**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 20 April 2024
Day: 3
FlashN°: 10
Special stage: SS12 Pećurkovo Brdo – Mreżnićki Novaki 1
Distance: 9.11 km
Weather: Overcast
Road conditions: Dry
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**Car #13. GRÉGOIRE MUNSTER/LOUIS LOUKA (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

Safely through the stage to the tune of 4m 58.5s. “I would never prefer some rain to benefit our road position a bit more with dirty cuts! Not a lot is coming out of the cuts and also there is like a thin layer of dust which we are a bit cleaning and it’s making it very slippery. Also my rear tyres are for the bin so… difficult!”

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

An overshoot sees 2.5s dropped and ends 3.4s behind Munster. “I went straight on in a junction and just lost some time but incredibly slippery this stage. I saw the onboard from the previous years, it looked slippy but I had no idea it was this bad – I thought I was doing drifting. I’m not sure if it’s some muck on top of the Tarmac but maybe it will get better and better for each car but there was no grip at all.”

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

Katsuta lowers the bar by another 3.2s. “This one is so slippy it’s like I don’t know, a lot of pollutions or dust on the Tarmac so there is no grip at all but you cannot see so well why it’s so slippy so how do you trust? You hold information from the gravel crew they did good job but this was quite a tricky situation.”

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

Another 2.1s dropped to Tänak despite a clean run. “Well we are still really close but we had an engine issue in that one. We had a lot of misfire so I hope we’re not going to lose too much time. I’ve been trying to push but I can’t press everything flat so we’ll see. We are losing a lot of power in the long straights etc but we’ll see.”

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

Big moment for him with a very well taken save at 190 km/h. “It’s been a bit vibrating but it was more about the tyre wear actually, they were really on the limit, but I guess nobody got the right tyres so it’s been managing through.”

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

A right rear tyre swap following the incident on the previous stage puts Ogier at a disadvantage, the wet weather rubber mismatched with two soft and one hard dry tyre causing snap oversteer on left-hand bends. Still the fastest through so far in a triumph of willpower. “I had another one which was losing the tread like usual so I didn’t want it to take the risk to get a puncture here. It was maybe not performance for sure in there but we are there.”

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

A clea run but slower than Ogier by 0.1s. “Really slippery. I wasn’t so happy with my run to be honest, killing the speed a little bit but no mistakes.”

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

Another stage win for the Belgian, hurling it through with abandon on very worn tyres 2.9s faster than anyone else. “We had a decent stage and the onboard must be really cool but I think we kept good tyres. Probably had a better tyre management over the loop and kept a bit more profile on the tyres than the others, at least that’s what it looked like. That’s good and Martijn told me the stage is 9.11 km so he says if we win it twice he’s going to buy a (Porsche) 911, so..!”

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

Another clean stage for the WRC2 leader. “The smooth roads are only this one and the previous. Each year it’s slippery this stage, so we knew it was going to be slippery so we just need to be on the not-over-pushing side. Interesting stage: so easy to make the mistakes, some unexpected cuts in some places, but let’s see. I am curious about the second loop because I don’t know what the weather is going to be and I have something to do with the driving style for maybe these long stages so I mean still the races go on. It’s just half of the race so not time to relax at all.”

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

A left front puncture causes the Frenchman’s challenge to dissipate as he drops 38.7s – although maintains second place in the class. “I think on the left corner a cut and I have a big, big rock. I don’t know, it’s like that.”