

## Hyundai Motorsport Preview: Round 2 – Rally Sweden

- Following a competitive start to the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), Hyundai Motorsport is targeting victory in the season's second round, Rally Sweden
- The team will aim to repeat its Swedish victory and double podium from 2018 to strengthen its early lead in the manufacturers' standings
- Thierry Neuville, Andreas Mikkelsen and Sébastien Loeb will tackle the snowy stages in their Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC cars, with all three crews showing strong pace in Monte-Carlo.

Alzenau, Germany

February 8, 2019 – Hyundai Motorsport will be looking to build on its strongest ever start to a FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) campaign as the team heads to the snowy climes of Rally Sweden for round two of the 14-event season.

An impressive performance at the opening event, Rallye Monte-Carlo, saw Thierry Neuville battle for victory right up to the Power Stage with Andreas Mikkelsen and Sébastien Loeb also showing podium pace. The strength in depth of the three Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC crews allowed the team to take an early lead in the manufacturers' championship.

The Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team line-up remains unchanged for Sweden, with Neuville and Mikkelsen in the #11 and #89 cars joined once again by Loeb in the #19. The trio will be aiming to defend the team's 2018 success at Rally Sweden, in which Neuville and Mikkelsen claimed a 1-3 result. Loeb has also been a five-time podium scorer in the rally over the years.

### Snow business

One of the fastest rounds on the WRC calendar, Rally Sweden will see crews tackle snow and ice conditions with fully studded Michelin tyres to grip onto the frozen roads. The 19-stage rally remains largely unchanged from its 2018 edition; the Rödén stage has been trimmed to use the same finish as the 2017 event, while Rämmen re-joins the itinerary for the first time since 2016, albeit in reverse. Friday's running will once again see all but one stage hosted in Norway, making it a home rally of sorts for Mikkelsen and his co-driver Anders Jæger-Amland.

All three crews prepared for the event with a test in Sweden last week. The sub-zero temperatures and fresh snow provided invaluable experience as they prepare the fast-paced challenge of Rally Sweden.

Team Director Andrea Adamo said: *"We had an exciting and competitive start to the new season at Rallye Monte-Carlo, so we want to continue with a high performance level at Sweden. We are hungry for our first win of the season! All three of our crews impressed in Monte with consistent pace and it was a close fight to the finish for both Thierry and Sébastien. Sweden has been good to us in the past, including our victory and double podium last year. We have all the ingredients to win and while we do not underestimate our rivals, who are very strong, we want to let our ambition dictate our performance."*



**Crew Notes: Neuville/Gilsoul (#11 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)**

- Neuville secured Swedish victory in 2018 and also finished second in 2015
- Belgian crew will start second on the road behind championship leader Sébastien Ogier

Neuville said: *“Monte-Carlo was a good sign of potential for us and we can’t wait to get in the car again in Sweden. It has been a nice event for us in the past. We’ve had some pretty competitive performances in previous years, including our victory last season. It is a rally we enjoy as a crew. Our car has always worked well, allowing us to set fast times on the frozen roads and use the snow banks to push to the limit. We know our rivals will be strong, as they will be at all rallies, so we have to focus on ourselves and do the best job we can.”*

**Crew Notes: Mikkelsen/Jæger-Amland (#89 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)**

- Crew finished third in 2018, their third podium finish in Rally Sweden
- Norwegian crew previously finished second in 2014 and third in 2015

Mikkelsen said: *“Rally Sweden is a highlight in our calendar as we spend one day in Norway, so it is kind of a home rally for us. It’s the only event that is fully snow on ice. Driving with studded tyres on the stages gives you an incredible feeling, like you are floating. We were disappointed to retire from Monte but we had found a good rhythm with the car and we are confident we can be fighting at the front throughout the season.”*

**Crew Notes: Loeb/Elena (#19 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)**

- Crew finished fourth on Hyundai Motorsport debut at Rallye Monte-Carlo
- First participation in Rally Sweden since they finished second in the 2013 event

Loeb said: *“Rallye Monte-Carlo was a solid start in our new relationship with Hyundai Motorsport, particularly with our limited pre-event testing. We were in the fight for the podium all weekend, and we are ready to build from that. Rally Sweden is a very different challenge. It can be the most exciting rally of the season if it’s full ice with good conditions and sun, yet it can be very difficult if the snow is melting with rain – so naturally, we’re hoping to have good conditions.”*

Rally Sweden begins on Thursday, February 14 with a shakedown in Skalla run over 6,86km followed by a two-at-a-time Super Special Stage held at the Karlstad trotting track. Friday’s running sees all but one stage take place in neighbouring Norway, with the Rödjen stage offering a cross-border challenge with its start and end in Sweden. Saturday features the legendary Colin’s Crest jump in Vargåsen, while Sunday’s Power Stage will finish metres away from the service park podium.

