**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 25 April 2021**

**Day: 4 Flash N°: 19**

**Special stage: SS18 Zagorska Sela – Kumrovec 1 Distance: 14.09 km**

**Weather: Chilly, sunshine and clear skies, 10 degrees**

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

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

“It’s really, really trick. It’s difficult, I was really careful but the second loop will be worse with the conditions.”

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

“Quite okay, I think, honestly, I’m carrying a problem from the first stage. I’ve a really strange feeling with the front of the car. It’s really dissimilar to what I had yesterday so, strange. It’s something in the transmission that I didn’t have yesterday on similar roads to this so quite a struggle in places.”

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

“I didn’t push at all to be honest. Just I’m trying to do a clean run. Of course, if I catch sixth place it would be nice, but anything can happen in this rally, especially in this stage, it was very tricky. Only two cars are before me but lots of gravel is coming from the inside, so it was it’s pretty difficult. Next one I try to enjoy.”

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

“We’ve lost all hydraulic pressure. Hopefully we can get to the end.”

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

“It happened that we crossed the tyre and the hard one was quite cold because we were waiting at the start and I wasn’t enough carefully in this corner and the car was just sliding out of the road. We were lucky, I have to say thank you to some spectators who pushed us on the road but we are still here that’s the most important.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

“it’s a narrow stage but it’s clean, that’s the most important. No [I am not enjoying today.”

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

“Probably I have some gravel in the rear wheel because I have a lot of vibrations. I slide a little bit wide on a very slow corner on the exit but nothing major. It’s a hell of a stage, a hell of a stage.”

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

“Really quite dirty a lot of pollution already and very slippery, not easy but all okay.”

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

Ogier/Ingrassia were involved in a road traffic accident on the liaison section to SS17. The right door if their Toyota Yaris WRC is damaged. “With myself it’s been a tricky morning but it’s not over.” In response to a question about the damage, Ogier told WRC Plus All Live: “I think so.”

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

“It was a good stage but not for me. I have brake problems and I have to really, really manage my driving. I almost have no brakes. I don’t know what’s happening. It’s very problematic.”

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

“Pretty okay. I don’t know. let’s see [if we can get this win].”

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

“For sure we made some strategy with the tyres and for sure it did not work for this stage properly but it works anyway. Maybe it’s not too much I lose that I expect. I was not pushing full. In some places it was scary places but it will be difficult for the second pass of this stage but let’s see how it goes, I’m curious, let’s see.”

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

“I love this stage, it’s very tricky and also our pacenotes are very good here. So I’m looking forward to trying to score maximum points on the Power Stage.

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

Stopped on stage with possible front-left suspension damage.

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

“Since stage two it’s all about the Power Stage for us, trying to have an okay rhythm through that one so we learn the stage a bit for the next pass. We had a clean run, a couple of mistakes, a little bit on the grass here and there but, anyway, we know for next time.”

**COMMENTS**

Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin have taken the lead of the Croatia Rally with the fastest time through SS18. They outpaced Hyundai pair Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe by 3.5s and Toyota team-mates Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia by 7.0s. Neuville reported sliding wide on the exit of a slow corner, while Ogier is carrying damage to the right-side of his Yaris following a road traffic accident on route to SS17. Evans/Martin lead Ogier/Ingrassia by 2.8s. Neuville/ Wydaeghe are 5.6s behind Ogier/Ingrassia. Adrien Fourmaux/Renaud Jamoul dropped more than one minute to the leaders after going wide on a slow right-hander and getting stuck early in the stage. Gus Greensmith/Chris Patterson are being hampered by a hydraulic system issue.