



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

BOLDNESS PAYS OFF FOR DA COSTA

Québec, Sunday, September 1, 2011 – Rui Faria Da Costa was bolder than the rest of the bunch and it paid off as the Portuguese Movistar rider, hyperactive in the finale, won the Montreal Grand Prix over 205.7 kms on Sunday.

Winner of a Tour de France stage in Super-Besse in July, the 24-year-old rider broke in the final lap with France's Pierrick Fedrigo and Austrian Stefan Denifl and managed to keep the peloton at bay until the finish line.

Faria Da Costa won ahead of Fedrigo, back in action after being sidelined for most of the summer by Lyme disease, while Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec winner Philippe Gilbert salvaged a podium finish with a desperate final sprint.

The tempo was very fast from the gun, causing several riders to be dropped early on while a split took place in the peloton in the second lap. Samuel Sanchez was among the favourites to be trapped. While Poland's Sylvester Szmyd (LIQ) collected GPM points in the first three ascents of the Camilien-Houde hill, Danny Pate (HTC) broke clear in the fourth lap. The American was joined by Danilo Di Luca (KAT), Anthony Geslin (FDJ) and Yukiya Arashiro (EUC) after 44 kilometres. The peloton gave the four the go-ahead and they stayed at the front until kilometre 170, building a maximum lead of 4:50 at the end of lap 5.

At kilometre 58, Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec winner Philippe Gilbert was involved in a crash with Canada's Dominique Rollin. While the Belgian champion was able to start again and reintegrate the bunch, Rollin was forced out of the race. With 40 kms to go, Danilo Di Luca lost ground, leaving his three former companions in the front. Jerome Pineau (QST), Juan Antonio Flecha (SKY) and Danilo Wyss (BMC) briefly broke from the peloton to chase behind the leaders in lap 13.

With 35 kms to go, Danny Pate was the last escapee standing and he kept fighting in spite of a great collective work by the Rabobank team before being reeled in at kilometre 178. The American was joined by 13 other riders - Landa, Weenning, Danielson, Barry, Rast, Salerno, Stangelj, Faria Da Costa, Reda, Peraud, Hoogerland, Veilleux, Tuft and Dumoulin - in the two final laps and the group split after several attacks, notably by Jean-Christophe Peraud.

With six kilometres left, Faria Da Costa, Fedrigo and Denifl launched the decisive move while the favourites – Robert Gesink, Ryder Hasjedal or Samuel Sanchez – took turns to chase in vain. The three had a slim five seconds lead in the last kilometre, but it was enough for the Portuguese and the Frenchman to grab the stage laurels ahead of the arch-favourite.

QUOTES FROM THE WINNER

Rui Faria Da Costa: "I never doubted"

“I go all out at all the races I enter and I made my homework before coming here. This morning, my manager Yvon Ledanois told me I was the team’s leader with Jose Joaquin Rojas and he said we had gone a long way to come here and it was impossible to go home empty-handed. My stage victory in the Tour de France in Super-Besse remains the highlight of my career but this races quite close. In the finale, I never doubted, I was confident we had enough time left to go all the way.”

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. We would like to thank our public partners, the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec, the City of Québec and the City of Montréal, as well as our private partners, Desjardins, KIA, Air Transat and Évasion.

For more information:

Hélène Lapointe

Head of Communications and Media Relations

Grands Prix Cyclistes Québec–Montréal

Tel.: 514 671-9090, ext. 228

Cell: 514 378-2677

hlapointe@gpcqm.ca / www.gpcqm.ca