



SS16 : AVANÇON / NOTRE-DAME-DU-LAUS 2

Date :	26.01.2025		
Day :	4	Flash N° :	22
Weather and road conditions :	4°C, full wet conditions, some portions dirty and black ice	Distance :	13,97 km

SS16: Ogier up early, Tänak 3rd

The leader of the 93rd Rallye Monte-Carlo, Sébastien Ogier (Toyota), aiming at an historic 10th win in the Principality, set the fastest time on SS16 (between Avançon and Notre-Dame-du-Laus, 13.97km) very early on Sunday morning. But he's not out of the woods yet, as there are still two stages to go for his rivals too, with different tyre choices. As for Ott Tänak (Hyundai), following on from Saturday (4 scratch times out of 6), he started the day by taking 3rd place overall standings, behind the two Toyotas of Ogier and Elfyn Evans.

'I'm really happy that this stage is behind me, because it was very slippery and very tricky,' said a very relieved Ogier at the end of the stage. *'I set the fastest time, but we all chose different tyres, so it's quite possible that I'll lose time on the next one,'* added the eight-time world champion, after increasing his lead over Evans by four seconds over 14 km, up to 24.3 seconds.

It was 6.45 am and pitch dark when the first car set off on SS16, the Ford Puma of Grégoire Munster, and a few minutes later two Toyotas were out of the race. Takamoto Katsuta at first, not very fast, in a right-hand bend, and Sami Pajari's a bit later, much more spectacularly, at the entrance of a small bridge. In other words, two cars out of the race, and crews OK, on the very first timed kilometres of the last day, giving a welcome double warning to the four candidates for podium: Ogier, Evans, Tänak and Adrien Fourmaux, i.e. two Toyota drivers and two Hyundai drivers.

This 16th stage, the first on the way back to Monaco, had already been covered on Thursday evening before arriving in Gap. The conditions were very different, with many excited fans who had annoyed Ogier a little with their smoke bombs and fireworks. The atmosphere was a little less festive this morning at daybreak, and the Frenchman didn't mind.



Having set off from Gap with 4 studded tyres and two super-soft, just like Evans, he had no assurance that this was the right choice to finish the 51km loop on Sunday's menu, including the closing Power Stage (SS18). After all, the snow at the top of Col de Turini was likely to melt quite quickly...

In WRC2, there is much less suspense, as Yohan Rossel (Citroën C3) is on a different planet, with a lead of over three minutes on Eric Camilli (Hyundai i20) and Léo Rossel (Citroën C3), still battling for 2nd place.

Quotes

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WR5 non-studded

"I told my brother Charles [Munster, competing in WRC2], I went without studs. I hope he took some, it is crazy. I think four studs [would be the perfect choice], it would help. There is a lot of black ice."

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

"That's a massive challenge in there, I don't know if it is ice or frost or what it is, but it is so inconsistent. What a way to start Sunday morning. Two to go!"

1. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"Probably not too bad [tyre choice], we have to see the whole loop, the points are given over the whole loop and we're only on the first stage. Just too careful at the end but you don't know where the ice is, the grip was good on the last 3km but I didn't try to drive faster. Not too bad, but like I said it wasn't a very committed run but lots of surprises. Let's see."

5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

Off-road 10.1km into the stage after hitting a bridge

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

Off-road 1.8km into the stage.



69. ROVANPERÄ-HALTTUNEN

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

"Really difficult condition. Some surprises like black ice which was not reported from the ice crew. Of course, seeing Taka [Katsuta] and Sami [Pajari] out made me really careful in those places especially. For sure, we can be quicker."

8.TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WR5 non-studded, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

"I don't know. Not sure the tyre choice is that good, I just drove through and took it safely."

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded

"I am feeling really good, the aim was to get through this stage and get the advantageous tyre package later on, I'm really pleased, we only lose six seconds."

33. EVANS-MARTIN

2Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"[If he took risks?] Not really. So difficult, I couldn't see for a lot of the stage I had so much dirt on the windscreen. Let's see how [the tyre choice] works out for the rest of the day."

17. OGIER-LANDAIS

2Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"Very, very muddy, very, very tricky. I am happy this one is behind us. We have all different tyre choices; the gap will reduce on the next one. We needed this gap."



Classifications SS16

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	Sébastien OGIER	10:50.0	-	-	#17	Vincent LANDAIS	GR Yaris Rally1
2	Elfyn EVANS	10:54.0	+4.0	+4.0	#33	Scott MARTIN	GR Yaris Rally1
3	Kalle ROVANPERÄ	11:03.0	+9.0	+13.0	#69	Jonne HALTUNEN	GR Yaris Rally1
4	Thierry NEUVILLE	11:03.7	+0.7	+13.7	#1	Martijn WYDAEGHE	i20 N Rally1
5	Ott TÄNAK	11:04.5	+0.8	+14.5	#8	Martin JÄRVEOJA	i20 N Rally1
6	Grégoire MUNSTER	11:04.7	+0.2	+14.7	#13	Louis LOUKA	Puma Rally1
7	Adrien FOURMAUX	11:11.5	+6.8	+21.5	#16	Alexandre CORIA	i20 N Rally1
8	Joshua MCERLEAN	11:31.4	+19.9	+41.4	#55	Eoin TREACY	Puma Rally1

After SS16

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	Sébastien OGIER	2:53:38.2	-	-	#17	Vincent LANDAIS	GR Yaris Rally1
2	Elfyn EVANS	2:54:02.5	+24.3	+24.3	#33	Scott MARTIN	GR Yaris Rally1
3	Ott TÄNAK	2:54:19.8	+17.3	+41.6	#8	Martin JÄRVEOJA	i20 N Rally1
4	Adrien FOURMAUX	2:54:24.3	+4.5	+46.1	#16	Alexandre CORIA	i20 N Rally1
5	Kalle ROVANPERÄ	2:54:46.2	+21.9	+1:08.0	#69	Jonne HALTUNEN	GR Yaris Rally1
6	Thierry NEUVILLE	2:59:09.4	+4:23.2	+5:31.2	#1	Martijn WYDAEGHE	i20 N Rally1
7	Joshua MCERLEAN	3:02:45.0	+3:35.6	+9:06.8	#55	Eoin TREACY	Puma Rally1
8	Grégoire MUNSTER	3:05:37.9	+2:52.9	+11:59.7	#13	Louis LOUKA	Puma Rally1