



### SS6 : LA-BÂTIE-DES-FONTS / ASPREMONT 1

<b>Date :</b>	<b>23.01.2026</b>		
<b>Day :</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Flash N° :</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Special Stage :</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Distance :</b>	<b>17,79 km</b>
<b>Weather :</b>	<b>4°C – Rain</b>		
<b>Road conditions :</b>	<b>Ice, snow and slush for the first 7 kms and around km 13, wet tarmac towards the finish.</b>		

#### SS6: Solberg beats Hyundai

The final stage of Friday morning (SS6, 17.8 km), contested in winter conditions with lots of wet snow on the climb between La Bâtie des Fonts and Aspremont, allowed Oliver Solberg, who only had three studded tyres on his Toyota (following a puncture in SS5), to finish ahead of two Hyundai drivers, Thierry Neuville and Adrien Fourmaux.

By also beating his two Toyota teammates, Elfyn Evans and Sébastien Ogier, by around 20 seconds, Oliver Solberg showed once again that he will be a force to be reckoned with in this 94<sup>th</sup> edition of the Monte Carlo Rally. Oliver, last year's WRC2 World Champion, has already set three fastest times in less than 24 hours and has a comfortable lead over Evans and Ogier ahead of Friday's second loop, on the same three special stages as in the morning.

Despite his puncture at the end of SS5, Solberg has a one minute and four seconds lead over Evans, one minute and 39 seconds over Ogier, one minute and 56 seconds over Neuville and two minutes and 28 seconds over Fourmaux at midday on Friday. Like Solberg, the Hyundai drivers benefited from driving a few minutes later than Ogier and Evans on SS6, with four studded tyres for everyone.

As the crews headed to Gap for a well-deserved lunch break, the situation at the top of the overall standings remains unchanged: three Toyota drivers in front and the others behind, thanks to measured risk-taking and judicious tyre choices. But three special stages remain to be completed in the afternoon, the same as in the morning, in conditions of grip and temperature that are bound to be different.



## Quotes

### 55. MCERLEAN-TREACY

*2 Super Soft, 4 Studs*

"It was a proper one. It was so difficult at the start, there were two tracks going up on the road and if you go off them, you are a passenger. It's nice to get through, it's been ok, we just needed to be cautious. Running first on the road in this type of rally is risky in itself. We had a good middle stage, which I am happy with, and conditions were a bit clearer. It's been ok. We just keep going on."

### 5. PAJARI-SALMINEN

*4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs*

"It was quite ok but still not even close to where I would like to be. I'm trying to run really hard to understand where I can take some time. I'm not really happy but we need to keep working."

### 1. OGIER-LANDAIS

*4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs*

"Unfortunately, we are going to lose a lot in there with the slush. We'll do what we can. There is a lot of snow. You have to drive so slow and then, when you get to the tarmac, it is massively different."

### 33. EVANS-MARTIN

*4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs*

"Coming over the mountain was very difficult, the snow is wet and there is no grip at all. [About the morning loop] We're here, let's see."

### 11. NEUVILLE-WYDAEGHE

*2 Super Soft, 4 Studs*

"I'm happy to be here. We had a clean one. Honestly, in the downhill section, the road is cleaning a lot and it will get better and better especially in the slow corners. There was a bit of slush and then, we I arrived on the cleaner roads. I struggled with the grip and the balance. Generally, that's where we are missing out."

### 18. KATSUTA-JOHNSTON

*4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs*

"This one, I have no idea [about the puncture]. It is just horrible. I don't understand how our tyres are getting punctured."

### 16. FOURMAUX-CORIA

*2 Super Soft, 4 Studs*

"It was very snowy at the beginning with a lot of slush. I tried to optimise my chance for a good time in there. In the fast bits, I was too careful, the car was like a boat. It was about finding a compromise."



## 99. SOLBERG-EDMONDSON

*4 Studs, 2 Non-Studs*

"For sure, it was cleaning a little bit, but there is so much mud on the second part, but I think it was the same for everyone. I had one snow tyre... oh my God, it was crazy. I tried to push really hard for a good time and took some small risks. It's a long way to go and it will get even worse this afternoon."

## 13. MUNSTER-LOUKA

*2 Super Soft, 4 Studs*

"It is the second time today, I don't know [how he got the tyre issue]. I had a good feeling at the beginning, the gravel crew did an amazing job. It was tricky but fun."

## 20. PADDON-KENNARD

*2 Super Soft, 4 Studs*

"I'm just being really careful in the snow and ice. I'm just trying to get a feeling."

## 95. ARMSTRONG-BYRNE

*6 Studs*

"At the start, I was really careful and couple of times, I caught the edge of where the clean line was and got in the ditch. I could have been faster but looking at the time, it's not too bad. We just try to get through and enjoy the last part which was very fast."



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## Classifications

### SS6

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	STAGE TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	🇸🇪 O. SOLBERG	toyota	12:57.1	-	-
2	🇧🇪 T. NEUVILLE	hyundai	13:05.9	+ 08.8	+ 08.8
3	🇫🇷 A. FOURMAUX	hyundai	13:13.7	+ 07.8	+ 16.6
4	🇬🇧 E. EVANS	toyota	13:17.8	+ 04.1	+ 20.7
5	🇫🇷 S. OGIER	toyota	13:18.0	+ 00.2	+ 20.9
6	🇬🇧 H. PADDON	hyundai	13:22.1	+ 04.1	+ 25.0
7	🇮🇪 J. ARMSTRONG	ford	13:23.0	+ 00.9	+ 25.9
8	🇯🇵 T. KATSUTA	toyota	13:31.8	+ 08.8	+ 34.7
9	🇫🇮 S. PAJARI	toyota	13:58.2	+ 26.4	+ 01:01.1
10	🇫🇷 G. MUNSTER	ford	14:09.6	+ 11.4	+ 01:12.5
11	🇮🇪 J. MCERLEAN	ford	14:19.7	+ 10.1	+ 01:22.6

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## After SS6

POS	DRIVER	TEAM	TOTAL TIME	DIFF PREV	DIFF 1st
1	🇸🇪 O. SOLBERG	toyota	01:28:21.8	-	-
2	🇬🇧 E. EVANS	toyota	01:29:26.0	+ 01:04.2	+ 01:04.2
3	🇫🇷 S. OGIER	toyota	01:30:01.7	+ 35.7	+ 01:39.9
4	🇧🇪 T. NEUVILLE	hyundai	01:30:18.4	+ 16.7	+ 01:56.6
5	🇫🇷 A. FOURMAUX	hyundai	01:30:50.0	+ 31.6	+ 02:28.2
6	🇮🇪 J. ARMSTRONG	ford	01:31:23.8	+ 33.8	+ 03:02.0
7	🇯🇵 T. KATSUTA	toyota	01:32:46.3	+ 01:22.5	+ 04:24.5
8	🇳🇿 H. PADDON	hyundai	01:33:02.3	+ 16.0	+ 04:40.5
9	🇧🇪 G. MUNSTER	ford	01:36:24.7	+ 03:22.4	+ 08:02.9
10 <span style="color: green;">▲ 1</span>	🇫🇮 S. PAJARI	toyota	01:51:29.4	+ 15:04.7	+ 23:07.6
11 <span style="color: red;">▼ 1</span>	🇮🇪 J. MCERLEAN	ford	01:51:41.3	+ 11.9	+ 23:19.5

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