



SS13: LES NONIÈRES / CHICHILIANNE 2

Date :	27.01.2024		
Day :	3	Flash N° :	22
Special Stage :	13	Distance :	20,04 km
Weather :	10°C – Sunny		
Road conditions :	Dry – dirty in the second half		

SS13: Ogier takes the lead

There is a new leader in this 92nd Monte-Carlo Rally: Sébastien Ogier (Toyota), thanks to his fastest time on SS13 (20.04km) this afternoon between Les Nonières (Drôme) and Chichilianne (Isère), has moved ahead of Thierry Neuville (Hyundai) by just eight-tenths of a second. There is just one more special stage to negotiate (SS14) before the end of this 3rd long day of rallying (120km of timed stages).

"We need to keep attacking. It's very close, which is good. We love to fight and that's good for the fans too. There is no time to back off now, we just need to keep pushing," Ogier said at the end of SS13, delighted to have made up, in four stages, the time he lost early this morning on SS9.

Ogier, the luxury freelancer, is performing much better this Saturday than Elfyn Evans, the full-time Toyota driver: *"I'm really struggling in the sections where there's little grip, especially in terms of confidence. The others are clearly going faster than me this afternoon"*, summed up the Welsh vice-world champion, lucid about the level of his performance.

As for Neuville, Ogier's last rival for overall victory on the Col de Turini on Sunday, he hasn't given up yet, far from it, even though he has just suffered two consecutive setbacks in his duel at the summit with the eight-time world champion. Like Evans, he is aiming for the world title this year. And this weekend, he began to get the better of his team-mate Ott Tänak, on the back foot since Friday morning.



In WRC2, the battle is as intense as ever. After SS12, Spain's Pepe Lopez (Skoda Fabia RS) is once again leading the category, ahead of Russia's Nikolay Gryazin (Citroën C3) and Frenchman Yohan Rossel (Citroën C3), the 2021 WRC3 champion. The three drivers are within 11.6 seconds of each other. Game on!

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Quotes

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

« It's not such nice conditions to be honest. After the tunnel, it's a completely different stage - very greasy on the downhill. I had to be very careful. »

9. MIKKELSEN-ERIKSEN

« It was a little bit tricky down the hill. We took it very safe in this stage as we have such a big gap ahead and behind. »

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

« At the start it's fully dry, and then you have 5km where it's so slippery and muddy. I think somebody could run faster than us in those places! »

8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

« When it's nice and clean, it's enjoyable, but the second part is mixed. It's challenging but it's fine. »

11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

« I felt really good to be honest so let's see. Everything was working, I really enjoyed it. There are always a few places where you can go faster but we did a good stage. »

17. OGIER-LANDAIS

« We need to keep pushing - it's very close. It's very nice - we love [the fight] and it's good for the fans too. There is no time to back off now, there's just time to push. »

33. EVANS-MARTIN

« I think I'm really struggling in the low grip sections, especially for confidence. The other guys are clearly going faster this afternoon. »



Classifications SS13

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF 1st	DIFF PREV	CAR No.
1	Sébastien OGIER	11:32.4	-	-	#17
2	Thierry NEUVILLE	11:35.4	+3.0	+3.0	#11
3	Elfyn EVANS	11:40.0	+7.6	+4.6	#33
4	Ott TÄNAK	11:45.2	+12.8	+5.2	#8
5	Takamoto KATSUTA	11:49.4	+17.0	+4.2	#18
6	Andreas MIKKELSEN	11:49.5	+17.1	+0.1	#9
7	Adrien FOURMAUX	11:51.1	+18.7	+1.6	#16

After SS13

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF 1st	DIFF PREV	CAR No.
1	Sébastien OGIER	2:25:09.9	-	-	#17
2	Thierry NEUVILLE	2:25:10.7	+0.8	+0.8	#11
3	Elfyn EVANS	2:25:31.8	+21.9	+21.1	#33
4	Ott TÄNAK	2:26:47.5	+1:37.6	+1:15.7	#8
5	Adrien FOURMAUX	2:27:44.9	+2:35.0	+57.4	#16
6	Andreas MIKKELSEN	2:29:18.6	+4:08.7	+1:33.7	#9
7	Takamoto KATSUTA	2:32:32.8	+7:22.9	+3:14.2	#18