



SS6 : LA BRÉOLE / SELONNET 1

Date :	24.01.2025		
Day :	2	Flash N° :	8
Weather and road conditions	8°C, mixed conditions, some icy patches	Distance :	18,31 km

SS6: Fourmaux on top, Hyundai hit

After an unscheduled break due to the cancellation of SS5 (a spectator was injured when he fell on the road), Adrien Fourmaux (Hyundai) set his first fastest time of 2025 at midday on SS5, between La Bréole and Selonnet (18.31km), while his two World Champion team-mates, Thierry Neuville and Ott Tänak, were at fault.

‘It was a really nice stage, I had a lot of fun and I was clean from start to finish without making any mistakes,’ enthused the 29-year-old Frenchman after his first best stage time for Hyundai, the Korean team he joined this winter after five seasons with M-Sport Ford. Fourmaux really showed what he was capable of, attacking very hard and negotiating the trickiest section of SS6 as best he could, where some drivers had to slow down a lot because they didn’t have the ideal tyres on their cars.

Fourmaux completed the stage in 11:00.8, so this was 7.9 seconds quicker than his compatriot Sébastien Ogier, who had a minor scare of no major consequence, and 10.4 seconds quicker than Elfyn Evans, the two Toyota drivers who set off on Friday morning in pursuit of Neuville. The chase was brought to a premature end at km 8.6 of SS6 when the Belgian was taken for a ride like a beginner, braking downhill on a completely dry right-hand bend.

‘I think it’s a consequence of our lack of experience with these new (Hankook) tyres. I was fooled and I got caught up in the braking’ summed up the reigning world champion, who lost nearly two minutes in the adventure, and therefore his place in the Top 3. He had driven half the stage with his left rear wheel askew, but firmly attached, and still had to go to the service park in Gap to repair it.

Another Hyundai driver, Tänak, had a very hot moment, driving several dozen metres at full speed in a ditch and turning his i20N into a convertible. ‘I’m missing a few parts on my car, but I’m doing fine,’ said the Estonian, the 2019 world champion, before heading back to Gap where the Hyundai Motorsport mechanics were about to experience a slightly agitated lunch break.



The real bargain of SS6 was Luxembourg's Grégoire Munster (Ford Puma), who was already very comfortable in SS4 earlier in the morning. His daring choice of non-studded tyres (2 winter tyres and 2 super-soft), and his precaution in the icy section at the end, enabled him to set the 2nd fastest time of the stage and climb to 4th overall, behind Evans, Ogier and Fourmaux, grouped within 6 seconds. In other words, six drivers (and three makes) within 23 seconds of each other before the second loop of the day's stages. As Ogier already put it, in three words: this is a 'real Monte Carlo'!

Quotes

1. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

2 SR20 WRC5 non-studded, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"We paid the price of not having experience with the tyres. It was a dry section and I don't know, it felt the tire was quite stable and suddenly I lost the brake efficiency. There was a ditch and lost the rear. The car is fine [to go back to service]."

33. EVANS-MARTIN

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"Not so good. Obviously, the sun is out, lot of places where the gravel crew marked icy but when you are in and out of the shade it is difficult to trust it [the gravel crew]."

8. TÄNAK-JÄRVEOJA

5 SR20 WRC5 studded

[After seeing the back of his car damaged] "There is a lot missing, but that's fine. I am happy to be here. Some black ice [was there]."

17. OGIER-LANDAIS

1 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 5 SR20 WRC5 studded

"It is tricky, we expected a little bit better but actually there is still some grip changes in there."

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"It's really really nice. We have a really really good stage. To be fair, I was really enjoying, that's really a demanding stage, it was quite crazy. I had some good fun, I took it quite clean, no mistakes, so really happy."



18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"It was very inconsistent. It's very [difficult]. The black ice [was] quite okay. There was some ice on the stage."

69. ROVANPERÄ-HALTTUNEN

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"Pretty ok. I don't know which tyres the others used. Not easy conditions but we went through safely. Some good sections and in some others I was too careful."

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

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

"We had no studs in this one. It was crazy, I pushed like hell, but one or two times, I was on the limit. We made the right tyre choice, and we were the only one with this one. We have to stick with it. We did it with the team, it was really stressful this morning. The gravel crew did a top job, some icy bits were really tricky."

5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"We went a bit wide on one corner, at least for me it was just quite a big surprise. Really slippery place, the grip was changing a lot. Just a bit too fast in one corner, slide up the bank a bit, nothing more. [It happened] Maybe 5km to the finish."

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

2 Z215 WRC9 supersoft, 4 SR20 WRC5 studded

"We've seen all the drama at the start, it is nice to have the information. It would be tricky to run first on the road. Hopefully this afternoon we can keep on pressing. It's dryer in areas and then other areas it is getting slippery, but it is a hard task for the [gravel crew], we don't envy them."



Classifications SS6

POS	DRIVER	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	Adrien FOURMAUX	11:00.8	-	-	#16	Alexandre CORIA	i20 N Rally1
2	Grégoire MUNSTER	11:05.0	+4.2	+4.2	#13	Louis LOUKA	Puma Rally1
3	Sébastien OGIER	11:08.7	+3.7	+7.9	#17	Vincent LANDAIS	GR Yaris Rally1
4	Elfyn EVANS	11:11.2	+2.5	+10.4	#33	Scott MARTIN	GR Yaris Rally1
5	Kalle ROVANPERÄ	11:11.9	+0.7	+11.1	#69	Jonne HALTTUNEN	GR Yaris Rally1
6	Ott TÄNAK	11:22.0	+10.1	+21.2	#8	Martin JÄRVEOJA	i20 N Rally1
7	Takamoto KATSUTA	11:26.0	+4.0	+25.2	#18	Aaron JOHNSTON	GR Yaris Rally1
8	Joshua MCERLEAN	11:38.7	+12.7	+37.9	#55	Eoin TREACY	Puma Rally1
9	Sami PAJARI	11:50.4	+11.7	+49.6	#5	Marko SALMINEN	GR Yaris Rally1
10	Thierry NEUVILLE	12:59.0	+1:08.6	+1:58.2	#1	Martijn WYDAEGHE	i20 N Rally1

After SS6

POS	DRIVER	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st	CAR No.	CO-DRIVER	TEAM/CAR
1	Elfyn EVANS	56:09.8	-	-	#33	Scott MARTIN	GR Yaris Rally1
2	Sébastien OGIER	56:11.3	+1.5	+1.5	#17	Vincent LANDAIS	GR Yaris Rally1
3	Adrien FOURMAUX	56:16.0	+4.7	+6.2	#16	Alexandre CORIA	i20 N Rally1
4	Grégoire MUNSTER	56:32.3	+16.3	+22.5	#13	Louis LOUKA	Puma Rally1
5	Ott TÄNAK	56:32.8	+0.5	+23.0	#8	Martin JÄRVEOJA	i20 N Rally1
6	Kalle ROVANPERÄ	56:32.9	+0.1	+23.1	#69	Jonne HALTTUNEN	GR Yaris Rally1
7	Takamoto KATSUTA	57:24.8	+51.9	+1:15.0	#18	Aaron JOHNSTON	GR Yaris Rally1
8	Sami PAJARI	57:55.5	+30.7	+1:45.7	#5	Marko SALMINEN	GR Yaris Rally1
9	Thierry NEUVILLE	57:58.4	+2.9	+1:48.6	#1	Martijn WYDAEGHE	i20 N Rally1
10	Joshua MCERLEAN	59:36.5	+1:38.1	+3:26.7	#55	Eoin TREACY	Puma Rally1