**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 24 April 2021**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 14**

**Special stage: SS13 Mali Lipovec - Grdanjci 2 Distance: 20.30 km**

**Weather: Bright blue skies, 20 degrees**

**Road conditions: Dry, largely clean but gravel dragged onto road in some sections**

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**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT**

“It’s very tricky, like I expected. But, still, I have pretty okay pacenotes. My gravel crew did a great job so I didn’t have any moments. I didn’t push at all, but I could see everything in the corner before it was coming so it was a very good job by the gravel crew. Nothing to say because I need to bring the car back to service anyway so it’s okay.”

**Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS**

“This morning we were faster and we take back 20s and I hope we will do the same this afternoon.”

**Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/CHRIS PATTERSON**

“I was given some strong words of advice and I’ll stick to it. It’s okay.”

**Car #16. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL**

“I’m happy about my drive to be honest because it was really dirty this time so we are slower compared to this morning and I think it’s quite normal looking at the conditions. I really love the downhill, left, right, the feeling is like when you are skiing, it’s the same feeling, left, right, left, right, it’s just amazing, so nice, so nice.”

**Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE**

“It’s okay, honestly there’s not much more I can do.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

“It was a clean run, it’s tricky but nothing special.”

**Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN**

“I’m just not brave enough in the gravel really. I said to Scott at the end there that it didn’t feel brave enough really, so yeah.”

**Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA**

“I had a slow puncture a couple of kilometres before the end and then the last two kilometres there was no air at all. I’m a little bit slower [than Elfyn].”

**Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE**

“Obviously with the right tyres on the car the car is working really nice. It was a really challenging stage, but I had a good rhythm, a couple of small slides where I lost a little bit. I saw many lines everywhere so I guess it’s for everybody the same, but I tried to be efficient.”

**Car #24. MADS ØSTBERG/TORSTEIN ERIKSEN**

No comment available.

**Car #21. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV**

No comment available. Delayed by suspected powersteering issue.

**Car #25. TEMMU SUNINEN/MIKO MARKKULA**

No comment available.

**Car #22. MARCO BULACIA/MARCELO OHANNESIAN**

No comment available.

**Car #23. ENRICO BRAZZOLI/MAURIZIO BARONE**

No comment available.

**Car #26. TOM KRISTENSSON/DAVID ARHUSIANDER**

No comment available.

**Car #20. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/OLA FLØENE**

No comment available.

**COMMENTS**

Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe have hit back in the battle for victory on the Croatia Rally with the fastest time on SS13, the first stage of the Saturday afternoon loop. They beat Adrien Fourmaux/Renaud Jamoul by 1.1s to cut the gap to overall leaders Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia to 9.5s and close up to second-placed Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin with just 2.6s separating the second and third-placed crews. Ogier/Ingrassia completed the stage with the front-right tyre off the rim, while Evans reported he was not “brave enough” in the sections where gravel had been dragged onto the road. Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov’s bid for the WRC2 win suffered a major setback when their Volkswagen Polo GTI R5 was slowed by a suspected powersteering issue.