## Hyundai Motorsport Crews' Info

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<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC #11</b>		
Chassis number: 016		
	<b>Thierry Neuville</b>	<b>Nicolas Gilsoul</b>
DOB	16 June 1988	5 February 1982
First WRC event	2009, Rally Catalunya	2007, Rallye Monte-Carlo
WRC starts	98	94
WRC podiums	34	34
WRC wins	9	9
Rally Sweden starts	7	8
Rally Sweden best results	1	1
Rally Sweden previous results	2012: 12th	2008: 30th (16th N4 class)
	2013: 5th	2012: 12th
	2014: 28th	2013: 5th
	2015: 2nd	2014: 28th
	2016: 14th	2015: 2nd
	2017: 13th	2016: 14th
	2018: 1st	2017: 13th
		2018: 1st

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<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC #89</b>		
Chassis number: 012		
	<b>Andreas Mikkelsen</b>	<b>Anders Jæger-Amland</b>
DOB	22 June 1989	29 July 1989
First WRC event	2006, Wales Rally GB	2014, Rally Catalunya
WRC starts	101	45
WRC podiums	22	8
WRC wins	3	2
Rally Sweden starts	7	3
Rally Sweden best results	2nd	3rd
Rally Sweden previous results	2008: 5th	2015: 31st (1st WRC 3)
	2010: 11th (2nd class N4)	2016: 4th
	2012: 13th (2nd class 2)	2018: 3rd
	2014: 2nd	
	2015: 3rd	
	2018: 3rd	

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**Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC #19**Chassis number: 015

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	<b>Sébastien Loeb</b>	<b>Daniel Elena</b>
DOB	26 February 1974	26 October 1972
First WRC event	1999, Rallye Catalunya	1999, Rallye Catalunya
WRC starts	173	173
WRC podiums	117	117
WRC wins	79	79
Rally Sweden starts	12	12
Rally Sweden best results	1st	1st
	2001: Ret	2001: Ret
	2002: 17th	2002: 17th
	2003: 7th	2003: 7th
	2004: 1st	2004: 1st
	2005: Ret.	2005: Ret.
Rally Sweden previous results	2006: 2nd	2006: 2nd
	2007: 2nd	2007: 2nd
	2008: Ret.	2008: Ret.
	2010: 2nd	2010: 2nd
	2011: 6th	2011: 6th
	2012: 6th	2012: 6th
	2013: 2nd	2013: 2nd

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### **About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities, including the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) and Customer Racing projects. In WRC, Hyundai Motorsport quickly established a strong reputation taking victory in its debut season in 2014. The team amassed ten wins up to the end of the 2018 season and finished as runners-up in the manufacturers' championship on three consecutive occasions. Since the establishment of its Customer Racing activities in September 2015, Hyundai Motorsport has become a trusted partner for teams and drivers looking for success on the rally stages or on racetracks around the world. From its competitive i20 R5 rally car to the competitive i30 N TCR, Hyundai Motorsport-built cars have claimed victory in several championships, including national rally series in France and Spain, as well as the teams' and drivers' titles in the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) season. Unified under Hyundai Motorsport, WRC and Customer Racing are together playing instrumental roles in driving Hyundai's global high-performance N brand, and are supporting an important perception shift for the Hyundai brand around the world.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

### **About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond with its range of world-class vehicles and mobility services offered available in more than 200 countries. Employing more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai sold more than 4.5 million vehicles globally. Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with vehicles that are helping to build solutions for a more sustainable future, such as NEXO – the world's first dedicated hydrogen-powered SUV.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at:  
<http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers' profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

<http://press.motorsport.hyundai.com/home>

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