

Badajoz, 5 April 2024

## 2024 BP Ultimate Rally-Raid Portugal FIA-FIM WORLD RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIPS

### SCHAREINA AND AL ATTIAH DIG IN

#### Key points:

- **Stage 3 —the longest stage of the BP Ultimate Rally-Raid Portugal— took the field from Grândola to the Spanish city of Badajoz today.**
- **Tosha Schareina (Monster Energy Honda) snapped up another win in the Rally GP motorbike race. The Spaniard padded his overall lead over the German Sebastian Bühler (Hero MotoSports).**
- **Bradley Cox (BAS World KTM Racing) claimed another barnstorming victory among the W2RC entrants in the Rally 2 race and cemented his overall lead over his teammate Mathieu Dovèze and Romain Dumontier (Dumontier Racing). Salvador Amaral took the Rally 3 stage, but his brother Gonçalo remains perched at the top of the leader board.**
- **Manuel Andújar bagged his third consecutive stage win in the quad competition and put clear daylight between himself and the CFMoto riders Gaëtan Martinez and Kamil Wiśniewski in the standings.**
- **Nasser Al Attiyah (Nasser Racing by Prodrive) clinched yet another stage and expanded his margin in the overall. A second DNF in a row knocked Guerlain Chicherit (Overdrive Racing) out of the rally. A blunder cost his teammate Yazeed Al Rajhi a staggering 20 minutes.**
- **Rokas Baciūška (Can-Am Factory) seized the stage and the overall lead in the Challenger class. Ricardo Porém is back in second place, followed by Nicolás Cavigliasso (Taurus Factory by Wevers).**
- **Yasir Seaidan (MMP) was unable to start the SSV special. Ricardo Ramilo inherited the top spot from the Saudi and now has Rebecca Busi (OnlyFans Racing) and Claude Fournier flanking him on the provisional podium.**

#### **HAT-TRICK FOR SCHAREINA**

Tosha Schareina had his sights set on making a triumphant return to his Spanish homeland in the BP Ultimate Rally-Raid Portugal. After losing out to Sebastian Bühler yesterday, the Honda rider turned the tables between Grândola and Badajoz, in the autonomous community of Extremadura, where skeleton service squads have been dispatched. Bühler had the upper hand for the initial stretch of the special, but the Valencian took back control at the 210 km mark. It went down to the wire, with the gap between them seldom stretching beyond a minute. Schareina romped home with 48 seconds to spare over Bühler to bag his third win of the week, following the prologue and stage 1. He now holds a margin of 3'44" on the German in the overall. Meanwhile, the battle for the bottom step of the podium rages on. Making his mark as the third-fastest W2RC contender of the day, 6'49" down, Adrien Van Beveren (Monster Energy Honda) is staging quite the comeback. He is now sitting fourth overall, trailing his teammate Skyler Howes by just 3'05". The American has firmly landed in the Frenchman's crosshairs, as Van Beveren leapfrogged past Ross Branch (Hero MotoSports) today. The championship leader is not quite in his element here in Portugal and is in damage control mode. He conceded 8'55" to Schareina and is now fifth in the virtual standings, 17'25" back. The Botswanan is 43 seconds ahead of Pablo Quintanilla (Monster Energy Honda) in sixth place, who is also struggling on the Portuguese tracks.

Bradley Cox was the big winner of the day in Rally 2. The South African was the fastest W2RC entrant, beating the Frenchmen duo Mathieu Dovèze by 8'17" and Romain Dumontier by 8'24". Cox soared from fourth place to the top of the standings. However, with Dovèze at 1'25" and Dumontier at 2'34", he would be ill-advised to rest on his laurels! The championship leader, Jean-Loup Lèpan (Duust Rally), is fifth at 29'24". As it stands, the man from Picardy would retain the W2RC lead, albeit with the same numbers of points (55) as Cox.

