

SERVICE FLASH

Date: 18 August 2018
Day: 2 **Flash F**
Service: F (Bostalsee)

1	OGIER Sébastien/INGRASSIA Julien	FRA/FRA	FORD Fiesta WRC
<p>“A bit of bad luck. Maybe a lot of bad luck. We know that there are a lot of stones on the long stage on Baumholder and that it is always a bit of a lottery whether or not you will pick up a puncture. This time we did not win the lottery. We had a slow puncture after 8 kilometres and then, obviously, we had to stop to change it. Since then it has been crazy risks and nothing to lose. I was pushing super hard at the end of the day. You cannot recover a lot from that though. At the time you just want to cry, because we made a good effort this weekend. We were doing a good job and it is frustrating not to benefit from that. I will still go out with my head held high and I will come back stronger.”</p>			

3	SUNINEN Teemu/MARKKULA Mikko	FIN/FIN	FORD Fiesta WRC
<p>“It was a good day. Today I was able to be much closer to the fastest guys. Actually, on the final stage I lost 0.8 to Seb. I have started to drive at a good level. I can still find some places where I could have driven faster, so that is a very positive thing – that I know how to set the fastest times, because I couldn’t understand how it was possible to drive 20 seconds faster than I did. There have been big improvements.”</p>			

4	MIKKELSEN Andreas/JÆGER Anders	NOR/NOR	HYUNDAI i20 Coupe WRC
<p>“The day was okay. We gained more experience with the car on tarmac. We tried some things that work and some that didn’t work. We are trying to fine-tune all the time. It is not a huge thing that we need to change now, it is all about finding the perfect timing with everything. My driving style is improving.”</p>			

5	NEUVILLE Thierry/GILSOUL Nicolas	BEL/BEL	HYUNDAI i20 Coupe WRC
<p>“It was a tough day for us, it did not go to plan. Despite that, we did not give up and were able to make up a few places thanks to Ogier’s puncture. We are now ahead of him in the standings, and need to keep it that way tomorrow. At first I thought that he was unlucky to get a puncture, but then we saw the pictures and he touched a stone. That happened to us last year, and you pay dearly for it. I think we are all in the same situation: we will all have to put our foot down tomorrow and see how it turns out. We cannot do a lot more. Dani was quicker than us in the same car today, so we’ll have to see how we can improve, in order to be quicker tomorrow. However, we do not have the same goals. Dani is here to show that he is still quick, and we are driving for the championship. As such, we need to be a little more cautious here and there.”</p>			

6	SORDO Dani/DEL BARRIO Carlos	ESP/ESP	HYUNDAI i20 Coupe WRC
<p>“It was a really hard fight today. We enjoyed the Baumholder stages and are happy with the car in this type of stage. We’ve been getting better and better and end the day with a good feeling. I hope we will continue like this tomorrow.”</p>			

7	LATVALA Jari-Matti/ANTTILA Miikka	FIN/FIN	TOYOTA Yaris WRC
<p>“Like the last few days, I have really enjoyed it. I pushed very hard. It is not easy, but today was very good. Tomorrow is a different kind of Sunday, in the sense that we have 70 kilometres remaining. Normally Sundays are quite short days, but tomorrow we have the 30-kilometre Graftschaff stage twice. It is still wide open. All the cars are still there, but I definitely want to go for it out there. I was very close in Finland, but lost the battle by a couple of seconds, so this time I will try to keep the fight alive.”</p>			

8	TÄNAK Ott/JÄRVEOJA Martin	EST/EST	TOYOTA Yaris WRC
<p>“It was an interesting day. This morning I did not feel too comfortable, but I still pushed hard because Seb was pushing really hard. It was a very good fight, actually. He obviously had a puncture this afternoon and now we have a big gap behind us, which we need to manage. It is a different kind of job now, but we just need to keep going. I didn’t slow down too much after what happened. I am still driving with a good rhythm, but am just being careful in the tricky places.”</p>			

9	LAPPI Esapekka/FERM Janne	FIN/FIN	TOYOTA Yaris WRC
<p>“I think the afternoon and the morning were quite similar today. I think we managed to improve the car a little bit, but for some reason I still lost a lot of time on Baumholder. That’s a bit frustrating. On the other hand, the last two stages in the fields without the dirt were much better than yesterday with the dirt, so at least there have been some improvements to my driving.”</p>			

10	ØSTBERG Mads/ERIKSEN Torstein	NOR/NOR	CITROËN C3 WRC
<p>“The day was a little bit up and down. I think we had some really strong stages today, which I am really happy with. We managed to set a third-fastest stage time, which I am really proud of. We managed to set a good pace in the afternoon as well, so that is really good. We lost a little bit too much time on the military stages. I struggled to find a really good rhythm with the car and a good set-up. But that’s how it goes. It is a difficult rally and my preparation was probably not enough. That is why we are finding it a little bit difficult. At the same time, we can be happy about the strong points.”</p>			

21	SERDERIDIS Jourdan/MICLOTTE Frédéric	GRC/BEL	FORD Fiesta WRC
<p>“It was a fantastic day. We had a lot of fun with the car. More and more confidence too. We also had a better set-up, thanks also to Sébastien [Ogier]: at the midday service he advised us to make the car a little bit lower. This was a very good idea for Panzerplatte and the faster sections of the other stages. I am completely exhausted, because it is quite hot in the car. Also, we have a lot of pressure with the brakes, the high speed and the bumps on Panzerplatte, so it is quite intensive. But we still had a good day. And I think we had a good time on the last stage – twelfth, I think. I think that is okay for an amateur, compared to all the professionals here.”</p>			

22	GRIEBEL Marijan/RATH Alexander	DEU/DEU	CITROËN DS3 WRC
<p>“I enjoyed today. The weather was great and there were an awful lot of fans out on the route. Apart from a slight intercom issue this morning we did not have any problems at all. The tyres were a little bit worse than the WRC 2 tyres, in terms of performance, but they were really stable. There was absolutely no risk of us getting a puncture on the Panzerplatte. As such, it was a nice, quiet day for us. I definitely want more, but I think you have to be realistic and say that this is probably my last time in WRC.”</p>			



43	KREIM Fabian/CHRISTIAN Frank	DEU/DEU	ŠKODA Fabia R5
<p>"Better than yesterday. No puncture, that was the most important thing. Unfortunately, we were not perfect on the second Panzerplatte stage and lost a bit of time. That aside, we are really happy. I don't think we can do a lot to catch the guys in front of us, they are simply too far ahead – I think it is 30 seconds to the next car. I won't manage that without any incidents, so we'll concentrate on what's behind us. My goal was to finish in the top five. We are there at the moment, so I am happy with the result at least. We could have been higher up the standings – the speed is there, that is the most important thing. I hope people have seen that we can compete at that level, puncture aside."</p>			