

PRESS RELEASE no. 49 Flash info after Leg 1

As every year, the Barum Rally proves to be an extremely demanding competition. Several crews in the leading positions had problems and were forced to retire, or lost a lot of time and dropped down. At the end of Saturday's Leg 1, we interviewed the best crews before a service stop in the area of Continental Barum.

Jan Kopecký (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5 Evo, No. 4):

"We are glad to lead. It is a pity that the duel with Lukyanuk is no longer going on, it was beautiful, we enjoyed it so much, and we are sure that so did fans."

Nikolay Gryazin (LVA, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 10):

"Now I'm mainly trying to enjoy it. Today, however, it was interesting, on some stages, I did not push much. But it was good. I'm sure we got better. Both the driving and car's set up."

Filip Mareš (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 5):

"I think overall we can be happy with today's performance. It's not bad at all. On the other hand, we are second in the fight for the title, so tomorrow we have to win some seconds and work hard."

Tomáš Kostka (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5 Evo, No. 17):

"It was a warm-up for us today. We finished. So cool. We'll see about tomorrow. I don't need to win at all costs. I will keep up my pace."

Václav Pech (CZE, Ford Fiesta R5, No. 9):

"I feel perfect today. We are really doing great, and we are happy about our driving. I think we use the car well enough, and with a few small bugs, no complication, so we're excited. I'm already thinking a lot about what will happen tomorrow."

Miroslav Jakeš (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 20):

"Well, not much. In the morning we dropped a half-axle, we lost a little time on two stages, and it is difficult to catch up. It is quite unpleasant to race. Motivation is no longer there, so we'll see."

Łukasz Habaj (POL, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 2):

"I'm tired. We had some big problems on Semetín. Before that, I made a mistake on Březová where I lost about ten seconds. Then it was difficult to concentrate and find the right rhythm. It wasn't a perfect day for us. But the car goes all the time, so I hope tomorrow we start from scratch."

Marijan Griebel (DEU, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 8):

“Today was a long and challenging day. It can be seen on other drivers how many problems they had and that they are tired. Fortunately, we did not have any issues today, but we also tried to drive really carefully.”

Chris Ingram (GBR, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 3):

“Last SS was perfect. It was dark, there was a lot of adrenaline. It was unpredictable, mud really everywhere. Winning one test truly gave me confidence. I am delighted, I did not risk, and I could go even faster.”

Martin Březík (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5 Evo, No. 25):

“We feel good about it, we are eleven, which is great. We wanted the top ten. On the last stage, I took no risks and Jaromír Tarabus pushed, so he surpassed us. We performed very well, considering the competition. We are delighted.”

Tomáš Pospíšilík (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 23):

“Today was hard. Heavy, long, but here we are. As for the result, it's not so bad. We lost because of the lights at the last SS. They didn't work properly. We could hardly see the track ahead. But overall, I'm positive. We are looking forward to Sunday, it will be a very long race.”

Mattias Adielsson (SWE, Ford Fiesta R5, No. 11):

“I'm a little tired. I had to push hard enough in the second pass on Semetín because I was too slow in the first. Anyway, I'm looking forward to tomorrow, I plan to really enjoy it.”

Jaromír Tarabus (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 19):

“It was better now. We jumped up to a nice place, so far we are satisfied. Otherwise, of course, it might be better, but considering that we were lying on the roof on Tuesday, it's great.”

Roman Odložilík (CZE, Škoda Fabia R5, No. 22):

“Today was definitely hard for everyone. As is always here, the roads are broken, full of mud. But we are happy with that. We wanted to be a bit more ahead, but we got a big loss early this morning.”

Albert von Thurn und Taxis (DEU, Škoda Fabia R5 Evo, No. 24):

“It was a difficult day. I'm pretty happy except for the last two stages. We lost confidence. Also, the lights were not working properly, they flickered. But I'm really looking forward to tomorrow.”

Martin Vlček (CZE, Hyundai i20 R5, No. 21):

“It is hell like every year. Barum Rally is an incredibly difficult competition. Wrecked cars are parked along the track. It is simply the Barum Rally. But I’m gonna eat something good, and it will get better. I look forward to tomorrow.”

Andrea Nucita (ESP, Fiat 124 Abarth RGT, startovní číslo 31):

“The last stage was complicated and above all, treacherous. Overall, however, I am satisfied because we have scored points.”

Efrén Llarena (ESP, Peugeot 208 R2, No. 36):

“It was pretty good for us today. We tried to attack. We’ll see tomorrow, it’s gonna be a long day. Especially SS Kašava and Pindula will be very difficult, but we can’t wait.”

Sindre Furuseth (NOR, Peugeot 208 R2, No. 37):

“The last two tests were very muddy. I tried to drive cautiously.”

Ken Torn (EST, Ford Fiesta R2T, No. 35):

“We enjoyed the SS a lot. But the first ride in the dark is always very unpredictable and treacherous. Luckily, we’re fine and enjoyed it a lot.”

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