**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 22 April 2023**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 11**

**Special stage: Vinski Vrh - Duga Resa 1 Distance: 8.78 km**

**Weather: Dry and sunny, 13°**

**Road conditions: Dry with some gravel patches**

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**Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

Rovanperä completes in 4m30.3s. “It was a bit tricky to be honest. In the beginning I felt I didn’t get the tyre working so well so it was quite tricky in the beginning and then the last part is really slippy. Let’s see if the Tarmac is cleaning a bit, I don’t know it’s quite dusty.”

**Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/NICOLAS GILSOUL (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

It’s a 4m35.4s for the Corsican: “I don’t know, maybe I overheat the rear tyre and on the last split [on SS9] I felt like I had a puncture so I drop off a lot of time. In this one my beginning of the stage was not so good, it was quite aggressive, not the perfect run.”

**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/AARON JOHNSTON (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

Battling for fifth with Loubet, Katsuta completes in 4m34.8s and says: “Nice stage, some high-speed sections and a good grip. For sure we can enjoy this stage but Tarmac stages are still a bit nasty and slippery, nice but let’s see, the next two stages are more tricky I guess.”

**Car #17. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/VINCENT LANDAIS (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

Ogier’s time is a 4m30.4s: “I don’t know, just going through, I guess. A small mistake was done in the service and we had to fix it because the car was not drivable otherwise. Unfortunately we also came a little bit late, getting stuck a little bit behind Esapekka on the road section. He didn’t see us, he was warming his tyres. Anyway we are quite far and 10 seconds doesn’t change much.”

**Car #4. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

Lappi’s time is a 4m36.2s. “I don’t know what’s going on but it’s more difficult than yesterday. Hard to say, we didn’t change so much, I don’t know.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA (FORD PUMA RALLY1)**

Tänak continues his pursuit of second-placed Elfyn Evans with a 4m30.9s. “It was a good stage actually, in the slippy it was a bit tricky but normally it was a good run.”

**Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN (TOYOTA GR YARIS RALLY1)**

After posting a 4m33.1s, current second-placed driver Evans says: “It felt like a pretty okay push to be honest but probably a bit scrappy at the end there and I lost my line a bit in the very slippy parts at the end but okay.”

**Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE (HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1)**

Rally leader Neuville’s advantage is up to 10.8s after he completes in 4m32.8s. “So far okay, it’s just that the road is getting more and more dirty and you don’t know where. In the position we are I need to try to find a good balance and that’s what we did here so happy with the run through.”

**Car #21. YOHAN ROSSEL/ARNAUD DUNAND (CITROËN C3 RALLY2)**

I think my car is very good, with this tyre it’s a little bit better compared to yesterday and for the moment all okay. This week I am super-calm.”

**Car #24. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV (ŠKODA FABIA RS RALLY2)**

“I was a little bit too much out on the last left corner but the rest was a nice stage.”

**Car #30. NICOLAS CIAMIN/YANNICK ROCHE (CITROËN C3 RALLY2)**

“So far it’s good, we did a very good first stage this morning. This one was a little bit… it was not that good but it was not a disaster. I am happy to be here and I try to keep going.”

**Car #20. OLIVER SOLBERG/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON (ŠKODA FABIA RS RALLY2)**

“I got a puncture on the previous stage so not good, but it’s okay. I had nothing to lose, I wanted to try [taking one spare]. It was a slow puncture and I don’t know where I got it.”

**Car #36. ALEJANDRO CACHÓN/ALEJANDRO LÓPEZ (CITROËN C3 RALLY2)**

Stopped 4.2 kilometres from the start of SS9. The Spaniard, who is making his Croatia Rally debut this year, had been in fourth position in WRC2.

**Car #26. SAMI PAJARI/ENNI MÄLKÖNEN (ŠKODA FABIA RS RALLY2)**

“We had some good slides towards the end. Not so bad, for sure better than yesterday morning and I’m happy for that.”

**Car #22. EMIL LINDHOLM/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN (ŠKODA FABIA RS RALLY2)**

“It’s been good. The car and driving and co-driver have been good all weekend and we’ve been enjoying it. That one was not too bad and I guess we could squeeze a few seconds off that.”

**Car #25. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/ALEXANDRE CORIA (FORD FIESTA RALLY2)**

“That was really good for us [winning SS9] and we were trying to get that since Monte-Carlo on Tarmac. I think we deserved some time so it’s good to get it. I think we did also a really good time in that one so we can be happy with this morning. We changed things yesterday night at service and it seems to be working so it’s positive.”

**Car #23. GUS GREENSMITH/JONAS ANDERSSON (ŠKODA FABIA RS RALLY2)**

“On the very last corner of the first stage I ran wide and hit a kerb and bent the rear arm so it’s definitely not driving perfect and I started that stage with a huge moment, still here, just. It was just a lot dirtier than I expected it to be.”

**COMMENTS**

Rovanperä, last year’s Croatia Rally winner, scores his second stage win of the morning, Tänak edges closer to second-placed Evans, while Neuville’s lead over the Welshman is 10.8s.

**ENDS**

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