

## Rally México: WRC 2 Report

- Hyundai Motorsport's WRC 2 crews have registered their best overall classifications of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship season so far
- Nikolay Gryazin finished the reduced 20-stage rally in second place in WRC 2 (seventh overall), ahead of Ole Christian Veiby third in the category (tenth overall).
- Hyundai Motorsport N moves to the top of the team's championship as a result of the double podium, with Gryazin in second place.

León, Mexico

March 14, 2020 – Hyundai Motorsport's WRC 2 crews have secured their best overall result of the season to date in Rally México, the third round of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship, with Nikolay Gryazin in seventh and Ole Christian Veiby in tenth.

The result ensured the pair finished second and third in the WRC 2 category, helping Hyundai Motorsport N move to the top of the team's classification. Gryazin's result vaults him to second place in the drivers' table after three events.

Rally México offered a new challenge for both crews and marked their competitive debut on gravel with the Hyundai i20 R5. Ultimately, the planned 24 stages were reduced to just 20 but allowed the drivers the opportunity to improve their feeling with the car on loose surface and another rally experience.

Opening with a ceremonial start at Alhóndiga and with two runs through the Street Stage GTO on Thursday evening, the rally stepped up a gear on Friday with the infamous El Chocolate, Ortega and Las Minas stages.

For Veiby and co-driver Jonas Andersson it was a less than positive start as they experienced brake issues on the opening loop that lost them five minutes of time. Gryazin and co-driver Yaroslav Fedorov, meanwhile, put in a steady and trouble-free performance to end the opening day in second place in WRC 2.

Saturday's itinerary covered nine stages – a repeated loop of Guanajuatito, Alfaro and Derramadero, followed by two runs through the Autodromo Shell V-Power, also run on Friday evening, and the Rock & Rally León test.

Veiby took a clean sweep of stage wins on Saturday morning (SS13-15) but was too far back on the timesheets to make any impression. Gryazin maintained his second position with championship points as the target.

The afternoon loop began with a rear right puncture for Gryazin and a spin just before the finish of SS16 (Guanajuatito 2) for Veiby. The incidents didn't affect their overall positions, although the Russians had to nurse their Hyundai i20 R5 to the finish after sustaining damage in SS18 (Derramadero). Veiby, meanwhile, added a fourth stage win of the day in SS17 (Alfaro). With rally organisers opting to

conclude the rally on Saturday evening, forgoing Sunday's stages, the Hyundai pair confirmed their results after the SS21 Rock & Rally test.

**Crew Notes: Nikolay Gryazin/Yaroslav Fedorov (#20 Hyundai i20 R5 '20)**

- Steady and consistent performance from the Russians in their first Rally México
- Gryazin moves to second in the drivers' classification

Gryazin said: *"I am reasonably satisfied with our performance level this weekend, although we know we have more to come. For my first time in Rally México, I have felt OK and have been driving carefully throughout the event; it has been important to build up our experience. I have tried to avoid punctures, although there were a few moments which slowed us down. We had some problems this afternoon, a puncture on SS16 (Guanajuatito) and picking up some damage on the Derramadero stage with which we had to complete the rally. Thankfully, we were able to bring the car home in second place in WRC 2, which gives us valuable learning for the future events."*

**Crew Notes: Ole Christian Veiby/Jonas Andersson (#21 Hyundai i20 R5 '20)**

- Brake issues on Friday lost crucial time on the crew's first competitive Rally México
- Four stage wins on Saturday showed true pace as they secured third in WRC 2

Veiby said: *"Our weekend was largely dictated by brake issues that we picked up early on Friday. Our rally was effectively ruined but we continued to build up our speed and gather more learning from the i20 R5. Today, we had a much better feeling and took four stage wins in WRC 2, including a clean sweep in the morning loop. We made a lot of changes to the car on Friday evening; the brakes were much better, and the confidence was there. It was clean but fast. We had an incident on the opening stage of the afternoon loop when the rear of the car just snapped but we didn't lose too much – and crucially we could keep the car on the road and complete the rally. We should be pleased with our performance; it's just a shame the brake issues on Friday prevented any chance of a victory fight."*

**Hyundai Motorsport Team Principal Andrea Adamo:** *"The good thing is that we have both crews and both cars safely to the end of this rally. We can't necessarily say that it has been a good performance. We had hoped for better but for different reasons we have not been able to achieve it. The learning curve continues. We have two young, talented drivers that are increasing their experience, and we are working closely with them. We cannot forget that this is the first time we, Hyundai Motorsport, have been operating at such a high level with our i20 R5. We look ahead, together, and focused on the next opportunity."*

**Next rally**

- As a result of global developments regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the WRC Promoter has already announced that the 2020 Rally Argentina, round four of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), due to take place between April 23 - 26, has been postponed.
- As it stands currently, the next round of the championship will be May 21-24 in Portugal.

### Final Overall Classification WRC 2 – Rally México

1	P. Tidemand	P. Barth	Škoda Fabia R5	2:58:16.9
2	<b>N. Gryazin</b>	<b>Y. Fedorov</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 R5</b>	<b>+1:57.7</b>
3	<b>O.C Veiby</b>	<b>J. Andersson</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 R5</b>	<b>+5:02.9</b>

### 2020 WRC 2 Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 3

1	M. Østberg	50
2	<b>N. Gryazin</b>	<b>41</b>
3	P. Tidemand	40
4	<b>O.C Veiby</b>	<b>33</b>
5	A. Fourmaux	30
6	R. Yates	22

### 2020 FIA WRC2 Championship for Teams' Standings

After round 3

1	<b>Hyundai Motorsport N</b>	<b>74</b>
2	M-Sport Ford World Rally Team	52
3	PH Sport	50
4	Toksport WRT	40

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), Customer Racing and electric racing projects. In WRC, Hyundai Motorsport quickly established a strong reputation taking victory in its debut season in 2014. The team finished as runners-up in the manufacturers' championship on three consecutive occasions between 2016 and 2018 before claiming its maiden title in 2019. 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 consecutive titles in the FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) in 2018 and 2019. Designed and built at its Alzenau headquarters, the Veloster N ETCR was unveiled in September 2019 and heralds an exciting new era in which electric racing is set to become one of the company's pillars. Unified under Hyundai Motorsport, WRC, Customer Racing and electric 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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