



SS10: LES NONIÈRES / CHICHILIANNE 1

Date :	27.01.2024		
Day :	3	Flash N° :	17
Special Stage :	10	Distance :	20,04 km
Weather :	10°C – Sunny		
Road conditions :	Dry & damp portions		

SS10: Ogier bounces back, Neuville takes the lead

It was the first major turning point of the 92nd Monte-Carlo Rally: on SS10 this morning, between Les Nonières (Drôme) and Chichilianne (Isère), a rather quick 20.04km stage, Thierry Neuville (Hyundai) took the overall lead by just nine-tenths of a second from Elfyn Evans (Toyota), the leader since the start on Thursday evening.

The fastest time on SS10 was indeed set by Sébastien Ogier, a fine reaction from the Toyota driver after his disappointment on SS9, but it was Neuville who did the trick, on a road that was dry on the uphill section and damper going downhill.

The Belgian winner of the 2020 edition is very calm and efficient this week: *"After the tunnel, on the descent, the grip was better than expected. Maybe I was too careful with my braking zones. It was a good morning for us,"* said Neuville at the end of this stage, not used in WRC since 1997 (fastest time by Armin Schwarz in a Ford Escort).

Ogier set the fastest time, his fourth of the week, despite a small incident on the stage when a stone hit his windscreen, creating a small impact. *"It's good, especially after losing so much time on the previous stage. The only thing we can do is look ahead and keep attacking,"* said last year's winner.



"*We have a small issue* ", said Evans at the end, without saying anything more. The surprise of this stage came from his Japanese team-mate Takamoto Katsuta, who set the 3rd fastest time as first on the road, with two super-soft tyres mounted in front. It was a bold choice, but one that paid off in the end. His aim today is to get back into the Top 10 after crashing out yesterday in SS3.

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Quotes

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

« No moments, we are just going safely through. It's quite dry at the beginning but the downhill section is quite greasy. There is no frost or ice but it's quite slippery on the high-speed sections. »

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

« This one was a bit less good. The beginning was really abrasive and very dry, and I did not commit enough. Then you cross a really damp section and that was really quite tricky. »

9. MIKKELSEN-ERIKSEN

« It's an awesome stage, really beautiful. I really enjoyed it - this was proper tarmac. There is still so much to come but this was good learning in this stage, really cool. »

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

« I don't want to take any risk. Gap to the guys behind is quite big, and also ahead. The beginning was all dry so it was quite nice, but after the tunnel it's quite slippery. »

8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

« This one is a bit faster, so in the fast it's not too bad. The car is behaving quite OK at the moment. »

11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

« It's getting quite dirty and after the tunnel, the grip was much higher than I expected. I was really too careful on the braking zones but it is what it is. So far, it's been a good morning for us. »

17. OGIER-LANDAIS

« The first one was terrible, it's a shame that we lost so much time, but the only thing we can do is look forward and keep pushing. »

33. EVANS-MARTIN

« A little issue is going on, but it's OK. »



Classifications SS10

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF 1st	DIFF PREV	CAR No.
1	Sébastien OGIER	11:27.2	-	-	#17
2	Thierry NEUVILLE	11:29.3	+2.1	+2.1	#11
3	Takamoto KATSUTA	11:29.5	+2.3	+0.2	#18
4	Ott TÄNAK	11:30.3	+3.1	+0.8	#8
5	Grégoire MUNSTER	11:33.4	+6.2	+3.1	#13
6	Andreas MIKKELSEN	11:33.8	+6.6	+0.4	#9
7	Adrien FOURMAUX	11:35.6	+8.4	+1.8	#16
8	Elfyn EVANS	11:36.7	+9.5	+1.1	#33

After SS10

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF 1st	DIFF PREV	CAR No.
1	Thierry NEUVILLE	1:49:26.8	-	-	#11
2	Elfyn EVANS	1:49:27.7	+0.9	+0.9	#33
3	Sébastien OGIER	1:49:31.9	+5.1	+4.2	#17
4	Ott TÄNAK	1:50:45.4	+1:18.6	+1:13.5	#8
5	Adrien FOURMAUX	1:51:22.1	+1:55.3	+36.7	#16
6	Grégoire MUNSTER	1:52:56.1	+3:29.3	+1:34.0	#13
7	Andreas MIKKELSEN	1:53:00.8	+3:34.0	+4.7	#9
8	Takamoto KATSUTA	1:56:25.3	+6:58.5	+3:24.5	#18