



SS5 : ST-NAZAIRE-LE-DÉSERT / LA MOTTE-CHALANCON 1

Date :	23.01.2026		
Day :	2	Flash N° :	7
Special Stage :	5	Distance :	28,70 km
Weather :	3°C – Overcast, light rain		
Road conditions :	Full wet conditions, few icy patches around km 19, dirty cuts.		

SS5: Evans doubles his lead, Solberg slows down

The Toyota drivers had mixed fortunes in SS5, starting in Saint-Nazaire-le-Désert on Friday morning: Elfyn Evans set the fastest time in SS5 ahead of Sébastien Ogier, while Oliver Solberg, who suffered a puncture at the end of the stage, finished on the rim and lost 27 seconds to Evans, but still retains his overall lead.

'I don't know what happened or where I got the puncture, but it was a great stage,' said Solberg at the stop point. He then changed his wheel to set off for SS6, the last stage of the morning, where more wintry conditions were expected, according to the factory teams' crews. 'It's rare to feel good at Monte Carlo,' said Evans, who set his second fastest time of the rally after SS1 on Thursday afternoon at the start of this 94th edition.

In the chasing pack, just behind the leading trio, Thierry Neuville did not choose the right tyres for this stage and lost some time (nearly thirty seconds) to Ogier, who remains in 3rd place. Adrien Fourmaux, his teammate at Hyundai, took 5th place in the overall standings from Jon Armstrong: the young Irishman from M-Sport Ford started with six studded tyres this morning, which penalised him in SS5 but could well help him in SS6.

Quotes

55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

2 Super Soft, 4 Studs

"There was quite an imbalance at the end when the studs were overheating. It is just about finding the balance between pushing and stepping over the edge because it's so easy. There are still some ice sections that come as quite a surprise. It's an interesting stage, there's no driver in front so we couldn't see where the dangerous spots were."



5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs

"I guess nothing special. A bit weird. There was much more grip on this stage. On some stages, the car behind has benefits, but here, it can be the opposite."

1. OGIER-LANDAIS

4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs

"At least a stage where there is no slush on the road. It was a bit more enjoyable. It was a decent drive on this one."

33. EVANS-MARTIN

4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs

"It never feels amazing in Monte. Very difficult to judge the choice of the tyres. There are a lot of very dirty parts and some where you can use the slick in there."

11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

2 Super Soft, 4 Studs

"We are following the rhythm and we can only drive with what our feeling is at the moment. Conditions improved quite a bit compared to our pace notes. It's still very easy to go off. I just need to keep it neat and tidy. The rally is still long."

18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs

"[I hit] Just a small rock, how is it possible to get a puncture like this?"

16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

2 Super Soft, 4 Studs

"It has been quite a demanding stage, there were some icy patches in some places, but the rest was quite clean. It was becoming dirtier and dirtier with the car racing in front and a lot of dirt coming on the stage. Last year was pretty similar so we were quite expecting it. The feeling was much better than in the first stage. We are searching but it is ok."

99. SOLBERG-EDMONDSON

4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs

"I don't know how [the puncture happened], it started very slowly and eventually it dropped pressure. The [road] conditions were nice, though. Stupid puncture..."

13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

2 Super Soft, 4 Studs

"[About what happened] A front-right puncture, no clue where it happened, and I had to put studs on the front. That gave us more grip on the rear but I was understeering a lot. It is what it is."



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20. PADDON-KENNARD

2 Super Soft, 4 Studs

“It was tricky. There was so much mud on the road, it was like a gravel stage. I can't find my rhythm so I have to stay patient. That's all we can do at the moment.”

95. ARMSTRONG-BYRNE

6 Studs

“Surprisingly, it was manageable to drive. I felt comfortable, but obviously, in this case, you're less performing. The time is probably ok. We definitely had the wrong tyres, but that's part of the game here. The next stage should be snowy at the start.”

Classifications

SS5

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	GBR E. EVANS	TOYOTA	17:58.7	-	-
2	FRG S. OGIER	TOYOTA	18:03.5	+ 04.8	+ 04.8
3	FRG A. FOURMAUX	HYUNDAI	18:17.3	+ 13.8	+ 18.6
4	SWE O. SOLBERG	TOYOTA	18:25.9	+ 08.6	+ 27.2
5	BEL T. NEUVILLE	HYUNDAI	18:28.7	+ 02.8	+ 30.0
6	IRL J. MCERLEAN	FORD	18:29.0	+ 00.3	+ 30.3
7	IRL J. ARMSTRONG	FORD	18:45.9	+ 16.9	+ 47.2
8	FIN S. PAJARI	TOYOTA	18:46.2	+ 00.3	+ 47.5
9	GBR H. PADDON	HYUNDAI	18:46.3	+ 00.1	+ 47.6
10	GBR T. KATSUTA	TOYOTA	19:01.7	+ 15.4	+ 01:03.0
11	GBR G. MUNSTER	FORD	20:52.4	+ 01:50.7	+ 02:53.7

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After SS5

1	O. SOLBERG		01:15:24.7	-	-
2	E. EVANS		01:16:08.2	+ 43.5	+ 43.5
3	S. OGIER		01:16:43.7	+ 35.5	+ 01:19.0
4	T. NEUVILLE		01:17:12.5	+ 28.8	+ 01:47.8
5	A. FOURMAUX		01:17:36.3	+ 23.8	+ 02:11.6
6	J. ARMSTRONG		01:18:00.8	+ 24.5	+ 02:36.1
7	T. KATSUTA		01:19:14.5	+ 01:13.7	+ 03:49.8
8	H. PADDON		01:19:40.2	+ 25.7	+ 04:15.5
9	G. MUNSTER		01:22:15.1	+ 02:34.9	+ 06:50.4
10	J. MCERLEAN		01:37:21.6	+ 15:06.5	+ 21:56.9
11	S. PAJARI		01:37:31.2	+ 09.6	+ 22:06.5

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