



via A. Pozzo 1 - 07026 Olbia

tel.: +39 0789 645052 - fax: +39 0789 648433 press@rallyitaliasardegna.com



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MIKKO HIRVONEN, CITROEN DS3 WRC, IS LEADING The Fins in today's stages increased his advantage on his direct rivals, the Russian Evgeny Novikov and the Estonian Ott Tanak, both in a Ford Fiesta RS WRC.

Olbia 20 October 2012 - Mikko Hirvonen and Jarmo Lehtinen, Citroën DS3 WRC, closed in the lead the third day of Rally Italia Sardegna, race organized by Automobile Club d'Italia with the support of Regione Sardegna. This is the penultimate round of the 2012 season of the World Rally Championship. The Finnish driver from Citroën today had just to keep under control the race after yesterday's retirements of Loeb, who didn't restart this morning, Neuville, Latvala and Solberg, who started today but with a big delay. Hirvonen nevertheless increased his gap over Novikov.

The protagonists of the third day have been, above all, Mads Ostberg, that in his Ford Fiesta RS WRC, won four of today's six special stages, Latvala and Novikov. Ostberg closed seventh yesterday and, winning four stages today, was able to climb the leaderboard and reach the fourth place. In the overall classification Mikko Hirvonen is 1'28"2 ahead of Novikov and 2'20"6 ahead of Tanak in third place.

Big fight for the fifth place between the French Ogier, in a Škoda Fabia S2000, and the Australian Atkinson, in a MINI John Cooper, divided by just 3"9. Closing the Top 10 there are Mikkelsen, Škoda, Prokop, Ford Fiesta RS WRC, Solberg, also in a Ford Fiesta RS WRC, and Kruuda at the wheel of a Ford Fiesta S2000.

Eleventh and twelfth place respectively for the driver from Brescia Luca Pedersoli, Citroën DS3 WRC and the Sardinian driver Giuseppe Dettori, Škoda Fabia S2000.

Tomorrow the last part of the race. A very short day, with only two special stages, 16.5 timed kilometers, that apparently should not change much the final positions.



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Overall Classification after Day 2

1. Hirvonen – Lehtinen (Citroën DS3 WRC) in 3h10'51"7 ; 2. Novikov – Minor (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) + 1'28"2; 3. Tanak – Sikk (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) + 2'20"6; 4 . Ostberg – Andersson (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) + 3'48"3; 5. Ogier – Ingrassia (Škoda Fabia S2000) + 4'30"5; 6. Atkinson – Prevot (MINI John Cooper WRC) + 4'34"4; 7. Mikkelsen – Floene (Škoda Fabia S2000) + 6'06"2; 8. Prokop – Hruza (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) + 9'18"9 ; 9. Solberg - Patterson (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) + 10'15"0; 10. Kruuda – Jarveoja (Ford Fiesta Super 2000) + 10'56"8



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