



STAGE FLASH

Date:	2019-02-16	
Day:	Saturday	Distance: 1,90
Special Stage:	SS15	
Weather:	Sunrise today at 0745hrs, so it's still gloomy out there. We're expecting a clear-ish day with a few clouds, very light winds and a relatively warm high of 4°C.	
Road Conditions:	Ice/water	

1- LATVALA VS BERTELLI

Latvala wins this one by 4.1sec. "So much water on the stage which makes it very difficult. When you hit it, the car is aquaplaning. For the spectators it's great, I think!"

2- TUOHINO VS GRÖNHOLM

Goes the way of the double champ. He completes one-tenth slower than Latvala - even with no brakes. "We still have the [brake] problem, but this one is so technical its not so bad. Just a bit of handbrake and sliding around."

3- TIDEMAND VS MEEKE

Meeke wins the heat in a new fastest time of 1m37.5s. "Not nice! I think the right-hand isn't great for the start, then Pontus sprayed a load of water on my screen in the first corner!"

4- NEUVILLE VS LOEB

A ragged drive from Thierry - including a very nose-heavy landing after the jump. A great time though - quickest so far. And he's cleared the stage that cost him victory two years ago. "It's an important stage. Very tricky with a lot of standing water around. I was maybe a little too careful."

5- OGIER VS LAPPI

Lappi wins this one and extends his advantage over Neuville by six-tenths. "That's good but it's a very tricky stage. The ruts are everywhere and they are full of water. It feels like it is not getting any better!"

6- EVANS VS MIKKELSEN

Mikkelsen wins the heat to hold second place overall - Lappi though is now just four-tenths behind. "It's going to be very very close. I was a bit careful in here, just trying to be safe."

7- TANAK VS ÖSTBERG

No dramas for rally leader Tanak who easily has the edge over Citroen R5 driver Ostberg and claims another quickest time. "We've had a great day. I'm sure we're benefiting from our road position. Yesterday was the big job, today we just had to keep smart."



8- ROVANPERA VS GREENSMITH

A strong victory from 18-year-old Rovanner, 3.3sec up on Greensmith. "It's really tricky one. A lot of water and slush. Just have to keep it neat and tidy."

9- PIETARINEN VS PIENIAZEK

Pieniazek the heat winner. "Today a better day than yesterday. We try to find a rhythm. It's getting better."

10- KRISTOFFERSON VS VEIBY

Kristoffersson stalls on the line, giving WRC 2 leader Veiby an easy win. "The first loop was really, really good but in the second we struggled with the car and the tyres. I lost a bit too much but still we have a good lead. Tomorrow we'll try to take this home."

11- HUTTUNEN VS LINDHOLM

A brilliant run from Huttunen. He's quickest so far in WRC 2 and narrows the gap on leader Veiby to 15sec. How was the stage? "I make a huge mistake here but luckily we are still here!" And can you catch Veiby tomorrow? "I don't know. I try, but it looks a bit too much."

12- BERGKVIST VS GRYAZIN

Both clear. Bergkvist wins the heat by three-tenths.

COMMENTS

(The news from the stage)