



Photo by Lesley Ann Gilliland/AT

## TEAM AUSTRALIA WINS CANADIAN TRIPLE CROWN

IT WAS A NOVEL IDEA that brought a lot of excitement to the three Canadian races in 2007. Just prior to the Champ Car race at Mont Tremblant, it was announced that a Canadian Triple Crown competition had been set-up for the three events on Canadian soil. The team competition combined the results of team drivers to declare one winner.

Team Australia took the honour, fitting since it was Will Power and Simon Pagenaud who announced the contest. Power made the biggest contribution with a win in Toronto, but the responsibility of bringing home the trophy went to Pagenaud in Edmonton as Power encountered mechanical trouble. A fourth-place result gave Team Australia the victory ahead of the Newman-Haas-Lanigan duo of Sebastien Bourdais and Graham Rahal.



Photo by Ramonah Bayley

## It was a quick end to the day for hometown favourite Paul Tracy as a wing got caught under his car and sent him into the wall on lap one

race fans, came when hometown hero Paul Tracy got a wing from another caught under his front wheels, which forced the Thrill From West Hill into the wall at Turn 7.

While the racing was sloppy at times, the excitement never abated as the lead changed several times and every time fans thought they had the race figured out, something adverse happened to change the running order. Add in somewhat dry conditions early, followed by even more rain and this was definitely not a race for the faint of heart.

Survival became the word of the day and no one handled the conditions better than Australia's Will Power, who scored his second victory of the season. Power was one of the few drivers to keep his nose clean throughout the race and took full advantage of his opportunity to win and make up ground in the championship.

It was a very eventful day for the championship leaders. Sebastien Bourdais had several run-ins at the front, including contact with Wilson that spun his title rival into the tires. Wilson, however, rebounded and made a big run through the field to eventually finish third. Bourdais was not done there, though, as he and Robert Doornbos fought for position, the two collided. The result was the three-time champ was out of the race while Doornbos lost just one lap and soldiered on to finish sixth and moved to the championship lead.

Toronto marked the half-way point of the Champ Car season, and while the action on the track had equal amounts of brilliant moves and questionable decision, the title chase left Toronto with the top three separated by a scant three points. The Steelback Grand Prix of Toronto definitely lived up to its reputation of a must-see event and set the stage for a thrilling conclusion to the 2007 season.

Despite this spin after contact with Sebastien Bourdais, Justin Wilson rebounded to grab the final podium spot in Toronto



Photo by Ramonah Bayley



Photo by John Larsen

Sebastien Bourdais had several run-ins during the Toronto race and the final encounter resulted in a DNF for the polesitter



Photo by Ramonah Bayley