



STAGE FLASH

Date: 2019-02-15
Day: Friday **Distance:** 18,10
Special Stage: SS7
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- NEUVILLE

He completes in 8m56.5s. "Very tricky. I tried to do the best I could. But with no aero [at the front] and being first on the road it was hard. With gravel lines and slush either side it's not easy."

2- TANAK

4.7sec quicker than Neuville. "It's tough in these conditions. My tyres are okay."

3- MEEKE

"I'm a bit annoyed by the stall. I don't know what happened. The dash said 1st gear but when I dropped the clutch I was in 2nd. Not what we needed when we're fighting for tomorrow's road position. A lot of time lost."

4- LOEB

Quickest so far for a motivated Seb. "I tried really hard. There are some places to gain with the road position so I tried to put a little bit more into this one."

5- LATVALA

Equal fastest so far with Loeb. "I tried to do what I could. Not so much I could have done better. This stage was hard with the gravel. We had a good run, I'm happy."

6- SUNINEN

Third quickest so far and Teemu still holds the rally lead, 5sec clear of Latvala. "That's good. We were taking it a bit carefully. It looks like we should push more, but that comes with big risks. It's a good feeling to be leading but the question is how we finish the rally."

7- TIDEMAND

Fifth quickest. "I start to enjoy it now. The roads are fantastic and this car is fantastic. I just need to hold the focus."

8- MIKKELSEN

Fourth quickest, 1.9sec off the leading pace. "I tried to manage my tyres this afternoon but still I used a lot. We tried to save our best ones for the next stage. Let's see. A long way still to go."



9- LAPPI

Sixth fastest so far and still counting the cost of his off on SS5. "I'm doing what I can. It's okay, part of the game, you hit a bank and sometimes it catches you. It was my mistake, and a stupid one. When you push you take the risks, and mistakes happen. That happened to me today."

10- EVANS

Quickest so far, 4.4sec up on Loeb/Latvala, the Welshman reveals his secret. "The car is working well. I just put the front wheels in the ruts and tried to keep them there."

11- BERTELLI

He completes with his front light pod flapping loose on the bonnet. He'll need that for the next stage. "It started to move from the beginning of the stage. I went slowly and they nearly fell off 2km before the end. We were lucky."

12- TUOHINO

"It's okay but we hit a big stone in this stage. I'm lucky not to get a puncture."

13- WRC 2 PRO GREENSMITH

The Brit explains his earlier time loss on SS5: "I hit a patch of slush in a junction left. We got beached on snow and lost time. Not ideal. A mistake - but one that was caused by the conditions."

14- WRC PRO ROVANPERA

Quickest so far in WRC 2 Pro. "We had a really good time on the previous stage. This one was really rough, so lots of big hits on the car. I wasn't so careful but it was okay."

COMMENTS

(The news from the stage)