

NEWS RELEASE >>> For immediate release

SAGAN AND VAN AVERMAET RENEW THEIR CANADIAN DUEL

Québec, Wednesday, September 6, 2017 – They came first and second in Québec City last year and overturned the result in Montréal two days later but arch-rivals Peter Sagan and Greg Van Avermaet insist they are not the only riders to look forward to on Friday when in the 8th edition of the Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal (GPCQM). “We’re not racing just the two of us. There are a lot of other rivals”, said world champion Sagan at the opening press conference, sitting next to the Belgian Olympic gold medallist, Giro winner Tom Dumoulin and Tour de France runner-up Rigoberto Uran. Pointing to the Colombian, the Slovak, also crowned in Montreal in 2013, pointed out that Uran, winner in Quebec City two years ago, was among the many contenders in Friday’s race.

While he has evolved from a time trial prodigy into a Grand Tour winner in recent seasons, Tom Dumoulin should not be ruled out as he finished second in the Québec City in 2014 and 6th in Montreal the same year. “On paper, I would say that Montréal suits me better but I finished second in Québec City. We’ll see,” said the Dutchman, in Canada to prepare for his second major goal of the season, the time trial World championship in Bergen, Norway, next month. “But I still believe that on good form I can have my chance in a one-day race,” he said. His Sunweb team-mate Michael Matthews is also highly fancied to do well at the weekend.

One of the factors in Friday could be the weather as the riders have never had a chance to ride in the rain in Quebec before. “It could definitely affect the race. We’ve always raced here in dry conditions and don’t know what to expect. It’s a town circuit, there could be oil on the course,” Sagan said.

While the Slovak was not at his most talkative – usually a sign of his motivation –, Van Vaermaet, who collected eight top 10 places in the GPCQM races in the past, repeated why he liked Canada so much. “For sure these are two of the nicest races in the calendar for me. I’m always happy to be here. I won, I came second and third. Those races suit me and it shows in my results. I think Quebec suits me better I never won here. I’m going to try again.”

Uran could find himself without a team after Cannondale Drapac Professional Cycling Team released their riders for lack of sponsorship, but he did not look especially affected. “It’s a race I like a lot, I’m in my best shape. I always feel good mentally and the season finishes in October. So well’ see.”

In the morning press conference, Quebec mayor Régis Labeaume said that after eight editions, “Quebec inhabitants had the Grand Prix Cyclistes in their blood” and that the race was “an unbelievable moment of merchandising for the city”.

GPCQM executive vice-president Marcel Leblanc noted that the only two WorldTour races held in North America attracted a world-class field because they brought more UCI points than the Spanish Vuelta but above all because they had a tremendous appeal on the riders. “Greg Van Avermaet said in the media that the two races in Quebec City and Montreal were his favourite in the calendar,” he said. “Our races are like an end-of-the-year party for the riders,” he added.

ABOUT THE GPCQM

The Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal, the only two spots on the International Cycling Union (UCI) World Tour in the Americas, contribute to fulfilling one of the primary objectives of the International Cycling Union (UCI): the globalization of the WorldTour circuit. These tour stops are in addition to the existing, officially sanctioned events in

Europe and Oceania. Since 2010, the organization has been responsible for the planning and the conduct of the GPCQM and counts on the invaluable support of public and private partners: the Government of Canada, the Gouvernement du Québec, the city of Québec, the city of Montréal, the National Battlefields Commission, Québec City Tourism, Tourisme Montréal, Québecor, Air Transat, and TVA Sports (official GPCQM broadcaster).

The International Cycling Union (UCI) is the international federation of cycling, recognized by the International Olympic Committee (ICO). The UCI oversees the worldwide management and promotion of the eight disciplines of cycling.

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SOURCE >>> Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal

CONTACT >>> Véronique Lavoie, Director, Media Relations, cell. 514 554-2161, vlavoie@gpcqm.ca