



At last: Courtney Ogden wins Ironman WA in Busselton yesterday. It was his first win at the distance after four second placings.

Picture: Derek Pool

Ironman overdue for Ogden

DALE MILLER

It was a moment Perth triathlete Courtney Ogden had been convinced was still within his reach.

At 38 years of age and as one of the oldest pros in the field, Ogden started WA's premier ironman race at Busselton yesterday with four second placings in international competition at the distance representing his best results.

More than eight hours later, with a gut-busting 3.8km swim, a 180km bike ride and a 42.2km run behind him, he had put the tag of bridesmaid to rest to clinch his first Ironman WA title.

His winning time of 8hr 14min. 1sec. put him four minutes ahead of second-placed South Australian Matthew White. World No. 9 Pete Jacobs (8:21:16), of NSW, was third.

Ogden, who has been competing in triathlons since the age of 14, said he had always felt capable of what he labelled as the greatest win of his career.

"I had a really good preparation

and my training numbers were the best they've ever been," he said. "Obviously the competition was tough, but there was no one in there I didn't think I could beat.

"There's no barrier (to winning) until you get into your early 40s I'd suggest, as long as you're mentally into it."

Ogden first felt victory was within his grasp at the end of the cycle leg, having improved from sixth to second. He then chased down a flagging Luke Bell midway through the run.

Ogden had originally planned to race in Phuket at the weekend but opted to stay at home due to difficulties with travel arrangements.

"In the end the local race won and I'm pretty glad I made that decision," Ogden said.

In a dramatic finish to the women's race, Perth's Kate Bevilacqua collapsed a few metres from the finish and had to crawl to the line. Her time of 9:19:44 was almost three minutes faster than runner-up Rebekah Keat.