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TX TOUGH GRAND PRIX II — QUICKLY BECOMING ONE OF THE LARGEST OUTDOOR SPORTING EVENTS IN DFW IN ONLY IT'S SECOND YEAR

High-Speed Cycling Event Held In Victory Park To Be Rebroadcast On WFAA Channel 8/ABC and WFAA 2 beginning October 3rd and 4th

DALLAS – On Thursday, Sept. 17, despite early the afternoon showers, more than 7,000 spectators converged on Victory Park, lining its streets as many as 10 people deep, to watch some of the best professional cyclists in the world compete in Texas' only professional bike race, the TX TOUGH GRAND PRIX II. The riders raced through rained-soaked streets of Victory Park around American Airlines Center and the W HOTEL at speeds up to 50 miles per hour. Like NASCAR on two wheels, the GRAND PRIX II is a criterium or "crit" and gives spectators of all ages an up-close view of the action and athletes as they ride wheel to wheel, avoiding collisions and navigating four 90-degree turns on the course. The second annual event was the final showdown on the 2009 USA CRIT series calendar before the series finale in Las Vegas, which was held on Sept. 24.

The TX Tough Grand Prix II featured a field of the sport's top riders, including 2007 Tour de France winner Floyd Landis, current US Pro National Criterium Champion John Murphy, and the top three overall points leaders in the 2009 USA CRIT Championship Series — Mark Hekman, Jake Keough and Tom Soladay. But it was New Zealand native Heath Blackglove who edged out National Criterium Champion John Murphy for the win and claimed the top spot on the podium for the second year in a row.

"This race is just awesome" said Blackgrove. "I was honored to be the race's winner in its inaugural year, which was last year, and I just had to come back". In only its second year, the TX TOUGH GRAND PRIX II was one of the largest outdoor sporting events produced in Dallas/Ft. Worth and is becoming a must stop for top cycling professionals. Former competitor and Executive Director Geoff Godsey was pleased with this year's success. "When you produce outdoor events, weather is always the X factor. There is nothing you can do so it can't be the focus " said Godsey. "We were fortunate to have more than 150 volunteers turn out despite the weather conditions that helped make the event possible and a success. I was also overwhelmed with the support from the local cycling community that also came out in full force in support of the event. It was a monumental day for TX TOUGH and more importantly Children's Medical Center".

For fans who missed the event, WFAA Channel 8/ABC captured all the action with nine HD cameras and produced a 30-minute special airing on Saturday, Sept. 19th at 6:30PM. As a result of the popularity of the event, WFAA is rebroadcasting the special on **Saturday, October 3rd**, at **10 a.m.** and **Sunday, October 4th at 10:30 a.m.** On Saturday, October 3rd, the show will air on WFAA Channel 8/ABC before the broadcast of the morning college football game and on Sunday, October 4th, will air on WFAA2, which is available over-the-air (with UHF-VHF antenna) and on Time Warner Cable channel 371 and Charter Cable channel 101. "This is one of the most exciting outdoor events produced in Dallas/Ft. Worth and one of the great professional sports events people have the opportunity to watch" said Dave Muscari, Vice President of Production Development at WFAA Channel 8/ABC. "We immediately recognized this is something people, once they are exposed to it, will mark on their calendar as a can't miss event each year".

The show is hosted by WFAA sports anchor Joe Trahan and the broadcast includes highlights of the race and interviews with Heath Blackglove, Floyd Landis, The Ticket's Craig Miller, Versus commentator and former Tour de France and Olympic cyclist Frankie Andreu and many others. The pro bike race served as the kick-off for the 2009 TX Tough Bike Stage, which engages people of all ages and skill levels to combine fun and fundraising for Children's Medical Center.

About TX TOUGH

TX Tough is a fundraiser that is designed for people all ages and skill levels that raises money exclusively for Children's Medical Center. Individuals and teams participate in a variety of fundraising events through the year as part of the TX Tough Tour, which features a walk/run, swim and family bike ride. Participants can participate in one, two or all three stages, raising money for whichever Children's Medical Center program, service or clinic that inspires them. TX Tough is more than just staying active and raising money. It's about being a part of something larger than yourself while enjoying an activity you love. For more information visit www.txtough.org or call (214) 526-9712.

YOU PLAY. KIDS WIN.