

Hyundai Motorsport scores victory and double podium in Tour de Corse

- Hyundai Motorsport has claimed its first victory of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in impressive style with a 1-3 result at Tour de Corse
- Thierry Neuville picked up his third career victory for Hyundai Motorsport with a faultless performance, winning the rally with a 55-second margin over Sébastien Ogier
- Dani Sordo narrowly missed out on second place by just 1.3s but claimed his first podium of the season. Hayden Paddon took sixth as all three Hyundai i20 Coupe WRCs finished.

Bastia, Corsica

April 9, 2017 – Hyundai Motorsport has registered its maiden victory of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) with Thierry Neuville securing victory in Tour de Corse in the #5 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC.

Dani Sordo made it a rally to celebrate for the team, picking up his first podium of 2017 with an assured drive to third place, missing out on second position by just 1.3-seconds. The result represents the fourth WRC victory in total for Hyundai Motorsport, and the team's fifth double podium result.

Hayden Paddon finished sixth to ensure all three Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team crews finished a gruelling rally on Corsica.

Climbing to the top

Starting Sunday morning with a seemingly comfortable lead of 39-seconds, Neuville and co-driver Nicolas Gilsoul set about securing their advantage over second-placed Sébastien Ogier.

Tackling the monster 53.78km Antisanti-Poggio di Nazza, the longest stage of the rally on the narrow and winding mountainside roads, the Belgians claimed their fourth stage win of the weekend.

As Ogier hit trouble in SS9, Sordo and co-driver Marc Martí took second in stage and moved up behind their team-mates on the overall classification. Just 2.5s separated the Spaniards from the third placed M-Sport crew heading into the Power Stage. In a thrilling finale, it was Ogier who reclaimed second, leaving the Spanish crew to be content with third.

Sordo added two extra points for finishing fourth in the Power Stage, while Neuville maintained his consecutive run of Power Stage points with fifth place.

With four different winners in the opening four rounds of the 2017 WRC season, the Championship fight is well and truly open. With its 1-3 in Corsica, Hyundai Motorsport has moved up to second in the Manufacturers' standings, closing the gap to the leaders to 24 points. Neuville moves up into third on the Drivers' classification with 26 points scored this weekend.

Crew Notes: Neuville/Gilsoul (#5 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

Having shown their rally-winning potential in Monte-Carlo and Sweden, Neuville and Gilsoul finally

took victory honours in Corsica. It put to rest the disappointment from those two opening rounds of the season, and reaffirmed the Belgian crew as ones to watch in 2017.

Neuville commented: *"It's an amazing feeling to take the win here in Corsica this weekend. I am sure there are many people who share in this celebration with us, not least the whole of the Hyundai Motorsport team. They have been so supportive of me since Monte Carlo and Sweden, and I'm really happy. This win is ours! It was a tough start to the rally with some struggles on Friday, but we worked through that methodically to return stronger. With Dani finishing third, we've picked up a healthy score of points which helps to get us back firmly into the title fight. An incredible weekend for us."*

Crew Notes: Sordo/Martí (#6 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

Sordo and Martí scored their first podium of the season with a spirited drive to third place, after struggling at times during the weekend. The result is their fifth career WRC podium with Hyundai Motorsport after Germany 2014/2016 and Spain 2015/2016.

Sordo said: *"We knew it would be hard to hold onto second place after we inherited it from Sébastien in the first stage this morning. We pushed as hard as we could and I am still very happy we have finished on the podium this weekend. It has been a strange event and almost a lottery at times with our feeling in the car not matching the times set on the stages. Our target for today was to defend our third place, which we did, so from that point of view it is mission accomplished. This is a great result for the team, and we can now try to build on that in the next gravel rounds."*

Crew Notes: Paddon/Kennard (#4 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

Tour de Corse has not been an easy weekend for Paddon and co-driver John Kennard, as the Kiwi duo struggled for consistent pace over the ten stages. Despite making headway in their performance on Corsican tarmac compared to last year's round, the crew had to settle for sixth place.

