Simmonds leaves KTM for Honda

A massive defection as the 2012 Australian Motocross Championship prepares for an April kick off at Coolum in Queensland
KTM and Tye Simmonds have announced a “mutual agreement” to part ways just a month before the 2012 Australian Motocross Championship kicks off in Queensland on April 1.

The split was announced on February 28, and just two days later Honda Australia has announced that Simmonds will set up his own satellite team riding a CRF450R in the Pro Open class.

Honda already has a factory motocross team, with Briton Brad Anderson and New Zealander the Pro Open riders for 2012.

“This is something I have been looking forward to, riding for myself and starting my own team,” said Simmonds. “I look at what Chad (Reed) has done on the Honda and I have been impressed by his results, particularly last year in Supercross where he was a full privateer.

“The Honda has been doing the business in supercross and motocross and I feel confident I can get straight on it and go fast.”

Meanwhile, it’s unclear whether a replacement Pro Ope rider will be sought by KTM. If that doesn’t happen, Dan Reardon will be the team’s sole Pro Open rider.

Simmonds formed part of the JDR Motorsports team when it merged with KTM Australia in 2010, before he joined JDR’s American operation last year for a full season in AMA supercross and motocross.

Read the latest Bikesales Network news and reviews on your mobile, iPhone or PDA at the Bikesales Network's mobile site. Or download the all-new App.

Published : Friday, 2 March 2012

© carsales.com Limited 1999-2014