**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2021**

**Day: 2 Flash N°: 8**

**Special stage: SS7 Jaškovo – Mali Modruš Potok 2 Distance: 10.10 km**

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

**Road conditions: Gravel and dry mud visible in some sections**

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

Crashed out on SS1.

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

“It’s feeling okay, I have the feeling like the grip changes. Sometimes you lose the grip and you need to adapt to the that. It’s working okay, the car works well like this and we adapted very well to the tyre of course. But still we are missing a bit of confidence.”

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

“I hope [the battle] will stay tasty, that’s how it is. We are trying. It was not a perfect stage but it’s not easy when the conditions are like this with quite some dirt on the road.”

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

Struck a bank nearing the end of the stage. Some mud in right-rear wheel rim. No interview given.

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

“It’s better but it can be a lot better, that’s where I feel comfortable at the moment.”

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

“Fair to middling. I was hoping for a better run than that. We move on.”

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

“[Learning] is the most important thing for me. Of course, we lost a lot of time on the last stage. Now I have to get back the confidence because now it’s not so nice my feeling and not so much confidence so I need to get back that confidence.”

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

“Last time I was surprised a bit that I didn’t [damage] the tyres so I didn’t do that [jump] twice. I love that stage, it’s brilliant.”

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

Completed the stage with chunks of mud in his left-rear wheel rim following a moment. “It’s nice to fight with your team-mate but we have also to be careful for the team. I was enjoying a lot. I had big jumps in this stage and it was just crazy. I had one bad moment where the car touched the ground and it pushed me out of the line. It was just a bad moment, but we need to be careful, it’s crazy.”

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

“It’s nice [to fight] but in this one we lose a bit and I don’t know why it was like this. We have to understand.”

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

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

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

“It was quite good. I didn’t find the pace in this stage and I don’t know why. It was difficult to find the rhythm but the grip is okay. It’s dirty in some places, not easy but the rest is okay.”

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

“We are improving and getting used to opening of the pop-off [valve]. After that the car is perfect, I am driving very, very good and feeling great in the car. I am happy in summary butt we have to continue like this.”

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

No interview available.

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

“Our management has been quite good. We have dealt with issues so far and we knew maybe we could have an advantage here so we have to take it and we did.”

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

“It looks like we had better speed in the shorter stages so that’s good.”

**COMMENTS**

Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia made it back-to-back Croatia Rally stage wins in their Toyota Yaris WRC. The reigning world champions outpaced Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe by 0.3s. And with Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin losing a handful of seconds striking a bank in their Toyota, Ogier/Ingrassia are 1.4s behind their team-mates in the battle for second overall. Neuville/Wydaeghe head the overall classification by 7.7s with one stage of leg one remaining.