

Motorsport Information



FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), Rally Portugal

Mikkelsen second in Portugal, Ogier third – an important step for Volkswagen in the World Rally Championship

- **Volkswagen significantly extends lead in all WRC competitions**
- **Mikkelsen/Jæger clinch second place in final spurt, Ogier/Ingrassia third**
- **Latvala/Anttila score important points in the Manufacturers' Championship**

Wolfsburg (22 May 2016). Excitement right down to the wire, Mikkelsen beats Ogier, lucrative points haul – Volkswagen took an important step towards the defence of its titles at the Rally Portugal. Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger (N/N) finished runners-up for the works team from Wolfsburg, ahead of Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (F/F) in third. In doing so, they claimed podium finishes number 75 and 76 in the Polo R WRC's 44th rally. This result sees Mikkelsen/Jæger climb into second place in the Drivers' and Co-Drivers' Championship, while Ogier/Ingrassia once again extended their lead at the top of the standings. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila (FIN/FIN) finished sixth in the third Polo R WRC to help Volkswagen extend its lead in the Manufacturers' Championship. Victory at the Rally Portugal went to Kris Meeke/Paul Nagle (GB/IRL, Citroën).

"The Volkswagen team once again produced a very impressive performance, and the battle between Andreas Mikkelsen and Sébastien Ogier was very exciting," said Dr. Herbert Diess, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand, who was visiting the Rally Portugal. "As championship leader, it is okay to be disadvantaged to a certain degree. However, it is hard to accept that you have absolutely no chance of winning, just because you are leading the championship. As such, two podiums are a very, very good result – particularly with regard to the title defence in the World Rally Championship. It was impressive to see how professionally and harmoniously the entire team worked together."

Ogier/Ingrassia vs. Mikkelsen/Jæger – captivating battle for second place

An all-Volkswagen duel in virtually identical conditions – Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger produced an extremely impressive display at the Rally Portugal. After a controlled start, they increased the pressure from the halfway point of the rally. From fourth place they leapfrogged ahead of Dani Sordo/Marc Martí (E/E, Hyundai) into third and set about gradually eating into Ogier/Ingrassia's lead of 20 seconds. They moved ahead of Ogier/Ingrassia on the Sunday's opening stage, as the world champions struggled with a puncture, before coming home 4.8 seconds ahead of the French duo.

Passionate fans drive Volkswagen to top performances

Roughly 100,000 fans on the iconic Fafe stage, and thousands more along the entire rally route – the Rally Portugal was once again enough to give anyone goosebumps. The three



Volkswagen duos were spurred into outstanding performances by the Portuguese crowds, who are always both passionate and fair. Volkswagen reached another milestone at the Rally Portugal: on the 803rd special stage since 2013 with the Polo R WRC, the three Volkswagen duos finished first, second and third for the 102nd time. This also marked the 562nd stage win for the Wolfsburg-based car maker – that is 70 per cent of all the stages the successful World Rally Car has contested. Volkswagen won every stage from Saturday lunchtime onwards in Portugal.

Remarkable effort from Latvala/Anttila helps extend world championship lead

Despite suffering a set-back, Jari-Matti Latvala and Miikka Anttila produced a fighting display for the Volkswagen team and played a major role in helping extend the lead in the Manufacturers' Championship. The Finnish duo hit a hole in the road on Friday's extremely demanding fifth stage, "Ponte de Lima", resulting in a loss of power steering and a direct time loss of 45.6 seconds. What followed was a true feat of strength, which allowed Latvala/Anttila to end the day in the top ten. The pair fought their way back to sixth place overall on Saturday. Volkswagen, with the team consisting of Ogier/Ingrassia and Latvala/Anttila, extended its lead over Hyundai in the Manufacturers' Championship by 13 points to 49.

The first WRC event on European gravel proved to be a test for man and machine in equal measures – and the Rally Portugal lived up to its reputation as being particularly tough on the cars. With a loose layer of gravel covering the stages on the first loop, and sharp stones on the second, the drivers really had to be on the ball at all times – and they once again proved to be up to the task.

