



GRANDS
PRIX CYCLISTES
**DE QUÉBEC
DE MONTRÉAL**
#GPCQM GPCQM.CA

QUÉBEC 08 SEPT
MONTRÉAL 10 SEPT
8^e ÉDITION 2017



NEWS RELEASE >>> For immediate release

SAGAN KEEPS QUÉBEC CROWN

Québec, Friday, September 8 - Peter Sagan made the best of a long waiting game in the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec to win for the second year in succession ahead of arch-rival Greg Van Avermaet, who finished runner-up in the old capital for the third time. While very similar to the previous one, the victory was a special one as it marked the Slovak's 100th pro win.

Another pre-race favorite, Australian Michael Matthews, already second here two years ago, took the third place in a race that actually waited for the final kilometre to unfold. It was difficult to dream of a better podium with the world champion, the Olympic champion and the Tour de France green jersey sharing the honours, still the result was a long time coming.

After several attempts, the break of the day took shape at kilometer 7 when Tyler Williams (Israel Cycling Academy), Pier-André Côté (Team Canada), Tosh Van der Sande (Lotto Soudal) and Baptiste Planckaert (Team Katusha Alpecin) joined forces to move to the front. The bunch let the four go and by the end of the third lap, their lead had reached nine minutes. The gap reached a maximum of 9:45 but the bunch never let the four reach the ten-minute mark. Côté took advantage of Côte des Glacis to collect eight points in the GPM standings but the Team Canada rider was dropped in the 11th lap with 67 km to go. Astana Pro Team lead Jakob Fuglsang of Denmark called it quits at the end of the 11th lap, as the gap had been cut down to 6:40. Having lost Côté, the escapees also lost momentum and their lead had been cut down to three minutes with 35 km to go. Three kilometers further down, Tyler Williams lost ground in turn leaving Planckaert and Van der Sande in the lead. Van der Sande decided to wait for the peloton and with 16 km left, Planckaert was in turn reined in, leaving the bunch to battle it out for final victory. Sean De Bie (Lotto Soudal) attacked in the penultimate ascent of Côte des Glacis to go for the KOM lead and tackled the last lap in the front. Several attempts involved Kenny Elissonde (Team Sky), Lars Bak (Lotto Soudal) and Roman Kreuziger (Orica-Scott) but the peloton arrived packed under the red flame when 2015 winner Rigoberto Uran launched his annual last kilometer move, unsuccessfully this time. The race was reduced to a last gasp sprint, in which Sagan, making his move on the right side of the road, easily prevailed, with Van Avermaet and Matthews in his wheel. The same three riders will be among the men to look for in Montreal on Sunday.

Peter Sagan: "It's a bit like the same result from last year, the style of the race was also very similar, we saw in the last kilometer Uran attack like always, after we went for the sprint. I was happy in the finale, it was a very long sprint. The last kilometer here is always hard. Thanks very much to all our team. They did an amazing job. They rode all day in the front. We were able to control the final lap. Thanks to the guys. To win a 100th victory is a special number but it's maybe better if you could live a 100 years. I hope it will grow again. We'll see what happens next."

Greg Van Avermaet: "It was a little bit different from last year as there were fewer attacks. I tried to keep some strength for the final sprint. I'm glad I could be on the podium today, it proves I have good sensations ahead of the worlds. On Sunday I hope to be able to beat Peter and win again."

Michael Matthews: "Maybe I was a little bit too far in the final kilometer and there was not much I could do. I hope it'll be the same podium at the worlds but in a different order. We all want to be in the top seat. Montreal is a little bit more for Tom (Dumoulin)."

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.

– 30 –

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

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