



STAGE FLASH

Date:	2019-02-15	
Day:	Friday	Distance: 21,26
Special Stage:	SS5	
Weather:	Sunrise today at 0748hrs, so it's still rather dark out there. We're expecting a clear day with a few clouds, very light winds and a relatively warm high of 6°C.	

1- OGIER

"Not so much fun now, I just try to survive. Some gravel and slush on the road. I didn't want to take a risk here - it felt really uncomfortable."

2- NEUVILLE

He reaches the line 8.1sec slower than Ogier and there is some bodywork damage to his car. He spun twice in the stage. "It's more a gravel rally than a snow rally now. I hit a snow bank and the car spun."

3- TANAK

"The line is bad, lots of gravel and so much slush. In these conditions the car works best, and gives great performance, but [the cleaning means] it will be almost impossible to challenge the guys behind."

4- MEEKE

Kris quickest so far. "I enjoyed it. I don't think my driving style suited the stages this morning. Maybe its better in the afternoon but I'll have to look after my tyres."

5- LOEB

Third quickest so far. "Really difficult to keep the car in the line in these conditions. When you slide out of it you lose the rear. I tried my best."

6- LATVALA

Quickest on stage so far. Is it enough to take the lead? "An interesting stage," he says. "Very high grip in some places, slushy in others. That wasn't maximum attack but I had a clean run. Let's see what Teemu can do."

7- SUNINEN

Suninen completes 1.9sec slower than Latvala - and Jari-Matti takes the lead. "I have a good feeling, and it's a pretty good time," says Teemu. "But these are very difficult conditions. A lot of slush outside the line, aquaplaning too, but that's the game."

8- TIDEMAND



His earlier technical problem traced to a broken throttle pedal sensor. "The car is fixed and the car is good now. Now it's good to do a stage and get the feeling."

9- MIKKELSEN

Sixth fastest so far. "It's a long loop and I tried to save my tyres. Maybe I was too careful, I don't know. We'll see."

10- LAPPI

Ninth quickest, 32sec off the pace, and the front splitter is damaged. What happened? "I got caught by a short right-hander in 5th gear. I hit a bank and almost rolled. It took a lot of time, for sure."

11- EVANS

Quickest so far! "So difficult. Some places extremely high grip and just a few with no grip at all. It's impossible to predict."

12- BERTELLI

The Italian completes 12th fastest so far. "The conditions are something new!"

13- TUOHINO

10th quickest so far. "I tried to stay on the gravel line. Step by step..."

COMMENTS

(The news from the stage)