

2022 Australian Open Short Track Championship – Day 2 report

Melbourne, October 1 - Lukas MacDonald took bragging rights in the 500m on Day Two of the Australian Open Short Track Speed Skating Championship, and in doing so set up a humdinger of a final day showdown against Keanu Blunden in the battle for overall champion.

Starting in the favoured lane one, MacDonald (43.020) - who is skating for Hauraki Ice Racing Club in New Zealand - moved straight to the front and proved impossible to dislodge despite the best efforts of Aussie international Blunden (43.640) who was drawn in lane five.

With Blunden winning the 1500m yesterday and MacDonald in second, the stage is now set for a winner-takes-all face-off in the 1000m final on the final day of competition.

In a fast and a furious 500m final - which saw the top-four separated by less than a second - Lucas Wareham (43.813) took third ahead of Triphop Thongngam (43.867), while Josh Kah's race effectively ended when he went flying into the blue crash mats.

"It was a really good race, of course Lukas got out in front early; Josh had an unfortunate fall and Keanu had a really good pass," Wareham said.

"When I was training in New Zealand with Lukas I definitely thought he was going to be a tough competitor, I was expecting me to win but he cut through I guess." And while he didn't beat his old training partner, Wareham said being back on the ice competing was invaluable.

"It's really good, I can feel a lot of growth already in just these nationals alone; lots of experience," he said.

"That's the one thing I'm missing, I've been racing only about five years now."

In the Group 2 final won by Ihan Yoo (45.594), Aussie international Hyojin Kim (49.124) was the fastest female, finishing in fourth.

In the Masters Group 5, 500m final the crowd went wild when 80-year-old Anthony Richter (1:10.010) beat Alison Throssell (1:10.059) in a last-gasp dash to the line.

"I had Covid and it was pretty tough so it just felt so good to be back," Richter said.

"I'm sorry Alison, but I'm really happy!"

In the Masters Group 1 Final, masters world champion Herbert Labiche (50.660) secured victory with Sashen Chetty (50.941) in second and Russell Collins (51.570) in third.

The Junior 500m went to Thai competitor Punpreeda Prempreech (50.424), with William Dewrance in second (50.550) and Arjun Mootoosamy (55.911) in third.

Artem Kutovoy (27.406) racing for the Canterbury Club in New Zealand won the Midgets 222m, Ethan Kamerman (28.644) was second and Sophie Jeon (28.733) third.

The Subjunior 333m final was won in a thriller by Anthony Kutovoy (34.371) followed by Joshua Seah (34.467) and Luca Sucic (35.216).

In the Nippers 111m, Aaron Dong (15.364) won the Group 1 Final ahead of Yirun Wang (16.161) and Emmett Brown (16.866).

Bringing the day to a close, the national championships featured its first ever mixed relay.

History in the seniors event went to the team from the Figure and Speed Skating Association of Thailand in a dominant performance with the Dockland Demons Ice Racing Club in second.

In the Junior Mixed Relay, the Sydney Arrows Ice Skating Club, brought home by Ihan Yoo, beat a mixed team of international and local athletes.