

## Rally Sweden – Day Three Report

- Hyundai Motorsport has taken its second podium of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) season on an exciting final day at Rally Sweden
- Thierry Neuville finished in third place overall after a close battle on Sunday morning, just ahead of team-mate Andreas Mikkelsen in fourth
- Sébastien Loeb took seventh overall, as all three Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC crews completed the rally with a reliable and generally trouble-free performance.

Torsby, Sweden

February 17, 2019 – Hyundai Motorsport has taken its second consecutive podium result of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) as Thierry Neuville finished in third place in a closely contested battle on the concluding day of Rally Sweden.

Neuville and co-driver Nicolas Gilsoul mounted a strong campaign during the weekend, having been down in seventh at the end of Friday's stages. The Belgian duo ended the 19-stage event just three seconds from second-placed Esapekka Lappi after a determined performance.

Norwegians Andreas Mikkelsen and Anders Jæger-Amland were also in the podium hunt and finished in fourth overall, fending off M-Sport's Elfyn Evans. Sébastien Loeb and Daniel Elena took seventh to ensure all three Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC cars completed all 316km of special stages reliably.

Sunday's itinerary featured two runs of the 21.19km Likenäs stage, followed by a return to the 8.93km Torsby route – first run late on Friday evening – which acted as the Power Stage on Sunday lunchtime. Pushing to secure a podium result, Neuville added four extra points for finishing second in the Power Stage, to boost his drivers' championship total. He holds second place on 40 points and will start second on the road on the dusty gravel roads of Rally México next time out.

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

- Second podium of the season with third place
- Two stage wins over the weekend as well as four Power Stage points

Neuville said: *"We are pleased to be on the podium again; we couldn't have done any more here at Rally Sweden. It was a big battle in these tricky conditions and we were on the edge for a lot of it. When you are pushing so hard, it is easy to make mistakes, so we have to be content with our third place – as well as taking four extra points for second in the Power Stage. We are still at the start of a long season with lots more to come, so it is important to get as many points in the bag in these opening rounds. As a team, we are all focused on pushing for more performance, and we will continue to work in this direction as we prepare for Mexico."*

### Crew Notes: Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger-Amland (#89 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Fine fourth place for the Norwegians, their best result since Mexico 2018
- Close fight for second place over the weekend shows crew's pace and potential

Mikkelsen said: *"We gave it all we could this weekend, and it was an exciting right to the end. Of course, we would have preferred to finish on the podium but congratulations to Thierry for his result. It is a pretty good team result for here; third and fourth gives us important points, but we know it could have been better. In conditions like we have faced, it is a high-risk strategy to push too hard. Today, we wanted to maintain a good pace but not do anything crazy to jeopardise our position. As a team, we have all three cars at the end of the rally and we can take a lot of lessons forward into future events. Thanks to all the fans for showing us such great support this weekend."*

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

- Seventh place in the crew's first Rally Sweden since 2013
- Consistent and professional performance from the nine-time WRC champions

Loeb said: *"It has been a complicated weekend, with a lot of ups and downs. I am happy to have made it to the end of the rally. We have set some good times during the event and we have been able to learn a lot more about the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, which is very useful for the future. In the end, looking at these positives, it has been a satisfactory weekend but with room for further improvement."*

**Team Director Andrea Adamo:** *"I think we can summarise our weekend results as 'could have been worse, should have been better'. Our three crews pushed to the limit of what they could do in tricky conditions, and we appreciate the efforts they have all gone to this weekend. All three cars finished the rally, which is testament to the ability of the crews and the reliability of the i20 Coupe WRC. The pace has been evident in the first two rounds of the season, but we need to keep pushing for more, as we head to Rally México, which will be a completely different challenge."*

#### **Final Overall Classification – Rally Sweden**

1	O. Tänak	M. Järveoja	Toyota Yaris WRC	2:47:30.0
2	E. Lappi	J. Ferm	Citroën C3 WRC	+53.7
3	<b>T. Neuville</b>	<b>N. Gilsoul</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC</b>	<b>+56.7</b>
4	<b>A. Mikkelsen</b>	<b>A. Jæger-Amland</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC</b>	<b>+1:05.4</b>
5	E. Evans	S. Martin	Ford Fiesta WRC	+1:08.2
6	K. Meeke	S. Marshall	Toyota Yaris WRC	+1:38.8
7	<b>S. Loeb</b>	<b>D. Elena</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC</b>	<b>+1:49.7</b>
8	P. Tidemand	O. Fløene	Ford Fiesta WRC	+3:37.7
9	O. Veiby	J. Andersson	Volkswagen Polo GTI R5	+6:34.0
10	J. Tuohino	M. Markkula	Ford Fiesta WRC	+8:21.4

## 2019 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 2

1	O. Tanak	47
2	<b>T. Neuville</b>	<b>40</b>
3	S. Ogier	31
4	K. Meeke	21
5	E. Lappi	19
6	<b>S. Loeb</b>	<b>18</b>
7	E. Evans	13
8	<b>A. Mikkelsen</b>	<b>12</b>
9	J.M Latvala	10
10	G. Greensmith	6

## 2019 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

After round 2

1	Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team	58
2	<b>Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team</b>	<b>57</b>
3	Citroën Total World Rally Team	47
4	M-Sport Ford World Rally Team	30

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>

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