

Rally Mexico (4-7 March 2010) – Day 2

Sébastien Ogier well placed for the final sprint

Demonstrating their ability to combine both speed and maturity, Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia continued their exceptional progress on the second day of the Rally Mexico. Driving their Citroën Junior Team C4 WRC, the French crew will start the final day in third place – just 2.7 seconds behind Petter Solberg and Phil Mills.

Perfect weather conditions in the Guanajuato region greeted the crews this morning as they took their cars out of parc ferme, located in León's poliforum. Under a clear sky, the day got underway with a run through Ibarilla (SS10): the longest stage of the rally. Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia then got a chance to discover the conditions that they would be fighting all day.

"By starting second on the road, we had to sweep the line clean," explained the 2008 Junior World Rally Champion. "This made it very slippery, but it's all part of our learning process. I was just trying to drive as neatly as possible, but that's not always easy in these conditions."

During the morning Sébastien Ogier got closer to Petter Solberg while Sébastien Loeb, who had started third on the road, took the lead of the overall classification.

On the second run through Ibarilla (SS14) in the beginning of the afternoon, the Citroën Junior Team driver got ahead of Petter Solberg. But Ogier did not hang onto this second place for very long, as he lost a bit of time by stalling at a hairpin on the Duarte stage (SS15).

In Derramadero (SS16) – which would decide the starting order for the third and final day – Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia chose to maintain their place just behind Sébastien Loeb and Petter Solberg on the provisional podium.

"We didn't push hard, so that we could be sure of staying in third position this evening. Our goal remains to finish second tomorrow and I think that we can do it. We're in a very good position just behind Petter. Now we just need to conclude all the excellent work that the whole team has carried out. There's going to be a great fight tomorrow and I hope that it carries on all the way to the end of the rally. It would be an important first for us to be fighting like this all the way to the end for a second place on a WRC event," added Ogier, who already climbed onto the second step of the podium in Greece last year.



Citroën Junior Team manager Benoit Nogier concluded: "Sébastien and Julien did not have as good a road position as they did yesterday but they did more than merely limit the damage, compared to their direct rivals. Before the rally, we had prepared for the possibility of Sébastien sweeping the road clean by identifying some specific settings for this situation, which worked well today. Sébastien and Julien will start third on the road tomorrow. Everything is in place for a potentially great result. Our objective is to get to the end, steer clear of mistakes, and score some important points."

THE RALLY BY NUMBERS

	Sébastien Ogier / Julien Ingrassia	
SS10 : Ibarra 1 (29.90 km)	4 th +15''0	3 rd +13''3
SS11 : Duarte 1 (23.27 km)	5 th +12''1	3 rd +14''7
SS12 : Derramadero 1 (23.29 km)	2 nd +3''8	3 rd +18''5
SS13 : Coca Cola Street Stage (1.50 km)	3 rd +1''4	3 rd +19''9
SS14 : Ibarra 2 (29.90 km)	3 rd +10''6	2 nd +30''5
SS15 : Duarte 2 (23.27 km)	6 th +19''3	3 rd +49''8
SS16 : Derramadero 2 (23.29 km)	6 th +8''8	3 rd +58''6
SS17 : Super Special 3 (2.21 km)	2 nd +0''3	3 rd +58''9
SS18 : Super Special 4 (2.21 km)	1st	3 rd +58''2

Fastest stage times

Day 1 – SS1 to SS3: Petter Solberg (Citroën C4) – SS4: Sébastien Ogier (Citroën C4) – SS5 and SS6: Solberg – SS7 to SS9: Ogier.

Day 2 – SS10 to SS17: Sébastien Loeb (Citroën C4) – SS18: Ogier.

Best performers: Loeb, 8 fastest times – Ogier and Solberg, 5 fastest times each.

Leaders: SS1 to SS10: Solberg – SS11 to SS18: Loeb.

Classification at end of day two

1.	Loeb / Elena	Citroën C4	3h08'49''6
2.	Solberg / Mills	Citroën C4	+55''5
3.	Ogier / Ingrassia	Citroën C4	+58''2
4.	Latvala / Anttila	Ford Focus	+1'43''9
5.	Hirvonen / Lehtinen	Ford Focus	+1'59''9
6.	H. Solberg / Minor	Ford Focus	+2'25''2
7.	Villagra / Perez Companc	Ford Focus	+9'11''8
8.	Prokop / Tomanek	Ford Fiesta	+16'28''0
9.	Pons / Haro	Ford Fiesta	+16'32''8
10.	Araujo / Miguel	Mitsubishi Lancer	+18'04''7



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