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JUHO HANNINEN, SKODA FABIA SUPER 2000, WINS RALLY D'ITALIA SARDEGNA

Second place for Paolo Andreucci with the Peugeot 207 Super 2000 and third for Kopecky, Skoda Fabia Super 2000.
Teemu Arminen, Subaru, wins the Gravel Rally Trophy, two rallies before the end of the series.

Olbia June 6th 2010 - The Finnish crew of Juho Hanninen and Mikko Markkula, Skoda Fabia Super 2000, have won Rally d'Italia Sardegna, event organized by Automobile Club d'Italia, valid for the Intercontinental Rally Challenge and for the Gravel Rally Trophy. The Finnish driver beat Paolo Andreucci and Anna Andreussi, Peugeot 207 Super 2000, by 35"6. In third place another Skoda Fabia, of Czech Jan Kopecky and Petr Stary, who ended only 2"6 from the Peugeot crew. The event was decided in this morning's stages. Paolo Andreucci, who was leading at that time, dropped back in second place with set-up problems. Then Kris Meeke, who had inherited the lead, went off the road leaving the road clear for Hanninen. Fourth and fifth place were for the two Peugeots of Belgian Neuville and Portuguese Magalhaes. Finn Teemu Arminen, finishing sixth with his Subaru N14, but moreover second behind Andreucci among the drivers who scored points for the Gravel Rally Championship, secured his win in the series with two events to go. The final success was granted by the retirement of Mauro Trentin, Peugeot, just before the finish. Between the Italian drivers, good performances for Luigi Ricci, Subaru N14, seventh overall, Daniele Batistini, Peugeot 207 Super 2000, eighth, Filippo Bordignon, Subaru Impreza, ninth, and Gianluca Linari, Subaru Impreza, tenth. First of the Sardinian drivers was Giuseppe Dettori with his Mitsubishi Lancer, who made it to the finish despite a spectacular accident, with his car on one side as shown live by the Eurosport cameras.

In the Irc 2WD Cup victory went to Hunt with a Ford Fiesta, after the leader Koitla went off the road. The Rally d'Italia Sardegna proved once again a very difficult race. Only 21 of the 44 starters made it to the finish. A long list of retirements, among which famous names such as Kris Meeke, stopped with his Peugeot, Wilks, off the road in his Skoda, Andreas Mikkelsen, retired yesterday and in the Rally today to gain experience with his Ford Fiesta, and Per Gunnar Andersson, Mitsubishi, retired today when he was second in Group N.

Final classification of the 2010 Rally d'Italia Sardegna -

1. Hanninen – Markkula (Skoda Fabia) in 2h 31'28"6 ; 2. Andreucci – Andreussi (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 35"6; 3. Kopecky – Stary (Skoda Fabia 2000) at 38'2; 4. Neuville – Klinger (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 5'58"6; 5. Magalhaes – Magalhaes (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 9'55"8; 6. Arminen – Nikkola (Subaru Impreza) at 10'12"3 ; 7. Ricci - Barone (Subaru Impreza) at 11'35"4 ; 8. Batistini – Pisano (Peugeot 207 Super 2000) at 11'58"1; 9. Bordignon – Bardini (Subaru Impreza) at 19'56"2; 10. Linari – Cecchi (Subaru Impreza) at 21'07"0.

Irc Drivers' standings after 5 events – 1. Hanninen 42 points, 2. Kopecky 31; 3. Wilks 25; 4. Magalhaes 17; 5. Meeke 15

Irc Manufacturers' standings – 1. Skoda 80; 2. Peugeot 46; 3. Ford 15; 4. Subaru 10; 5. Mitsubishi 8

Irc 2wd Cup drivers – 1. Princen, Tokarski, Tulio.Lemse and Hunt 10 points.

Irc 2wd Manufacturers – 1. Ford 50; 2. Peugeot 36; 3. Fiat 19; 4. Honda 16

Gravel Rally Trophy standings – 1. Arminen 44 points; 2. Andreucci 20; 3. Trentin 18; 4. Ricci 16; 5. Batistini 11

Gravel Rally Trophy Manufacturers standings – 1. Subaru 36; 2. Peugeot 34

For further information - www.rallyitaliasardegna.com