



SS15: LA BOLLÈNE-VÉSUBIE / MOULINET 1

Date:	25.01.2026		
Day:	4	Flash N°:	21
Special Stage:	15	Distance:	23,45 km
Weather:	1°C – Mostly sunny		
Road conditions:	First 3 km mainly damp, then the stage is filled with ice, snow and slush.		

SS15: Fontana on fire, Solberg holds steady

With a 2-wheel drive machine, Matteo Fontana (Ford Fiesta Rally3) clocked a second WRC stage win in a row, an historic performance, on Sunday morning during the first run through Col de Turini (SS15, 23.4 km). Yohan Rossel (Lancia Ypsilon HF Rallye2) finished in 2nd position, ahead of Elfyn Evans (Toyota).

The Welsh driver continued his climb up the overall standings in the 94th Monte Carlo Rally, gaining another 8.8 seconds on his teammate Oliver Solberg, who spun briefly on a snow-covered and icy hairpin bend, without damaging his Toyota Yaris.

It has been a long time without so much snow in Col de Turini in January on the closing Sunday of the Monte Carlo Rally. Most of the competitors were very careful, except perhaps Evans.

In the overall standings, Evans is now 42 seconds behind Solberg with only two special stages left to go, on roads where most of the snow will have melted. Sébastien Ogier, who damaged his rear right wheel on a rock, is still 55 seconds behind Solberg.

Thierry Neuville (Hyundai) lost more ground in this stage due to a puncture in the first corners, where the road was still dry. But the Belgian, who won in the Principality in 2024, the year of his only world title, retains his 5th place, behind the three best Toyota drivers and his teammate Adrien Fourmaux, who overtook him on the descent due to the time lost changing his wheel.



Quotes

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

4 Studs, 2 Non-studs

"It is melting quite a bit. The road conditions changed a lot since our gravel crew went by. The corners are so unpredictable. I'm glad I got through it. It is very good practice for car control and patience."

20. PADDON-KENNARD

6 Studs

"The road is evolving a lot. The second half of the stage will be a minute quicker later on. On this side, it's melting so fast. It's so hard because it's very unpredictable. There's no grip. It's difficult to steer on ice, but we're still enjoying it."

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

5 Studs, 1 Non-stud

"There is a huge amount of snow from the top of the Turini down. The studs had no grip. It is very tricky and not enjoyable."

95. ARMSTRONG-BYRNE

4 Studs, 2 Non-studs

"It was okay, to be fair, quite consistent on the uphill and on the descent. It got snowier, but some places turned to slush. It is quite tricky, we tried to evacuate the water. It's difficult to trust the grip. I had a couple of moments when we under-steered, and then over-steered. I think it will improve a lot behind. Not much we can do, we just keep going."

11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

4 Studs, 2 Non-studs

[Had a right-front puncture 0.3 km into the stage] "We touched something on the first corner. I had nothing in my notes, so clearly it must have been something I didn't see. We immediately stopped for a puncture. Obviously, with three studs and one snow, it's not that easy but we are here. We understeered a bit on the snow bank, but we did not lose any time."

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

4 Studs, 2 Non-studs

"I don't know what happened to Thierry [Neuville], but we didn't lose time at all. I was trying to be distant [from him]. I could see him in the hairpins. It's a shame because we wanted to optimise our chances for Sunday points [as a team]. It's going to be faster behind because there will be more and more lines. It's a bit difficult, but I try my best and I am quite happy with my pace, so let's see."



1. OGIER-LANDAIS

6 Studs

"Not fun, we just try to survive. We drove super slow on the downhill. We hit some stones. We'll just try to finish the rally. It was not the funniest of my career but sometimes, that's how it is."

33. EVANS-MARTIN

6 Studs

"You think it's getting better towards the end, but it's not. Super difficult. Who knows what it's going to look like in the Power Stage?"

99. SOLBERG-EDMONDSON

6 Studs

"I spun a little, it's so easy to do so. I was braking through a corner into a hairpin, but nothing serious. Just a small spin. I lost ten seconds at least. [If he's enjoying the rally] Not in the leading position, I cannot say it's fantastic to be on the snow."


















Classifications

SS15

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	E. EVANS		23:17.5	-	-
2	A. FOURMAUX		23:25.0	+ 07.5	+ 07.5
3	O. SOLBERG		23:26.3	+ 01.3	+ 08.8
4	S. OGIER		23:31.4	+ 05.1	+ 13.9
5	J. ARMSTRONG		23:40.0	+ 08.6	+ 22.5
6	T. KATSUTA		23:45.1	+ 05.1	+ 27.6
7	H. PADDON		24:00.4	+ 15.3	+ 42.9
8	J. MCERLEAN		24:28.4	+ 28.0	+ 01:10.9
9	T. NEUVILLE		25:44.4	+ 01:16.0	+ 02:26.9
	G. MUNSTER		-	+ -	+ -



After SS15

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	 O. SOLBERG		03:54:04.2	-	-
2	 E. EVANS		03:54:46.2	+ 42.0	+ 42.0
3	 S. OGIER		03:55:42.0	+ 55.8	+ 01:37.8
4	 A. FOURMAUX		03:59:57.3	+ 04:15.3	+ 05:53.1
5	 T. NEUVILLE		04:03:44.0	+ 03:46.7	+ 09:39.8
6	 J. ARMSTRONG		04:04:27.7	+ 43.7	+ 10:23.5
7	 T. KATSUTA		04:06:16.5	+ 01:48.8	+ 12:12.3
8	 H. PADDON		04:10:46.5	+ 04:30.0	+ 16:42.3
9	 J. MCERLEAN		04:34:37.7	+ 23:51.2	+ 40:33.5