



NEWSFLASH

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FIRST HIGH-PROFILE ENTRY IN THE CHALLENGE SPRINT PRO

Saint-Lambert, Thursday, August 18, 2011 – In a clear sign of the ProTeams' interest in the world premiere presentation of the Challenge Sprint Pro on September 8, **Team Astana** has revised its initial official entry form for the Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes to include **Allan Davis**, one of the best sprinters in world cycling, in its squad of eight riders set to take part in these UCI WorldTour races on September 9 and 11.

Described as a “sturdy” sprinter, the 31-year-old Australian turned pro in 2002 and has more than 20 career victories. He won the Tour Down Under on home soil in 2009, and was a Gold Medalist at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in addition to capturing Bronze at the World Championships that same year.

The 22 teams entered in this year's Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes unanimously accepted the invitation to take part in the first-ever edition of the Challenge Sprint Pro, proof of their interest in this innovative new discipline supported by the International Cycling Union.

A new event developed for the UCI WorldTour stop in Québec City, the Challenge Sprint will consist of three different races along Grande Allée on the afternoon of Thursday, September 8. Starting at 3 p.m., 12 Canadian sprinters will face off in the Challenge Sprint Canada, with the top two finishers earning a berth in the next event, the Challenge Sprint Pro. The latter race starts at 4 p.m., and will be telecast live to more than 50 countries. The field will comprise 24 riders, including 22 professionals. A Challenge Sprint for Media Personalities and Celebrities will conclude the day's cycling events to the delight of spectators. Grande Allée will remain closed off for a lively street party until the evening.

Les Grands Prix Cyclistes Québec – Montréal

In 2009, the Grands Prix Cyclistes Québec–Montréal organization was granted the first two UCI licences for ProTour (WorldTour as of 2011) races in North America. The organization is responsible for planning and putting on races in Québec City and Montréal from 2010 to 2014. Please visit the website www.gpcqm.ca for more details on these races at the premier level of world cycling.

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