The Power Stage remains Volkswagen territory – bonus points for Ogier, Latvala and Mikkelsen

A one-two-three on the Power Stage – Volkswagen picked up a full haul of bonus points towards the Drivers' and Co-Drivers' World Championship at the Rally Portugal. Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia set the fastest time to score three extra points, Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila earned two for finishing second on the Power Stage, and Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger one for the third-fastest time. This was the 35th Power Stage victory for Volkswagen with the Polo R WRC in 43 attempts, and the 74th, 75th and 76th time that one of the works duos from Wolfsburg had scored bonus points. The Volkswagen drivers have amassed 171 extra points since 2013. After five of this season's 14 WRC rallies, Ogier/Ingrassia top the Drivers' Championship with 114 points, 47 points clear of Mikkelsen/Jæger in second place. Latvala/Anttila have 37 points to their name.

Portuguese president visits the Volkswagen team

The Volkswagen team enjoyed a special highlight on Saturday evening, when Portuguese president Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa not only met the Volkswagen drivers and co-drivers, but



also shook hands with the Portuguese members of the team. President de Sousa was welcomed by Dr. Herbert Diess and Jost Capito.

Quotes after day three of the Rally Portugal

Sébastien Ogier, Volkswagen Polo R WRC #1

"That was certainly one of the toughest and most physically demanding rallies I have ever driven at in Portugal. Julien and I were once again right on the limit this weekend. As such, I am very happy with my performance. I would obviously have liked to have stayed ahead of Andreas. However, after the slow puncture on Sunday's first stage, we had to take a slightly more cautious approach. Without another spare tyre it would have been too risky otherwise with these route conditions. I would like to say an extra big 'Obrigado' to the many Portuguese fans. The crowds here are simply fantastic. It is great to see that the entire country is supporting rallying – whether the police, fans or the president himself, who popped in to see us in the service park."

Jari-Matti Latvala, Volkswagen Polo R WRC #2

"Coming into the rally we obviously had completely different ambitions. However, after the way it panned out, we have to be happy with sixth place. We were able to contribute some valuable points towards the Manufacturers' Championship, and second place on the Power Stage was also a nice way to finish. I must say a big thank you to my team and the fans out on the route, who supported us magnificently. I will certainly look forward to returning next year. Now our focus switches to the next task in hand, in Sardinia."

Andreas Mikkelsen, Volkswagen Polo R WRC #9

"The Rally Portugal got better with every day for Andreas and me. In the end, it feels great to take our place on the podium again as runners-up, and to have gone one better than I did last year. We definitely found the perfect set-up for the difficult conditions here in Portugal on Saturday and Sunday. That and Andres' outstanding work on the Recce are what made this superb result possible. Plus, we have climbed into second place in the overall standings. We can be proud of our result in Portugal and are already looking forward to the next round of the championship – the Rally Italy."

Jost Capito, Volkswagen Motorsport Director

"We have extended our lead in the world championship – we can be happy with that. Given their starting positions, Andreas Mikkelsen and Sébastien Ogier got the absolute maximum out of the rally, and both can be proud of what they achieved. Andreas and Anders drove the best rally of their career so far here in Portugal. Jari-Matti Latvala was unlucky on Friday, but then put in a remarkable effort for the team and scored valuable points. As such, we can look back positively on the rally. Two podium finishes is a really good result. We would like to pay a big compliment to the organisers of the Rally Portugal, and to the fans. Thousands of fans



cheered us on enthusiastically – and always with a view on safety. A great example for many other rallies.”

And then there was ...

... trial bike ace and Red Bull athlete Kenny Belaey. And a spectacular jump over all three Volkswagen driver/co-driver pairings on his special bike in the Rally Portugal service park. The Belgian is fittingly nicknamed “The Magician”, as his high-speed leap over the Volkswagen drivers – lying on the ground at the time – not only amazed hundreds of fans, but also the entire Volkswagen team. “It is absolutely fantastic what Kenny does on his bike,” said Jari-Matti Latvala. “The way he makes his way around the obstacle course is really impressive. And the jump over us drivers and co-drivers was breath-taking.” The Finn could very well mean that literally: after all, he was in potentially the most perilous position at the end of the line of bodies on the floor. Latvala did not notice that Belaey actually landed just one metre beyond him. He had his eyes firmly shut during the stunt.

FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), Rally Portugal – Final Results*

01. Kris Meeke/Paul Nagle (GB/IRL), Citroën, 3h 59m 01.0s
02. Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger (N/N), Volkswagen, + 29.7s
03. Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (F/F), Volkswagen, + 34.5s
04. Dani Sordo/Marc Martí (E/E), Hyundai, + 1m 37.1s
05. Eric Camilli/Benjamin Veillas (F/F), Ford, + 4m 01.6s
06. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila (FIN/FIN), Volkswagen, + 4m 06.9s
07. Mads Østberg/Ola Fløene (N/N), Ford, + 6m 53.6s
08. Martin Prokop/Jan Tománek (CZ/CZ), Ford, + 10m 24.1s
09. Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S), Škoda, + 11m 45.2s
10. Nicolás Fuchs/Fernando Mussano (PE/RA), Škoda, + 13m 14.0s

FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), Rally Portugal – Power Stage Results

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 01. Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (F/F), Volkswagen | 6m 44.3s |
| 02. Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila (FIN/FIN), Volkswagen | + 1.2s |
| 03. Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger (N/N), Volkswagen | + 2.0s |



FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), Overall Standings*

Drivers' Championship

1. Sébastien Ogier, 114 points; 2. Andreas Mikkelsen, 67; 3. Mads Østberg, 58; 4. Hayden Paddon, 57; 5. Dani Sordo, 56; 6. Jari-Matti Latvala, 37; 7. Kris Meeke, 26; 8. Ott Tänak, 24; 9. Thierry Neuville, 23; 10. Eric Camilli, 14

Co-drivers' Championship

1. Julien Ingrassia, 114 points; 2. Anders Jæger, 67; 3. Ola Fløene, 58; 4. John Kennard, 57; 5. Marc Martí, 56; 6. Miikka Anttila, 37; 7. Paul Nagle, 26; 8. Raigo Molder, 24; 9. Nicolas Gilsoul, 23; 10. Benjamin Veillas, 14

Manufacturers' Championship

1. Volkswagen Motorsport, 145 points; 2. Hyundai Motorsport, 96; 3. M-Sport, 82; 4. Volkswagen Motorsport II, 70; 5. Hyundai Motorsport N, 55; 6. DMACK, 30; 7. Jipocar Czech National Team, 6; 8. Yazeed Racing, 0

* Provisional.

Note to editors

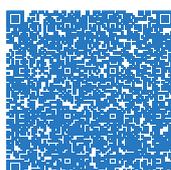
The FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) provides copyright-free video material. For access, please register at wrc.com/mediaroom



For Media

Service and Contact

Volkswagen Motorsport GmbH
Communications
Ikarusallee 7a
D-30179 Hannover
Tel/ +49 511 67494-0



Andre Dietzel

Head of Communications and Marketing
Mobile +49 175 7234689
andre.dietzel@volkswagen-motorsport.com



Ingo Roersch

Communications
Mobile +49 172 1499157
ingo.roersch@volkswagen-motorsport.com



Marc Hecht

Communications
Mobile +49 152 54528780
marc.hecht@volkswagen-motorsport.com



Helge Gerdes

Communications
Mobile +49 175 5223111

www.volkswagen-motorsport.com – Volkswagen's media database offers:

- Latest media information on the entire motorsport commitment
- High-resolution photos
- Opportunity to download TV footage
- Sending of media information in language of your choice (German/English)

Links

- www.volkswagen-motorsport.com (public website/media database)
- www.facebook.com/VolkswagenMotorsport (Facebook page)
- www.twitter.com/VolkswagenRally (Twitter channel)
- www.youtube.com/VolkswagenRally (YouTube channel)