Paddon said: *"Our focus on this final morning was simply on bringing the car home and scoring a few more points. It's been a learning weekend for us, but we have to find the positives. Even if the end result doesn't show it, we have been competing closer to the front this weekend and shown an improvement from last year's Tour de Corse. There's obviously still plenty to learn but we're making progress. We must now look ahead to the next rally, the start of a run of five on gravel. We should have a good road position for Argentina so I'm looking to feature more prominently in the next events. Congratulations to Thierry and Nicolas – and everyone back at Alzenau – for the victory."*

All good things...

For Hyundai Motorsport, today's result has been a long time coming after the competitive performances shown by the team's Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC cars so far this season. The team now has 24 stage wins so far in 2017 and becomes the fourth different manufacturer to be victorious in as many events.

Team Principal Michel Nandan commented: *"They say that all good things come to those who wait, and that phrase could not be more true for us. This result is fantastic and I'm overjoyed that we finally have a result we've been working so hard to achieve this season. I hope it's the first of many, many more to*

come this year. Thierry and Nicolas have had a great weekend, showing their resilience after a tricky start on Friday. Scoring four stage wins and demonstrating their resolve while others hit trouble allowed them to really hit their stride. They thoroughly deserve this and makes up for the misfortune in Monte-Carlo and Sweden. It's also great to see Dani and Marc back on the podium for the first time this season. This year's WRC is proving to be exceptionally close among the manufacturers, so we can't rest. We move to Argentina – which has happy memories from Hayden and John's win last year – and will aim to continue in this direction. For now, we will savour this important result."

Next rally

The 2017 FIA World Rally Championship will head back overseas later this month for round 5, Rally Argentina, where the Hyundai Motorsport team was triumphant twelve months ago. The 18-stage gravel rally will take place from 27-30 April.

Final Overall Classification - Tour de Corse

1	T. Neuville	N. Gilsoul	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	3:22:53.4
2	S. Ogier	J. Ingrassia	Ford Fiesta WRC	+54.7
3	D. Sordo	M. Martí	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+56.0
4	J. M. Latvala	M. Anttila	Toyota Yaris WRC	+1:09.6
5	C. Breen	S. Martin	Citroën C3 WRC	+1:09.7
6	H. Paddon	J. Kennard	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+2:16.3
7	A. Mikkelsen	A. Jaeger	Škoda Fabia R5	+8:10.7
8	T. Suninen	M. Markkula	Ford Fiesta R5	+9:17.0
9	S. Sarrazin	J. J. Renucci	Škoda Fabia R5	+9:23.6
10	Y. Rossel	B. Fulcrand	Citroën DS3 R5	+12:57.1

2017 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 4

1	S. Ogier	88
2	J.M Latvala	75
3	T. Neuville	54
4	O. Tanak	48
5	D. Sordo	47
6	C. Breen	33
7	K. Meeke	27
8	H. Paddon	25
9	E. Evans	20
10	A. Mikkelsen	12
11	S. Lefebvre	10
12	J. Hänninen	9

2017 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

After round 4

1	M-Sport World Rally Team	129
2	Hyundai Motorsport	105
3	Toyota Gazoo Racing WRC	79
4	Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team	71

All results remain subject to official FIA confirmation.

-Ends-

About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities and primarily for its World Rally Championship programme. Based in Alzenau on the outskirts of Frankfurt in Germany, the company embarked on its debut season in the FIA World Rally Championship in 2014 with a bespoke team of skilled staff and a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 WRC. The team made a strong impression in its first year claiming podium results in Mexico and Poland, as well as a memorable 1-2 in Germany. In its second season, the team was involved in a closely fought battle for second place in the Manufacturers' Championship, adding more podiums and stage wins to its tally. For its third year in WRC, Hyundai Motorsport developed a brand new car, the New Generation i20 WRC. The team enjoyed its most successful season to date in 2016 with two victories (Argentina and Sardinia) and a total of 12 individual podium results, finishing second in the Manufacturers' Championship. With a number of key technical regulation changes introduced for the 2017 season, Hyundai Motorsport has developed a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, with which it will contest its fourth season.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

About Hyundai Motor

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond. The company leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars. Hyundai Motor has eight manufacturing bases and seven design & technical centres worldwide and in 2015 sold 4.96 million vehicles globally. With more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with localised models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced hydrogen-powered vehicle, Tucson Fuel Cell and IONIQ, the world's first model with three electrified powertrains.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at: <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers' profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

<http://press.motorsport.hyundai.com/home>

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