Binder (Portland, Ore.)
 W65-69: Peggy McDowell-Cramer (Santa Monica, Calif.)
 M65-69: Patrick Wickens (Redondo Beach, Calif.)

Bronze

W18-19: Ashley Morgan (West Point, N.Y.)
 W20-24: Katie Ellis (Phoenix, Ariz.)
 W30-34: Caroline Walden (Paradise Valley, Ariz.)
 W35-39: Stacey Richardson (Chapel Hill, N.C.)
 W65-69: Graciela Val (Evanston, Ill.)
 W70-74: Sheila Isaacs (Shoreham, N.Y.)
 M18-19: Shea Wilfong (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
 M25-29: Jesse Thomas (Eugene, Ore.)
 M55-59: Rick Trachok (Reno, Nev.)



alicia parr

paul martin

Physically Challenged Olympic Distance World Championship

Gold

Women's Above Knee Amputee: Sarah Reinertsen (Mission Viejo, Calif.)
 Women's Below Knee Amputee: Amy Dodson (Adrian, Mich.)
 Women's Blind: Nancy Stevens (Glenwood Springs, Colo.)
 Women's Other: Beth Price (Headland, Ala.)
 Men's Below Knee Amputee: Paul Martin (Natick, Mass.)
 Men's Above Knee Amputee: Matt Perkins (Boise, Idaho)
 Men's Other: David Kyle (Athens, Ala.)

Silver

Women's Upper Extremity: Suzanne Elbon (Decatur, Ga.)
 Women's Below Above Knee Amputee: Scout Bassett (Palm Desert, Calif.)
 Women's Blind: Crista Earl (Forest Hills, N.Y.)
 Men's Above Knee Amputee: Jonathan Bik (Sacramento, Calif.)

Bronze

Men's Below Knee Amputee: Jeff Glasbrenner (Little Rock, Ark.)
 Men's Above Knee Amputee: David McGranahan (Sylvania, Ohio)

Sprint World Championship

Gold

W16-19: Natalie Russell (Oswego, Ill.)
 M16-19: Brian Duffy (Westchester, Pa.)

For complete results, go to:

<http://www.triathlon.org/?call=TVRnNQ==&keep=sh>

Athlete Quotes

Men's 18-19 bronze medalist **Shea Wilfong**, 19, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

"It was awesome. I felt pretty good once my feet defrosted on the run. It was an experience. It was really fun to be here."

Paul Brinkman, 48, of Flagstaff, Ariz.

"It was a fun race with lots of fan support. I went as hard as I could, so I'm happy. It's all I could ask for. I'm enjoying the moment. You can't ask for a better venue."

Steve Jonas, 71, East Setauket, N.Y., who improved his performance from last year by over 35 minutes.

"I'm so moved and so excited. What a day. It's just terrific, so wonderful."

Men's 30-34 fourth place **Chuck Sloan**, 30, of Oklahoma City, Okla.

"Going in I thought I might have a good chance of placing well, but I wasn't too happy with the swim. I never got into a good rhythm. I got on the bike and just powered through. It was a good bike course. I got on the run and that's my bread and butter. I picked off as many guys as I could along the way, but it looks like I ran out of room. It's fun. You come over and race the best amateurs around. It's always fun to compete against the best guys in the world."



Sprint World Champion Brian Duffy

"The swim start was tough. I got out fast with the leaders. I finished second on the swim. Got on the bike, and it was tough to get around the narrow streets. I had an awesome run, just took off, and it was history from there. I've never been to Europe before, so racing here was just an awesome experience. There were tons of fans lining the streets. It was great."

Long Course Triathlon Worlds Results

American age groupers took home eight medals and two elite athletes earned top-10 finishes at the ITU Long Distance Triathlon World Championships in Lorient, France on July 15.

Six of the medals were earned by female athletes, as were both of the elite top-10 finishes. The eight total medals exceeded last year's haul of seven.

