



## SS18 : LA BOLLÈNE-VÉSUBIE / PEÏRA-CAVA (Power Stage)

Date :	26.01.2025		
Day :	4	Flash N° :	24
Weather and road conditions :	7°C, dry but very damp in some portions. Melting ice and snowy parts	Distance :	17,92 km

### SS18 : Ogier: record and panache!

Sébastien Ogier, in his Gazoo Racing Toyota Yaris, led from the start of the 93rd Rallye Monte-Carlo on Thursday evening, setting two fastest times from the outset. He then recuperated the lead at the end of SS8, on Friday, and kept it till the end. Sunday's win is his 10th in Monte-Carlo, the new absolute record, nine of them in the WRC (and one in the IRC, in 2009). This is also his 62nd victory in the World Rally Championship, including eight since he became a luxury freelancer in 2021, with Vincent Landais as his new co-driver. And he added a little extra panache by winning the final Power Stage, on Sunday, by just three-tenths of a second. A fantastic champion.

'What a weekend! We had so many moments. I think my lucky star followed me all the way to the end. It's the star of my uncle, who died last year. This victory is for him,' said an exhausted and emotional Ogier on the finish line of the Power Stage. It was his 46th win in a Power Stage and his 106th podium in the WRC since his very first, in 2009 at the Acropolis Rally, in Greece.

### Ogier at the top

Ogier, an eight-time world champion, has won many rallies for Citroën, Volkswagen and Toyota. He also drove for Skoda in WRC2, while waiting for VW to enter the WRC. On every continent, he has demonstrated his versatility, racing intelligence, speed and lucidity. He is the all-time record holder for Monte Carlo wins, which is only logical, after all.

To maintain his status as the absolute benchmark in the world's most prestigious rally, Ogier had to battle for four days against three other World Champions, Thierry Neuville (2024) and Ott Tänak (2019) for Hyundai, as well as Kalle Rovanperä (2022, 2023) for Toyota. It was the strongest line-up in the Principality for nearly twenty years. With the added bonus of two very tough drivers, Elfyn Evans (Toyota), four times runner-up in the World Championship in the past five years, and Adrien Fourmaux, recruited this winter by Hyundai Motorsport, after five podiums last year for M-Sport Ford. Adrien kept up the suspense right up to the start of the final stage.



Thanks to his experience, and even though it was 'complicated' from start to finish, as he often stressed this weekend, Ogier held out until this 18th special stage. He had four studded tyres and two super-soft, just like his team-mate Evans, and it all came down to the last downhill portion, after Col de Turini, when the Welshman made a minimal mistake and lost just a few tenths. But the overall win was already decided, as Ogier had perfectly managed his 18.2 second lead, at the start of SS18, throughout the last 17.9 km of this opening event of 2025.

### The great lottery of road conditions and tyre choices

In the great lottery of weather and road conditions, which are always very changeable on a Monte Carlo, Fourmaux tried everything he could, but he could not take the first win of his WRC career, after five podium finishes with M-Sport Ford last year. But that's all in the balance, as he took another podium finish, his 6th in the WRC, and will take consolation in the title of revelation of this 2025 edition, having made very few mistakes in some really tricky conditions.

The final Power Stage (SS18) enabled Ogier to pick up a further 5 bonus points to take the lead of the World Championship for now, and the classification for Sunday's Super Sunday (also with 5 bonus points) was won by Evans to complete the Japanese marque's double. This is only the third 1-2 for the Japanese brand in the Principality, after Ogier-Evans in 2021 and Ogier-Rovanperä in 2023.

## QUOTES

### 13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

*2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WR5 non-studded*  
Off-road in SS17.

### 55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

*4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded*

"It is a big relief obviously to get here after the conditions we have faced all week. The team have done an amazing job, Eoin on the notes has been superb. Big thanks to the Motorsport Ireland Rally Academy and everyone at home supporting. It is only the beginning of a big year ahead, hopefully it gets a bit easier but the step-by-step is better this weekend. It is still a big learning experience with this car - it's something else."



### **1. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE**

*2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded*

"Obviously the road is getting faster by every car [passing by], so for me I could only try something different. If I went with the same [tyre] choice as everyone else, I would've been anyhow slower. I had to try something different. It wasn't easy. Probably not a good weekend for us. It is what it is. We're gonna learn from it and look forward to Sweden."

