**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 24 April 2022**

**Day: 4 Flash N°: 21**

**Special stage: SS20, Zagorska Sela - Kumrovec 2 Distance: 14.09 km**

**Weather: Dry blue skies, 19 degrees**

**Road conditions: Damp patches, gravel/mud dragged onto road in places**

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**Car #21. YOHAN ROSSEL/VALENTIN SARREAUD**

As the sun shines, Rossel sets a WRC2 benchmark of 9m37.8s to secure the victory. “After Monte, I worked very hard with the team and this win is for them. I think the most important thing was to win here. The target is of course to try and win the championship, but there’s still a long way to go. I think it’s perfect to try and win our second event.”

**Car #24. KAJETAN KAJETANOWICZ/MACIEJ SZCZEPANIAK**

Brings it home 2.8s slower than Rossel for second in WRC2. “It's not bad. Thanks to all my team and everybody who believed me. Such big emotions and we are on the finish line.”

**Car #26. EMIL LINDHOLM/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN**

Excellent time to beat Rossel over the Wolf Power Stage by 10.2s to secure third in WRC2. “There were a few moments in there, but if you want to do a time on a stage like this there will be moments! Happy to be here and happy to take P3.”

**Car #23. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV**

Fourth on the stage so far, fourth overall in WRC2, having lost two paces on the penultimate stage with the wrong tyre choice. He took hard Pirellis all round. “I was struggling all day with the tyre choice. I made a mistake and it’s a big lesson for me. We did a good job in the   
beginning, but this is how it is.”

**Car #4. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM**

Slower than WRC2 runners, but won four stages on re-start rules following his first-day retirement. “Nothing happened – we just drove through. With the wrong tyres, I don’t know what to do. I feel I am still making mistakes even though I am very slow, so it’s difficult. Ups and downs this weekend definitely. But these are extreme conditions I cannot take.”

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

Comes in 19.2s slower than Lindholm’s WRC2 mark on hard tyres. “It was not a good tyre choice, but it’s like this. I think we did our best rally in WRC, even if we had the punctures on the first day. It’s good that we had the pace and I think we will do a good season. We have a very strong package and I feel very confident in this car.”

**Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/JONAS ANDERSSON**

Still Lindholm is fastest. Greensmith is 6.3s slower on hard tyres. “I’d like some WRC2 tyres, they’re nice and soft! There was no grip – we were just crawling through and trying to   
survive. The Croatian fans have been insane this weekend, so all credit to them.”

**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/AARON JOHNSTON**

Finishes 17s down on Lindholm to finish the Croatia Rally in sixth. “I had no confidence at all, but the team supported me very well and that's why I was able to survive this rally.”

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

Also on hard tyres, but presses on with style to beat Lindholm’s time by 3.9s to take the Wolf Power Stage lead – and confirm fifth place in the rally. “I really tried to focus on being as clean as possible and maximising the traction, but it was difficult on the hard tyre. Let’s see what the others do – there are maybe some more favourable tyre choices behind. Another disappointing weekend, but we look forward to the next one.”

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

Big effort, but loses out to Evans by 0.3s. “Honestly I didn’t do anything crazy. I just wanted to get through the stage and be clean. Unfortunately our mistake with the tyre choice ruined our chances of a podium.”

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

Noses into a ditch and incurs front-end damage. Continues, but with two punctures. No   
intercom. Somehow keeps his podium finish. “At the end, I got caught under braking with the hard tyres and we just went straight on. Luckily we got away with it.”

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

On wet and hard-compound tyres, comes home an impressive 21.9s faster than Evans. Turns out to be enough to win the Wolf Power Stage and the rally by 4.3s. “I was sure we could not be so fast with these tyres, but it’s amazing. We pushed really hard and I think we deserve it this weekend. For sure, it was the toughest win of my career.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

Gives it everything, but on soft tyres loses out by 5.7s as Rovanperä wins the Croatia Rally. “I didn’t take any risks, but Kalle obviously did a good drive. We were fighting for the win, but only because of clever decisions and tyre choices.”

**COMMENTS**

On mixed tyre choice, Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen secure Wolf Power Stage victory over Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja by 5.7s and snatch the overall victory 4.3s. Hyundai’s Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe get away with crash into a ditch to secure podium. Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin finish Wolf Power Stage in third, while other bonus points scorers are Craig Breen/Paul Nagle and fastest WRC2 runners Emil Lindholm Reeta Hämäläinen.

**ENDS**

**Media contacts:**

Marko Šivak, [press@rally-croatia.com](mailto:press@rally-croatia.com)

[www.rally-croatia.com](http://www.rally-croatia.com/)

[www.facebook.com/WRCcroatiarally](http://www.facebook.com/WRCcroatiarally)