Julien Loy of France and Leanda Cave of Great Britain won the elite titles in the 3k swim, 80k bike, 20k run event. Amy Marsh of Austin, Texas (4:10:38) and Erin Ford of The Dalles, Ore., (4:12:07) finished seventh and eighth, respectively during the women's race. For the American men, Jonathan Salerno of Seattle, Wash., was the top finisher in 17th place (3:42:58).

On the age group side, the American contingent was led by M75-79 Winston Allen (St. Augustine, Fla.), who took home the lone gold

medal. F20-24 Anne Basso (Raleigh, N.C.), F30-34 Maureen Forsyth (Salem, Mass.), and F40-44 Jacqueline Miller (Holly Springs, N.C.) each won silver. Basso also finished 11th overall. Bronze medals went to F50-54 Nancy Abraham (Steilacoom, Wash.), F55-59 Denise Everitt (Marion, N.Y.), F60-64 Janet Thompson (Tampa, Fla.), and M40-44 Steve Riddle (Atlanta, Ga.).

Thompson was one of three athletes to return from 2006, but was the only athlete to return to the podium.

The next ITU Long Distance Triathlon World Championships will be in Almere, Netherlands on August 30, 2008.

Elite Men's Results – 2007 Lorient ITU Long Distance Triathlon World Championships:

- 1 – Julien Loy (FRA) 03:30:11
- 2 – Xavier Le Floch (FRA) 03:36:19
- 3 – Sebastien Berlier (FRA) 03:36:41
- 4 – Torbjorn Sindballe (DEN) 03:37:09
- 5 – Hervé Faure (FRA) 03:37:28
- 6 – Olivier Marceau (SUI) 03:38:31
- 7 – Jimmy Johnsen (DEN) 03:38:36
- 8 – Gabriele Pertusati (ITA) 03:39:01
- 9 – Reinaldo Colucci (BRA) 03:39:16
- 10 – Patrick Vernay (FRA) 03:39:21

American Athletes

- 17 – Jonathan Salerno 03:42:58
- 18 – Tim Marr 03:44:00
- 25 – Brandon Marsh 03:49:07
- 38 – Ben Hoffman 04:00:15
- 39 – Jeffrey Piland 04:02:30

Elite Women's Results – 2007 Lorient ITU Long Distance Triathlon World Championships:

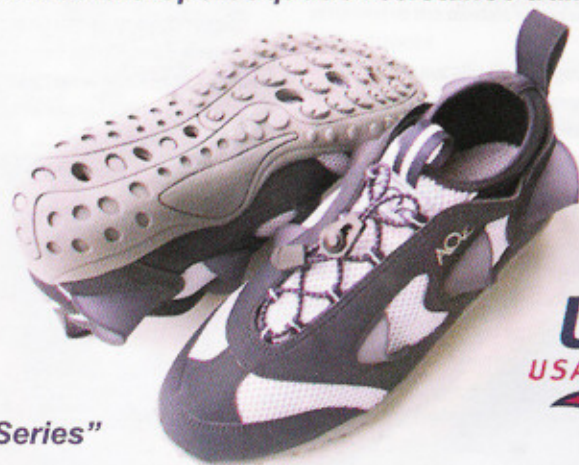
- 1 – Leanda Cave (GBR) 04:04:03
- 2 – Erika Csomor (HUN) 04:05:20
- 3 – Catriona Morrison (GBR) 04:05:57
- 4 – Delphine Pelletier (FRA) 04:06:42
- 5 – Chrissie Wellington (GBR) 04:07:07
- 6 – Gina Ferguson (NZL) 04:09:29
- 7 – Amy Marsh (USA) 04:10:38
- 8 – Erin Ford (USA) 04:12:07
- 9 – Eva Novakova (CZE) 04:12:32
- 10 – Charlotte Kolters (DEN) 04:12:50

Other American Athletes

- 12 – Linda Gallo 04:16:42
- 20 – Alisha Lyon 04:27:19

See complete race results: <http://www.lorient-triathlon.com/engages.html?PHPSES-SID=3cd267204bc7b28d55e1f14b66fb6dbf>

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