

Rally Finland – Day Three Report

- Hyundai Motorsport continues to lead the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) after a challenging weekend in Rally Finland, round eight of the 13-event season
- Hayden Paddon equalled the team's best-ever finish in the high-speed gravel rally in fourth place overall after 23 competitive stages
- Thierry Neuville and Andreas Mikkelsen finished in ninth and tenth overall, with Neuville still leading the drivers' classification by 21 points.

Jyväskylä, Finland

July 29 2018 – Hyundai Motorsport has completed the 23-stage Rally Finland, round eight of the 13-event 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), with a fourth placed finish for Hayden Paddon and co-driver Seb Marshall. It equals the team's best-ever result in Finland.

Starting as one of the first on the road for the entire weekend, Thierry Neuville and Nicolas Gilsoul adopted a defensive strategy to minimise the points loss to championship rival Sébastien Ogier. A ninth-place finish for the Belgians saw them drop just six points to the M-Sport crew, with Neuville still leading the drivers' table by 21 points.

Andreas Mikkelsen and birthday boy Anders Jæger opened Sunday's four stages, just as they did on Saturday, using the opportunity to learn more about the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC on the fast and flowing Finnish roads. They were classified in tenth overall.

Sunday's itinerary saw a repeat loop of the 11.74km Laukaa and 11.12km Ruuhimäki stages. With all eyes on the battle for the podium, the only real drama occurred when the Toyota of Esapekka Lappi went off in SS20 (Laukaa 1), elevating Paddon into fourth place.

Rally Finland has never been a strong event for Hyundai Motorsport, the team, however, has taken enough points to retain its lead of the manufacturers' championship with a 26-point buffer over M-Sport and 27 ahead of the rally-winning Toyota Gazoo Racing team.

Crew Notes: Paddon/Marshall (#6 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Strong performance with 16 top-five stage times
- Second consecutive fourth place finish after Sardinia

Paddon said: *"On the whole, I'm really happy with the weekend. We have been able to keep pace with some of the event favourites, maintaining a consistent performance. Naturally, we would have preferred to score a podium, of course, but we took a measured approach to secure important points for the manufacturers' championship. The final morning was all about taking it easy to bring the car home with a comfortable gap behind us. I've really enjoyed the stages this weekend, the car has been a joy to drive and it has given me the confidence I need. We are back on the right track."*

Crew Notes: Neuville/Gilsoul (#5 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Championship leader followed sensible strategy to minimise loss to Ogier
- Secured two extra points in the Power Stage with spectacular jumps through Ruuhimäki

Neuville said: *"Road position has really dictated a lot this weekend. Even without our mistake on Friday, when we misread a pace note, I don't think we would have been any higher up the classification. We have had to accept our limits and focus on completing each stage with no further trouble. The main target was not losing too many points to Ogier, which we did to the best of our ability. We could only control what's in our hands. We gave it everything we could in the Power Stage and it was good to take a couple of extra points. Overall we have done our best, the team has done a good job and we can be proud of ourselves. We now look ahead to the team's home event in Germany."*

Crew Notes: Mikkelsen/Jæger (#4 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Tough weekend for the Norwegian crew, unable to mount a challenge after Friday incident
- Used the rally to build more confidence on high-speed stages

Mikkelsen said: *"A difficult weekend for us. Any chance we might have had to feature further up the order was spoiled with our time loss on Friday morning's loop. Losing three minutes due to a pace note error was just what we didn't need, and it meant we were penalised as first on the road for Saturday and again this morning. We have had to avoid any unnecessary risks and use this event as a way of better understanding the car in these conditions but I'm sure we'll be back on pace in Germany."*

Picking up the pieces

Team Principal Michel Nandan commented: *"I don't think we could have done much more this weekend. We knew we would face strong competition from crews who are always competitive on the Finnish stages. Congratulations to Ott, for an outstanding performance. Hayden and Seb had a positive event, doing all that we asked of them to score important points of the manufacturers' championship. We've come to see fourth place here as a pretty decent result! Considering their road positions, there wasn't much more Thierry and Andreas could have done. It's been a character-building weekend and they've shown maturity in a frustrating situation. We now move onto our own home event, Rallye Deutschland, which brings an entirely different set of challenges – and hopefully opportunities."*

Next Rally

- The 2018 FIA World Rally Championship moves back to tarmac for the next round of the season, Rallye Deutschland, which takes place 16-19 August
- A home event for the Alzenau-based Hyundai Motorsport team, the rally holds special memories from the team's maiden WRC victory back in 2014.

Final Overall Classification – Rally Finland

1	O. Tänak	M. Järveoja	Toyota Yaris WRC	2:13:18.2
2	M. Østberg	T. Eriksen	Citroën C3 WRC	+32.7
3	J.M. Latvala	M. Anttila	Toyota Yaris WRC	+35.5
4	H. Paddon	S. Marshall	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+1:35.6
5	S. Ogier	J. Ingrassia	Ford Fiesta WRC	+2:15.0
6	T. Suninen	M. Markkula	Ford Fiesta WRC	+2:19.2
7	E. Evans	D. Barritt	Ford Fiesta WRC	+2:29.5
8	C. Breen	S. Martin	Citroën C3 WRC	+3:08.4
9	T. Neuville	N. Gilsoul	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+3:51.8
10	A. Mikkelsen	A. Jæger	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+8:37.4

2018 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 8

1	T. Neuville	153
2	S. Ogier	132
3	O. Tanak	107
4	E. Lappi	70
5	D. Sordo	60
6	A. Mikkelsen	57
7	J.M Latvala	55
8	E. Evans	52
9	M. Østberg	48
10	K. Meeke	43
11	C. Breen	39
12	H. Paddon	34

2018 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

After round 8

1	Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team	228
2	M-Sport Ford World Rally Team	202
3	Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team	201
4	Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team	153

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 and primarily for its World Rally Championship programme. Based in Alzenau on the outskirts of Frankfurt in Germany, the company embarked on its debut season in the FIA World Rally Championship in 2014 with a bespoke team of skilled staff and a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 WRC. The team made a strong impression in its first year claiming podium results in Mexico and Poland, as well as a memorable 1-2 in Germany. In its second season, the team was involved in a closely fought battle for second place in the Manufacturers' Championship, adding more podiums and stage wins to its tally. For its third year in WRC, Hyundai Motorsport developed a brand new car, the New Generation i20 WRC. The team enjoyed its most successful season to date in 2016 with two victories (Argentina and Sardinia) and a total of 12 individual podium results, finishing second in the Manufacturers' Championship. With a number of key technical regulation changes introduced for the 2017 season, Hyundai Motorsport developed a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, with which it has contested its fourth season. The team registered its first win of 2017 at Tour de Corse before following that up with victories in Argentina, Poland and the season finale in Australia. 2018 represents Hyundai Motorsport's fifth season in the WRC.

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. The company leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars. Hyundai Motor has eight manufacturing bases and seven design and technical centers worldwide and in 2017 sold about 4.5 million vehicles globally. With more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product lineup with localized models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced fuel cell electric vehicle ix35 Fuel cell and IONIQ, the world's first model with three electrified powertrains in a single body type.

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:

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