

Big O Snatches Victory on a V10 Club!

Oscar Chalupsky snatches Discovery Winklespruit surf ski race



Oscar Chalupsky announced his return to the Discovery Men's Health surf ski series by winning the Discovery Winklespruit surf ski race in energy sapping surf conditions, racing in rain and a strong South Westerly wind, as the arrival of the cold front forced the race organisers to start the 25km race at Scottburgh.

Chalupsky, who has been abroad since his Epic Molokai challenge, stamped his authority on the rough conditions to down series pacesetter Hank McGregor by thirty seconds in dramatic style at the finish at Winklespruit after a cat-and-mouse tussle involving sharply differing racing lines and tactics.

Series favourites Clint Pretorius, Barry Lewin, Bevan Manson and McGregor set off together, while Chalupsky had to fight his way back into contention after being dumped by a wave near the start. With the finish in sight race leader McGregor's decision to take a wider line backfired as he hit a sandbank and took a dramatic swim.

That left the door open for Chalupsky to swoop and snatch the victory at the beach finish at Winklespruit. "It all came down to choice of lines," said Chalupsky afterwards. "When I saw him fall off I knew I had a chance to win."

"It was a tough race," said McGregor. "But that's just the way it is." Series regulars described the surf at the finish at Winklespruit as a "washing machine", providing plenty of thrills and spills for the spectators.

An exhausted Michelle Eder managed to snatch a notable victory over Tiffany Kruger in the women's race, complicated by the fact that they started in different batches. "It made it difficult to figure out where we were all positioned in the race," said Kruger. "But I guess we all just went for it and hoped for the best."

"It was a rough and long race," said Eder. "I was exhausted around Karridene, so I had to push myself through it," added a thrilled Eder after hearing that she had posted a faster race time than Kruger.

The unlikely pairing of master Mark Lewin and Ant Stott combined on debut to take the double ski race, over the course that provided excellent training for the Scottburgh to Brighton marathon next month.

Next week the Discovery Men's Health Surf Ski Series returns to Durban for the Hi-Q Marine race on the public holiday Monday 16 June .