



Press Office

FORD DOUBLE IN RALLY D'ITALIA SARDEGNA. JARI-MATTI LATVALA WINS IN FRONT OF TEAM MATE MIKKO HIRVONEN

Petter Solberg, Citroen Xsara, ends in third place.

Sebastien Loeb finishes fourth after a penalty

May 24th 2009 - The two drivers of the Bp Ford Abu Dhabi Wrt Jari-Matti Latvala and Mikko Hirvonen ended in first and second position the Rally d'Italia Sardegna 2009 sixth round of the World Rally Championship, organised by the Automobile Club d'Italia. But the great news is that Sébastien Loeb is not in the top three. The third podium step went to Petter Solberg together with Phil Mills on board a Citroen Xsara, thanks to a penalty imposed on Sébastien Loeb. The stewards gave a 2' penalty to the World Champion, as yesterday his codriver Elena did part of a special stage with his seat belts unfastened. The crew therefore ended in fourth place.

Jari-Matti Latvala and Mikka Anttila dominated the Rally d'Italia Sardegna 2009 from the first to the last stage, obtaining a very important victory after an horrendous start to the season. Mikko Hirvonen finished second, failing in his attempt to catch his team mate. On the contrary, in the last day of the event Latvala stretched his lead to a final total of 29"4. Third place was decided in favour of Petter Solberg. A great event for Evgeny Novikov who on board his C4 of the Citroen Junior Rally Team managed to get fifth position ahead of Matthew Wilson, Ford Stobart Vx M-Sport, who after some mechanical problems on day one was on a steady pace. A nice fight until the very end between fellow countrymen Mads Ostberg and Henning Solberg for seventh place. Ostberg won by 0"6.

For what concerns Junior World Rally Championship, victory went to Martin Prokop, Citroen C2 Super 1600, ahead of Michal Kosciuszko, Suzuki Swift Super 1600. Alessandro Bettega, Renault Clio R3, very fast on day one of the event, only finished fifth. In the standings of the Production World Rally Championship, Qatari Al Attiyah, codriven by Giovanni Bernacchini won after a nice duel with Patrik Sandell, Skoda. The two were only divided by 1"5. Amongst the young drivers of the Pirelli Star Driver victory went to Jarkko Nikara. As regards Italian drivers, it is worth mentioning Peter Zanchi, who finished 24th overall. For what concerns Sardinian drivers, the first was Giuseppe Dettori.

The prizes for the winning crews, in the beautiful scenery of the Marina Vecchia pier in Porto Cervo, the Presidente of the Sardinian Region Ugo Cappellacci and the President of the Automobile Club d'Italia Enrico Gelpi

Final Classification of Rally d'Italia Sardegna - 1. Latvala - Anttila (Ford Focus Rs Wrc - Bp Ford Abu Dhabi Wrt) in 4h00'55"7; 2. Hirvonen - Lehtinen (Ford Focus Rs Wrc - Bp Ford Abu Dhabi Wrt) at 29"4 ; 3. Solberg P. - Mills (Citroen Xsara) at 1'57"6; 4. Loeb - Elena (Citroen C4 Wrc - Citroen Total Wrt) at 3'43"7; 5. Novikov - Moscat (Citroen C4 Wrc - Citroen Junior Team) at 5'11"8; 6. Wilson - Martin (Ford Focus Rs Wrc - Stobart Vx M-Sport) at 7'29"3 ; 7. Ostberg - Egan (Subaru impreza WRC) at 13'20"6 8. Solberg H. - Menkerud (Ford Focus Rs Wrc - Stobart Vx M-Sport) at 13'21"2

Drivers' standings after six rounds - 1. Loeb 55p.; 2. Hirvonen 38p; 3. Sordo 31p; 4. Solberg H. 21p.; 5. Solberg P. 20p; 6. Latvala 19p.; 7. Wilson 15p.

Manufacturers' standings after six rounds - 1. Citroen Total World Rally Team 90p; 2. Bp Ford Abu Dhabi World Rally Team 61p; 3. Stobart Vx M-Sport World Rally Team 44p; 4. Citroen Junior Team 18p; 5. Munchi's Ford World Rally Team 12p.

Junior World Rally Championship standings after five rounds: 1. Kosciuszko (Suzuki) 36p ; 2. Burkart (Suzuki) 30p ; 3. Prokop (Citroen) 28p; 4. Bettega (Renault) 14p; 5. Abbring (Renault) 12p; 6. Bertolotti (Suzuki) 11p; 7. Bonato (Suzuki) 10p; 8. Weijs (Citroen) 9p; 9. Griotti (Renault Clio) 8p

Production World Rally Championship standings after five rounds: 1. Al-Attiyah (Subaru) 31p; 2. Araujo (Mitsubishi) 29p; 3. Sandell (Skoda Fabia) 28p; 4. Brynildsen (Mitsubishi) 22p; 5. Prokop (Mitsubishi) 14p; 6. Arai (Subaru) 11p; 7. Neiksans (Mitsubishi) and Ligato (Mitsubishi) 8p; 9. Sauvan (Mitsubishi) 6p; 10. Pavlides (Subaru) and Linari (Subaru) 5p

Stage wins – Latvala 1-3-4-6-13-14; Loeb 5-8-9-12-17; Hirvonen 7-10; H. Solberg 15-16; Sordo 2: P. Solberg 11;

Rally d'Italia Sardegna

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