**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2022**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 13**

**Special stage: SS12, Vinski Vrh - Duga Resa 1 Distance: 8.78 km**

**Weather: Cloudy and dry, some sun, 10 degrees**

**Road conditions: Dry, some gravel/mud dragged onto road in places**

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

Soft Pirelli tyres all round. Spins at a hairpin. “While braking into the hairpin right, it was very slippery and I spun and stalled the car. We need to find the places which are slippery and it’s so hard to recognise on the recce.”

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

Sets a benchmark of 4m42.8s, 5.1s faster than the spinning Lappi. “I think it was a good stage.”

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

Right-rear tyre off the rim. “I give up with these tyres this weekend. [It happened] near the beginning of the stage. Puncture number five of the weekend. I noticed it after a jump, so maybe it happened on the landing.”

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

Crossover of two wet tyres and two dries, 4.2s slower than Loubet. “Quite slippy at the end of the stage and we have two wet tyres. Everything is okay but we have to improve many things for the afternoon.”

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

Proves 2.1s quicker than Loubet. “I think there was a bit of time left in there, but overall it wasn’t so bad.”

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

Faster than Evans, by just 0.8s. “I am doing my job. I will try to keep the motivation – it’s not always easy – but we are here and we won’t give up.”

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

Slides off at same hairpin Lappi spun in, just misses small stone wall. Drops 11.6s to Neuville, reducing overall gap between them to 26.2s. “I thought I could leave my braking a little bit later but it wasn’t to be. I probably dropped about eight or ten seconds with that, but there we go.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

Now disadvantaged on wet tyres, slower than Neuville by 2.9s. “This rally is so tricky and I am happy that we have only had one puncture, so we will try to keep it like this.”

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

Comes in 4.3s down on Neuville to leave his lead over Tänak at 16.8s heading into the midday break. “Ott has been really fast today so I think it’s going to be a tricky afternoon, but let’s see what we can do. It depends how well we can react and it’s also important for us to score some points, so we have to be clever.”

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

No comment available.

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

No comment available.

**Car #22. ERIC CAMILLI/THIBAUT DE LA HAYE**

No comment available.

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

No comment available.

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

No comment available.

**COMMENTS**

Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe take a stage win in dry and clear conditions, just 0.8s faster than Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin. Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja are third fastest, 1.4s quicker than Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen to reduced their gap to the rally leader to 16.8s at the end of the morning loop. Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm have a spin at the hairpin, where Craig Breen/Paul Nagle slide off and lose 11.6s to Neuville. Breen is third overall, 26.2s ahead of Neuville.

**ENDS**

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