

Ashleigh Gentle runs down Taylor Knibb in Texas heat to win second PTO Open title



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Dallas, Texas: Ashleigh Gentle stormed to a PTO US Open win in Dallas to add to her stunning victory in the PTO Canadian Open in July.

Her PTO Tour record for 2022 now reads: raced three, won three; after also beating Laura Philipp and Chelsea Sodaro in her Collins Cup match for Team International in Samorin last month. Gentle is also now \$280,000 better off from the three races.

“I’m getting all emotional now,” said a jubilant Gentle. “It’s been a really good year – it’s been a lot of fun. I’ve definitely been enjoying the sport again. Thanks to the PTO for putting this on and giving us triathletes the opportunity to race these world-class events against world-class athletes. It’s a privilege to be here and I am just absolutely in shock.”

On the race in the Texas heat, the PTO World #6 said:

“I had to dig to the depths of myself for that one – that was really, really tough. Seeing the group ride away was a little depressing but I just tried to keep my head in the game and hope that I could run into a good position. I absolutely did not expect to have run into the win.”

“I’ve been telling myself the last couple of days that it is not that hot but it is very hot and I just tried to manage my pacing well. I guess it paid off.”

Second-place finisher, Taylor Knibb, the PTO World #7, was in pole position for much of the race and takes home \$70,000. The 24-year-old American said: “I’m just so grateful to go to get to the finish line. I don’t know how I made it... I was just dying, overheating. I couldn’t move any faster. Like that was. I don’t know how I made the finish line. And that’s pretty much all I can say.”

The third-place getter, Lucy Charles-Barclay, was first out the water, hung tough on the bike, and ran strongly to take the final podium position and \$50,000. The British star and

PTO World #5 said: "That was absolutely brutal out there. And to anyone who is finishing this in these conditions, these ladies are just hard as nails. That was incredibly tough conditions to overcome. And yeah, I'm just happy to make the finish line, to be fair.

"I had my fair share of nightmares out there. Unfortunately, I was stuck in the hardest gear for the first two laps. I think the battery must have died or overheated and the mechanic gave me a new battery. Once we got that sorted, I felt up and running, but I had lost my nutrition... this is not the environment where you want to lose your nutrition. So I just had to keep my head, try and get as much nutrition on board and tough it out on that bike psychologically.

"I had to dig deep and find something. I mean, I've trained incredibly hard. So, you know, this is the moment that you've been working for. And when things don't go quite right, you've just got to tough it out. And I think I've gained a lot just from overcoming those things going into my next races."

-ends-

Professional Triathletes Organisation

About the PTO

The PTO is a new body co-owned by the professional athletes, seeking to professionalize and grow the sport. The inaugural PTO Tour race schedule for 2022 includes: the first-ever PTO Canadian Open (July 23-24); the second edition of \$1.5M Ryder Cup-style Collins Cup (August 20-21), which sees Team Europe take on Team USA and Team International; and the first PTO US Open (September 17-18). Each Open carries a minimum prize money of \$1M and will be raced over 100km (2km swim, 80km bike and 18km run). In 2023 and 2024, the PTO Tour plans to expand with the PTO European Open and the PTO Asian Open, alongside their US and Canadian equivalents and the Collins Cup.

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