

## **Collins Earns a Podium in his first American Professional Race**

San Luis Obispo, CA  
Saturday, September 29, 2007

Scott Tinley's Triathlon boasted a stacked field over 25 elite males competing in the central California hills along the shoreline of Lake Lopez. Ben Collins lead the group with the second fastest swim split, the second fastest bike split, and held off the talented field through the 10km run to earn a bronze medal at his first professional race in America.

The swim in Lake Lopez was just below the wetsuit cutoff temperature and the bright mountain sun, along with glassy waters, and the wispy layer of fog promised a beautiful day for a race. Collins sprinted to an early lead in the swim leading the first of two laps – swapping the lead after lap one to work veteran triathlete Brian Fleishman on the second lap. The pair exited the water together in 19:40 with the rest of the men's field coming in nearly a minute down.

Fleishman lead the first three miles of the hilly 40km course but eventually was unable to keep pace with rookie professional Ben Collins. After riding on the front for most of the bike leg, Collins was caught by veteran Greg Remaly in the closing stretch. Collins held his second place position until the 7<sup>th</sup> kilometer of the two lap 10km run course, when he was passed by Matt Chrabot. Collins finishing time of 1:56:24 was just 20 seconds behind Chrabot and a minute ahead of fourth place Brian Fleishman.

Less than a month after winning the Age Group World Championships and turning Professional, Ben Collins is already proving his worth as a professional triathlete. Next on the schedule is the Dallas US Open Triathlon, which Ben will do as a guide for visually impaired athlete, Aaron Scheidies, in an attempt to break the blind/visually impaired world record of two hours for an Olympic distance triathlon. Collins' final race of the 2007 season will be at Treasure Island, San Francisco CA on November 10.

For more information and to read Ben's personal blog see <http://bencollins.org>

