

STAGE FLASH

Date: 24 April 2021
Day: 3
Special stage: SS9 Mali Lipovec - Grdanjci 1
Weather: Bright blue skies, 14 degrees
Road conditions: Dry, largely clean but some sections where gravel has been dragged onto road

Flash N°: 10
Distance: 20.30 km

Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT

"I am quite happy here, I was on a quite clean road but still there was some gravel on the road. The second loop is going to be very tricky if there's more gravel coming on the road. It's very tricky."

Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS

No quote available.

Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/CHRIS PATTERSON

"It didn't feel good to be fair like. Some sections it felt good then in the busy sections I wasn't carrying anywhere near enough speed. A lot of work to on the second pass on that one."

Car #16. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL

"I had a good confidence with the car in this stage and I was really happy about my drive also. I was quite careful in the really tricky section and I was pushing where I could feel the stage was okay. I'm happy but I was starting to lose a bit the tyre at the end of the stage. It was nice, a nice drive."

Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE

Stopped shortly after the start of the stage to change a punctured tyre. "I did the roundabout at the start of the stage. In the first pass of the recce I couldn't go in there because there was a truck parked there. I touched the kerb and had to stop and change it."

Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA

"It's a very different surface today. I'm not sure if we were correct this morning."

Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN

"I'm feeling okay. The stage is quite dirty actually, quite a lot of gravel pulled out already, but all okay."

Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA

"Then it's good news [to be leading] but it's only the first stage of the day, very dirty in many places so it will be a long day."

Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE

Dropped from first over night to third. Selected hard compound Pirelli tyres at the front, soft at the rear. "Wrong tyre choice this morning so I couldn't keep the rear in the line, it is like it is."



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Car #24. MADS ØSTBERG/TORSTEIN ERIKSEN

"It's okay, a little bit different than expected so not a good stage to be honest. The grip was high but my car was too soft and my tyres were too soft. We try to change that a bit."

Car #21. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV

No quote available.

Car #25. TEMMU SUNINEN/MIKO MARKKULA

No quote available.

Car #22. MARCO BULACIA/MARCELO OHANNESIAN

No quote available.

Car #23. ENRICO BRAZZOLI/MAURIZIO BARONE

No quote available.

Car #26. TOM KRISTENSSON/DAVID ARHUSIANDER

Reported to have stopped five kilometres from the stage start.

Car #20. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/OLA FLØENE

No quote available.

COMMENTS

Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia claimed the first stage win of the Croatia Rally's second leg to move into the overall lead in their Toyota Yaris WRC. They outpaced the impressive Adrien Fourmaux/Renaud Jamoul (Ford Fiesta WRC) by 2.0s to overtake Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC) at the top of the leaderboard. Neuville, who explained his decision to run hard-compound Pirelli tyres on the front of his car and soft-compound tyres on the rear meant he "couldn't keep the rear in the line", also fell behind Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin – who were third quickest through the stage – in the outright classification. There was frustration for Craig Breen/Paul Nagle, who were forced to change a punctured tyre on their Hyundai.



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