



FIA World Rally Championship

Hyundai Motorsport Preview: Round 5 – Argentina

- Hyundai Motorsport heads overseas for back-to-back WRC events in South America, starting with Rally Argentina, the fifth round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship
- Following victory at Tour de Corse, the team leads the manufacturers' standings on 114 points with Thierry Neuville at the head of the drivers' classification
- Andreas Mikkelsen returns to the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC for Rally Argentina with Dani Sordo completing the trio of crews.

Alzenau, Germany

April 18, 2019 – Hyundai Motorsport has its sights set on victory as the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) moves overseas to Argentina for the first of two consecutive events in South America.

Rally Argentina will see crews return to tough gravel stages with soft and sandy roads in the valleys contrasting with rockier, punishing stages high up in the mountains. The event is popular with crews and fans alike with around a million spectators lining the routes to cheer on their WRC heroes.

Hyundai Motorsport has enjoyed plenty of support and success in recent years, having taken back-to-back victories in Argentina in 2016 (Hayden Paddon) and 2017 (Thierry Neuville), as well as a double podium last season (Neuville second and Dani Sordo third).

The team heads to Argentina following a dramatic victory at Tour de Corse at the end of March, in which Neuville and co-driver Nicolas Gilsoul sealed a last-gasp win. The result has sent Hyundai Motorsport to the top of the WRC manufacturers' standings on 114 points, and gives Neuville a slender lead in the drivers' table after four rounds.

Rally Argentina sees Andreas Mikkelsen return to the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC alongside co-driver Anders Jæger-Amland. Dani Sordo and Carlos del Barrio will complete the three-crew Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team line-up. With testing prohibited outside of Europe, all three crews tested in the north of Portugal in preparation for this event – as well as the following round in Chile.

Team Director Andrea Adamo said: *“We are very excited to return to South America for a double-header in Argentina and Chile. It will be a nice contrast of established event versus brand new rally, which will offer us a range of challenges. Our crews are motivated and determined to keep us at the front of the action, but we know our rivals will be pushing hard so we have to be on top of our game.”*

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

- Championship leader heads to Argentina following victory in Tour de Corse
- Winner of Rally Argentina in 2017 and runner-up in 2018

Neuville said: *“Rally Argentina is a fantastic event with some tough stages and a great atmosphere. As one of the roughest rallies of the season, it requires a careful approach. On the one hand, we need to look after the car but on the other there are some sections where you can really attack. It's a balancing act; we have to find a good rhythm but also be ready to push more or less when necessary. We'd like to add more victories after the success in Corsica but we know it will be a demanding event, especially starting*



first on the road.”

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

- Norwegians aiming to show gravel pace after impressing in Mexico
- Finished fifth in Argentina in the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC last season

Mikkelsen said: *“Argentina is without doubt one of my favourite gravel rallies. There are a huge number of spectators and passionate fans, which creates an incredible atmosphere. The stages are in really nice condition, a little bit sandy compared to other gravel events that increases the grip level. As a result, we can set the car sideways into the corners and then push to the maximum. There are also the classic Argentina stages El Condor and Mina Clavero, which offer the ultimate test of man and machine.”*

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

- Spaniards claimed their best result of the season in Corsica
- Scored third place in Argentina twelve months ago

Sordo said: *“I always look forward to Rally Argentina, a special event with some truly amazing supporters. Despite being one of the roughest events on the calendar, there are some very nice stages – including El Condor and Mina Clavero – that are a real privilege to drive. We showed our pace on gravel in Mexico, fighting at the front on the opening day. We want to repeat that level of performance in Argentina and do all we can to get a good result for ourselves and the team.”*

About the rally

- Rally Argentina consists of 18 special stages run over a distance of nearly 350km.
- A shakedown and opening super special in Villa Carlos Paz gets the rally underway on Thursday before moving onto the fast and sandy gravel of Calamuchita Valley on Friday. A repeat loop of three stages – Las Bajadas/Villa del Dique, Amboy/Yacanto, Santa Rosa/San Agustin – will be split by a short lunchtime super special.
- Saturday’s action centres in the Punilla Valley with a similar structure. A trio of stages – Tanti-Mataderos, Mataderos-Cuchilla Nevada and Cuchilla Nevada-Characato – will be run twice with the 6.04km super special in the middle.
- Sunday’s itinerary ventures up high into the Traslasierra Mountains for popular and iconic tests including Copina-El Condor and Mina Clavero-Giulio Cesare. A second run through El Condor will act as the rally-concluding Power Stage.

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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