



SHAKEDOWN : GAP

Date :	24.01.2024		
Special Stage :	Shakedown	Distance :	3.28 km
Weather :	12°C – Cold and dry		
Road conditions :	Road OK but numerous patches of dry mud in corners		

Shakedown: Tänak on the attack!

There are only two World Champions entered in this 92nd Rally Monte-Carlo, Ott Tänak (Hyundai) and Sébastien Ogier (Toyota). And it was the Estonian, crowned in 2019, before Covid, who set the fastest time in the shakedown on Wednesday afternoon in the hills above Gap. In his very first timed run of the 2024 season, he clocked a time of 2:00.4 over 3.28km of a small, dry road, but which quickly became smeared with dirt, with most of the competitors generously taking the apex in the fastest corners. Three years have passed since the 2021 edition, run behind closed doors and with masks because of Covid-19, when Monte-Carlo competitors last took advantage of this shakedown to fine-tune their rally cars.

On his first run, Tänak did barely better than Elfyn Evans (Toyota) over the 3km shakedown. It was just by one tenth of a second, the weather was good and daylight was only beginning to fade. Behind Tänak and the 2:00.5 clocked by the Welshman, 2nd at the end of last season, 3rd place in this shakedown went to another Hyundai driver, Thierry Neuville (2:01.2), two tenths quicker than Ogier (2:01.4). And for the places of honour in this full-scale set-up session, the third Toyota driver, Takamoto Katsuta, was ahead of the third Hyundai driver, Andreas Mikkelsen, back in the top class after several seasons in WRC2.

Ogier, the eight-time world champion, is in search of a 10th win on Sunday in the Principality, while Tänak has never managed to succeed in this very special rally. On Thursday evening, serious business will begin, with two special stages (SS1, SS2) starting at 20h00 in the Alpes de Haute-Provence and Hautes-Alpes departments. This will happen after the ritual and very official start, on Casino Square in Monte-Carlo. You will be able to follow it live from 4:45 pm, local time, on the Facebook and YouTube pages of Automobile Club de Monaco.



33. EVANS-MARTIN

« Looking forward to go, obviously, it's always a big build up to the new season. Nice to be in the car. You know, I'm never happy, on the whole okay. »

11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

« Feeling good, I mean, looking forward to another season, it's good to be here again. And it's going to be exciting, that's for sure, so yeah, I hope we're going to have a good start of the weekend and yeah, in those conditions, it's going to be still a tricky event. So yeah, let's do it, and try to make a good show and have fun and bring home a good result. »

8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

« The numbers are numbers, yeah, but it's still quite exciting, and I am a bit nervous as well. I will try to maximize. »

17. OGIER-LANDAIS

« Yeah, there is unfortunately not so many cars, like you said, for this rally : 8 cars in Rally 1, it is pretty poor. But yeah, we're here and we'll try to enjoy the weekend. »

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

« Yeah, of course, nice to be here as always, and it's going to be a big challenge. This (shakedown) stage is very tricky and nice. So we'll try to enjoy and push. There will be many difficulties, for sure. »

9. MIKKELSEN-ERIKSEN

« It feels tremendously fast. We'll enjoy this weekend. Yeah, one thing, you do the test stage up and down the whole road, you think you're comfortable, and you arrive and then everything is approaching so quickly. We'll have to adjust, but we'll be good. »




16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

« I'm really excited because we are in France, it's Monte-Carlo, a new season for me, for sure, so honestly, I just want to do well this year and we'll see. For the run now, it's not really good, we have something wrong on the car, we have to go back to the service park. I don't know what's wrong. »

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

« Yeah it's incredible, for sure, not a good first one, but we enjoyed. Tires were a bit cold in the beginning. Much more muddy than expected, so I took it carefully. »



POS	CAR No.	DRIVER	TEAM/CAR	GROUP CLASS	1	2	3
1	#8	 Ott TÄNAK	i20 N Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:00.4	2:04.7	2:04.2
2	#33	 Elfyn EVANS	GR Yaris Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:00.5	2:06.9	2:05.2
3	#11	 Thierry NEUVILLE	i20 N Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:01.2	2:02.4	10:00.0
4	#17	 Sébastien OGIER	GR Yaris Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:01.4	2:02.7	10:00.0
5	#18	 Takamoto KATSUTA	GR Yaris Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:03.6	2:05.6	10:00.0
6	#9	 Andreas MIKKELSEN	i20 N Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:05.8	2:05.6	2:07.3
7	#13	 Grégoire MUNSTER	Puma Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:06.8	2:05.9	10:00.0
8	#16	 Adrien FOURMAUX	Puma Rally1 HYBRID	RC1	2:11.8	2:09.7	2:06.6



SHAKEDOWN : GAP – WRC2

Date :	24.01.2024		
Special Stage :	Shakedown	Distance :	3.28 km
Weather :	12°C – Cold and dry		
Road conditions :	Road OK but numerous patches of dry mud in corners		

20 ROSSEL - DUNAND

« Yeah, the goal is the same (winning, as last year), but the plan is to win on the road now. Same team, it's like my family and I continue with them... The car is good... »

21. GRYAZIN - ALEKSANDROV

« Big changes. I hope and I feel it's a good way changing. So I feel really nice in the car. Stage is nice. »

22. SOLBERG – EDMONDSON

« Very muddy, so quite tricky, I'm trying to feel it a little bit. I didn't win last year, right? So the target is to win the rally.»

23. PAJARI - MÄLKÖNEN

« For sure it's a new challenge. I think for us and for the team. Exciting ! Let's see, I hope we can do fine. It will be very tricky. Shakedown was fine but muddy. »

24. CIAMIN - ROCHE

« Very happy because it's kind of my home rally. So yeah, happy to be back after three years. I hope we'll enjoy. »

26. INGRAM – MCKILLOP

« I've got completely brand-new brakes so I need to get them ready for the 1st stage. But yeah I'm so happy to be here and it's great to be back in WRC and in Monte-Carlo. My favorite rally, the best rally in the world in my opinion. »

27. LEFEBVRE - MALFOY

« I don't know exactly what to expect, it's a new car but anyway I'm here with a new car, new team. We're looking forward and we're very happy to be here. We'll do the maximum. »