



SS10 : LA BRÉOLE / BELLAFIRE 1

Date:	24.01.2026		
Day:	3	Flash N°:	14
Special Stage:	10	Distance:	29,93 km
Weather:	-1°C – Cloudy		
Road conditions:	Snow and ice.		

SS10: Ogier closes the gap, Solberg holds firm

The first special stage on Saturday, between La Bréole and Bellaffaire, saw Sébastien Ogier (Toyota) clock his third fastest time in a row in this 94th Monte Carlo Rally and continue to close the gap on his teammates Oliver Solberg, who remains the overall leader, and Elfyn Evans, who now has only a 3.5-second lead over the Frenchman.

The longest stage of the rally (29.93km), which the competitors will tackle again around midday on their way to Monaco, was covered in snow from start to finish at dawn when Ogier and his rivals set off, all equipped with Hankook studded tyres that comply with European standards. The studs are smaller than those that will be used in Sweden next month. In these conditions of very limited grip, the Frenchman managed better than Evans, who was three seconds behind, and Solberg, who was twenty seconds behind.

The Swede still leads the overall standings, but the gap to his two closest rivals, Evans in 2nd and Ogier in 3rd, has fallen to less than a minute, with three more special stages scheduled for Saturday, including the super special stage in the port of Monaco, starting at 6.30pm.

Behind the four Toyota drivers, as Takamoto Katsuta was faster than Solberg in this stage, the surprise came from Frenchman Léo Rossel, leader of the WRC2 in his Citroën C3, who set the 6th fastest time, sandwiched between the two Hyundais of Thierry Neuville and Adrien Fourmaux.



Quotes

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

6 Studs

"I think laugh is all you can do. Wow! It is actually fun to drive but there is no traction and no grip. You try to manage and not to get into the snow. The last seven kilometers with the black ice was unbelievable."

5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

6 Studs

"It's a proper Monte full of snow and ice. I was clean all along I must say."

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

6 Studs

"Obviously it's much easier to drive with the power steering. Thanks to the team who fixed it. It was quite a big hit yesterday and we lost power steering after that. A tricky stage: it is evolving, getting better and better and more precise because there is more tarmac in some places. I just need to enjoy, see what will happen and try to stay on the road."

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

6 Studs

"I hit a bank at the beginning, and it knocked my confidence quite early on, but we're here. It's really tricky. I think the conditions are sometimes getting worse as it is becoming slush but afterwards, it might dry up."

20. PADDON-KENNARD

6 Studs

"I've never seen such conditions, I have no idea how to drive it. I was trying to be very smooth. Absolutely no feeling if you're doing well or not. We are here, not much more to say."

95. ARMSTRONG-BYRNE

6 Studs

"On one of the slow right corners, I clipped the edge of a bridge, I think. I had to be so careful on the way down with the damage. The braking was so hard. I'm sure we lost a lot of time. We had absolutely no grip the whole stage."



11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

6 Studs

"That was 27:49.1 minutes of pure stress and surviving. It's black and white [compared to the recce]. The most difficult is that the corners have changed a lot. Some corners where you could carry some decent speed is like two notes down because of the snow ploughs. You always have to estimate the angle of the corners."

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

6 Studs

"It was a very good stage, I'm quite happy with it. There are places where we are on the tarmac and some other, that get polished. It's not easy. The feeling is better than the previous two days."

1. OGIER-LANDAIS

6 Studs

"It's been a tricky stage, with very low grip. Happy to be here. Top spot is too far, but we have to do our best to fight for the podium."

33. EVANS-MARTIN

6 Studs

"A bit relieved, I had no idea how I was doing, it felt so slow. But I guess it's the same for everyone."

99. SOLBERG-EDMONDSON



6 Studs

"I didn't prepare my studs very well, so I had no grip at all. We lost a lot of time. It's so tricky and so easy to make a mistake and the rally could end in half a second. I didn't feel comfortable to push too hard."



























Classifications

SS12

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	 S. OGIER		27:27.8	-	-
2	 E. EVANS		27:31.3	+ 03.5	+ 03.5
3	 T. KATSUTA		27:41.1	+ 09.8	+ 13.3
4	 O. SOLBERG		27:48.3	+ 07.2	+ 20.5
5	 T. NEUVILLE		27:49.1	+ 00.8	+ 21.3
6	 A. FOURMAUX		28:01.9	+ 12.8	+ 34.1
7	 J. MCERLEAN		28:05.2	+ 03.3	+ 37.4
8	 G. MUNSTER		28:30.9	+ 25.7	+ 01:03.1
9	 S. PAJARI		28:48.5	+ 17.6	+ 01:20.7
10	 J. ARMSTRONG		29:07.3	+ 18.8	+ 01:39.5
11	 H. PADDON		29:20.8	+ 13.5	+ 01:53.0



After SS12

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	 O. SOLBERG		02:39:01.4	-	-
2	 E. EVANS		02:39:52.8	+ 51.4	+ 51.4
3	 S. OGIER		02:39:55.8	+ 03.0	+ 54.4
4	 A. FOURMAUX		02:44:20.2	+ 04:24.4	+ 05:18.8
5	 T. NEUVILLE		02:45:07.5	+ 47.3	+ 06:06.1
6	 J. ARMSTRONG		02:47:39.2	+ 02:31.7	+ 08:37.8
7	 H. PADDON		02:48:16.0	+ 36.8	+ 09:14.6
8  1	 T. KATSUTA		02:48:55.0	+ 39.0	+ 09:53.6
9  1	 G. MUNSTER		02:49:01.9	+ 06.9	+ 10:00.5
10	 S. PAJARI		03:04:45.6	+ 15:43.7	+ 25:44.2
11	 J. MCERLEAN		03:15:16.1	+ 10:30.5	+ 36:14.7