**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 19 April 2024
Day: 2
FlashN°: 3
Special stage: SS2 Jaškovo – Mali Modruš Potok 1
Distance: 9.48 km
Weather: Sunny but cool
Road conditions: Dry
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**Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

A trouble-free run to 5m 06.7s for the first car on the road. “Generally I’m struggling a bit with the front end and the protection (of the tyres). The grip is good for the conditions but not so nice. But okay let’s see, some tricky conditions in there and the gravel crew gave some good information so, yeah – we kept it on the road!”

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

Beats Neuville’s time by 1.7s to post a new fastest time of 5m 05.0s. “The conditions are quite different, quite different character also. Difficult stage, you know? Difficult to carry momentum but okay. I like some of the character of these short ones.”

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

The Frenchman drops another 4.2 seconds back from the lead battle. “I’ve been enjoying so much! That was so, so nice stage. It’s pressure, it’s getting dirty with the cars in front. I would expect less dirt to be fair, being third on the road, but for the rest I have been really enjoying that one. I am really happy with my drive in the car. We need to improve it, the time, but it’s okay.”

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

A tail-happy run for the Estonian but just 0.7s off Neuville’s pace and 2.4s away from Evans. “Tyres are fine so I mean it’s still quite cool… just mega difficult to drive and the car is not really working at all so it’s a big challenge at the moment. This stage was a lot better than the previous one.”

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

A clean stage but a downbeat driver as Katsuta drops more time. “For sure if you don’t have confidence it’s no chance. Many surprises and even losing a bit more time. If you take step-by-step this is the best I can do now. It’s quite a nice but tricky stage.”

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

Grass in the radiator tells a story as the eight-time champion drops more than four seconds to the fastest stage time. “I think they are all tricky this one is not especially more tricky. We went wide in a corner, like very slippy, but for sure five cars (in front) it’s quite difficult for us to have any grip. I had it many times now in recent years so nothing really new.”

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

Slowest of the Rally1 cars, 17.5s off the pace. “That was very difficult, missing a lot of protection, and the car is just very nervous. When it’s muddy like this I have to be careful because when I go on the throttle the rear snaps all the time. Really difficult to drive. I have to survive the day with the road position, very difficult, tomorrow should be better.”

**Car #13. GRÉGOIRE MUNSTER/LOUIS LOUKA (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

Pips Mikkelsen to finish seventh fastest on the stage. “It was much better than what I thought. I altered all the setups after the first run and actually I shouldn’t have, it was way better than I expected. I think the snow (on SS3/SS4) is not really on the road but it can melt and bring a lot of water on the road so let’s see what the gravel crew is saying.”

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

Bothers the shrubbery when running wide and drops time on his run but it’s a lucky escape for the WRC2 points leader.

**Car #31. GUS GREENSMITH/JONAS ANDERSSON**

Fastest of the WRC2 runners after Rossel’s moment.