**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2021**

**Day: 2 Flash N°: 6**

**Special stage: SS5 Rude - Plešivica 2 Distance: 6.94 km**

**Weather: Bright blue skies, 18 degrees**

**Road conditions: Gravel and dry mud visible in a number of sections**

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**Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN**

Crashed out on SS1.

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

“Obviously I’m first on the road and there are no lines, so I have to make all the lines. I had a spin in there, in a hairpin. I was on the clutch waiting for the car to stop but nothing happened. I lost a bit of time.”

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

“Much more dirty in some sections and some sections are gravel but it’s okay.”

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

“Worse if anything to be honest, the gravel was very, very bad and even at the end it was very, very slippery, even though it was dry.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

“Of course, we tried to do many changes to get more comfortable, but the conditions are so tricky at the moment. I’m happy that we get through it.”

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

“Look it, that’s a good start [to the afternoon]. Ott is on a bit of a charge but apart from that we’re getting closer and closer every stage and the gap is being reduced.”

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

“It was a good run, just one half-spin that I did at a hairpin. It was pretty lucky. Without that the pace was pretty okay. It’s a tricky stage still and the next one some sections are tricky so I need to stay carefully but I try to push.”

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

“That felt okay but, to be honest, it felt pretty bad. The grip in there is just so low so it didn’t feel like a good stage but the time was okay.”

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

“It was like this morning. The conditions were quite similar but with a bit less damp sections. But the dirt we found this morning was there so I was just trying to have a clean drive. I did two or three mistakes in a hairpin so I lose a bit of time but I was enjoying and I am still learning. We have another set-up that I prefer so let’s see all around the loop.”

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

“It was tricky, it was more slippery than this morning. But the big one is coming so we try to do that well.”

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

Stopped on SS2 with a broken right-rear suspension arm.

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

“It’s quite hot outside but the stage seems like more slippery. Some places it was funny sideways, but in some places it was just terrible. You just wait when the car will have some grip. But in some places it was FUN!”

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

“It was very fun but we are still having trouble with the pop-off [valve]. I don’t know which is the cause because we change in the service for a new pop-off valve so we have to continue and carry this problem all the way.”

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

No quote available.

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

“It was tricky, no doubt.”

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

“[We’ve not made] much changes. For me the stage was super-ice, super-slippery.”

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

“It’s definitely more tricky than I expected. To be honest I really enjoyed it anyway. To slide is my feeling and it’s also a good way to learn the car. But I think we’re doing good. All is fine and we’re doing it without any trouble or any mistakes. So far, so good.”

**COMMENTS**

Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja began the afternoon loop of leg one of the Croatia Rally in style with the fastest time through the re-run of Rude - Plešivica. Onboard a Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, the Estonians were 1.0s quicker than their Belgian team-mates Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe, who have extended their overall lead to 8.4s, despite losing precious seconds with a half-spin. The majority of crews are using hard-compound Pirelli tyres for the afternoon loop and carrying one spare.