

PRESS RELEASE no. 44

Kopecký increased his lead, Pech is out

Czech driver Jan Kopecký (Škoda Fabia R5) is getting closer to getting his hands on the trophy for Barum Czech Rally Zlín. The defending Czech champion won all three morning stages of Leg 2 and increased his lead on Russian Alexey Lukyanuk (Ford Fiesta R5) up to almost half a second. Václav Pech (Ford Fiesta R5) lost his chance to be on a podium when he had two punctures in a short time. So the Czech driver Tomáš Kostka (Škoda Fabia R5) moved up.

The five-time winner of Barum rally is on a good track to reach 17th consecutive victory on domestic rallies. He was unbeaten on Sunday morning and his rival Lukyanuk is struggling with increasing pain in his leg after the horrific accident he sustained three months ago and it limits his driving.

Václav Pech was really unlucky as had to retire due to two punctures, the second one being on a road to SS12. **‘We had two punctures and the wheel deflated while on a regular road. Since we used our spare tyre on Pindula, we simply couldn’t make to service on all four wheels,’** Pech explained. The same problem had Czech Jan Černý who fell out of the top ten but unlike Pech he still has a chance to go up. Thus Latvian Nikolaj Gryazin and Bruno Magalhães from Portugal (both Škoda Fabia R5) moved to the top ten.

There’s going to be a tough fight for the third place which now holds Tomáš Kostka. His brother-in-law Roman Kresta (Škoda Fabia R5) is only 3.6 seconds behind and the fifth Marijan Griebel from Germany (Škoda Fabia R5) is 10 seconds behind.

Category ERC2 is led by Hungarian Tibor Érdi (Mitsubishi Lancer EVO X), first place in ERC3 still holds Aleks Zawada from Poland (Opel Adam R2), and the Czech talent Filip Mareš (Peugeot 208 R2) got back to the second place.

Final part of Leg 2 of the 47th Barum Czech Rally Zlín comprises of three special stages on sections Maják, Pindula and Košíky. The fastest crew is going receive their well-deserved trophy at 4:25 p.m. in front of the Zlín’s city hall.

The 47th Barum Czech Rally Zlín is the sixth event of FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) series and likewise the sixth event of TrueCam Czech Rally Championship 2017 (MČR).

Results after SS12:

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| 1. Jan Kopecký, Pavel Dresler (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5) | 1:30:12.1 h |
| 2. Alexey Lukyanuk, Alexey Arnautov (RUS, Ford Fiesta R5) | + 29.3 s |
| 3. Tomáš Kostka, Ladislav Kučera (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5) | + 1:26.0 min |
| 4. Roman Kresta, Petr Starý (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5) | + 1:29.6 min |
| 5. Marijan Griebel, Stefan Kopczyk (DE, Škoda Fabia R5) | + 1:36.1 min |
| 6. Kajetan Kajetanowicz, Jaroslaw Baran (POL, Ford Fiesta R5) | + 1:45.3 min |
| 7. Martin Koči, Filip Schovánek (SVK/CZE, Škoda Fabia R5) | + 2:19.3 min |
| 8. Pavel Valoušek, Veronika Havelková (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5) | + 2:24.1 min |
| 9. Nikolaj Gryazin, Jaroslav Fjodorov (LVA/RUS, Škoda Fabia R5) | + 2:52.2 min |
| 10. Bruno Magalhães, Hugo Magalhães (PRT, Škoda Fabia R5) | + 3:02.5 min |
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| 26. Aleks Zawada, Grzegorz Dachowski (POL, Opel Adam R2) | + 9:42.0 min |
| 38. Tibor Érdi, György Papp (HUN, Mitsubishi Lancer EVO X) | + 13:44.1 min |

Zlín, 26th August 2017

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Barum Czech Rally Zlín