



Ufficio Stampa – Press Office

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Rally d'Italia-Sardegna - Day One

S.S. 2 – Monte Grighine – 28,66 km – 22° - sun – no wind.

The first stage, Monte Grighine, immediately outlines the classification. Ogier, starting with number 1, first had a puncture 4 kms into the stage, then stopped with engine problems on his 207. The rally immediately lost another two protagonists, Guy Wilks, Skoda Fabia, and Andreas Mikkelsen, Ford Fiesta. Per Gunnar Andersson had a puncture and lost 4'26". Burcu Cetinkaya, Peugeot 207 Super 2000, had a puncture on the rear left and lost 2'51". Alex Bruschetta was slowed down by mechanical problems and completed the stage losing over 30'. Caviglioli broke a driveshaft. "Dedo" rolled then continued, losing 1'37". Number 23 Addis also rolled. Ugo Valdarchi stops for a mechanical problem causing fire on his Mitsubishi. Some crews stopped to help him put out the fire, the stage was stopped and the crews which did not manage to pass got a notional time.

The best stage time was set by Jan Kopecky, Skoda Fabia Super 2000, in front of Kris Meeke, Peugeot 207 Super 2000, at 4"1, while Paolo Andreucci, Peugeot 207 Super 2000 is third. Juho Hanninen, Skoda Fabia, is fourth at 15"6

Juho Hanninen – "Very slippery, conditions are very difficult, it was hard to keep the car straight"

Kris Meeke – "I think Ogier had an engine problem, there was smoke coming from the bonnet"

Jan Kopecky – "Ok so far, I was not feeling well during the recce, we will see"

PG Andersson – "Wilks passed me when I was changing the tyre and then I think he went off after 300m"

Bruno Magalhaes - "I think I have a suspension problem, something might be broken"

Franz Wittmann - "I thought that I'd be slower, the stage is very demanding, in the end it was better than expected"

Thierry Neuville – "very difficult to drive, very slippery"

Teemu Arminen – "Lots of big stones, I tried to drive safely, the stage is very physical"

S.S. 3 – Gonnosnò –14.53 km – sun – no wind.

The second stage was less hard than the first one, still some news came up. Andreucci won the stage with 5"5 on Meeke and went in the lead even if by a mere 0"1 on Meeke. Hanninen was third at 12" while Kopecky had problems with his front right suspension and he is now fourth, 43"00 from the lead. Al Rajhi, Peugeot 207 Super 2000, stopped after a watersplash, his car failing to restart. Arminen overshot a junction losing about thirty seconds. Some offs, with only damage to the cars, for Gavino Carta and Peter Zanchi .

Juho Hanninen – "Very difficult, it was easy to go out"

Kris Meeke – "I made the decision after the first stage to bring the car back safely to service. It's going to be tough in the second pass, there will only be a little line with lots of grip"



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PG Andersson – “I have problems with my brakes”

Bruno Magalhaes - “Brake problems”

Franz Wittmann - “Difficult stage, we tried to stay out of trouble. We are not the fastest but we are still here and I’m very happy”

Thierry Neuville – “It was not too bad, I had to find feeling with the car. It’s my first rally on gravel with a 4WD car, I have to adapt myself and to learn. I want to finish to get experience”

Paolo Andreucci – “Very exciting, the drivers here are very good. For the moment I am happy, we had a puncture in the first stage”

Teemu Arminen – “I went a bit wide on a junction”

Burku Cetinkaya – “It’s better now, in service I’ll change the setup of my car”