



## MEET THE CREWS (after SS9)

Day one , Friday 10 June 2016

### Manufacturers

Michel Nandan, Hyundai Motorsport  
Jost Capito, Volkswagen Motorsport  
Richard Millener, M-Sport World Rally Team

**Q:** Difficult start for Thierry but this was the strongest day of his season how are you feeling about his performance?

**MN:** Today Thierry did a very good performance, of course he was using the fact that he was behind so the road was much more cleaner but he managed to keep the pace he did a really good time and so far no mistakes so this is good we can be only happy about it.

**Q:** He is really confident do you think he can pick up a win? what are his chances?

**MN:** yes I think he has a good chance this rally is quite difficult especially tomorrow with these long stages it is not an easy rally but yes I think he can do it he is really confident with the car with the car he has to do his best.

**Q:** Talk to me about the other drivers, a little disaster this afternoon for Hayden Paddon, he has gone off the road we have seen some picture on the social media of a rather crumpled looking brand new I 20 can it be fixed Michel?

**MN:** I think it is true he did a mistake the shell was brand new of course and now it is not so much I don't know if we can repair the engine was there but the look not so good we need to take the car to service and see together with FIA delegation and then we will see

**Q:** And Dani Sordo today? What do you think?

**MN:** Well Dani struggled a bit it is always a little difficult for him in these very slippery conditions he was not confident with the car and you know when he is not confident with the car he can't try and he is not very fast but it is ok he managed to keep the car there and that is really important tomorrow will be a very difficult day but I think he will keep the pace and then see what happens in the front.

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**Q:** What are your thoughts on the battle so far?

**JC:** I think it is a very exciting rally. Jari-Matti and Thierry did a good job and also Seb and Andreas opening the road did a good job and I think that everything is possible tomorrow. It will be an extremely long day and everything can happen. I am sure we will see a very exciting day.

**Q:** Jari-Matti mentioned a little understeering towards the end of the day. He was not quite happy on the finale stages. I am sure that that can be sorted at service, can we see a flat out Latvala tomorrow?

**JC:** Jari-Matti is never happy if he is not the first and if he is not first he is pushing even harder and then he is less happy again, but we will fix him and make him happy again by tomorrow.

**Q:** What did you think about Sebastien's performances, tough job obviously first on the road, and Andreas Mikkelsen today?

**JC:** They did everything they can being on that road position. We have seen how Sebastien pushes, it is just a delight see him driving. He slides a lot because he has to open the road and it is very soft but it is fantastic to watch him and I think all the spectators must have enjoyed watching him.

**Q:** When we were in Portugal Mikkelsen had a bit of a slow start to the rally on Friday. You told him to put his foot down when he came down to service Saturday and Sunday were incredible for him, what have you thought today and can we see more speed from him tomorrow?

**JC:** I keep telling him to put his foot down, that will come.

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**Q:** Talk to me about your day because Mads Ostberg maybe has not had the start of the season that he would have wanted. Today he showed us some fantastic pace fighting right in front of the field. Are you happy with that?

**RM:** Yes, I think everybody has been watching the last few rallies. We had a few issues, we have not been where we wanted to be and things seem to go well today. Mads is very happy with the tire choice he has made and the speed that he had and the position and now he is fifth with all the top five fighting each other. There is a good chance we can still improve on that in the next couple of days and for this we have to be very happy and for what we achieved today.

**Q:** He was the only driver that went with the safe option with the tires, six out, everybody was taking five, and maybe that was not the best idea. What do you think?

**RM:** You have to trust what the driver wants to do. It is very difficult and it is not simple and straightforward as it may have been with the tires and everybody is playing around with it, we saw that this morning as well, different cross over technics and everything. When he was on the road this afternoon he thought that those were the conditions after the first run, so, yes, maybe it was not the best solution, we have not lost out, we are still in the fight, so everything is OK. See what happens tomorrow.

**Q:** Still talking about Mister Camilli. Two good events in Argentina and Portugal, he has set competitive times in Portugal, we have not seen those coming through until now here, he had a few issues today, yes?

