

STAGE FLASH

Date: 28 February 2021
Day: 3
Special stage: SS10 (Aittajärvi 2, Wolf Power Stage)
Weather: Dry, bright sunshine, -1 degree
Road conditions: Gravel line visible for large sections of the stage

Flash N°: 11
Distance: 22.47 km

Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA

“At the end section there was too much cleaning still so it won’t be enough to make a good time. One more time I couldn’t do more than that. I was on the limit but, at the end, there was too much snow and I hit the snowbank. That’s the way it is until the next one. It’s been nice for the rally to come here. It’s a beautiful place to rally. Of course, when you are first on the road it’s not the same story but that’s the WRC game like it is.”

Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN

“It seemed quite slippery towards the end in places. It felt like I did a good, clean run to be honest. It’s a good time from Seb I have to be honest. It’s not been the weekend we wanted for sure. Okay, good speed at times but not what we wanted for sure. There’s things to learn from this weekend, that’s for sure and we know where the areas are we need to improve.”

Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE

“I had a good stage but obviously Craig as well, he pushed hard it looks like. But I did my best I could. I lost a little bit the front tyres towards the end. But anyhow I am satisfied with our weekend, despite some small issues and we don’t need to forget we were starting third on the road. That’s a good result considering our start position.”

Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN

“For sure this weekend I wanted to fight for the top place but I made a mistake and we were not in the optimal pace. But I have to say I was pushing the whole weekend, maximum all the time. It was a good weekend from my side and Jonne’s side. We did everything that we could. It’s nice to get the P2 here. It was not the perfect weekend but quite nice.”

Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT

“When conditions are very consistent I feel very confident but if it’s like this, quite loose snow and big ruts still I need to improve a lot my driving. Obviously this stage I made a big, big mistake at the beginning and in the middle so I am quite disappointed with myself. But this is the only way to run and I had a good weekend so thank you to the Toyota team.”

Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON

“Stage number one, I have to work on that. Generally the driving was getting a bit better. Some things have improved but there’s still a lot to work on.”

Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA

“First when you come to a new event it’s always a bit unexpected, you never know what to expect. This weekend we came to Finland, kind of home country of Toyota and also Rovaniemi was expected to be very strong. The pressure was there for sure and we knew it was going to be very, very complicated to take the fight. But in the end we did a very good weekend, just enough, nothing too much and only one mistake yesterday. But also today, claiming as many points as was safely possible and here we are. It’s an amazing place, definitely one of the best places to have a winter rally, I guess there is no place you can have more snow and also the characteristic of the roads, especially yesterday it was so demanding. To come back second time here would be much more enjoyable when you really know where you are going.”

Car #3. TEEMU SUNNINEN/MIKKO MARKKULA

“I watched the onboard from my first run and found a few places where I could go faster. I really hope I did it but still we’re quite far from Ogier.”

Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE

“There was a bit of belief. Honestly I didn’t think it was great. I just tried to clean up the bits and pieces where I was untidy before. I have to say thanks to the engineers, they gave me some info on the things I was doing wrong and I tried to really work on it. It was really tough on me this weekend, mentally. After delivering so much in Estonia the goal posts moved suddenly and you just want to deliver a win. But I need to remember my experience is on the low side so we just need to bide our time and go with it. I’m quite happy with that.”

Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/SEBASTIAN MARSHALL

“I don’t know when I will drive this car again so I thought I would just try. I lost sixth place with one second and it’s not bad with that [spin into a snowbank near the finish] because I lost 15 or 20 seconds. Okay, I’m sorry, but I tried.”

Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS

“In the last corner we had an issue with the engine and I was looking at the dash. Stupid but it’s like this. It was a difficult weekend.”

Car #12. JANNE TUOHINO/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN

Did not start Day 3 due to a dislocated left shoulder (non-rallying injury).

Car #37. LORENZO BERTELLI/SIMONE SCATTOLIN

“Unfortunately, yesterday I threw away everything, it was a great chance to enjoy yesterday. This stage was nice, the last part was quite tricky with a lot of ruts and I used too much the banks with too many mistakes. But in the end I enjoy and I’m happy to see you all again and let’s see if we can do another rally this year.”

Car #25. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM

“It was a strong weekend definitely. I am so grateful for my sponsors to have the chance to be here. I am really glad that we had a high level of competition in our class. It went better than I expected. I could've driven faster. There is no need to drive with the same 'attack mode' than in the WRC class.”

COMMENTS

Flying Finns Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen claimed the Wolf Power Stage victory to secure the runner-up spot on Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox by 2.3s behind dominant winners Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja. Rovanperä/Halttunen now lead the FIA World Rally Championship after two rounds. Craig Breen/Paul Nagle impressed with the second fastest time to secure fourth in the final order ahead of Elfyn Evans/Scottt Martin. Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe were third fastest on the run, 0.1s slower than Breen/Nagle, and finish third overall. Takamoto Katsuta/Daniel Barritt snatched sixth place in the overall classification by 1.2s from Oliver Solberg/Sebastian Marshall when the teenaged World Rally Car rookie spun into a snowbank a handful of corners from the finish. Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais also spun at the same corner, although a technical issue had already slowed their Hyundai.