



## SS12 : LA BRÉOLE / BELLAFIRE 2

Date:	24.01.2026		
Day:	3	Flash N°:	17
Special Stage:	12	Distance:	29,93 km
Weather:	4°C – Cloudy		
Road conditions:	Snow, mud and slush. Small wet tarmac sections.		

### SS12: Solberg gets a scare, Ogier eases off

Oliver Solberg, the leader of the 94th Monte Carlo Rally, made a mistake in SS12 on Saturday afternoon, but his drive through a snow-covered field did not prevent him from setting the fastest time in this stage, during the second run in La Bréole-Bellafaire, the longest stage of the rally. He then headed for Monaco, where the super special stage will take place at 6.30pm in the harbour.

'I'm doing well, I was lucky. I hit a snow-covered section and couldn't avoid going off the road,' said the Swede after his mishap, which forced him to smash through a barrier to get back on the road. At that point, Solberg was still extending his lead over Elfyn Evans and Sébastien Ogier, who had started before him on this very tricky stage: a mix of melting snow, ice in some places and, above all, 'slush', a mixture of melted snow and mud that is impossible to control with use studded tyres.

'I eased off the throttle, there was no point in taking risks in these conditions,' Ogier admitted at the stop point. 'I was a passenger in my car from start to finish, I had no control. My only goal today is to get back to Monaco,' said Thierry Neuville, the Belgian world champion and Hyundai's top driver. Just like his teammate Adrien Fourmaux, Neuville lost a few seconds in a mini spin, but without damaging his car.

'Spectators need to position themselves better at the side of the road, because where I spun, some of them were in a dangerous position,' said Fourmaux, who remains 4th in the overall standings behind the three leading Toyota drivers and ahead of his teammate Neuville. As for the WRC2 leader, Frenchman Léo Rossel (Citroën C3), he is now in 7th place overall, ahead of his compatriots Eric Camilli (Skoda Fabia) and Arthur Pelamourgues (Hyundai i20).



## Quotes

### 55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

5 studs

"That was insane. We were staying on the line, trying to get information. We can clear the slush, and it's just snapping from understeer to oversteer as soon as you go out of the line. I guess we lost a lot in there."

### 5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

6 studs

Went off road and hit a tree at km 1.4

### 18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

6 studs

"Definitely worse [compared to his first pass]. It's more mixed and very difficult on the slush, these tyres have no grip at all. It was very tricky. Aaron [Johnston, his co-driver] did a good job and tried to do it with the partial info from the gravel crew, we were missing the last few kilometers."

### 13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

5 studs

"I spun and lost at least 10 seconds. So difficult. The diff just doesn't know what to behave. There are slush and ice.... You just play with the handbrake, and you have no clue what to do. We just need to survive. I like Monte-Carlo but this one is maybe a bit much... [he smiles]."

### 20. PADDON-KENNARD

5 studs

"Not much more to say, very tricky for everyone. The car is very difficult to drive in these conditions. We kind of did it blind, we had no gravel notes. We couldn't read the grip at the place where we went off, pretty embarrassing."

### 95. ARMSTRONG-BYRNE

5 studs

"It was probably more difficult than the first pass with the slush. Just a lot of aquaplaning. Sometimes you are a bit of a passenger when it aquaplanes at the front end. I'm not sure there's something I can do to improve. I don't have the confidence, but it's ok, we got through."



## 11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

5 studs

"I was a passenger from the beginning to the end. I had no control I said it 10 times to Martijn [Wydaeghe, his co-driver]. Despite being very slow, as soon as you hit a little bit of slush or ice, the car goes sideways, you lose the rear and spin out. I took it carefully. In these conditions, a lot of things can happen."

## 16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

6 studs

"Conditions were terrible. This morning was quite enjoyable, but now there was so much slush and mud, the tyres just can't evacuate it. I was worried about the spectators when we spun."

## 1. OGIER-LANDAIS

5 studs

"I backed off. I did not want to go for it in that condition. It was basically undriveable."

## 33. EVANS-MARTIN

5 studs

"Unbelievable. You think it's improving, but you just get the nervous twitch from the car immediately. Horrible. When crews finish a stage they always say "it's the worst one", that one was pretty close to that."

## 99. SOLBERG-EDMONDSON

6 studs

"I don't know what happened, I was so careful the whole stage. I tried to follow the ruts but the exit was just full of snow. I was very lucky to get out of it. [About him winning the stage] The time mean I could have backed off more."



## Classifications

### SS12

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	 O. SOLBERG		23:06.4	-	-
2	 E. EVANS		23:08.3	+ 01.9	+ 01.9
3	 S. OGIER		23:24.6	+ 16.3	+ 18.2
4	 A. FOURMAUX		23:43.5	+ 18.9	+ 37.1
5	 G. MUNSTER		23:54.4	+ 10.9	+ 48.0
6	 T. NEUVILLE		24:04.3	+ 09.9	+ 57.9
7	 J. ARMSTRONG		24:14.3	+ 10.0	+ 01:07.9
8	 T. KATSUTA		24:41.8	+ 27.5	+ 01:35.4
9	 J. MCERLEAN		25:16.2	+ 34.4	+ 02:09.8
10	 H. PADDON		29:07.5	+ 03:51.3	+ 06:01.1
	 S. PAJARI		-	+ -	+ -

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## After SS12

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	 O. SOLBERG		03:14:03.9	-	-
2	 E. EVANS		03:15:08.6	+ 01:04.7	+ 01:04.7
3	 S. OGIER		03:15:35.2	+ 26.6	+ 01:31.3
4	 A. FOURMAUX		03:20:17.7	+ 04:42.5	+ 06:13.8
5	 T. NEUVILLE		03:21:33.4	+ 01:15.7	+ 07:29.5
6	 J. ARMSTRONG		03:24:10.0	+ 02:36.6	+ 10:06.1
7   2	 G. MUNSTER		03:25:28.7	+ 01:18.7	+ 11:24.8
8	 T. KATSUTA		03:25:51.0	+ 22.3	+ 11:47.1
9   2	 H. PADDON		03:29:57.0	+ 04:06.0	+ 15:53.1
10   1	 J. MCERLEAN		03:53:11.9	+ 23:14.9	+ 39:08.0

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