



Meet the crews
Sebastien Ogier
Ott Tanak
Jari-Matti Latvala

Seb, everything changes so quickly on this rally. Thierry Neuville has stopped and you lead. How do you feel?

SO: I feel amazing. I feel really good. One month ago we started a new project with M-Sport, but we had no time to prepare it. We knew it would be tough and it would be a big challenge, but I felt immediately some potential and now, to be in the lead in Monte Carlo with four stages to go, it feels good. But the last day will feel very, very long. We need to finish the job. It would be amazing to start with a victory

It's been five years since M-Sport won pressure

SO: I don't think too much about it – at least there is another guy from the team right behind me, so it would be a disaster if one of us isn't here at the end. We have seen what has happened so far this weekend, there have been so many mistakes and so many tricky conditions and this will carry on tomorrow, with maybe some snow on top of Turini.

This is exciting for you...

SO: Yeah, for sure. We had a lot of run driving the new car this weekend – the challenge is definitely bigger. I repeat, please stay on the safe place [if you are spectating] – we are going even faster than before. Even if it was a new car and many details could be improved, I still had a lot of fun in the car.

Ott, how does it feel to be sitting in second with four stages to go?

OT: For sure it's been great so far. It's been a big challenge, the biggest ever for me in Monte. We've had three tough days behind us and still one proper day still to go. In Monte it's never over until it's over. We need to stay focused and keep smart.

What's the atmosphere in the team like?

OT: You can imagine, they were a bit stressed before the rally – we didn't know how the car would perform. But the performance side has been quite good and the feeling in the car nice. We need to keep our fingers crossed and keep going.

Jari-Matti, a podium finish on Toyota's return would be a great result...

J-ML: Yeah, if you can reach the podium on the first race that's normally an amazing job. We have to stay focus tomorrow, it could be tough conditions like in 2013 and '14. But I feel more and more comfortable in the car. Some stages are a bit difficult but overall, like Seb said, the new cars are really nice to drive

There could be snow on top of Turini, your tested in dry conditions. You ready for snow?

J-ML: 2014, I remember the conditions. In 2013 I drove 700 metres then I crashed in the slush. I know what expect and I know how it is. It doesn't make is easier, but in my mind I know what to prepare for.



What's the atmosphere like at Toyota?

J-ML: It's a really nice atmosphere. Everybody is working really hard and I'm happy to see this for the team. There's a really good spirit in the team, we are all working so hard. I really hope we can reach this result tomorrow.

Team principals

Malcolm Wilson

Jarmo Lehtinen

Michel Nandan

Yves Matton

Malcolm, four stages to go and you're one-two. How do you feel?

MW: I was very nervous before the start of the rally, everybody had new cars and we didn't know how competitive we could be. I think it's worse now. We've got four stages and Turini to come and I know what's happened to us there in the past – but we've also benefitted: one year we went in fifth and came out second. As we've seen anything can happen. I'm very, very happy all of our drivers have scored fastest times and to have Seb first and Ott second it's incredible.

Will you sleep tonight?

MW: I don't normally sleep anyway! It's been a long time, it's five years, but please we have to wait until tomorrow.

Strong performances from all the drivers – especially Elfyn with three fastest times.

MW: He had a difficult day yesterday, but the conditions were tricky. The combination worked better today, there were more dry sections which allowed him to get more heat in the tyres and in some of the dry places use slicks. He's set some great times and this has been a great performance by Elfyn.

Jarmo, you could be on the podium on Toyota's return. How does that feel?

JL: Of course we are delighted about the third place, but the biggest thing and the thing we are very pleased is to see the team here. It's been a tremendous 19 months where we have all been working flat out. If the podium comes, it's a bonus. But it's still a long way.

It would be a fantastic boost...

JL: For sure, but we have already seen some really encouraging split times and stage times – it's already paying back with a boost.

Nervous?

JL: I'm not sure it can be any more nerve-wracking, so many things are coming for the first time for this team. But so far so good.

Are you enjoying it?

JL: Yes. It took me 15 years to get here [meet the crews] and never as a competitor!



Michel, Thierry had a strong lead, but then on SS13 things went wrong. What happened?

MN: I didn't have time to talk to Thierry, but it was at the exit of a slow corner. He damaged a rim and the suspension. They struggled a bit to fix it together and make the car still running. But they managed it after long work on the car. He went out of the stage and now he's in service. It's important – there's no Rally2 tomorrow. We will see if we can repair the car and come back tomorrow and do the best we can.

The performance of the car is a good positive?

MN: It's true that, so far, we have had no issues, but to talk about the performance it's a bit early really. This rally is really special for sure, we have to wait a bit more for the performance of the car. But we can be there and that's important.

Yves what happened KM:

YM: We had ignition problem for Kris. He had to stop and try to repair. We are lucky to have the parts in the car, but he lost 25 minutes and when you add this to the time he lost yesterday... OK, he's still there and it's important to drive the stages and learn more the car and for the future of the car.

Stephane has driven without risks today?

YM: Conditions are really tricky and, for him, there was no test on these conditions. After his mistake on day one, it was important for him to come back to the rally at 100 per cent.

And what about Craig Breen? He could win this rally in the DS 3?

YM: I said it will be difficult and for sure we have seen a lot of things in Monte Carlo – but that could be the main surprise in the last 30 years!