

Lori McCarney Brings Home the Bronze in China

On September 21, the International Triathlon Union (ITU) held its Long Distance World Championship in Weihai, China. This triathlon consists of a 4K ocean swim, 120K bike ride and 20K run. One thousand athletes from around the world, including 47 representing Team USA, qualified to participate.

Among them was OCC's Lori McCarney, who placed third and won the bronze medal in the Women's 60-64 Division. First place went to Australia, with Team USA placing second and third.

The "town" of Weihai, population 2.5 million, was festooned in banners and floral sculptures promoting the event and welcoming athletes. Race conditions were good-clean air, flat water and moderate temperatures, McCarney said. "There was huge crowd support all around the course with people shouting "jaiyou" (add oil) all along the way."

Lori qualified for this event based upon her 2013 finishes at the Na Wahine Sprint Triathlon and the Ironman World Championship. She has competed in many triathlons over her 10-year career and this race, along with another visit to the Kona Ironman on October 10 in which she finished in 15:24:10, 17th in her division, wrapped her long-distance triathlon career.

As she says, "I feel very fortunate to have been able to participate in such a great sport over this past decade. But, now it's time to move on to other things and what better time to do that than by crossing the finish lines of two World Championships?"

That's not to say that Lori won't compete in triathlons again. She is already signed up for the Ironman 70.3 in Boulder, Colorado next June. And she also hopes to qualify for the Boston Marathon and get back into paddling too.

Lori received a large trophy along with her bronze medal in an elaborate Chinese ceremony.

