

Beat: Sports

FIA WORLD RALLY CROSS CHAMPIONSHIP 2015-PORTUGAL

KRISTOFFERSSON WINS SEASON OPENER

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USPA NEWS - Sweden's Johan Kristoffersson has won this weekend's Bompiso Rallycross of Portugal, round one of the FIA World Rallycross Championship presented by Monster Energy, after a dominant display in his Volkswagen Team Sweden Polo RX Supercar.

Reigning World RX Champion Petter Solberg clinched the runners-up spot and Timmy Hansen finished third for Team Peugeot-Hansen. Kristoffersson "" an accomplished racing driver having won the Scandinavian Touring Car Championship (STCC) and Porsche Carrera Cup Scandinavia ""lined up on the front row along Solberg for today's six-car final. Joining Solberg, Kristoffersson and Hansen on the grid was Andreas Bakkerud (Ford Olsbergs MSE), Davy Jeanney (Team Peugeot-Hansen) and PG Andersson (Marklund Motorsport). Kristoffersson was quickest off the line and was awarded with the first Monster Energy Super Charge Award of the year.

"I am so, so happy," [?] beamed Kristoffersson, who also wins a Rebellion Timepieces Wraith Drive Rallycross limited edition watch for his win in Portugal this weekend. "I nearly stalled the engine on the start line and the whole circuit was unbelievably slippery but I drove a clean race. I couldn't see out of the side windows so it was more about survival than actual racing. I want to say a big, big thank you to Volkswagen Sweden and to my entire team who have done a fantastic job over the past few months. They have worked very hard to build this car which has been working well all weekend. It's the best possible start to the season." [?]

Second placed Solberg, who won last year's race in Portugal, added: "It is very important to have a good first race - consistency is as important as winning races in rallycross. I've not been feeling well this weekend and then I lost my gear lever in the final so it certainly wasn't easy but I'm happy with second. Johan [Kristoffersson] has done a very good job this weekend." [?] Team Peugeot-Hansen got its 2015 season off to a promising start after teammates Timmy Hansen and Davy Jeanney finished third and fourth respectively. "The final was like driving on soap, there was no grip and then I lost my power steering "" my arms are so tired now," [?] explained 22-year-old Hansen.

"I'm really happy with the car, it's very quick but it's new so we need to make some small changes before our next race. Overall, it's been a great start to the year and I'm really happy that both myself and Davy got to the final." [?] Andreas Bakkerud rounded off the top five in Portugal after a solid display in his Olsbergs MSE prepared Ford Fiesta. The Norwegian was leading overnight but was knocked out of podium contention after contact with Sweden's PG Andersson during the final. Two-time DTM Champion and EKS team owner Mattias Ekstrom finished seventh overall in Portugal, while last year's World RX runner-up Topi Heikkinen was eighth after a consistent weekend of driving in the Marklund Motorsport prepared Polo.

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