



SS7 : SAINT-MAURICE / AUBESSAGNE 2

Date :	24.01.2025		
Day :	2	Flash N° :	10
Weather and road conditions :	9°C, dry road, very dirty in the last 3 kms	Distance :	18,68 km

SS7: Evans doubles up

Elfyn Evans (Toyota), who had already won SS3 on Thursday evening, won the first special stage of the second loop on Friday afternoon between Saint-Maurice and Aubessagne (SS7, 18.6km) in the Hautes-Alpes. The Welshman set a time of 10'35"6, a good minute better than Kalle Rovanperä's time on the same stage earlier in the morning. And as he drove 6.4 seconds faster than his team-mate Sébastien Ogier, he widened the gap at the top of the overall standings, with Adrien Fourmaux (Hyundai) still on the provisional podium.

'The grip was much better than this morning, but I didn't attack enough,' said Ogier at the stop. As for Thierry Neuville, who had bent his rear left suspension this morning on SS6, he began his comeback by setting the third fastest time of the stage.

The Belgian had left the Gap service park with a perfectly repaired Hyundai i20N, and summed up the situation well at the end of the stage: *"I really have to thank the guys and I'm happy to be here,"* said the reigning world champion. *'It wasn't easy, I had no confidence in the grip levels, there were too many gaps from one section to the next, and it was difficult to drive this stage. As we passed the frontrunners, there was no obvious trajectory in front of us and it wasn't really comfortable. At the end of the stage, there was a lot of dirt on the road'.*

After SS7, the leading trio was still made up of two Toyota drivers, Evans and Ogier at 7.9 seconds, closely followed by Fourmaux, at 7.5 seconds, in the best Hyundai. As for Kalle Rovanperä, in another Toyota, he has climbed back to 4th place by taking advantage of Neuville and Tänak's problems this morning on SS6.

In WRC2, Yohan Rossel (Citroën C3) made up six seconds in one go on Nikolay Gryazin (Skoda Fabia RS) and is now just a dozen seconds behind the Russian-Bulgarian, who still leads the category.

SS8, which was cancelled on Friday morning, was ready to allow the battle to continue in all categories. Sarah Rumeau (Citroën C3), supported by the Fédération française du sport automobile (FFSA), is still in the top half of the overall classification, for her first international outing in a WRC2, as is Elliott Delecour, François' son, aged just 17, in his Opel Corsa entered in the RC4 category.



Quotes

1. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

“Thank you to the guys who fixed the car. I’m happy to be here. Not so easy to be honest. I do not trust the grip. I tried to do a good stage but I have too many inconsistencies. Just makes it very difficult to drive. There’s no line at all so we are making the line everywhere in the deep mud. I tried what I could but it doesn’t feel so good. I don’t feel comfortable. I come off all the time and it’s a bit scary.”

33. EVANS-MARTIN

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

[About the conditions] “Not sure if you call it consistent. A bit less mud than what we were expecting. We were driving quickly. Let’s see.”

8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

“A clean stage. Lot of dirt, so as good feeling as expected, a clean stage”

17. OGIER-LANDAIS

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

“It’s better than this morning with the grip. Obviously, I didn’t push enough. No idea [what’s the plan for the next stage]. We will see.”

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

“It went ok, just at the end, the stage got dirtier and dirtier. I couldn’t do much more, to be fair, it was very slippery. All the time in the corners, I was putting dirt after the corner.”

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

“The feeling is ok. I didn’t expect that the stage would be that good. Way easier than in the morning, just need to put the foot down with the ice and frost.”

69. ROVANPERÄ-HALTTUNEN

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

“Really ok. We change something in the car in the service park for this kind of slick setup and conditions. Slightly better but for sure still struggling with the feeling of the tyres but with this starting place, it’s not too bad.”



13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 non-studded

“It’s ok. Like I said before, we had a very good morning, I don’t want to make a mistake. It was really difficult early with the road position. Still on the 2nd pass, it’s bringing a lot of mud. I could have done more but I didn’t want to risk too much.

For sure the next stage, it’s a stage that they [his rivals] know really well. We’ll see. There is some ice. We need to keep the pace.”

5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

“No mega drama. It’s just quite tricky. Not really having flow, nothing really wrong, not feeling quite good. I don’t know what to do [for next stage]. Maybe it will be more clear to see where the trickier places are.”

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

No quotes

Classifications SS7

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	<u>Elfyn EVANS</u>	10:35.6	-	-	#33	<u>Scott MARTIN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
2	<u>Kalle ROVANPERÄ</u>	10:39.3	+3.7	+3.7	#69	<u>Jonne HALTTUNEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
3	<u>Thierry NEUVILLE</u>	10:40.7	+1.4	+5.1	#1	<u>Martijn WYDAEGHE</u>	i20 N Rally1
4	<u>Sébastien OGIER</u>	10:42.0	+1.3	+6.4	#17	<u>Vincent LANDAIS</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
5	<u>Takamoto KATSUTA</u>	10:43.9	+1.9	+8.3	#18	<u>Aaron JOHNSTON</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
6	<u>Adrien FOURMAUX</u>	10:44.8	+0.9	+9.2	#16	<u>Alexandre CORIA</u>	i20 N Rally1
7	<u>Ott TÄNAK</u>	10:46.0	+1.2	+10.4	#8	<u>Martin JÄRVEOJA</u>	i20 N Rally1
8	<u>Grégoire MUNSTER</u>	10:48.4	+2.4	+12.8	#13	<u>Louis LOUKA</u>	Puma Rally1
9	<u>Joshua MCERLEAN</u>	11:20.8	+32.4	+45.2	#55	<u>Eoin TREACY</u>	Puma Rally1
10	<u>Sami PAJARI</u>	11:22.1	+1.3	+46.5	#5	<u>Marko SALMINEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1



After SS7

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	<u>Elfyn EVANS</u>	1:06:45.4	-	-	#33	<u>Scott MARTIN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
2	<u>Sébastien OGIER</u>	1:06:53.3	+7.9	+7.9	#17	<u>Vincent LANDAIS</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
3	<u>Adrien FOURMAUX</u>	1:07:00.8	+7.5	+15.4	#16	<u>Alexandre CORIA</u>	i20 N Rally1
4	<u>Kalle ROVANPERÄ</u>	1:07:12.2	+11.4	+26.8	#69	<u>Jonne HALTTUNEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
5	<u>Ott TÄNAK</u>	1:07:18.8	+6.6	+33.4	#8	<u>Martin JÄRVEOJA</u>	i20 N Rally1
6	<u>Grégoire MUNSTER</u>	1:07:20.7	+1.9	+35.3	#13	<u>Louis LOUKA</u>	Puma Rally1
7	<u>Takamoto KATSUTA</u>	1:08:08.7	+48.0	+1:23.3	#18	<u>Aaron JOHNSTON</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
8	<u>Thierry NEUVILLE</u>	1:08:39.1	+30.4	+1:53.7	#1	<u>Martijn WYDAEGHE</u>	i20 N Rally1
9	<u>Sami PAJARI</u>	1:09:17.6	+38.5	+2:32.2	#5	<u>Marko SALMINEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
10	<u>Joshua MCERLEAN</u>	1:10:57.3	+1:39.7	+4:11.9	#55	<u>Eoin TREACY</u>	Puma Rally1