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Olympic hopefuls shine in Miami

Haskins, Reed take Miami International Triathlon

By Brad Culp

A stacked field of professional triathletes got an early start to the 2008 season at the inaugural Miami International Triathlon on March 16. American Olympic hopefuls Sarah Haskins and Matt Reed proved they're on track to make a run at Beijing, as the pair won their respective races over some formidable competition.

Haskins was dominant from start to finish, posting the fastest split in all three disciplines. Haskins exited the swim with a narrow margin over Aussie Pip Taylor, American Joanna Zeiger and up-and-coming American star Jasmine Oeinck. By the time Haskins flew out of T2 it was clear that she would not be caught. Taylor was able to equal Haskins' run split of 37:42, but she needed more to bridge the

gap, and the Aussie was forced to settle for second. Farther back, Oeinck held off a resurgent Nina Kraft to secure the final spot on the podium.

In the men's race, Reed led through the swim and most of the bike but was caught by Ironman super-biker Chris Lieto, who opened up a small gap heading into T2. During the early miles of the run it appeared Reed would pull away with the win, as he easily re-passed Lieto. However, as Reed and his 6'5" frame strode toward the line, Oscar Galindez was closing hard. Reed was barely able to hold off the flying Argentine, as he finished in 1:45:31, just eight seconds ahead of Galindez, who closed with a 33:11 10km split. ▲