



Ufficio Stampa - Press Office

14 May 2008

THE START OF RALLY D'ITALIA SARDEGNA

Tomorrow sees the start of Rally d'Italia Sardegna Sardinia, the sixth round of the World Rally Championship and the third round of the Junior WRC. The Opening Ceremony will take place tomorrow evening at 20.00 (8.00pm) in the enchanting port town, Porto Cervo.

Tomorrow afternoon, the drivers will be busy completing Shakedown, tests for their competition cars, at Mount Pinu. On Friday, competition will come alive with the as day one commences. A total of 1.035 kilometres will be covered and a total 344.73 competition kilometre will be attacked over 17 special stages, on the forest roads of Sardinia, in three interesting provinces, namely, Olbia-Tempio, Nuoro and Sassari.

The 2008 Drivers' Championship seems to be very uncertain. After the first five rallies already run (Monte Carlo, Sweden, Mexico, Argentina and Jordon), Mikko Hirvonen (Ford) leads the series with 35 points. The 27 year old Finn finished in second place in Monte Carlo and in Sweden, fourth in Mexico and fifth in Argentina. He won in Jordon two weeks ago, his first win since Rally GB in Wales four months ago.

Loeb holds second position in the 2008 Driver's Championship with 30 points: he has won three times already this season, in Monte Carlo, Mexico and Argentina. The French driver is set to win in Sardinia for the third time. Last year, he went off-road during the third stage in San Giovanni.

Australian driver Chris Atkinson (Subaru) surprisingly holds third place in the Driver's Championship on 28 points. He has had an impressive start to the season finishing rallies with some good placings. In fact, he finished third in Monte Carlo and in Jordon and second in Mexico and in Argentina.

The second Ford driver, 23 year old Jani Matti Latvala is currently in fourth position with 18 points: he is the rising star of the Finnish rally! He got his first victory in Sweden in February, finished third in Argentina and seventh in Jordon.

Daniel Sordo (Citroen) is in fifth place with 17 points. The Spanish driver finished in second place in Jordon, third in Argentina and the sixth in Sweden. He prefers racing on the asphalt, but he is improving on the gravel roads and in Sardinia he has always done very well, finishing in third position in 2006 and 2007 and winning in 2005 in the Super 1600 classification.



Feel+

HOTEL
CALA DI VOLPE
Costa SmeraldaHOTEL ROMAZZINO
Costa SmeraldaHOTEL PITRIZZA
Costa SmeraldaCERVO HOTEL
Costa Smeralda
ResortPEVERO GOLF CLUB
Costa SmeraldaMARINA DI PORTO CERVO
Costa Smeralda

IL MONDO DELL'UFFICIO



GEASAR



POLIZIA di Stato

CANTINA DEL VERMICINO
MONTIRally d'Italia Sardegna
Il Comitato OrganizzatoreLocalità Porto Cocciani
Porto Industriale
Settore 1 Edificio B
07026 Olbia
info@rallyitaliasardegna.com



Ufficio Stampa - Press Office

Italian WRC driver, Gigi Galli (Ford) is sixth in the world classification with 12 points, thanks to a third place in Sweden, sixth in Monte Carlo, seventh in Argentina and eighth in Jordan. This is a rally that Gigi Galli knows very well and he always pushes hard for a good result in his home country. Gigi Galli could fight for the podium and also for a world victory that the Italian rally sport has missed since 1997, when Peter Liatti and Fabrizia Pons won in Monte Carlo.

The Solberg brothers are in seventh place with nine points each in the world classification. Petter (Subaru) won here in 2004 and finished second in 2005 and is very confident on the Sardinian gravel, like Henning (Ford) who was an important protagonist in 2007.

Argentinean Villagra (Ford) is introduced to Sardinia and holds ninth position in the Championship with eight points, in a competition that saw his WRC debut last year.

In tenth classification is the young English driver Matthew Wilson (Ford) with seven points.

