

NEWS RELEASE

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## GERRANS WINS THE HONOURS IN QUÉBEC CITY

**(Québec, Québec) Friday, September 7, 2012** – Gerrans sealed a 2012 season the way he started it when he won the third edition of the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec on Friday. The Australian, winner of the Tour Down Under in January and Milan San Remo in March, surged cunningly in the finale on the wheel of Greg Van Avermaet to outwit the Belgian on the line. Third place went to Portugal's Rui Costa, the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal last year, who outsprinted the bunch in the last stretch for third place.

Canadian riders were the first in action as Martin Gilbert (Spidertech) and Sebastian Salas attacked from the gun. In the first climb of the day, Salas was joined by Sandy Casar (FDJ), who was first to cross the line at the end of the first lap. A group of 12 escapees emerged in the second lap, after an attack led by Romain Bardet (AG2R). The Frenchman was joined by Agnoli (Liquigas), Wynants (Rabobank), Dockx (Lotto), Denifl (Vacansoleil), Kroon (Saxobank), Sanz and Guttierrez (Movistar), Velits (Quick Step), Matthews (Rabobank), Mori (Lampre) and Selvaggi (Vacansoleil). More riders joined the break in the next two laps, the most notable one being Ryder Hesjedal (Garmin Sharp), holder of bib number 1.

### Eight on the move

Yet the break ended after 45 kilometres at the foot of the Côte de la Montagne, which saw Frenchman Sylvain Chavanel surge to collect GPM points. Another move took place in the fifth lap, led by Thomas Rohregger (RadioShack) and Vladimir Gusev (Katusha), who were quickly joined by Danilo Wyss (BMC), Thomas Leezer (Rabobank) and Lucas Euser (Spidertech) and later by Sandy Casar (FDJ), Hugo Houle (Spidertech) and Marsh Cooper (Canada).

At the end of the fifth lap, their lead over the peloton had reached 3:20 and it rose steadily as the bunch gave them the go-ahead. When the gap rose to six minutes, the peloton reacted and was again trailing the break by 3:20 with six laps left, shortly after Casar was dropped from the leading group. Thomas Voeckler's Europcar and Ryder Hesjedal's Garmin Sharp teammates led the chase, followed by Rui Costa's Movistar, and while Gusev, Euser, Wyss and Leezer remained the only surviving escapees. The break ended at kilometre 173.

### Exciting finale

Dane Cris-Anke Sorensen took advantage of the junction with the head group to attack, helped by Canada's Bruno Langlois. The pair fought bravely but was caught four kilometres from the line on the last ascent of the Côte de la Montagne when Van Avermaet made his move, followed by Gerrans. Pre-race favourite Peter Sagan (Liquigas) looked like he was about to bridge the gap in the last kilometre, but he did not have any strength left and let the Australians and the Belgian battle it out for final victory.

"It was pretty exciting. I certainly stayed quiet for most of the race and gave it everything in the last five kilometers. We held the peloton off so I'm obviously very happy. It's fantastic. It's one of the hardest races in the calendar", said Gerrans, who cited the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal on Sunday and the World Championships in Valkenburg as his next goals in a long successful season.

**The Grands Prix Cyclistes Québec – Montréal**

In 2009, the Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec-Montréal (GPCQM) organization was granted the first two UCI WorldTour licences for races in North America. The organization has been responsible for planning and putting on these world-class cycling races in Québec City and Montréal since 2010. Please visit the website [www.gpcqm.ca](http://www.gpcqm.ca) for more details on these races at the premier level of world cycling. The GPCQM organization would like to highlight the contribution of the following partners: the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec, the City of Québec, the City of Montréal, Tourisme Montréal, Québecor, KIA and Air Transat.

**For more information:**

Hélène Lapointe

Head, Communications and Media Relations

Office: 450 671-9090, ext. 228 / Cell.: 514 378-2677

[hlapointe@gpcqm.ca](mailto:hlapointe@gpcqm.ca)

[www.gpcqm.ca](http://www.gpcqm.ca)

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