Dumontier would be third with one fewer point and Konrad Dąbrowski fourth with a 6-point deficit. Each position gained or lost from now until Sunday will play a decisive role!

Badajoz welcomed a fresh stage winner to the W2RC: Salvador Amaral, who opened his Rally 3 account with a bang. The Portuguese ace clinched victory by a commanding 11'55", overshadowing his brother Gonçalo, who got slapped with a 6'10" penalty for speeding. Gonçalo still leads the charge with a 10'05" buffer over Salvador. Pedro Bianchi Prata seized the third spot, pushing past the Chilean John Medina (Xraids Experience). It's a 100% Portuguese podium with just 48 hours to go until the finish!

The unvanquished Manuel Andújar extended his hegemony in the quad race, defeating Kamil Wiśniewski (+ 4'01") and Gaëtan Martinez (+ 11'08"). The Argentinian leads the overall ahead of the CFMoto riders Martinez (+ 21'05") and Kanopkinas (+ 21'37").

### **CHICHERIT BOWS OUT AS AL RAJHI DOES A BARREL ROLL**

His Portuguese baptism of fire has been a roller-coaster for **Guerlain Chicherit**. The Frenchman won the opening stage, only to DNF both yesterday and today. FIA regulations give drivers a second chance, but not a third one, so the man from Savoy had to throw in the towel. It is a crushing blow for **Chicherit**, who was third in the championship ranking, a mere 2 points behind **Nasser Al Attiyah**. The Qatari's heart must have skipped a beat when his engine stalled after blasting through water. **Yazeed Al Rajhi** pounced on the opportunity to seize the stage lead before he, in turn, made a blunder with a barrel roll. It took him and his co-driver, **Timo Gottschalk**, nearly 20 minutes to right their Hilux. **Lucas Moraes** (Toyota Gazoo Racing) took over the reins, locked in a fierce battle with "**Al Attack**". However, a slowly deflating puncture held the Brazilian back in the end, so he crossed the line 1'49" off the pace. **João Ferreira** (X-raid Mini JCW) rounded out the podium at 2'07". His teammate **Carlos Sainz** (Mini) lost a fender and his bonnet along the way. His windscreen wiper was also in poor condition, with the windscreen wiper on the passenger's side out of order. The Spaniard suffered from a reduced field of view and, to rub salt in the wound, he received enough penalties for speeding to send him 4'01" down the ranking. Meanwhile, **Al Rajhi** is no longer a threat to **Al Attiyah** in the fight for the title. The Saudi plummeted from 20 seconds back this morning to almost 20 minutes back this evening. **Ferreira** is now second at 4'39" and **Moraes** third at 4'59". **Sainz** is fourth at 6'31". The battle among these four men remains wide open.

**Rokas Baciūška** grabbed the Challenger stage with 6'47" in hand over **Ricardo Porém** and 8'57" over **Marcelo Gastaldi** (BBR). The Lithuanian brought his overall lead to 7'22" over the Portuguese and 10'03" over **Nicolás Cavigliasso**. **Austin Jones** (Can-Am Factory) tied the knot in Portugal, but he is more than 13 minutes down in the rally —a clear case of unlucky at cars, lucky in love. **Baciūška** also placed his lightweight prototype in second position in the stage, 1'45" behind Nasser Al Attiyah's T1+. That made him the fifth-fastest driver of all FIA entrants!

In the SSV race, **Yasir Seaidan** exited the bivouac this morning before turning back inside the road section due to a mechanical. The Saudi did not start the special, giving **Ricardo Ramilo** a clear run to take the stage among the W2RC entrants for the second time in his career. **Rebecca Busi** beat **Claude Fournier** to the bottom step of the podium. The top 3 in the overall mirrors the stage podium.

### Program

- 6 April: Stage 4: Badajoz–Grândola (total: 539 km / SS: 251 km)
- 7 April: Stage 5: Grândola–Grândola (total: 144 km / SS: 103 km)

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