

Home Shakedown with Sébastien Loeb

- In the first Home Shakedown, nine-time FIA World Rally Championship title winner Sébastien Loeb discusses how he is spending the isolation period in Switzerland
- The Frenchman is keeping active with cycling and trampolining, but also maintaining his competitive edge playing board games
- Of his 79 incredible victories, Loeb has reflected on his home round Rallye de France-Alsace, which he won in front of family and friends in 2010.

Alzenau (home office), Germany

April 2, 2020 – For a nine-time World Rally Champion, staying at home is arguably easier said than done. For Sébastien Loeb, though, who has scored 79 WRC wins across his stellar career, the enforced period of seclusion has seen his competitive nature manifest itself in other, more traditional ways – on the Monopoly board!

Speaking from his home in Switzerland, where he is with his partner and daughter, Sébastien discussed the current situation and how he is passing the time with no rally action. In the process, the Frenchman revealed how his own early passion for gymnastics is starting to display itself in the next generation, as his daughter takes over the family trampoline!

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Séb, firstly and most importantly, are you all keeping well?

“We are doing well, yes. I am at home in Switzerland, staying where we are as much as possible like everybody else at this difficult time. I would say I am quite lucky because we live close to the forest in a house with a garden. There are many others less fortunate.”

What are you doing to keep active?

“I do a bit of cycling sometimes in the morning. I bought and built a trampoline for the garden, so that was another day of work, but I enjoy jumping on that. In Switzerland it's not as restricted as in France but we still minimise our movements. All the restaurants, bars and shops are closed so we have to keep ourselves entertained.”

For someone who is usually so active, how do you cope with the restrictions?

“We have no choice but to cope with it. We cannot do much more. We have to accept this situation, respect the rules and play our part in trying to reduce the spread of this virus. Of course, it's not easy but we have to cope, watch some movies, play some stages on the PlayStation. I have been playing games like Monopoly, just spending time as a family waiting for the situation to get better.”

Are you as competitive at Monopoly as you are in a rally car?

“Yes. Last time I won.”



If you could re-live one of your past rallies during this period, which one would you choose?

"Maybe my first victory in Finland; it was an incredible sensation to be on the limit like this. Actually, thinking about it a bit more, something I would happily live again is my victory in Alsace, France. When I won the rally, I won the manufacturer and driver title at the same. This was all in front of my family and friends. In a moment like this, today, I would love to see these people and to celebrate something with them."

Is there anything particular you are looking forward to when this situation is over?

"I haven't driven the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC since Monte-Carlo so I can't wait to get back behind the wheel again, whether in a rally or test. I am looking forward to that. It is natural that we are all missing the things that we work on together as a team, but the most important thing right now is to stay safe."

Do you have a message for all the fans around the world?

"We are missing rally competition just as much as the fans are. We are hoping we can start back as quickly as possible, and to drive again, but this is dependent on everyone following the rules, to stay at home and to be safe. If we all work together in the same direction to fight against this virus, the quicker we will be back."

And in the meantime, we can all follow the Séb Loeb trampoline gymnastics challenge online?

"Then I would have to ask my daughter to do that. She's now a bit better than me on the trampoline!"

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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>

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