



Race Report- 2010 Australian National Championships Adelaide, South Australia

After a solid 3 month break from racing, the good times were set to start again for 2010 at Eagle Park in Adelaide. I had a great off season, did a lot of fishing rode my bike and even went snow boarding for the first time in 7 years but I was stoked to be back in Australia racing.

SHIMANO



Adelaide is a pretty cool town and I had a great time hanging out there, staying with my Giant Australia team mate, Will Reischbeth in the Adelaide hills. Amiel Cavalier was also staying with us so we had a great team atmosphere for the race, especially with Marty from the Giant Australia office setting up a killer pit area for us and the local Giant rep Craig Yates also there racing (very fast) and keeping everything under control.

It was a really short track, about 2 minutes long and had been straightened out and widened since the last race there. Apparently the week before, the weather had been consistently 40 Celsius (about 110 Fahrenheit) but fortunately the weather cooled off for the event.

The two days of practice before seeding went really well and come race day I was ready to pin it.

My run started out well but nearly ended in disaster when I missed a pretty crucial line down the steepest section of the track. I ran a little wide entering the "chute" where the track had been widened from people running over the course markers and just couldn't get on the high line for the left turn over the bridge. I ended up going straight, squaring up the turn at the bottom and losing all my speed to get over the bridge and carry through the next flat section.

I still managed to piece together a decent run after that though but the mistake cost me and I ended up 11th- about 4 seconds from the win but only 2 seconds off the podium where I would have liked to have been. A little disappointing for sure but hey, that's racing and when it comes to short tracks, you just can't afford to make any mistakes.

So, while it wasn't a great start to the season, it wasn't all that bad and I had a great time. It was awesome to see so many kids out racing and was even better to catch up with so many people I haven't seen in a while. I also had a great pic on the Vital MTB website coverage of the event-

<http://www.vitalmtb.com/photos/features/2010-Australian-National-Championships,1071/Slideshow,4132/sspomer,2>

As always, a huge thanks needs to go out to Giant, all the team sponsors and Stromlo Forest Park for their continued support for 2010. Happy new year and here's to a good season!

Jared