



## SS14 : AUCELON / RECOUBEAU-JANSAC 2

Date :	25.01.2025		
Day :	3	Flash N° :	19
Weather and road conditions :	12°C, mostly dry. A bit dirty. Mud on some cuts.	Distance :	15,48 km

### SS14: Tänak closes in on the podium

The 14<sup>th</sup> special stage of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Rallye Monte-Carlo, shortened by 5km as it was this morning for safety reasons, enabled Ott Tänak, the 2019 world champion, to add a third best time to his tally in 2025, his second in a row after SS13.

The Estonian, still 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall standings, pulled even closer to Elfyn Evans (Toyota), at 8.8 seconds, while Adrien Fourmaux (Hyundai) provisionally regained second place, 7 tenths ahead of the Welsh vice-world champion. So it's a three-way battle for two places on the podium behind Sébastien Ogier (Toyota), who is still clinging on to his lead.

*'Ott (Tänak) made a different choice of tyres to us and that's good for him. It allows him to get away from Kalle (Rovanperä), but it also means that he's getting closer to me, so I'm going to have to start paying attention,'* commented Fourmaux. He now only has a lead of around ten seconds over his Hyundai team-mate, who has set three fastest times out of five since Saturday morning.

Tänak did better than Seb Ogier (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Thierry Neuville (3<sup>rd</sup>) on this stage. *'It's more of a gravel rally than an asphalt rally, it was so dirty! I'm happy to have finished this one,'* said Ogier, who now has a 24.4-second lead over Fourmaux.

As for the Belgian world champion, he hit something at km 2, at the very start of the stage: *'I'm fighting hard, it's very difficult to keep the car on the road. We're continuing to fight, trying to improve things for tomorrow. It's not easy at all. We had vibrations, I think the right rear rim must be damaged or something.'*

Night falls very quickly on the Drôme in January, so that the last amateur competitors will have to set up headlamp ramps to negotiate SS15 before returning, at night, to the Service Park in Gap.



## Quotes

### 13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"It's crazy. It's like a warzone. It's strange. I have some supersoft in the boot, I didn't put them on because it looked dry. But the asphalt is not working on it. Let's see with the supersoft. Josh [McErlean] is on supersoft cross I think, so it is good to get knowledge for the team."

### 55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"Tyre choice wasn't so bad, struggled a lot on this stage the last time. It is better, but it is still not right. A lot of learning, the road is that narrow if you make one mistake, you're down into the rockpits. One more [stage] today, another big day tomorrow."

### 1. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

4 Z215 WRC7 soft, 2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"I am fully fighting; it is very hard to keep the car on the road. We continue fighting, try and improve something for tomorrow. Not easy at all. We had some vibration; I think the rear right rim must have some damage or something."

### 5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"Quite different conditions compared to the first pass, not so bad but still a lot more pollution everywhere basically. But quite fine. A really safe, comfortable drive."

### 18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

2 Z215 WRC7 soft, 4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"Conditions are okay, we had an issue. We stalled once and after that I have no confidence to drive normally. We need to find out what went wrong. I couldn't find the hairpin."

### 8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

2 Z215 WRC7 soft, 4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"A lot of pollution in this one, a couple of hairy moments as well. Definitely, I tried my best in this one. The big guys are still coming, I'm sure they are pushing as well."



### 69. ROVANPERÄ-HALTTUNEN

2 Z215 WRC7 soft, 4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"There is not much to say, no need to add anything. [Can he gain positions?] For sure, I'm interested, but does it look like I can do it? Not so much. [What he needs?] To be faster."

### 16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"Ott [Tänak] has a different tyre choice and it seems to be working for him. It's good for him in the fight with Kalle [Rovanperä]. We'll see for us."

### 33. EVANS-MARTIN

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"It's a horrible stage. There's literally nowhere to go if you make a mistake. A load of mud in every corner. Mid-stage, I had a few big slides, eased off a bit and obviously paid the price for that."

### 17. OGIER-LANDAIS

3 Z215 WRC7 soft, 3 Z215 WRC9 supersoft

"It's more gravel rally than tarmac rally, so dirty! I'm happy to have this one [the stage] behind me."

## Classifications

### SS14

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	<b>Ott TÄNAK</b>	10:39.6	-	-	#8	<b>Martin JÄRVEOJA</b>	i20 N Rally1
2	<b>Sébastien OGIER</b>	10:48.6	+9.0	+9.0	#17	<b>Vincent LANDAIS</b>	GR Yaris Rally1
3	<b>Thierry NEUVILLE</b>	10:52.8	+4.2	+13.2	#1	<b>Martijn WYDAEGHE</b>	i20 N Rally1
4	<b>Adrien FOURMAUX</b>	10:52.9	+0.1	+13.3	#16	<b>Alexandre CORIA</b>	i20 N Rally1
5	<b>Elfyn EVANS</b>	10:55.3	+2.4	+15.7	#33	<b>Scott MARTIN</b>	GR Yaris Rally1
6	<b>Grégoire MUNSTER</b>	10:56.9	+1.6	+17.3	#13	<b>Louis LOUKA</b>	Puma Rally1
7	<b>Kalle ROVANPERÄ</b>	10:57.1	+0.2	+17.5	#69	<b>Jonne HALTTUNEN</b>	GR Yaris Rally1
8	<b>Sami PAJARI</b>	11:03.7	+6.6	+24.1	#5	<b>Marko SALMINEN</b>	GR Yaris Rally1
9	<b>Joshua MCERLEAN</b>	11:06.8	+3.1	+27.2	#55	<b>Eoin TREACY</b>	Puma Rally1



## After SS14

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	<u>Sébastien OGIER</u>	2:31:59.9	-	-	#17	<u>Vincent LANDAIS</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
2	<u>Adrien FOURMAUX</u>	2:32:24.3	+24.4	+24.4	#16	<u>Alexandre CORIA</u>	i20 N Rally1
3	<u>Elfyn EVANS</u>	2:32:25.0	+0.7	+25.1	#33	<u>Scott MARTIN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
4	<u>Ott TÄNAK</u>	2:32:33.8	+8.8	+33.9	#8	<u>Martin JÄRVEOJA</u>	i20 N Rally1
5	<u>Kalle ROVANPERÄ</u>	2:32:54.9	+21.1	+55.0	#69	<u>Jonne HALTTUNEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
6	<u>Sami PAJARI</u>	2:36:08.8	+3:13.9	+4:08.9	#5	<u>Marko SALMINEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
7	<u>Thierry NEUVILLE</u>	2:37:21.2	+1:12.4	+5:21.3	#1	<u>Martijn WYDAEGHE</u>	i20 N Rally1
8	<u>Joshua MCERLEAN</u>	2:40:05.2	+2:44.0	+8:05.3	#55	<u>Eoin TREACY</u>	Puma Rally1
9	<u>Grégoire MUNSTER</u>	2:43:39.7	+3:34.5	+11:39.8	#13	<u>Louis LOUKA</u>	Puma Rally1