



## Beaufort native returns home, wins Parris Island triathlon

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Kimberley Westbury didn't expect to win the Parris Island Sprint triathlon as she slipped into the water Saturday morning at the Parris Island Combat Training pool, but a sense of calm overwhelmed her just the same. After all, she was home, and that allowed her to turn that feeling of serenity first into focus, then into intensity.

"It's absolutely my favorite place on earth," said a giddy Westbury, a graphic designer for a Greenville advertising agency who was born at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Beaufort while her father, a Lt. Commander and pediatrician, was stationed there.

She likes her native Beaufort even more now, because she can associate it with victory.

The 46-year-old Westbury finished the sprint course -- a 500-meter swim, 13-mile bike ride and 5-kilometer run -- in 59 minutes, 52 seconds to win the women's open division of the event, the first of the South Carolina Triathlon Series this year. She finished 13 seconds ahead of Mount Pleasant's Jamie Turner and 54 seconds in front of Greenville's Ashley Long.

Simpsonville resident Daniel Moss, 28, repeated as the men's overall champion with a time of 50:21, more than 2 1/2 minutes faster than his winning mark from last year. Waterloo's Cameron Dorn finished second and Aaron Bachman, of Saline, Mich., came in third.

While Moss left little drama by easily winning, Westbury had no such room for error. Said Westbury, "This race is always very tight. Somebody asked me if I was going to wear a windbreaker on the bike and I said 'No, I can't. By the time I zip it, I've lost the race.'"

Westbury entered the event in 2006 and finished second in 2007 before sitting out last year due to a stress fracture of her right tibia. A former inline speedskater who had won three previous South Carolina Triathlon Series events, she began formally training for this event Feb. 1. She warmed up Saturday morning by swimming the complete 500 meters, a move that loosened her up and put her into a comfortable state of mind.

That allowed her to begin with a solid start in the swimming and get stronger as the event shifted to biking and running. She turned in the ninth-fastest swim time of the day among the women and limited her transition times between segments. Westbury built momentum with each portion, with her bike time of 30:08 being the fifth best before running the 5K in 19:35 -- third fastest -- and the deciding factor in her win.

"I went in with the heart to win," Westbury said. "Being a Beaufort native ... I think I went in with a lot of passion for this race and wanting it. I didn't expect to win, but I sure went in after it. My strategy was to go in with everything I have and leave nothing behind."

The top local finisher in the women's division was 27-year-old Savannah Fuentes, of Hilton Head Island, who completed the course in a time of 1:04:24. Beaufort's Julia Sanford, 42, turned in a time of 1:05:52, good enough for 13th place.

Hilton Head Island's Alfred Olivetti, 41, finished the race in 59:26, the fastest official time among area men and good enough for a 26th-place finish. It was his first race of what he expects to be an 8-16 race schedule this year.

"I'm happy. I feel good, but I can always go faster," Olivetti said. "That's the great thing about triathlon -- you go head to head. Same race course, same conditions for everybody and you see how it plays out."

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Top finishers at Saturday's triathlon:

MEN

Daniel Moss, Simpsonville

50:21

Cameron Dorn, Waterloo

51:33

Aaron Bachman, Saline, Mich.

52:41

Mark Woody, Chapin

53:26

Adam Martin, Mount Pleasant

53:49

Anthony Wallace, Savannah

53:51

Jim Bertrand, Charlotte

53:51

Matt Inch, East Lansing, Mich.

54:05

Louis Kirchner, Lawrenceville, Ga.

54:58

Eric Ruckel, Mount Pleasant

55:54

WOMEN

Kimberley Westbury, Greenville

59:52

Jamie Turner, Mount Pleasant

1:00:05

Ashley Long, Greenville

1:00:46

Katie Malone, Tryon, NC

1:01:12

Tracy DeWitt, Charleston

1:01:29

Lightsey Laffitte, Columbia

1:02:33

Siobhan Maize, Mount Pleasant

1:03:43

Savannah Fuentes, Hilton Head Island

1:04:24

Lynn Fulcher, Augusta, Ga.

1:05:08

Nicole Ramsbey, Mauldin

1:05:45

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