



### SS1 : LA-BOLLÈNE-VÉSUBIE / COL DE TURINI

<b>Date:</b>	19.01.2023		
<b>Day:</b>	1	<b>Flash N°:</b>	2
<b>Special Stage:</b>	1	<b>Distance :</b>	15,12 km
<b>Weather:</b>	Clear, temperatures vary from 2.5°C at the start to -5°C at the finish		
<b>Road conditions:</b>	Bone dry, save for a few small damp patches up at the Col.		

#### SS1: Ogier and Evans open in style!

Two Toyota drivers at the forefront, but not necessarily those we expected: the first special stage of 91st Rally Monte-Carlo, Thursday evening in prestigious Col de Turini, allowed Sébastien Ogier to take his first stage win of the week, ahead of Welshman Elfyn Evans. The Frenchman had been the quickest driver in the shakedown session, on Thursday morning, near Peille. He left no chance to any of his rivals and seized the chance to become the very first leader of this 2023 edition.

“It was fine, the conditions were very dry but very slippery at the end, because of the salt on the road. This is a very clean start for us. Anyone who says he is not tense either has a problem or he is lying”, Ogier said at the end of this SS1 (15.12km). Behind Ogier and Evans, honors were taken by Thierry Neuville (Hyundai) in 3rd place and Takamoto Katsuta (Toyota) in 4th, followed by Kalle Rovanperä (Toyota) in 5th.

That is four Toyota Yaris in the Top 5 of this nightly opening stage. And three slightly slower drivers: Ott Tänak (M-Sport Ford) 6th and eight seconds behind Ogier, because he suffered electrical problems in his hybrid Ford Puma, Pierre-Louis Loubet (M-Sport Ford) 7th at 10 seconds because he was a little too cautious for his first night in the Turini in a WRC car, and Dani Sordo (Hyundai) 9th at 12 seconds, due to a lack of confidence after two years of absence in the opening round of the WRC.



## Quotes

### 69. ROVANPERÄ-HALTTUNEN

«Quite okay. I don't really enjoy these stages a lot - I don't like the characteristics of the stage but I tried my best. The soft tyre is moving quite a lot so I just tried to find the right pace to look after the tyre. »

### 8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

« We had some electrical issues in the road section. We can't use fifth gear and every gear change is a pain. We will try to get it home. »

### 11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

« That's good, but it was not a perfect stage. It's difficult to kick-off at night in such difficult conditions, but generally I was smooth and had a good feeling. I am looking forward to the next one. »

### 33. EVANS-MARTIN

« I'm a bit surprised [to be fastest by 4.7sec]. The stage was okay but there's very low grip at the end and it's difficult to know how you're doing. »

### 18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

« It's tricky this one - especially in the dark and with these kind of temperatures, but the gravel crew did a great job. It's all okay.. »

### 17. OGIER-LANDAIS

« It was okay. Very dry conditions but very slippery at the end with the salt. A clean start for us. Anybody who says the nerves are not there either has a problem or is lying! »

### 6. SORDO-CARRERA

« It's true we were a little bit slow. We just tried to be clean but maybe at some points we were backing off. »

### 4. LAPPI-FERM

« All good. There are many corners which I don't remember and I feel stupid when I arrive on the apex. I should have been much faster. I know how to improve the times quite quickly, but especially in the dark it's not easy to memorise the stage. I am quite satisfied with the start. »

### 7. LOUBET-GILSOUL

« It was okay. For my first time in Turini at night, not so bad. We want to be at the end of tonight and this was a good first stage, not so far back from the other guys. Let's continue. »



### 9. SERDERIDIS-MICLOTTE

« Difficult. I was having some problems with my visibility. It's not a perfect start but it was not bad. »

### Classifications

#### SS1

1	#17		S. OGIER		V. LANDAIS		GR Yaris Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:22.9			
2	#33		E. EVANS		S. MARTIN		GR Yaris Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:24.2	+1.3	+1.3	
3	#11		T. NEUVILLE		M. WYDAEGHE		i20 N Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:28.9	+4.7	+6.0	
4	#18		T. KATSUTA		A. JOHNSTON		GR Yaris Rally1 HYBRID		RC1	10:29.8	+0.9	+6.9	
5	#69		K. ROVANPERÄ		J. HALTTUNEN		GR Yaris Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:30.3	+0.5	+7.4	
6	#8		D. TÄNAK		M. JÄRVEOJA		Puma Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:31.5	+1.2	+8.6	
7	#7		P. LOUBET		N. GILSOUL		Puma Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:33.8	+2.3	+10.9	
8	#4		E. LAPPI		J. FERM		i20 N Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:34.5	+0.7	+11.6	
9	#6		D. SORDO		C. CARRERA		i20 N Rally1 HYBRID	M	RC1	10:35.3	+0.8	+12.4	
10	#24		ANA N. GRYAZIN		ANA K. ALEKSANDROV		Fabia RS		WRC2 (T/DC/CC)	RC2	10:46.9	+11.6	+24.0
11	#22		S. LEFEBVRE		A. MALFOY		C3		WRC2 (D/C)	RC2	10:54.8	+7.9	+31.9
12	#21		Y. ROSSEL		A. DUNAND		C3		WRC2 (D/C)	RC2	10:56.6	+1.8	+33.7
13	#23		O. SOLBERG		E. EDMONDSON		Fabia RS		RC2	10:56.7	+0.1	+33.8	
14	#27		E. CAIS		P. TEŠÍNSKÝ		Fabia RS		WRC2 (DC/CC)	RC2	10:59.1	+2.4	+36.2
15	#20		A. FOURMAUX		A. CORIA		Fiesta MkII		WRC2 (T/D/C)	RC2	10:59.3	+0.2	+36.4

#### After SS1

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