

# STEVE SMITH

INDUCTED 2017



The Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame is pleased to welcome Steve Smith as an inductee for 2017 recognizing his status as the best downhill racer Canada has ever produced and one of the top riders in the world.

Stevie's accomplishments in downhill racing were many at the international and national level and included winning the 2013 World Cup overall Championship

His first win was 2012 in Hafjell, Norway. It was the first World Cup DH win by a Canadian in over two decades, and a moment many felt was a long time coming for Smith. When it happened, Canadian bikers went crazy. National fervor erupted throughout the country's mountain bike community. Despite having won the Canadian Championships, the Crankworx Canadian Open DH and the Canada Cup, Stevie Smith had finally arrived on the mainstream stage he didn't even know existed when he began riding.

In August 2013 Smith stood in the start gate at Mont Sainte Anne, Quebec, waiting to see if he might grab his second World Cup win. Sitting solidly behind Gee Atherton in second place in the overall standings, Smith was not only riding in his own country but in the same province from where bike sponsor Devinci had begun. This was as fitting a locale as it gets for fans of the Canadian Chainsaw Massacre—although his racing had long since progressed past “massacre” designation and into true World Cup excellence. The progress was clear at the first time-check in Mont Sainte Anne. Smith was more than two seconds behind Atherton but gaining fast. With each segment of the course he crept closer to victory, making up time on the lower course where others had lost it. “I saw red on the last jump, so that sucked,” Smith recalls, referring to the finish line scoreboard's indication that he was still behind Atherton only hundreds of feet from the finish. But when he passed beneath the arch he was almost a full second up, taking the win. This catapulted him to the top of World Cup standings and contributed to his

overall World Cup champion status in 2013.

He also finished on the podium at two World Championships 2010 MSA silver and 2012 Leogang bronze and added four World Cup wins, including MSA, to his palmares.

After enduring an injury ridden seasons in 2014 and 2015 Stevie returned to the circuit with style in 2016. Smith, revered by fellow competitors and loved by friends, family and fans, had an explosive start to the 2016 season. Pushing past injuries that led to the consecutive sidelined seasons, the Canadian Chainsaw was back in podium form in April of 2016 at the UCI World Cup Mountain Bike opener in Lourdes, France, where he finished in second place.

Steve had a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Devinci Global Racing for whom he raced at the pro level. Gabe Fox, team manager at Devinci Global Racing said; "Steve was the most successful Canadian gravity racer of all time."

The racing career and life of this larger than life Canadian hero ended much too early. His spirit lives on through his family, many friends, competitors and fans.

Steve Smith is now an honoured member of the Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame. Please welcome Stevie's mother and greatest supporter Ti-Anna Smith to accept the induction award.