

## Rally de Portugal – Day Three Report

- Hyundai Motorsport has claimed its 50<sup>th</sup> podium finish in a round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), taking second place in Rally de Portugal
- On an incident-filled final morning, Thierry Neuville finished 15.9 seconds from victory, taking his fifth podium of the 2019 season
- Dani Sordo and Sébastien Loeb endured a tough rally but Hyundai Motorsport has retained its lead in the manufacturers' championship by 20 points.

Matosinhos, Portugal

June 2, 2019 – Hyundai Motorsport has secured a podium finish in Rally de Portugal, the seventh round of the 14-event FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), as Thierry Neuville and co-driver Nicolas Gilsoul took second place. The result marks Hyundai Motorsport's 50<sup>th</sup> WRC podium in total.

Crews negotiated five stages on the final morning including two runs through Montim (SS16/SS19), a single attempt at Luilhas (SS18) and twice through Fafe (SS17/20). Fans flocked to the famous jump to see the WRC cars fly through in spectacular fashion, bringing the rally to a fitting finale as the Power Stage.

Starting the day with a nine-second deficit to rally leader Ott Tänak, Neuville gave it his maximum to claim his fifth podium of the season to date with a fine run to second, as well as taking four Power Stage points. Consequently, he retains his third place in the drivers' standings on 132, eight points behind Tänak and ten adrift of Sébastien Ogier

A frustrating rally for Dani Sordo and Sébastien Loeb saw them support the team to the fullest as they persevered to the very end with the Spaniard picking up a consolatory Power Stage point. The team has kept hold of its lead in the manufacturers' championship, although the gap has been reduced to 20.

### Crew Notes: Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (#11 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Fifth podium of 2019 after Monte-Carlo, Sweden, Corsica and Argentina
- Five stage wins and four Power Stage points showed Belgians' pace

Neuville said: *"After the big crash we had in Chile, it was important to come back fighting. It's not been an entirely smooth weekend but we have shown some strong pace including several stage wins. Overall, I think we can be pleased with second place. The time we lost on Friday's opening stages is more or less the time we were missing at the end. We were lacking a bit of precision today to give it more of a push, but on the whole it's a good result. The championship is nicely poised as we reach the halfway point. We know there is no room for error when things are this close, so we have to keep pushing together."*

### Crew Notes: Dani Sordo/Carlos del Barrio (#6 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Competitive performance hampered by Friday's issues
- Two stage wins and impressive run through Fafe to take Power Stage point



Sordo said: *"We have tried to put the disappointment and frustration from Friday behind us, and to enjoy these great Portuguese stages. It's a special feeling when you are pushing hard and flying through Fafe with all the spectators. We have put in a full team effort this weekend so I think we all share in the podium result, even if it would have been nicer to be standing on the podium ourselves. We'll have to try and rectify that in Sardinia!"*

#### **Crew Notes: Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (#19 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)**

- Friday's technical issues prevented crew from a repeat of Chile podium
- Selflessly supported the team's manufacturers' championship efforts all weekend

Loeb said: *"I enjoyed driving this morning's stages with some new discoveries for me. It wasn't without incident but overall it was nice to get the experience. The routes were fast and narrow, and the feeling with the car was pretty good. It was particularly nice to get the buzz from all the fans. We were able to set some competitive times, which shows what might have been possible this weekend. I am happy for the team to get a podium finish after what has been a tough event."*

**Team Director Andrea Adamo:** *"I have three main feelings at the end of this rally: the first is massive respect to our crews. Thierry and Nicolas are having a great season with the tools we are giving them and they thoroughly deserve this second place. They continue to score results that flatter our performance level. Secondly, I remain upset that our issues on Friday prevented our two other crews Dani/Carlos and Sébastien/Daniel from competing for the podium; another missed opportunity. It is also clear, overall, that we are missing some pace compared to our immediate rivals. We are here to fight for victories and this is the most important thing on which we must focus as a team."*

#### **Next rally**

- The WRC's run of gravel events continues onto Sardinia in two weeks' time
- Rally Italia Sardegna takes place June 13-16 with Neuville/Gilsoul, Mikkelsen/Jæger-Amland and Sordo/Del Barrio on driving duties in the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC

#### **Final Overall Classification – Rally de Portugal**

1	O. Tänak	M. Järveoja	Toyota Yaris WRC	3:20:22.8
2	<b>T. Neuville</b>	<b>N. Gilsoul</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC</b>	<b>+15.9</b>
3	S. Ogier	J. Ingrassia	Citroën C3 WRC	+57.1
4	T. Suninen	M. Salminen	Ford Fiesta WRC	+2:41.5
5	E. Evans	S. Martin	Ford Fiesta WRC	+7:08.3
6	K. Rovander	J. Halttunen	Škoda Fabia R5	+10:34.2
7	J.M Latvala	M. Anttila	Toyota Yaris WRC	+11:28.2
8	J. Kopecky	P. Dresler	Škoda Fabia R5	+11:41.9
9	P. Loubet	V. Landais	Škoda Fabia R5	+12:46.3
10	E. Bergkvist	P. Barth	Ford Fiesta R5	+14:28.4

## 2019 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 7

1	S. Ogier	142
2	O. Tanak	140
<b>3</b>	<b>T. Neuville</b>	<b>132</b>
4	E. Evans	65
5	K. Meeke	56
6	T. Suninen	44
<b>7</b>	<b>S.Loeb</b>	<b>39</b>
8	J.M Latvala	38
<b>9</b>	<b>A. Mikkelsen</b>	<b>36</b>
10	E. Lappi	34
<b>11</b>	<b>D. Sordo</b>	<b>27</b>

## 2019 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

After round 7

<b>1</b>	<b>Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team</b>	<b>202</b>
2	Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team	182
3	Citroën Total World Rally Team	158
4	M-Sport Ford World Rally Team	122

All results remain subject to official FIA confirmation.

### **About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities, including the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) and Customer Racing projects. In WRC, Hyundai Motorsport quickly established a strong reputation taking victory in its debut season in 2014. The team amassed ten wins up to the end of the 2018 season and finished as runners-up in the manufacturers' championship on three consecutive occasions. Since the establishment of its Customer Racing activities in September 2015, Hyundai Motorsport has become a trusted partner for teams and drivers looking for success on the rally stages or on racetracks around the world. From its competitive i20 R5 rally car to the competitive i30 N TCR, Hyundai Motorsport-built cars have claimed victory in several championships, including national rally series in France and Spain, as well as the teams' and drivers' titles in the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) season. Unified under Hyundai Motorsport, WRC and Customer Racing are together playing instrumental roles in driving Hyundai's global high-performance N brand, and are supporting an important perception shift for the Hyundai brand around the world.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

### **About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond with its range of world-class vehicles and mobility services offered available in more than 200 countries. Employing more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai sold more than 4.5 million vehicles globally. Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with vehicles that are helping to build solutions for a more sustainable future, such as NEXO – the world's first dedicated hydrogen-powered SUV.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at:  
<http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers' profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

<http://press.motorsport.hyundai.com/home>

**Username:** HMSGMedia

**Password:** Alzenau

For individual information please contact:

**Thomas Villette**

Phone: +49-151 1135 4339

[tvillette@hyundai-ms.com](mailto:tvillette@hyundai-ms.com)

**Nicoletta Russo**

Phone: +49-151 1135 4362

[nrusso@hyundai-ms.com](mailto:nrusso@hyundai-ms.com)