

Nothing stops rebel Bill

The West Australian · 2 Nov 2016 · Kaylee Meerton and Saxon Durrant Julie Brims became a double world champion after running off the bend strongly and winning the W50 200m comfortably. Picture: Jesse Chance

Bill Collins has again inspired spectators with a gold medal on a bumper day of action which featured more than 60 finals at the Perth World Masters Championships yesterday.



American athlete Collins, 65, was in severe doubt for the M65 200m final after being taken to hospital at the end of his heat on Monday with chest pain.

Collins, who has GuillainBarre syndrome, said the cramping began in the morning and spread after the race.

“My arm started cramping and it went up in the chest ... I told them I got a little pain up here and they immediately thought heart,” Collins said.

He was taken to hospital but checked himself out at 6pm, against doctors’ recommendations.

“They wanted to keep me until midnight, but I told them no, I had a race to run today,” Collins said.

The race was a one-sided affair with Collins running strongly to finish in 25.55sec. to win his second gold medal.

Collins said he had to run again for the fans.

“Coming out of hospital I could have just said pack it in, but the fans up here, my inspiration, they wanted to see me run again,” Collins said.

Another crowd favourite, Julie Brims, continued her amazing return from injury as she claimed her second gold medal of the championships.

The Australian was especially excited to win her favourite event, the W50 200m, comfortably winning in 25.84.

“I train by myself all the time so I’m used to running by myself up the front,” Brims said.

“It is good to win in Australia because my family is here and they never normally come with me when I race, so it’s good to have that support.”

In an unexpected finish for the W65 200m final, Lyn Peake won gold over fellow Australian and race favourite Carol Davis who stumbled before the line.

The 66-year-old was out with a back injury just seven weeks ago and said she was lucky to even be competing in these championships.

“I haven’t been able to train for five weeks, so I’m just happy to be running today,” Peake said.

German Roland Groeger beat favourite Clinton Aurelien to win his second gold of the championships while compatriot Bernd Schauwecker claimed gold in the M45 in what will be his last competitive championships.

Schauwecker, who was visibly excited to win gold for his country, said it was an incredible feeling.

“I had hoped that it could be possible that I would win a medal but to be the champion, no, never,” Schauwecker said.

Great Britain’s TJ Ossai and Steve Peters are now dual gold medallists on the track as both athletes took home gold in the 200m to add to their 100m medal.

Peters said he had hoped to get the world record but vowed he would next time, after missing out by only 0.11.

West Australian 96-year-old Arthur Carbon, racing in the M95 200m race, took home a gold medal as he finished in 1:07.71.

The oldest female competitor, 96-year-old Austrian Elfriede Fuchs, threw 4.07m in the shot put to take home gold.

Fuchs said the secret to her long, healthy life was to always keep moving and stay motivated.