

2022 Australian Open Short Track Championship – Day 3 report

Melbourne, October 2 - International pair Keanu Blunden and Hyojin Kim finished as the top placed Aussie athletes as the curtain fell on a thrilling Day Three of action at the Australian Open Short Track Speed Skating Championship.

With Blunden winning the 1500m on Day One, and Kiwi Lucas MacDonald taking out the fast-and-the-furious 500m on Day Two, the honour of who would be crowned overall champion had essentially boiled down to a winner-takes-all championship decider in the 1000M.

But any chance Blunden had of being crowned the victor came to a spectacular end when in the closing lap he was hit by the other New Zealander in the race, Josh Kah, and the pair propelled in the blue crash mat.

Ultimately, Lukas MacDonald finished first (1:35.225), Ihan Yoo second (1:37.031) and Keanu third (1:49.491).

“It was a very interesting race. I took the lead not to control it so much but to be ready for when the pace did pick up but it was just unfortunate at the end when I got clipped and had to take a fall,” Keanu said.

“It was a little bit of a shock ... points matter.”

While overall honours went across the ditch this time to MacDonald, the next stop for the burgeoning rivalry is the Montreal World Cup in a couple of weeks.

After a two year hiatus for the National Short Track Championships, Keanu said it was great to be back racing in an Australian competition.

“It’s a racing sport, you just can’t keep training and training and training and not compete,” he said said.

Lucas Wareham, who earlier this year represented Australia for the first time at a World Championships in Canada, finished in third overall.

Also on that World Championship team was Hyojin Kim, who finished as the top female athlete across the competition.

“I was 100 percent satisfied,” she said.

Ponting to the growing depth in the Aussie team, Kim also recently qualified to represent the green and gold in the upcoming Montreal, Canada, and Salt Lake City, US, World Cups.

Junior World Championship athlete Siyu Wang finished as the second overall female, with Cili Minagi in third.

Overall rankings.

Senior Men:

1. Lukas MacDonald (New Zealand)
2. Keanu Blunden
3. Lucas Wareham

Senior Women:

1. Hyojin Kim
2. Siyu Wang

3. Cili Minagi

Masters Women:

30-34: 1. Paulin Kwon, 2. Darah Ferguson
40-44: 1. Nicole Keeghan
60-64: 1. Carolyn Phillips, 2. Alison Throssell
65-69: 1. Linda Brodersen

Masters Men

30-34: 1. Camilo Montoya-Giraldo
35-39: 1. Sashen Chetty, 2. Gregory Teuss
45-49: 1. Russell Collins, 2. Chris Street
50-54: 1. Frank Anderson
55-59: 1. Herbie Labiche, 2. Michael Attwood, 3. Chris Robson, 4. James Keogh
60-64: 1. Ray Wilby, 2. Martin Auliff, 3. Scott Kiel-Chisholm
65-69: 1. Ken Stewart
75-79: 1. Anthony Richter

Junior Ladies:

1. Punpreeda Prempreecha (Thailand), 2. Jinna Kim, 3. Grace Kang

Junior Men:

1. Arjun Mootosamy, 2 William Dewrance, 3. Adam Azlan (Malaysia)

Subjunior Ladies:

1. Atiya Jermpatjunya (Thailand), 2. Geok Qin Loh (Singapore), 3. Wan Myra Fahmi (Malaysia)

Subjunior Men:

1. Janthakorn Maneewannaku (Thailand), 2. Anthony Kutovoy (New Zealand), 3 Joshua Seah

Midgets Ladies:

1. Sophie Jeon, 2. Gloria Kang, 3. Keira Chetty

Midgets Men:

1. Artem Kutovoy (New Zealand), 2. Ethan Kamerman, 3. Declan Hur

Nippers Ladies:

1. Haha Khalil (New Zealand)

Nippers Men:

1. Aaron Dong, 2. Yirun Wang, 3. Emmett Brown