

# BIG FLIP

Aero GP 2009 takes off

Former American fighter pilot Richard "Smokey" Young hangs from his straps during a practice run in Abu Dhabi for the Aero GP championship — the Formula One of the air. Young, who also served with special ops, is competing against three Brits and a Hungarian in the event's three categories — air racing, air combat

and precision target dropping. A crowd of 150,000 was expected to watch the first leg of the championship — held in hot and choppy air above the desert — which ended yesterday. The venues of future legs are still to be determined.

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