### **5. PAJARI-SALMINEN**

*4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded*

Off-road after hitting a bridge in the SS16.

### **18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON**

*4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded*

Off-road in SS16.

### **69. ROVANPERÄ-HALTTUNEN**

*4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded*

"If we could do that [pass Tänak] it would be good, it didn't feel so good. I felt I was struggling a lot at the beginning with the cross tyre of the stage. I could've been much faster there for sure, the snow was pretty ok. Disappointing weekend of course, not the result we wanted, not the pace we wanted. At least we got some points, big thanks to the team. Let's see in Sweden if we still remember how to drive a rally car or not."

### **8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA**

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

"More or less tried hard and got nothing in the end. We didn't get things too right this weekend. Even this morning, the matrix said the slick is two minutes slow, but it is a minute faster. It's still tricky. I am quite pleased though, at least a good road position for Sweden."

### **16. FOURMAUX-CORIA**

*4 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 2 SR20 WRC5 studded*

"We have the same tyre choice as Elfyn [Evans], we'll see with him, I think it will be the podium for us. Really positive for us, for the beginning of the season. It's been a really good rally for us, it's a shame we didn't make this last day, but it's Monte so you never know. Thanks to the team, I am really happy to start my first rally with them by getting a podium, it's perfect."



### 33. EVANS-MARTIN

2Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"I wasn't expecting that ice there [at the end]. We got through. Looks like it's alright, but it wasn't looking so good about 1km back there!"

### 17. OGIER-LANDAIS

2Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"I don't know where to start, what a weekend. I think I have my lucky star with me this weekend. It was my uncle, who we lost one year ago. I am sure he was bringing me everything and this one is for him. Quite a few moments this weekend... like I said, my lucky star was there. [On his 10<sup>th</sup> win] I don't know what it means, but for me the world. I have no idea if it is my last one now. It would be a good place to stop."

## Classifications

### SS18

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	<u>Sébastien OGIER</u>	12:58.6	-	-	#17	<u>Vincent LANDAIS</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
2	<u>Elfyn EVANS</u>	12:58.8	+0.2	+0.2	#33	<u>Scott MARTIN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
3	<u>Adrien FOURMAUX</u>	13:02.3	+3.5	+3.7	#16	<u>Alexandre CORIA</u>	i20 N Rally1
4	<u>Kalle ROVANPERÄ</u>	13:04.3	+1.9	+5.7	#69	<u>Jonne HALTUNEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
5	<u>Ott TÄNAK</u>	13:12.0	+7.8	+13.4	#8	<u>Martin JÄRVEOJA</u>	i20 N Rally1
6	<u>Thierry NEUVILLE</u>	13:14.4	+2.4	+15.8	#1	<u>Martijn WYDAEGHE</u>	i20 N Rally1
7	<u>Joshua MCERLEAN</u>	13:40.3	+25.9	+41.7	#55	<u>Eoin TREACY</u>	Puma Rally1



## After SS18

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	<u>Sébastien OGIER</u>	3:19:06.1	-	-	#17	<u>Vincent LANDAIS</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
2	<u>Elfyn EVANS</u>	3:19:24.6	+18.5	+18.5	#33	<u>Scott MARTIN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
3	<u>Adrien FOURMAUX</u>	3:19:32.1	+7.5	+26.0	#16	<u>Alexandre CORIA</u>	i20 N Rally1
4	<u>Kalle ROVANPERÄ</u>	3:20:00.4	+28.3	+54.3	#69	<u>Jonne HALTTUNEN</u>	GR Yaris Rally1
5	<u>Ott TÄNAK</u>	3:20:05.1	+4.7	+59.0	#8	<u>Martin JÄRVEOJA</u>	i20 N Rally1
6	<u>Thierry NEUVILLE</u>	3:24:50.3	+4:45.2	+5:44.2	#1	<u>Martijn WYDAEGHE</u>	i20 N Rally1
7	<u>Joshua MCERLEAN</u>	3:29:21.2	+4:30.9	+10:15.1	#55	<u>Eoin TREACY</u>	Puma Rally1