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Rally Italia Sardegna: Kopecký/Dresler increased WRC 2 lead moving into ninth overall with ŠKODA FABIA R5

- › Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) were increasing the WRC 2 category lead on the longest day of the Rally Italia Sardegna and moved into ninth place overall
- › During the second leg all stage wins in WRC 2 were scored by ŠKODA teams
- › Printsport Team Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) still running strong, holding second position in WRC 2 at the end of day two

Alghero/Italy, 10 June 2017 – Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) continued to control the competition in the WRC 2 category at the world championship Rally Italia Sardegna. Since they moved in front after the second stage, they were never in danger to lose the lead in WRC 2. After the last stage of the day, Kopecký even took ninth position overall by a margin of 0.9 seconds. Meanwhile their young stablemates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen, driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 from private Printsport Team, scored their third WRC 2 stage win of the rally.

It was an early wake up call for the teams who are competing in the seventh round of the World Rally Championship (WRC). At five o'clock in the morning, even before sunrise, the first car left the beautiful village of Alghero, situated on the northwest coast of the island of Sardinia. The first stage in the north was a tough 15 kilometres warm up for the teams. Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) were fully awake and scored the first fastest time of the day, followed by Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen. On the next test, the 28 kilometres of Monti di Ala, Norwegian youngster Veiby achieved his third best time of the event.

The famous Monte Lerno stage and its 28 kilometres of rock-strewn gravel saw a lot of teams in trouble. "Twelve kilometres from the finish, I thought I had a puncture and slowed down for a moment. But then I realised that everything was okay", commented Jan Kopecký shaking his head. He was nevertheless fastest in WRC 2 category. His young stablemate O.C. Veiby got caught in some dust. "A car in front of me got a puncture. I caught him, drove in his dust to the end of the stage and lost some time. Apart of that, it's been a good day so far, I am improving a lot", said Veiby at the midday rest halt in Alghero. In the WRC 2 category, only the two ŠKODA Teams at the top of WRC 2 had a trouble free run, while their competitors from other brands had to pay tribute to the tough gravel roads on the Mediterranean island.

The afternoon saw the repetition of the three stages of the morning, the gravel roads promising to be even more rutted for the second passage. Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) went out from the service park in Alghero in an attacking mood to catch RC2 class leader Eric Camilli (Ford Fiesta R5). With three fastest times in a row, Kopecký did not only increase his lead in the WRC 2 category to more than one and a half minutes. He also moved into the lead of RC2 class and into ninth position overall only 0.9 seconds ahead of Camilli.

The final decision of the rally will come on Sunday close to the coast north of the host town of Alghero. Four more stages covering about 42 kilometres are on the itinerary.



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Standings Rally Italia Sardegna after leg 2 (WRC 2)

Kopecný/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:06:30.2 h
Veiby/Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1.31.3 min.
Katsuta/Salminen (JPN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5, +5.58.3 min.
Rossel/Fulcrand (FRA/FRA), Citroën DS3 R5, +8.52.2 min.
Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, +23.23.2 min.

Number of the day: 9

On the last stage of the day, Jan Kopecný conquered ninth place overall with a margin of 0.9 seconds.

The 2017 calendar of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

Event/ Date

Rally Monte Carlo; 19/01–22/01/2017
Rally Sweden; 09/02–12/02/2017
Rally Mexico; 09/03–12/03/2017
Rally France; 06/04–09/04/2017
Rally Argentina; 27/04–30/04/2017
Rally Portugal; 18/05–21/05/2017
Rally Italy; 08/06–11/06/2017
Rally Poland; 29/06–02/07/2017
Rally Finland; 27/07–30/07/2017
Rally Germany; 17/08–20/08/2017
Rally Spain; 05/10–08/10/2017
Rally Great Britain; 26/10–29/10/2017
Rally Australia; 16/11–19/11/2017

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Media images:



ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler increased the lead in WRC 2 at Rally Italia Sardegna, driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) so far set nine fastest times in WRC 2 at Rally Italia Sardegna

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

2016 was one of the most successful years in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker for the first time. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PRY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In 2017, works duos Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) will contest selected races in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Kopecký/Dresler will also compete in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), where they will be looking to claim a third title in a row.

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- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, YETI, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2016 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 30,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

