

Terenzo Bozzone

# Bozzone races into Ironman history

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In an unparalleled display of endurance, grit, and sheer talent, Terenzo Bozzone took top honours at Ironman 70.3 Campeche to record his third consecutive win in as many weeks. This makes him the first athlete ever to win three races back-to-back.

The previous two weeks of racing did little to take the shine off his speed. The Kiwi started his streak at his home race, Ironman New Zealand, winning in course record time, then backing up to win at Ironman 70.3 Bariloche. Incredibly, Bozzone managed to go even faster in Mexico than he did in Argentina last week (3:49:40 in Campeche versus 3:59:57 in Bariloche).

Bozzone emerged out of the water 20 seconds behind the swim leader, but his strong bike legs took him to the front early and kept him

there. On the final third of the cycle course, he put on a surge his competitors could not respond to, taking him into the half marathon more than two minutes ahead of his nearest challenger, Michael Weiss. While Weiss was able to claw back a minute of that lead, Bozzone crossed the finish first with plenty of time to celebrate.

"Three's a charm!" said Bozzone. "So happy to finish off my racing block with a win today. Three races in three weeks -- done and dusted and now time to put the feet up."

Meanwhile, Ashleigh Gentle finished third in the Mixed Relay Invitational on the Gold Coast along with teammates Gillian Backhouse, Ryan Bailie, and Daniel Coleman. With the Commonwealth Games just around the corner next month, Gentle's preparation is on track for a bid at gold

medals in the individual and mixed relay triathlon events.

Ben Hoffman partnered up with Sebastian Kienle as the two-man team Ironman Foundation fielded to the famous Cape Epic mountain bike stage race in South Africa. With a full week of racing ahead of them, the two came in 32nd out of 574 male teams in the prologue and are expecting to race even better as the mountain bike rust comes off.

Looking ahead to the weekend, Brent McMahon will race the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Davao in the Philippines. He has been in Maui putting on the finishing touches to his speed, as the flat course is expected to yield fast times even in the tropical summer heat. "Almost all the work is done, a little more pain and heat tomorrow on the bike then it's onto the plane Tuesday.

## BIC to host official pre-season tests



Action from the previous race

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**B**ahrain International Circuit (BIC) is all set to host official pre-season testing over three days for the FIA Formula 2 Championship.

The tests are part of the series' preparations for the start of the 2018 season. They are scheduled to be held from Wednesday to Friday, all day, at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" in Sakhir.

The Bahrain sessions are the second official pre-season tests of Formula 2. The first was in Le Castellet, France at Circuit Paul Ricard earlier this month.

All 10 Formula 2 teams are scheduled to be taking part in Bahrain. Testing will be done in the brand new Formula 2 2018 chassis. Earlier, an initial shakedown took place at Circuit de Nevers Magny-Cours, also in France.

The new Formula 2 season will be flagging off in the kingdom, in support of the Formula 1 2018 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix from April 6 to 8.

Formula 2 is widely accepted

to be the chief feeder series to Formula 1, with many of its graduates moving on to the pinnacle of motor racing after honing their skills at this level.

There will be two races at the Bahrain Grand Prix weekend, including a feature race on the Saturday followed by a sprint race on the Sunday of the event.

The new campaign is set to feature 12 rounds in all, with each meeting running in conjunction with a Formula 1 Grand Prix.

There will be 20 cars on the grid representing 10 teams, including ART Grand Prix, Russian Time, Pertamina Prema Theodore Racing, DAMS, MP Motorsport, Trident, BWT Arden, Campos Vexatec Racing, Carlin and Charouz Racing System.

Last year's drivers' champion, Monegasque Charles Leclerc, has since joined Formula 1 team Sauber. Having won with Prema Racing, he continues the tradition of successful Formula 2 drivers moving up to the top of the motorsport ladder. For further information, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

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In a tightly fought contest between the top two teams, Kerri Darwish and Mohammed Gaith narrowly overcame Lyn Barrie and Arsalan Iqbal to claim the gold medals and the "BTA Torch" perpetual trophy with a 10-8, 7-10, 10-6 victory in the tenth edition of the BTA Social Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament at the Dilmun Club, Saar.

In the play-off for third-place, Sally Meikle and Samir Chiban defeated Minette Thompson and Rob Thompson to claim the bronze medals.

The one-day event, which specifically targets new and recreational players, was played with a slightly slower ball to give players more time to react.



Mixed Doubles participants

In the preliminary rounds, teams competed in short matches against all other teams.

At the end of the group stage the top four teams progressed to the semi-finals.

For more information, visit [dan@bahraintennisacademy.com](mailto:dan@bahraintennisacademy.com).

## Dovizioso beats Marquez in thrilling desert duel

Doha

**M**otoGP burst back into life in spectacular fashion as Andrea Dovizioso beat Marc Marquez in a thrilling duel in the season-opener in Qatar Sunday.

Ducati's Dovizioso held off Repsol Honda's Marquez on an intense final lap to win by just 0.027 seconds for the first blow in the fight for the title.

Dovizioso gave no quarter as four-time MotoGP champion Marquez attempted a typically audacious last corner pass.

As his pit crew watched through their fingers the Italian resisted the Spaniard's robust challenge, powering across the line to delirious celebrations in the Ducati garage.

Veteran factory Yamaha rider Valentino Rossi finished in an impressive third place under the dark desert sky, ahead of Briton Cal Crutchlow's LCR Honda. Frenchman Johann Zarco led early on, having taken pole position with a swashbuckling qualifying lap that smashed the desert track's record -- the longest standing on the MotoGP calendar. (CNN)



Italian MotoGP rider Andrea Dovizioso (L) of Ducati and the third place Italian MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi (C) of Movistar Yamaha celebrate on the podium (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)