



MEDIA ZONE GAP: END DAY 1

Date:	22.01.2026		
Day:	1	Flash N°:	5

Quotes

22. GRYAZIN-ALEKSANDROV

“Tricky, as expected for a Monte-Carlo. With the snow it's super difficult. We broke the left-front wheel, so we had to slow down and repair it, but after we did a good job. I feel great.”

23. DAPRÀ-GUGLIELMETTI

“Yeah, very tricky, the trickiest conditions I have ever had in Monte-Carlo for sure. Really, really hard to understand the grip in each corner. Wanted to be closer to the fastest driver, but we will see.”

24. JÜRGENSEN-OJA

“Quite tricky, different conditions. We're here so it's positive. That's the main target of the rally anyway.”

25. YAMAMOTO-FULTON

“Extremely tricky conditions. We didn't get through the SS3, but still the SS2 was the most difficult stage I've ever done. It's going to be a long and tricky weekend, but it is good learning. I think our tyres were correct at least for the second stage. Maybe for the first stage crossed soft tyres would have been better, but we kept it on the safe side. There is still a long way to go, so no need to take any big risks.”

26. CAMILLI-DE LA HAYE

“It was pretty good. A good first discovery of the car. It was very tricky and difficult, but thanks to all the efforts of the team, we managed to come back [tonight] in the lead of the WRC2 category. So that's great news.”

27. MAREŠ-BUCHA

“In the downhill section of the second stage, we hit a wall at a slow speed. We damaged the door quite badly and we need to investigate if we can continue the rally.”



28. ROSEL-MERCOIRET

"We are pretty happy; we didn't do any mistakes. That was objective number one tonight. We really wanted to be here tomorrow and not throw away our rally on the very first evening. We saw that a lot of things happened, especially with my brother's car; I found out just a few seconds before starting, so it kind of took the wind out of my sails in the first stage, and my time was not that great. The car is working really well, and we are quite happy with what we've done. We are in the fight, whereas in these conditions, I thought we'd lose a lot more time. Honestly, the second stage wasn't easy the tyres just didn't work at all on the ice, so it can be a bit dangerous at times. Sometimes you're driving at 20 km/h and you just can't stop the car at all. But it's the same for everyone; you just have to try to find the limit, even though it's very complicated."

29. SARRAZIN-ROCHE

"That was a good day. At the beginning of a stage, we made a mistake and lost around 20 seconds. The true test will be tomorrow."

30. KOHN-WHITTOCK

"Tricky. A bit hard but I am happy we got through [the stages]!"

31. INGRAM-KIHURANI

"We were fast in the snow at the end. We had two moments, I don't know how we survived, I'm just so grateful to be here!"

34. DELECOUR-DE CASTELLI

"It was a pretty complicated evening, and unfortunately, I don't take much positive from it, because of the tyre choice. I think we hurt ourselves a bit by going with the two snow tyres. But that's how it is, in the first stage, you just had to be patient for the next one. In SS2, we made a small mistake; unfortunately, we got stuck, which kind of ruined the whole evening. After that, there were some split times, but that's not really what I look at, because we didn't manage to be clean tonight. We made a few silly mistakes that cost us a few positions, and we could have come back with a pretty interesting result. Since the shakedown, I've been going through a bit of a tough patch."

35. PELAMOURGUES-POUGET

"Very complicated. We really wanted to take the first [stage] easy, that's what we did. The conditions of the second one were very complicated. We had the chance not to get tricked; the gravel crew did a good job. It was a total discovery: the car, the conditions, the night. Everything we could imagine, we discovered it on this stage. I think we're doing pretty good."

36. KOŁTUN-PLESKOT

"All good, the tyres are good."



37. MOLLE-DUBOIS

“Very complicated in SS1 because we set off with the tyres that were planned for SS2: crossed studded tyres with snow tyres. It was complicated to manage the fog. Those in front were lucky not to have it like the rest of us. The SS2, needless to say, was very complicated for everyone, I think. We said “let’s calm down and go to the end” because it’s a long weekend ahead and many cars are on the side. I think we chose the right strategy, but we still lost quite a bit of time on small things that we must now adjust back at the assistance. It will be settled for tomorrow. For the last [stage], the fog was apparently very thick. It was still a good first day.”

40. PIGUET-HADDAD

“It was okay. The conditions were insane, a real Monte-Carlo is shaping up! But we’re happy to be here tonight.”

