**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 22 April 2023**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 13**

**Special stage: Platak 1 Distance: 15.63 km**

**Weather: Dry and sunny, 16°**

**Road conditions: Dry and mainly clean**

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

Rovanperä finishes the stage with a time of 8m23.6s. “We had a really, really long slide on the last downhill, all okay, we lost some time there but all fine. When you go close to the barriers it’s always a bit exciting but not the fastest way to go.

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

Loubet records a time of 8m34.6s. “I don’t think so much about the rest, I was just struggling on the fast section with the soft on the rear. I was not so much confident but in the second loop it will be better on this one.”

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

Katsuta completes in in 8m33.9s and is now 2.6s behind Loubet. “It’s nice to be close but I don’t know why but I am struggling quite a lot today. The car is working pretty well but there’s something I’m struggling with, it feels not so great. I think [we will make some changes in service].”

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

Ogier is fastest through with a time of 8m22.9s, his first stage win of leg two. “It was a bit, let’s say, I was a bit stressed by the first section, there were a lot of cuts and I was trying to be careful because there is a very high risk of puncture. After that the downhill is quite fast like circuit style and more enjoyable because it’s just focusing on the driving. At the end, like we said yesterday night, the only thing we can do is to drive flat out to catch position. At the moment we accumulate quite a lot of trouble and penalties during the weekend. It’s difficult to climb but let’s see.”

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

Lappi completes in 8m30.0s. “We can smile, that’s not a problem but for sure we are lacking a lot of pace at the moment and that’s it. Definitely we need to change something because something is wrong. It’s far from yesterday, grip-wise and I cannot understand.”

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

Tänak’s time is an 8m31.5s. It’s a racing one, unfortunately we lost a tyre on the first one so we didn’t have a good option for this one. But, okay, it was still an okay loop. We’ve done all we can. Today has been feeling a bit different.

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

New leader Evans is now 22.6s in front after he goes third quickest in a time of 8m28.0s. “The surface at the end we knew was low on grip but I skimmed the barrier with the rear bumper twice, there wasn’t a lot of room left there but quite okay. It was measured.”

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

Crashed out of the lead on a right-hand corner 5.2 kilometres from the stage start. Both Neuville and Wydaeghe are uninjured but their car is too badly damaged to continue after the left rear strikes a large boulder when the car slides wide on loose gravel.

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

“I think the feeling is not bad. I tried to do my best but when you have a 30-second gap to the other guys it’s not good. Honestly, for the moment all is okay. I am not happy with my car with the soft [tyre], it’s not easy, maybe it’s my driving, but with hard it’s better.”

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

No comment available.

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

“I am quite surprised because honestly it was not a good stage. I was waiting for this one because I knew it was the one I don’t like. For the moment it’s good but we could have done much better. It’s nice to be back in second position, keep going and happy to be at the end of the morning already.”

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

“It was okay, the car drove fine no problem. I had a cross with the soft tyres so it was moving a lot on the fast downhill part. We just change the wing and the boot lid [in service] and it’s done.”

**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)**

Pictures from WRC All Live show Pajari slowing briefly before regaining full speed. “To be honest I’m not sure, maybe some sensory issue because it’s not constant. I don’t really know because it was in the downhill section. We need to go and check.”

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

“Pretty happy, I know we could have found a few seconds. Okay, it was good stage anyhow and the feeling was quite nice. I’m looking forward to the afternoon loop. I think we can find a few seconds especially in the first narrow part but we save that for the afternoon.

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

Completes the stage with the front right on the rim. “Nothing, I didn’t touch anything in the cuts. If I could tell you [where it happened] I would but I can’t. Same old Pirelli.”

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

“We need a circuit car on this one and honestly we made a mistake because we went a bit softer for the stage before, which was really shitty, and for this one we should have closed everything and also we made a bad tyre choice. It was okay, honestly I didn’t take risk, it was the first time for me on that one so it was okay.”

**COMMENTS**

Ogier breaks Rovanperä’s sequence of stage wins to complete Saturday morning’s loop with the fastest time. He climbs to fifth as a result and is now 1.4s behind Loubet, who holds fourth place.

**ENDS**

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