**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2023**

**Day: 4 Flash N°: 21**

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

**Weather: Dry and sunny, 20°**

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

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

“It’s quite tricky, I tried to give it a push but when you don’t know exactly where is the gravel and where is the mud it makes it quite interesting.”

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

“Honestly, I’m really, really happy about the performance of the car this weekend. We were struggling a bit at the beginning but unfortunately we had quite a difficult test on the wet but then we improved the car and it was much better for the last two days. Honestly we can be really happy, we had a really strong performance and it’s also good for me to drive at that pace on Tarmac because I know it was a bit difficult last year on Tarmac so it’s really positive and we take the fourth position, it’s good, perfect.”

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

“I think with the soft tyre towards the end it’s floating a lot and he [Lindholm] has two hards so hopefully he doesn’t gain too much at the end. I tried anyway but for sure it was very tricky conditions and a very tricky stage.”

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

“That’s good points, I’m sure after Friday I was not expecting to be third in the points so we can be really happy about that. Good job, honestly, the team and for Reeta this is victory in itself. We tried to enjoy it, we fought until the end. Actually on this stage the intercom didn’t work so Reeta was screaming quite loud and we don’t need an intercom it seems, she can do without. It was not easy but a good result nevertheless.”

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

“A good result after all the adventures which we had on this rally. This stage was fun, maybe I tried in some places too much and in a few cuts we just jumped so high. I was expecting the puncture because it was really horrible but it’s all good. This one is a really demanding stage. Unfortunately the time is not what I wanted to have, it’s a really difficult stage.”

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

“Honestly I am just happy. It’s for my friend, I don’t know very well the guy but he helped me a lot during the DS3 R5 during 2017 and it’s for him. The engineer for Craig was Thomas and my engineer is Thomas, it’s for him, my team and for my family. It’s good news.”

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

“To be honest I don’t know what to say, I’m so disappointed for the team, for us after all what happened. It’s a tough moment you know, we really wanted that victory, we wanted to make Craig proud for everything. We missed the opportunity unfortunately. We always have to give more than 100 per cent and when you are on the limit you cannot avoid such mistakes and it’s very tough. We gave it everything in here and this one was for Craig, hopefully it’s enough.”

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

“I think we can take some positive about this race, unfortunately today the thing this morning with the engine and after that the direction after I hit something inside. It’s like that, we did some good things. I think we just need a bit more consistency and I think the pace is here sometimes. We just need to work. For sure it’s been an incredible weekend after what happened to Craig. Thinking a lot of him and I hope he has enjoyed the show this weekend.”

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

“Of course it’s nice to finish this rally, we had quite bad rallies for the last two rallies so it’s nice to finish. I tried but it was horrible driving to be honest and I need to fix for the future. But the car was amazing anyway, it had a very good feeling, especially today so thank you guys. Just know it’s fingers crossed for Elfyn, I hope he wins it.”

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

“It was a very difficult Power Stage, the car was undrivable for me. I had massive understeer and I’m glad I finished it because it was one of the messiest stages I’ve ever done. For sure a lot of things to go through from a sporting point of view, we had the pace for much better this weekend but it was not our weekend.”

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

“I didn’t leave much either. It was quite tricky. I was imagining that we cannot really match his pace because even on the second pass the road is getting all the time dirty. I was having a good run and I couldn’t do much more. Difficult weekend, not the best start. I need to prepare better from the car side, we cannot start with the wrong set-up like this. But thanks to the team we got some points at the end.”

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

“I don’t know where to start to be honest, big thanks to the team. I am sure it was not easy to come here for most of us. Thank you that you came, you give us the opportunity to drive again. I know it was tough, it’s been really tough, the toughest week ever I guess. We kept our head together. With a smart drive we managed to be on the podium which is very important for me and for the team this week. Thanks.”

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

“Result-wise it’s a lot for sure. For sure are missing a lot of consistency and quite a lot of performance as well. No speed really but again good points so hopefully the speed will follow at some moment.”

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

“It feels so insignificant now again really, that’s the bottom line. Obviously we’ve been working to this for a long time but it’s surprising how little it means just at the moment. Obviously we’re back to missing our friend now after the real focus of the weekend. Straight away when you come across the finish line that’s all you can think about. We promised the family we would enjoy the weekend, we’ve done that. I’m sure they were following us. We definitely thinking of you.”

**COMMENTS**

While Neuville wins the Power Stage, Evans wins Croatia Rally 2023 to make it three different drivers on the top step of the podium in as many years as Rossel takes the WRC2 victory.

**ENDS**

**Media contacts:**

Marko Šivak, press@rally-croatia.com

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

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