**RM:** Yes, he had a mechanical issue today so we can not put any blame on him. When he had it fixed and running he had a couple of spins but when he had a clear run he was fighting people like Dani and other guys so, again, so first time here on a World Rally Car he looks very promising. We spoken to Malcom Wilson and he is happy as well so if he is happy we are happy.



## Drivers

Thierry Neuville, Hyundai Motorsport  
Jari-Matti Latvala, Volkswagen Motorsport  
Sebastien Ogier, Volkswagen Motorsport

**Q:** Thierry, is really good to see you on that middle seat so it must feel good, how are you feeling after day number one?

**TN:** Obviously I must be happy, we knew from the beginning of the rally that we had a lot of chances to be in the lead tonight. Obviously I was focusing a lot on Jari-Matti because he was running just two cars ahead of me and finally it went well. Eleven second lead I think it is good but to be honest after all the issues we had it is well deserved so I am really happy to be here tonight

**Q:** The lead was changing hands back and forth, how much on your limit were you out there today? Was it the maximum attack?

**TN:** There was honestly only one stage I struggled a bit. I could not take my advantage, I could not make a better gap, I had a good rhythm pushing hard in the afternoon, obviously our car was working really well, the conditions were higher, I think we have done great and I am happy to be here.

**Q:** It is a huge day tomorrow. We have the Monte Lerno stage, 44 kilometres, how are you feeling going into that? Are you confident that this lead can be held?

**TN:** It is going to be a tough day. I think tire choice is going to be crucial but on the other side once you feel comfortable in the car everything seems to be easier. Hopefully I can have the same feeling tomorrow starting a new day setting good times, definitely we are on a good position to push and to fight for a win. I will definitely keep an eye on Jari-Matti and hopefully I can stay ahead of him.

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**Q:** Thierry is keeping an eye on you. How are you feeling at the end of the day? You had some great times out there, it has been a good battle, you seemed a little unhappy towards the end of the day.

**JML:** Yes, Thierry has done a really good day, great performance. There were a couple of stages where things were going well but in the afternoon I was really struggling with the car. We had a lot of understeering problems and the tires were very worn. We had something on the differential so it was slipping quite badly making the driving very difficult and I was unhappy but the main thing is that we are here, the guys are working, we can get the car fixed for tomorrow. Tomorrow is a new day.

**Q:** It is only eleven seconds that Thierry has in hand. It seems like it is a lot but it is an only stage, what can you do out there, can you give an extra?

**JML:** The main thing is that I feel good with car, comfortable with it and then we can see what speed we can do. Tomorrow we have to remember it is a 5:30hrs start, we have long stages and Monte Lerno, 44 kilometres, Monti di Ala, Loelle, the characteristics of the stages change significantly, completely different style of stages, but OK, we go out there and try to do my best.

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**Q:** Service tough old job, sweeping the roads, what was it like on the second pass through on those stages? Any better?

**SO:** Definitely better. I think I had much more fun, of course, overall it has been a great day for me, it was nice to watch the beautiful fight between Thierry and Jari-Matti, I think they have done a



really good job today, really great times, but obviously we are on a different race. We managed to keep Andreas and Mads behind me, the guys I am fighting with, with a road position more similar to mine. I tried pretty hard, no real mistakes I can not say it has been a perfect day, I mean I am very happy, the car is working well, we had some very aggressive tyre choices in the morning, they worked hard, they were on the limit but that was the way to try not to lose too much time and, yes, coming back to the question, the grip was much better in the afternoon and there were nice sections to drive.

**Q:** Tire choice especially tomorrow morning is going to be a tough one, so early. I have to say you generally get it right, why is that?

**SO:** I do not know, I think it is also have a good time around you, that support you on that kind of moments, but, to be honest, I tried to do the decision by myself. So, it is this and that most of the times I am able to manage them and not to wear them too much, like this morning, when we had to run on four soft, it was becoming pretty critical at the end of the loop when it was getting really hot. Tomorrow morning there is still something to play with that and like always we will have to be a little more aggressive but I am not sure what we have to take.