



CITROËN TOTAL WORLD RALLY TEAM

2009 FIA WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

www.citroen-wrc.com

Neste Rally Finland (July 30-August 2, 2009) – Day 3

Loeb, Elena and Citroën on the podium in Finland

The short third and final leg of the 2009 Rally Finland failed to change anything at the sharp end of the leaderboard. Having figured in second place since Friday morning, Sébastien Loeb and Daniel Elena completed the event in the same position to keep their chances of defending their 2008 world title very much alive. Dani Sordo and Marc Marti came fourth to collect valuable points for Citroën which continues to top the provisional Manufacturers' standings.

The menu of Rally Finland's last leg featured less than 50km of competitive action and turned out to be a little less frantic than the first two days of the event had been. The programme included four stages with no service halts, beginning with Hannula, followed by two visits to Myhinpää, and ending with the classic televised Ruuhimäki test to round off the weekend.

Despite the short competitive distance to be covered, both Citroën Total World Rally Team crews took their mission perfectly seriously, although Sébastien Loeb produced a slight adrenaline rush within the team when he dropped 10 seconds in one chunk on Hannula. "I was a little slow to wake up," he quipped. "We've got no chance of winning under normal circumstances and I was a bit too cautious to begin with."

The five-time World Champion responded on Myhinpää 1, however, to claim his seventh fastest time of the rally. Indeed, the Citroën Total World Rally Team C4 WRCs posted a one-two on this stage thanks to Dani Sordo: "The team has naturally asked me not to take any risks, but I'm still pushing quite hard in order to keep the pressure on Latvala. You never know..."

Following the mid-morning regroup, the second attempt at the Myhinpää test saw the rally enter its closing stages, and Sébastien Loeb was swift to congratulate Mikko Hirvonen on his win at the end of Ruuhimäki: "I would have preferred to have won, but there was little I could do about the result this weekend. Mikko put in a flawless run on his home event after being on the limit from start to finish. We've dropped another two points in the title chase, so it looks like it's going to be a close-run thing to the end."

Dani Sordo, who finished just shy of the podium, was positive in his analysis of the weekend: "It's a shame we didn't manage to hold on to third place, but there were times when we succeeded in rivalling with the drivers who were fighting for victory. More than anywhere else, experience is vital here in Finland and I feel I progressed to a higher level on this year's event."

"Of the four rounds which remained ahead of this weekend, this is the one we feared the most," admits Citroën Racing Director Olivier Quesnel. "I think it's fair to say that we were beaten by the best man on the day. Seb



and Daniel's performance cannot be faulted, however, while Dani's result means that we have only dropped three points in the Manufacturers' standings. We still enjoy an enviable lead of 14 points. I would also like to congratulate Martin Prokop who has succeeded in securing the C2 Super 1600's second consecutive crown in the JWRC."

RALLY FACTS

	Sébastien Loeb / Daniel Elena		Dani Sordo / Marc Martí	
	Stage	Overall	Stage	Overall
SS20 : Hannula (10,82 km)	9 th +10''3	2 nd +35''5	2 nd +2''3	4 th +1'14''3
SS21 : Myhinpää 1 (15,06 km)	1 st	2 nd +26''1	2 nd +1''3	4 th +1'06''2
SS22 : Myhinpää 2 (15,06 km)	3 rd +2''2	2 nd +25''8	2 nd +1''8	4 th +1'05''5
SS23 : Ruuhimäki (6,50 km)	3 rd +2''2	2 nd +25''1	2 nd +1''8	4 th +1'06''1

Stage wins

Day 1 – SS1 : Sébastien Loeb (Citroën C4) – SS2 and 3 : Mikko Hirvonen (Ford Focus) – SS4 and 5 : Loeb – SS6 and 7 : Hirvonen – SS8 to 10 : Loeb.

Day 2 – SS11 to 15 : Hirvonen – SS16 : Jari-Matti Latvala (Ford Focus) – SS17 : Hirvonen – SS18 : Latvala and Ogier – SS19 : Latvala.

Day 3 : SS20 : Latvala – SS21 : Loeb – SS22 and 23 : Latvala.

Best performers : Hirvonen, 10 fastest times – Loeb, 7 fastest times – Latvala, 6 fastest times including 1 ex æquo – Ogier, 1 fastest time ex æquo.

Leader : SS1 : Loeb – SS2 to 23 : Hirvonen

Final provisional leaderboard

1.	Hirvonen / Lehtinen	Ford Focus	2h50'40''9
2.	Loeb / Elena	Citroën C4	+25''1
3.	Latvala / Antilla	Ford Focus	+49''9
4.	Sordo / Marti	Citroën C4	+1'06''1
5.	Rantanen / Lukka	Ford Focus	+4'18''2
6.	Ogier / Ingrassia	Citroën C4	+4'18''5
7.	Ketomaa / Stenberg	Subaru Impreza	+5'07''5
8.	Wilson / Martin	Ford Focus	+6'33''6
9.	Al Qassimi / Orr	Ford Focus	+12'57''3
10.	Hanninen / Markkula	Skoda Fabia	+14'13''7

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FIA WRC RANKINGS

	IRL	NOR	CYP	POR	ARG	ITA	GRK	POL	FIN	AUS	ESP	GBR	TOT
1 Mikko Hirvonen	6	8	8	8	0	8	10	10	10				68
2 Sébastien Loeb	10	10	10	10	10	5	0	2	8				65
3 Dani Sordo	8	4	5	6	8	0	0	8	5				44
4 Jari-Matti Latvala	0	6	0	0	3	10	6	0	6				31
5 Henning Solberg	5	5	0	4	6	1	0	6	0				27
6 Petter Solberg	-	3	6	5	0	6	0	5	0				25
7 Matthew Wilson	2	2	4	0	4	3	0	4	1				20
8 Sébastien Ogier	3	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	3				16
9 Federico Villagra	-	-	2	2	5	0	5	-	0				14
10 Conrad Rautenbach	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	1	0				8
11 Mads Ostberg	-	0	-	3	-	2	2	0	0				7
12 Khalid Al Qassimi	1	-	1	1	-	0	3	-	0				6
13 Chris Atkinson	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				4
14 Evgeny Novikov	-	0	0	0	-	4	0	0	0				4
15 Matti Rantanen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4				4
16 Krzysztof Holowczyc	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-				3
17 Jari Ketomaa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2				2
18 Nasser Al Attiyah	-	-	0	0	1	0	0	-	-				1
19 Urmo Aava	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0				1
20 L. Athanassoulas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-				1

1 Citroën Total WRT	18	14	16	16	18	8	4	12	13				119
2 BP Ford Abu Dhabi	8	14	10	8	3	18	18	10	16				105
3 Stobart VK M-Sport	8	8	6	5	10	7	5	11	4				64
4 Citroën Junior Team	5	2	4	0	2	5	6	5	4				33
5 Munchi's Ford	-	-	3	4	5	0	6	-	2				20

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