



Ufficio Stampa – Press Office

Via A. Pozzo 1, 07026 Olbia

Tel. +39 0789 645052 – fax: +39 0789 648433 – info@rallyitaliasardegna.com

SEBASTIEN LOEB AND DANIEL ELENA, CITROEN DS3 WRC, CONTINUE TO LEAD.

But Hirvonen, Ogier and Solberg still hope

Olbia , May 7th – Sebastien Loeb and Daniel Elena, Citroen Wrc Ds3 – Citroen Total WRT are in the lead after the second leg of the 2011 Rally D'Italia Sardegna, an event organized by the Automobile Club d'Italia valid for the World Rally Championship, for the Super 2000 World Championship and the WRC Academy. The Frenchman, seven times world champion, ended the day with a 28 "3 lead on Hirvonen, who was particularly fast in today's leg with his Ford Fiesta WRC – Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally Team. The Finn, who had finished yesterday with a 53" gap from the leader did a strong recovery today but the gap at the day is still very consistent. But everything can still happen in a fascinating and challenging like the Rally d'Italia Sardegna, as there are still four stages for a total of 65 kilometres to go before the finish. Among them also the two long stages of Monte Olia, 24.50 km, and Terranova, 22.46 km, ready to give the latest twists. Loeb vs. Hirvonen but the race for first place is still open even for Ogier and Solberg, both in a Citroen. The first ended the second day of competition at 34 "6 from the leader, while the latter is fourth at 39"5.

These will be the stars of the last day of competition, also because the others are long gone. Norwegian Ostberg is at 1'44 "9, and Sordo, struggling with some youth problems of his rookie Mini WRC, is sixth at 2'29". Even further back are the first participants in the Super 2000 World Championship, Estonian Tanak, very fast with his Ford Fiesta Super 2000, and the second of the same category, Finn Hanninen, with the Skoda Fabia. The two are divided by about 50".

The Wrc Academy crews have finished their enormous effort today: The young promising drivers and their Ford Fiesta R2 were put to the test by the demanding route. Ultimately the winner was Estonian Egon Kaur, ahead of Argentinean Miguel Baldoni. Italian Andrea Crugnola finished sixth after a race full of problems.

The undisputed star of the day was, however, Finn Jari Matti Latvala. After losing all hope of a victory yesterday after a spectacular roll, the Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally Team driver drove flat out today, winning five out of six stages.

Special stage winners . SS. 1 Solberg, SS. 3/4/6/7 Loeb, SS. 2/5/8 Hirvonen, SS. 9,10,11,12 Latvala, SS. 12 Ogier

Day 2 overall: 1. Loeb – Elena (Citroen Ds3 Wrc) in 1h27'47"0; 2. Hirvonen – Lehtinen (Ford Fiesta Rs Wrc) a 28"3; 3. Ogier – Ingrassia (Citroen DS3 Wrc) a 34"6; 4.Solberg – Petterson (Citroen Ds3 Wrc) a 39"5; 5. Ostberg – Andersson (Ford Fiesta RS Wrc) a 1'44"9; 6. Sordo – Del Barrio (Mini John Cooper Works Wrc) a 2'29"0; 7. Tanak - Sikk (Ford Fiesta Super 2000) a 5'19"6; 8 . Hanninen – Makkula (Skoda Fabia Super 2000) a 6'08".2: 9.Wilson – Martini (Ford Fiesta RS Wrc) a 6'12"5; 10. Al Attiyah – Bernacchini (Ford Fiesta Super 2000) a 10'16"7.