



STAGE FLASH

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| Date: | 2019-02-16 | Flash No: |
| Day: | Saturday | Distance: 23,13 |
| Special Stage: | SS9 | |
| 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 | |

1- GRONHOLM

He's through in a benchmark time of 11m48.5s. "The conditions were good, nice, but my driving - ha! - not so nice. At least my first clean stage."

2- OGIER

19.6sec quicker than Gronholm. "What can I do today? Not much, just get more mileage in the car. It's hard to find a real motivation."

3- LATVALA

Quickest so far. "It's a great stage with good memories for me from my win in 2008. The first few kilometres were frozen gravel and hard on the tyres, after that lots of ice - very nice."

4- BERTELLI

45.1sec off the pace but it's a clean stage for Lorenzo who has a smile on his face. "There were so much grip but we had a lot of understeer in places. We're here just to enjoy what we have."

5- TUOHINO

"A nice stage but it is slippery. I was on and off the road too much."

6- TIDEMAND

Fifth fastest and taking time to settle in to the conditions. "Very careful, I want to get a feeling before we try a bit," he says.

7- MEEKE

Third fastest. "It was icy in there - frozen - which might benefit the guys ahead. Like yesterday the feeling in the car was nice. New stage, new notes, let's see."

**8- NEUVILLE**

He loses 7th position to Meeke by two-tenths. "A very fast stage, I tried but I had lots of understeer and the car was really imprecise. I tried my best."

9- LOEB

Seb also loses position, dropping two places from 6th to 8th. A similar understeer problem to Neuville, perhaps? "No, for me my notes were too slow. Not good notes. The car was okay."

10- LAPPI

Fifth quickest so far. What can you achieve today? "I don't know. It felt quite a steady run in here. Nothing special and no risks. Too slow at the beginning for sure."

11- EVANS

Now the Welshman slots fifth fastest so far. "Not perfect, struggling a bit with the front end in places. A podium is still possible, though."

12- MIKKELSEN

And guess what, now Mikkelsen grabs the fifth-quickest position. "It was okay, a clean run, we have another gear but a clean start. A big gap to the guys ahead but we will do what we can."

13- TANAK

Okay, it's the big fight now between Ott and rally leader Suninen. Ott began the stage trailing by 2sec. He's second quickest to Latvala on the timesheet. How was that? "It was just a clean run. Nothing special. A long day ahead of us, so let's just get it going. It would have been stupid to take any risks here."

14- SUNINEN

3.8sec SLOWER than Tanak and Suninen loses the lead. "In the really fast sections I was taking it slightly carefully and losing time. Looks like I'll need to be on the limit all the time to get the top times. I'm feeling confident but we cannot make any mistakes."

15- WRC 2 PRO OSTBERG

He leads the category but Mads remains deeply unhappy with his C3. "Not a good feeling again and this rally I'm treating like a test now. We have to improve the car but we struggle to do that."

16- ROVANERA

7.7sec quicker than Ostberg. It's a clean run for Kalle but he complains of understeer.

COMMENTS

(The news from the stage)