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# Athletics & Swimming

## Bevilaqua aiming for top 15

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Perth triathlete Kate Bevilaqua aims to use last weekend's win in a half ironman race in New Zealand as a springboard to propel her into the world's top 15 over the full distance.



Bevilaqua finished 24th at the ironman world titles at Hawaii last year but believes she is now capable of a vast improvement in the mix of 3.8km swim, 180km cycle and 42.2km run.

"My confidence is up and I'm really going for it," she said, looking ahead to her first full-distance event of the year, Ironman NZ at Lake Taupo on March 1.

Bevilaqua is halfway through an intense block of training for the NZ event and decided to compete in the half-distance Port of Tauranga race to assess her progress.



Despite several gruelling weeks averaging 20km in the pool, 350km in the saddle and 90km pounding the pavement, she was sufficiently fresh last Sunday to catch pace setter Joanna Lawn shortly after the start of the 21.1km run and, with 800m to go, unleash a surge which finally shook off the dogged Kiwi.



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Bevilaqua won by 10 seconds in 4hr 17min 54sec to break a sequence of top-10 finishes in international races, yet no gold medal.

"I'm glad the jinx is broken," she said.

"I didn't expect to be second off the bike in Tauranga and from there my whole race plan changed because running is my strong suit."

Bevilaqua's next race will be the City of Perth triathlon on February 3.

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