**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 20 April 2024
Day: 3
FlashN°: 9
Special stage: SS10 Stojdraga – Gornja Vas 1
Distance: 20.77 km
Weather: Overcast
Road conditions: Dry
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**Car #13. GRÉGOIRE MUNSTER/LOUIS LOUKA (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

A smooth and aggressive drive from the young Belgian as he learns to master the conditions at the front of the field delivers a time of 12m 46.3s. (No stage end interview).

**Car #9. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/TORSTEIN ERIKSEN (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

Dropping time through the opening half of the stage, Mikkelsen recovers his form to finish 6.3s ahead of Munster. (No stage end interview).

**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/AARON JOHNSTON (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

The hesitancy of Katsuta’s Friday stages is expunged completely and he beats Mikkelsen’s time by 10.0s. (No stage end interview).

**Car #16. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/ALEXANDRE CORIA (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

A clean run but the time is falling away through the mid-section of the stage as more cuts bring dirt onto the road. Ends the stage 6.8s off Katsuta’s benchmark. (No stage end interview).

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

Understeers off into a kerb on the right-hand side of the road towards the end of the stage and bends the right rear wheel. Despite this setback he loses little time and beats Fourmaux by 1.1s to go second fastest. “We went wide in a place and we hit the hedge basically. So let’s say the was a lot softer than I expected, I thought he wheel would be gone but somehow we managed to just take it diagonally so just get a bit extra support. I’d been struggling with the braking to turn in and now when the tyre was getting soft in the end basically I had a big wash-out so I went straight so it was a bit sketchy.”

**Car #17. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/VINCENT LANDAIS (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

A thunderous start to the stage on the optimum clean section, Ogier’s run goes fastest but his stage lead looks fragile given the pace of the cars following. “I still have a bit of time to catch. At the moment it’s still enjoyable to drive and very hard to predict what is going to happen. “

**Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

A clean run that trades fastest sector times with Ogier but falls short by 0.3s. “It’s good fun, everybody’s close. It’s quite surprising really over such long stags but let’s see what happens.”

**Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

Struggles to match Ogier’s pace on the clean new asphalt at the start of the stage but as the going gets rough the Belgian makes gains. Falls back again at the end of the stage to equal Evans’s time exactly, maintaining the 0.8s gap between first and second overall. “There was not much on the stage before (either)! It’s very tight, obviously we expected a lbit more humid to damp conditions. With the four soft (tyres) it wasn’t optimal in there but I pushed quite hard and with the dirty road I think we had a really good one.”

**Car #34. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV (CITROËN C3 RALLY2)**

A solid time for the rally leader. “Yohan is good on the smooth Tarmac like this stage. Yeah we’ll see next loop. We’ll maybe do some adjustments for this one and try to fight with him. But yesterday we did a good job today he for sure will try to revenge but we need to also not lose the pace. But he is doing this kind of stage good. It’s good rival, he’s good competitor, so we try to fight with him.”

**Car #20. YOHAN ROSSEL/ARNAUD DUNAND (CITROËN C3 RALLY2)**

A blitz attack from Rossel shades his teammate by 7.1s. “It’s the plan: the plan is to keep the pressure for the moment. I gained a lot of time on this one. It’s good. Let’s see, I think my tyre choice is not perfect but it’s the same for all. I fight with the feeling with the car, it’s not easy, I don’t know why It’s so complicated because you don’t have the same tyre on the car in every stages but, yeah, quite good.”