

Hyundai Motorsport Preview: Round 4 – Tour de Corse

- Hyundai Motorsport ready to tackle Tour de Corse, the first tarmac event of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
- Previous Corsica winners Thierry Neuville, Dani Sordo and Sébastien Loeb will make up the Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team line-up
- The crews will negotiate a new-look Tour de Corse itinerary for 2019 with just 20% of the stages remaining from last year's event.

Alzenau, Germany

March 22, 2019 – Hyundai Motorsport returns to tarmac for the fourth round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), taking place on the tight and twisty roads of Tour de Corse next week.

The iconic rally on the picturesque island of Corsica sees WRC crews tackle some of the most technically demanding, narrow and winding stages of the season, underscoring the event's status the so-called "Rally of 10,000 Corners".

Hyundai Motorsport will field a trio of tarmac specialists for Tour de Corse, in a bid to regain ground in its manufacturers' championship campaign after a lacklustre result in Mexico.

All three crews have previously taken victories on Corsica with seven wins between them. Belgians Thierry Neuville and Nicolas Gilsoul took the honours for Hyundai Motorsport in 2017, in addition to an Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) win in 2011.

Joining them as part of the Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team line-up in the 2019 edition will be Dani Sordo/Carlos del Barrio and Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena. The Spanish crew took an IRC triumph in 2012 while Loeb scored four consecutive wins from 2005 to 2008.

Following a difficult Rally México, Hyundai Motorsport will be looking to bounce back quickly at Tour de Corse. A heavily revised route has resulted in 80% of the routes being new for this year: the rally tours from Porto-Vecchio in the southeast of the island on an anti-clockwise trajectory through Bastia, where the Service Park is located, to culminate at Calvi in the northeast.

All three crews have tested the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC on tarmac in preparation for the event, well aware that the high level of competition between manufacturers will create an intense battle for the front-running positions.

Team Director Andrea Adamo said: *"We remain in an upbeat and positive frame of mind heading to Corsica. The start of the season may not have delivered the results we are here to fight for, but there have been positives that give us cause for optimism. Our Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC is now ready to take on an entirely different challenge on the roads of Corsica. As a team, tarmac performance was an area on which we focused considerably last season, with improvements throughout the season. We have three specialist crews behind the wheel, so we hope we can put up a representative fight in this event."*



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

- Fourth place in Mexico saw the Belgian drop to third in the drivers' championship
- Twice victorious in Corsica, including Hyundai Motorsport's win in 2017

Neuville said: *"Corsica is a very nice event and I have great memories from previous years. I have won there twice, once in IRC and then again with Hyundai Motorsport in WRC two years ago. It's a challenging event, with lots of corners, but a rally that I enjoy and relish. The recce is very long and demanding, but once you are in the car and can find a good flow it is a rewarding rally, one from which you can find a good sensation. As our first event of the season on tarmac, and following the less-than-straightforward weekend in Mexico, I hope we can get things back on track."*

Crew Notes: Sordo/Del Barrio (#6 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Strong performance in Mexico despite retirement on opening day
- Won in Corsica in 2012, and claimed podium for Hyundai Motorsport in 2017

Sordo said: *"The first tarmac rally of the season, Corsica is a rally where I really feel comfortable and competitive. The stages are really nice, set against a postcard backdrop, but incredibly demanding too. Long stages and loops can make tyre selection and management quite tricky. The stages themselves put pressure on the car and crew with tight, twisty corners that require maximum attention and focus. Carlos and I won Tour de Corse in IRC back in 2012, while I also finished on the podium a few years ago with Hyundai Motorsport. I hope our past success and experience, together with the performance of our i20 Coupe WRC, can help us fight for a good result this year."*

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

- Four-time Tour de Corse winners return to Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC
- Third WRC event of 2019, but first tarmac rally for the team

Loeb said: *"Corsica is a beautiful event, with stunning landscape close to the sea, and magnificent island setting. It's a wonderful place for rallying and as the French round of the championship it is a very special atmosphere for me. An extremely technical rally, there are many different types of road with some bumpy places and some fast sections. In fact, it seems to get faster each year. It is tricky to find the right rhythm throughout each stage, and the weather can also play an influential factor – sometimes raining in the mountains but drier close to the coast. Not an easy one, but fun!"*

Tour de Corse takes in 14 competitive special stages over three full days of action. Following a shakedown and ceremonial start at Porto-Vecchio on Thursday, the region kick-starts the competition on Friday morning with an initial loop of Bavella (17.60km), Valinco (25.94km) and Alta-Rocco (17.37km). Crews will not have the luxury of a lunchtime service on Friday, moving onto a repeat loop in the afternoon. Saturday's stages in the Bastia region make up more than half of the total rally distance with the loop consisting of Cap Corse (25.62km), Désert des Agriates (14.45km) and monster Castagniccia (47.18km) stages. The final morning moves northwest for an early challenge through Eaux de Zilia (31.85km) and the single Power Stage run at Calvi (19.34km).

Hyundai Motorsport Crews' Info

Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC #11		
Chassis number: 017		
	Thierry Neuville	Nicolas Gilsoul
DOB	16 June 1988	5 February 1982
First WRC event	2009, Rally Catalunya	2007, Rallye Monte-Carlo
WRC starts	100	96
WRC podiums	35	35
WRC wins	9	9
Tour de Corse starts	5 (IRC&WRC)	5 (IRC&WRC)
Tour de Corse best result	1st (WRC&IRC)	1st (WRC&IRC)
Tour de Corse previous results	2011: 1st (IRC event)	2011: 1st (IRC event)
	2015: 23rd (15th WRC)	2015: 23rd (15th WRC)
	2016: 2nd	2016: 2nd
	2017: 1st	2017: 1st
	2018: 3rd	2018: 3rd

Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC #6		
Chassis number: 019		
	Dani Sordo	Carlos del Barrio
DOB	2 May 1983	15 August 1968
First WRC event	2003, Rally Catalunya	1991, Rally Catalunya
WRC starts	160	86
WRC podiums	44	9
WRC wins	1	1
Tour de Corse starts	10 (IRC&WRC)	8 (IRC&WRC)
Tour de Corse best result	3rd (WRC) 1st (IRC)	4th (WRC) 1st (IRC)
Tour de Corse previous results	2004: 13th	1994: 12th
	2005: 15th (2nd JWRC)	1996: Ret.
	2006: 3rd	2004: 13th (2nd class N4)
	2007: 3rd	2005: 7th
	2008: Ret.	2006: 6th
	2012: 1st (IRC event)	2007: 10th (1st class N4)
	2015: 7th	2012: 1st (IRC event)
	2016: 7th	2018: 4th
	2017: 3rd	
2018: 4th		

Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC #19

Chassis number: 018

	Sébastien Loeb	Daniel Elena
DOB	26 February 1974	26 October 1972
First WRC event	1999, Rallye Catalunya	1999, Rallye Catalunya
WRC starts	174	174
WRC podiums	117	117
WRC wins	79	79
Tour de Corse starts	10	10
Tour de Corse best result	1st	1st
	1999: 19th (1st A6)	1999: 19th (1st A6)
	2000: 9th	2000: 9th
	2001: 13th (1st JWRC)	2001: 13th (1st JWRC)
	2003: 13th	2003: 13th
Tour de Corse previous results	2004: 2nd	2004: 2nd
	2005: 1st	2005: 1st
	2006: 1st	2006: 1st
	2007: 1st	2007: 1st
	2008: 1st	2008: 1st
	2018: 14th (9th WRC)	2018: 14th (9th WRC)

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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