In the Manufacturer's World Championship, the BP Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally Team leads with 57 points, followed by the Citroen Total Red Bull Team with 50. Subaru follows with 39 points, Stobart Ford with 29, Munchi's Ford with 14 and Suzuki with 6.

Leading in the Junior World Rally Championship is Frenchman Sebastien Ogier (Citroen C2) with 20 points. The young talent has won the first two J-WRC rounds of the season in Mexico and Jordan, revealing a big surprise for the championship.

Second with 11 points is the Irishman Shaun Gallagher (Citroen C2), who came second in Jordan and sixth in Mexico. Whilst in third position is the Estonian Jaan Moelder (Suzuki Swift) with 8 points, thanks to his second place finish in Mexico. Fourth with six points is Pole Michal Kosciuszko (Suzuki Swift) and Gilles Schammel (Renault Clio R3) from Luxemburg who finished third in Mexico and Jordan.

We have to also make mention of Czech Martin Prokop (Citroen C2), of Swede Patrik Sandell, and of the young talented Italian driver Alexander Bettega (both in a Renault Clio R3) who after their withdrawal in Jordan aims to finish on the podium in Sardinia.



Feel+

HOTEL
CALA DI VOLPE
Costa SmeraldaHOTEL ROMAZZINO
Costa SmeraldaHOTEL PITRIZZA
Costa SmeraldaCERVO HOTEL
Costa Smeralda
ResortPEVERO GOLF CLUB
Costa SmeraldaMARINA DI PORTO CERVO
Costa Smeralda

by BRUNO PEGRATTE



IL MONDO DELL'UFFICIO

Aeroporto
Olbia Costa Smeralda
GEASARCANTINA DEL VERMENTINO
MONTIRally d'Italia Sardegna
Il Comitato OrganizzatoreLocalità Porto Cocciani
Porto Industriale
Settore 1 Edificio B
07026 Olbia
info@rallyitaliasardegna.com



Ufficio Stampa - Press Office

WRC Standings after Round 5 of 15

Drivers -

1. Hirvonen (Ford Focus RS Wrc) 35 points; 2. Loeb (Citroen C4 Wrc) 30; 3. Atkinson (Subaru Impreza Wrc) 28 ; 4. Latvala (Ford Focus Wrc) 18; 5. Sordo (Citroen C4 Wrc) 17; 6. Galli (Ford Focus RS Wrc) 12; 7 . Solberg P.(Subaru Impreza Wrc) e H.Solberg (Ford Focus RS Wrc) 9; 9. Villagra (Ford Focus RS Wrc) 8; 10. Wilson (Ford Focus RS Wrc) 7

Manufacturers -

1. Bp Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally Team points 57; 2. Citroen Total WRT 50; 3. Subaru World Rally Team 39; 4. Stobart VK M-Sport Ford Rally Team 29; 5. Munich's Ford Worl Rally Team 14; 5. Suzuki World Rally Team 6

Junior World Rally Championship after Round 2 of 7

1. Oigier 20 points; 2. Gallagher 11; 3. Molder 8; 4. Kosciuszko 6; 5. Schammel 6.



Meridiana

wokita.com

PRIMATIST
by BRUNO PEGATE

karnak
IL MONDO DELL'UFFICIO

Aeroporto
Olbia Costa Smeralda
GEASAR

ENTE
FORESTE
DELLA SARDEGNA

LEOPOLDA PORTUALE
VILLA E GIULIO ARNESI

POLIZIA
di Stato

MOBY

CANTINA DEL VERMENTINO
MONTI

S.GIORGIO

Auchan

Provincia
di Olbia-Tempio
Comune
di Olbia
Comune
di Tempio Pausania
Comune
di Arzachena
Provincia
di Sassari
Provincia
di Sassari

Rally d'Italia Sardegna
Il Comitato Organizzatore

Località Porto Cocciani
Porto Industriale
Settore 1 Edificio B
07026 Olbia
info@rallyitaliasardegna.com

