

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

MORKOV WINS CHALLENGE SPRINT PRO

Québec, Thursday, September 8, 2011 – Denmark’s Michael Morkov made his mark on Thursday as the first winner of the new Challenge Sprint Pro formula tested this year as a curtain raiser for the Grand Prix Cycliste du Québec. The 26-year-old Saxo Bank rider, better known for his track skills – he was Madison world champion in 2009 – made the best of his experience of such formats to win ahead of Spain’s Enrique Sanz and Australia’s Simon Clarke.

The Dane was impressive from the first round, winning each one of his heats to easily upstage his rivals in the final. Sanz (Movistar) was the first in action in the final leg up the Grande Allée, but Morkov made his effort with 200 metres to go and was too strong for the rest of the field. While Sanz salvaged second place, Clarke made it on the podium despite having been called as a last minute replacement for his Astana team. South Africa’s Robbie Hunter was fourth.

“I was worried about Robbie. I have a lot of respect for his sprint,” Morkov said. “It was pretty cool. I was happy when I had the invitation to race here. I have a good track background that’s why it turned out so good.”

The Challenge Sprint Canada went to Québec’s Rémi Pelletier-Roy, who managed to scrape through to the semi-finals after having fought five hard sprints within two hours. “I’m very happy in any case. I gave it my all but the legs were starting to burn.”

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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.

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