



STAGE FLASH

Date: 2019-02-17
Day: Sunday **Distance:** 21,19
Special Stage: SS18
Weather: Sunrise today at 0742hrs. We're expecting a cloudy day, with very light winds and a temperature of between -1 and 2°C.
Road Conditions: Snow

1- GRÖNHOLM

He completes in 11m55.8s. "As first car there was a lot of loose snow in the ruts, that's why I'm half a minute slower than before."

2- OGIER

9.6 sec slower than Grönholm and that looked like a very gentle run from the champ. A maximum points push then on the Wolf Power Stage? "I don't know, the chances are very small but if there is a chance I have to play it to the maximum. I saved my tyres as best I could."

3- LATVALA

29sec up on Grönholm. "A good feeling here and we'll try and keep that for the Power Stage too. I had to be careful not to destroy the studs in my tyres."

4- BERTELLI

"I didn't expect the first part to be so slippery and I made a silly mistake. A shame, the rest of the stage was good."

5- TUOHINO

"The rally starts today! This was perfect."

6- TIDEMAND

"It's okay, a very nice stage. I struggled to find the best exits from some corners. I wish the rally was longer."

7- SUNINEN

Fastest time so far for the former leader. A big push now on the Wolf Power Stage? "Let's see. The feeling was better with the car."

8- LOEB

"I tried to do my best. No mistakes. There is a lot of snow, very good conditions for a second pass. The road will clean I think."

**9- MEEKE**

Fastest so far. Quicker than Loeb by 2.6sec and that puts Kris 9.2sec ahead in the overall standings. "I was impressed by Seb's time this morning. Conditions were trickier on the second pass. The ice has been scored by the tyres and you lose a lot of braking potential but I'm happy with my run."

10- EVANS

Quickest so far. "Difficult conditions now, there is a clean line but its so fast it's difficult to know how much to push."

11- NEUVILLE

He's locked in a furious fight with Lappi, but Neuville is 2.5sec slower than Evans here. "Undriveable," he says as he crosses the line. "A small mistake, but no chance. I was fighting with car like hell. It wants to go straight in each corner. I couldn't do more. No chance."

12- LAPPI

Second quickest and Lappi stretches the gap to Neuville behind to 4.4sec. "Good. It was so much more tricky than the first one. The grip is 30% less maybe. You need to be careful but on it at the same time."

13- MIKKELSEN

One-tenth quicker than his team mate Neuville. That puts him 4.2sec behind in the standings. "I try to push as much as I can. I'd struggle to do much more. Tricky conditions but a clean stage, One mistake in a snow bank but I'm pushing hard. Doing what I can."

14- TÄNAK

Ninth quickest and Ott's rally lead stands at 48.8sec with one stage to go. "A great weekend so far. All working together as we wanted. One more stage to go. Let's we what we can do."

COMMENTS

(The news from the stage)