46. MARCHINO-OMETTO

“It’s incredible! We had absolutely no grip in the second stage. This is the fourth time I’ve done the Monte-Carlo, but it’s the first time I’ve experienced something like this.”

50. ROSSI-SARMEZAN

“It didn’t go very well. We hit at some point, but we still stay in the lead. I hope it’s not too serious, we’ll see what they say back at the assistance. I thought we would stay up there on the SS2, but I managed to get the car out as best I could. It’s okay.”

51. ROYÈRE-GRENIER

“It was a shortened day. The first stage was a bit strange. We went with a tyre choice that wasn’t the best. We were surprised to be so destabilised. The second one was much clearer, much more visible. It went better. But we still had to be careful.”

52. GUIBERT-GRACIAL

“It was complicated today. We started the first stage with four studded tyres, so we struggled. The second stage was my first time on the snow, so it was interesting. We didn’t make any mistakes, so it went pretty well for us. The car is intact, not a scratch, everything’s fine!”

54. CHERAIN-VERMEULEN

“It was pretty good. We posted a very good time on the second stage. We’re running far back on the road, so it is very dirty. That’s part of the game. We thought we would be starting far back, but in the end it’s quite positive.”



57. BARNEAUD-BARNEAUD

“The first [stage] didn’t go very well. The second one was even worse. We hit a bridge and broke a rim. We had to stop and find a place to park to change the wheel, it was hell. We finished the stage in slow motion and we couldn’t do SS3. Not great.”

61. BERARD-BERNABO

“We stayed on the road. It wasn’t easy in the second stage, but we’re here and that’s what matters. It was a bit like *Holiday on Ice*, and everything was sliding everywhere, and with a rear-wheel drive you don’t go straight. But tonight, we’re here, and that’s the most important thing!”

62. DESSI-GIULIANO

“It really feels like a Monte-Carlo Rally to be honest! The second stage was magnificent. Honestly, the Alpine really isn’t suited to this kind of rally. We fitted the studded tyres and played it safe, but the car is really not easy to drive. It’s too aggressive, there’s too much power, so you’re pulling hard out of the corners, up through to fourth gear on the climbs. Fortunately, there’s traction control and a lot of electronics. Otherwise, it’s an exceptional car, just not on this kind of surface.”

63. GAZDA-JURGAŁA

“Everything was ok. The second stage was very tricky but it went ok.”

64. DOLCE-GIROUD

“It went well, but it was tricky. In the first stage you had to be careful, but the second one was really tricky. The second stage was intense. The tyres weren’t great. But we’re here tonight.”

65. VIGO-CANOBBIO

“Everything is fine. The first stage was very good. But the second one was a disaster.”

68. BERARD-LAGER

“It went pretty well. We’re not going to complain, we’re having fun. The conditions are super difficult, but that’s why we’re here, it’s a Monte-Carlo. A little disappointed for the SS3, we would have liked to do it. That’s how it is, it’s normal, they played it safe, these are good reasons. After all, we were coming out of a very difficult stage with a lot of ice. A lot of cars went out, it might have been safer to handle it that way. It’s a Monte-Carlo, we enjoy ourselves and we are happy to be there. Tomorrow is a big day, we will try to enjoy it as much as possible. We are lucky to be here, it’s a dream come true.”



71. FIORE-MUSIARI

“Everything is fine. It was difficult, but it's a great to be here. There were snow and ice. I can't wait for tomorrow.”

72. MICHELLIER-RICHARD

“The first stage was very foggy. We had snow tyres on tarmac because we didn't really have much choice when it came to tyre selection. And the second one was catastrophic, we really just had to get out of that mess. We'd fitted two studded tyres at the front and snow tyres at the rear, but it was undrivable, with a lot of cars going off the road. And the last stage was cancelled because of the fog. »

73. PALMERO-PASTORINO

“It's going well. We know the first stage well. For the second one, I was a bit worried about the climb with the hairpins, but we put studs on the front-wheel, and it worked. Now, with a two-wheel drive, it's a bit complicated. But we're calm.”

75. DESBORDES-DESBORDES

“It went well, we didn't do too badly on the snow. We feasted, no fright, impeccable. Good choice of tyre: snow in SS1 and studded at the front in SS2, it was not bad.”

77. MATTEUZZI-FROSINI

“It went really well. The second stage was a bit tricky with the ice, but doing a Monte-Carlo in these conditions is something iconic.”