



SS13 : LA MOTTE-CHALANÇON / SAINT-NAZAIRE-LE-DÉSERT 2

Date :	25.01.2025		
Day :	3	Flash N° :	18
Weather and road conditions :	10°C, mostly dry, wet in some portions. A bit polluted	Distance :	27,00 km

SS13: big battle in the Top 5

Saturday afternoon got off to a good start for Ott Tänak, Hyundai's other World Champion, who set the fastest time on SS13 between La Motte-Chalançon and Saint-Nazaire-le-Désert (27km). It was his second fastest time of the rally, after ES11 this morning, improving by over 20 seconds on the time set earlier in the morning by Grégoire Munster (Ford Puma) on the first run (ES10).

Thanks to this good performance, the Estonian, crowned in 2019, has regained 4th place in the overall standings which he had already occupied on Friday morning, after SS4. He thus overtook Kalle Rovander (Toyota), who really does not feel at ease on this Monte-Carlo, as he much prefers to slide on dirt or snow, but not on icy patches.

'We had a good pace and fairly consistent [road] conditions. I had a better feeling. The [road] conditions have definitely changed too,' said Tänak at the stop. As for Munster, he said he was *'less comfortable than this morning. It wasn't great, and my four soft tyres tended to overheat, especially the rear tyres'*. The Luxemburg driver had set his first ever fastest stage time in WRC this morning.

In another change to the overall standings, Elfyn Evans (Toyota) moved back ahead of Adrien Fourmaux (Hyundai) to take second place, 18.4 seconds behind Sébastien Ogier, still the leader. *"I didn't have a good feeling on this stage, I was too cautious and I didn't manage to attack enough,"* lamented the man from the north of France, but he was only 1.7 seconds behind Evans after SS13.

The battle continued as the stages progressed, with both drivers feeling more or less at ease. *'Everything's under control, I'm feeling better in the car,'* said Evans, who doesn't usually give away too many details about his state of mind in the cockpit of a WRC car. And it's hard to imagine the Welshman coming back on Ogier, who is still going strong as an old hand at Monte Carlo: *'It was a good stage for me, in good conditions, with good grip. I tried to take it easy on the tyres. To win the rally, you have to be consistent'*.



Another constraint from this afternoon is to take it easy on the tyres ahead of Sunday morning, when there will be, at best, ten points to take, including a maximum of five for the classification on the final day, and a maximum of five in the Power Stage. Finally, in the WRC2 category, Yohan Rossel (Citroën C3) now has a lead of more than three minutes over Eric Camilli, a former M-Sport competitor in WRC, who is still battling with Yohan's brother Léo for second place of this class.

Quotes

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"It is quite dry, the cuts are not full of mud anymore. I was too cautious. The tyre is overheating quite badly and the feeling is not so nice. All four [tyres overheating], a bit more the rear but generally, all four."

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"It keeps on getting crazier, the speed this thing picks up on acceleration is unbelievable on a dry road, everything is 2x speed. It's quite unbelievable. We have definitely jumped in at the deep end but now it is time to learn how to swim."

1. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

4 Z215 WRC7 soft, 2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"It felt good to be honest, at least from the feeling I have now I couldn't do more. That's for sure. [Pajari is faster than him] I am not surprised. The feeling isn't that great, it is not that bad either. It is always the same story; we are fighting a bit but not getting it."

5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"Quite nice run, nowhere near any moments, I had quite a nice flow. I enjoyed it. It is nice not to be too warm for the super soft tyres. Tried to be clean, it is fun."

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

2 Z215 WRC7 soft, 4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"Feels okay, they [the tyres] started overheating at the end."

8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

2 Z215 WRC7 soft, 4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"We had a good rhythm, quite consistent [road] condition. I had a better feeling in me and in the car. Definitely [road] conditions have changed as well."



69. ROVANPERÄ-HALTTUNEN

2 Z215 WRC7 soft, 4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"This one felt really good, with these tools I don't have anything more to give to be honest. There was no mistake, the driving and the pace was very good and the grip was quite good from what I had."

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"I didn't get the feeling at the beginning; I was a bit too cautious the first time I drove with the softs. The feeling came later. We will see at the end of the loop."

33. EVANS-MARTIN

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"It felt pretty okay, no drama. All ok."

17. OGIER-LANDAIS

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"Good stage for me, good condition, good grip. Tried to look a bit after the tyre. To win the rally you need to be consistent so we'll try our best."

Classifications SS13

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	Ott TÄNAK	16:07.9	-	-	#8	Martin JÄRVEOJA	i20 N Rally1
2	Elfyn EVANS	16:09.8	+1.9	+1.9	#33	Scott MARTIN	GR Yaris Rally1
3	Takamoto KATSUTA	16:10.6	+0.8	+2.7	#18	Aaron JOHNSTON	GR Yaris Rally1
4	Sébastien OGIER	16:11.4	+0.8	+3.5	#17	Vincent LANDAIS	GR Yaris Rally1
5	Kalle ROVANPERÄ	16:12.5	+1.1	+4.6	#69	Jonne HALTTUNEN	GR Yaris Rally1
6	Grégoire MUNSTER	16:13.6	+1.1	+5.7	#13	Louis LOUKA	Puma Rally1
7	Adrien FOURMAUX	16:14.3	+0.7	+6.4	#16	Alexandre CORIA	i20 N Rally1
8	Sami PAJARI	16:15.1	+0.8	+7.2	#5	Mårko SALMINEN	GR Yaris Rally1
9	Thierry NEUVILLE	16:22.3	+7.2	+14.4	#1	Martijn WYDAEGHE	i20 N Rally1
10	Joshua MCERLEAN	16:46.2	+23.9	+38.3	#55	Eoin TREACY	Puma Rally1



After SS13

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	<u>Sébastien OGIER</u>	2:21:11.3	-	-	#17	<u>Vincent LANDAIS</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
2	<u>Elfyn EVANS</u>	2:21:29.7	+18.4	+18.4	#33	<u>Scott MARTIN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
3	<u>Adrien FOURMAUX</u>	2:21:31.4	+1.7	+20.1	#16	<u>Alexandre CORIA</u>	i20 N Rally1
4	<u>Ott TÄNAK</u>	2:21:54.2	+22.8	+42.9	#8	<u>Martin JÄRVEOJA</u>	i20 N Rally1
5	<u>Kalle ROVANPERÄ</u>	2:21:57.8	+3.6	+46.5	#69	<u>Jonne HALTTUNEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
6	<u>Takamoto KATSUTA</u>	2:22:45.7	+47.9	+1:34.4	#18	<u>Aaron JOHNSTON</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
7	<u>Sami PAJARI</u>	2:25:05.1	+2:19.4	+3:53.8	#5	<u>Marko SALMINEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
8	<u>Thierry NEUVILLE</u>	2:26:28.4	+1:23.3	+5:17.1	#1	<u>Martijn WYDAEGHE</u>	i20 N Rally1
9	<u>Joshua MCERLEAN</u>	2:28:58.4	+2:30.0	+7:47.1	#55	<u>Eoin TREACY</u>	Puma Rally1
10	<u>Grégoire MUNSTER</u>	2:32:42.8	+3:44.4	+11:31.5	#13	<u>Louis LOUKA</u>	Puma Rally1