



STILO-SUPPORTED SKODA DRIVERS CONTINUE DOMINANT IRC FORM

Three Skoda drivers have continued their impressive start to the 2010 Intercontinental Rally Challenge season with another rousing performance on Rally Islas Canarias, the fourth round of the 12-event series from 30 April-1 May.

After Stilo-supported Juho Hanninen led home a Skoda one-two-three on Rally Argentina in March, Skoda Motorsport team-mate Jan Kopecky took his turn to claim victory in the highly-competitive Super 2000-based series by heading home fellow Skoda drivers Hanninen and Guy Wilks.

Kopecky, who wears a Stilo Carbon Piuma, said: "It's fantastic for Skoda to get all three places on the podium for the second rally in a row. I am very happy and this helps for my championship chances."

Stilo-supported Kris Meeke had been dominating the all-asphalt rally in his Peugeot 207 only for a puncture to deny him a shot at victory. He had to settle for fourth place following a spirited recovery drive, which included landing nine fastest stage times.

The next round of the IRC is Rally d'Italia-Sardegna from 4-6 June.

STILO HELMETS ON TOP IN MARRAKECH WTCC

The second round of the FIA World Touring Car Championship, held on the street circuit of Marrakech in Morocco, produced two Stilo winners after two dramatic races.

A number of stoppages and safety car periods characterised both races, which meant that over the course of the weekend only seven clear racing laps were completed. However, both encounters resulted in victories for Stilo drivers.

Reigning FIA WTCC champion Gabriele Tarquini claimed race one in his SEAT Leon, while multiple champion Andy Priaulx triumphed in the second race at the wheel of his BMW.

"Even though there weren't that many racing laps, the second race was still quite stressful," said Priaulx. "It was just a question of keeping cool - both physically and mentally - and making sure that we took full advantage of all the re-starts. Luckily everything worked perfectly, and it's great to secure our first win of 2010."



Andy Priaux took his first win of 2010 with Stilo in Africa

LOEB HEADS TO NEW ZEALAND CHASING FOURTH WRC WIN OF 2010

Stilo-supported Sebastien Loeb will begin his chase for a fourth-consecutive victory in the World Rally Championship in New Zealand this week, venue of the fifth round of the series.

Loeb, a six-time world rally champion, finished first overall in Mexico, Jordan and Turkey to open up a 40-point gap at the top of the drivers' standings.

He was victorious when the WRC last visited New Zealand in 2008 and is the favourite to win when the 21-stage event gets underway from Auckland later this week.

The factory Citroen C4 driver said: "Everything's gone well for us in the early part of the season and has helped us to open up a gap in the overall classification. Even though we've won this rally on two occasions I'm still being a bit cautious, as our rivals are usually strong on this type of surface."

Rally New Zealand has moved to a new base in Auckland for this season and includes stages north of the city for the first time since 2005.

TEIXEIRA EMERGES UNSCATHED FROM SPECTACULAR ACCIDENT IN MARRAKECH

Stilo driver Ricardo Teixeira from Angola, who races in the Formula 2 Championship, emerged completely unscathed from a spectacular accident in Marrakech: round two of the series.

The Angolan's Williams-designed car was launched several metres into the air before coming hard back down to earth at one of the street circuit's tight chicane.

Teixeira, who wears a Stilo helmet conforming to the FIA's latest 8860 safety regulations, was completely unhurt despite the violence of the accident. Footage of the crash has already attracted more than 200,000 views on You Tube.

"I went up the back of someone else's car and I was launched flying into the air," said Teixeira. "It looked really dramatic but actually it was completely fine. In the first race at Marrakech we had a great result, so I'm just looking forward to the next round now."



Teixeira was unhurt in his spectacular Marrakech crash

RAIKKONEN CONTINUES TO GROW IN CONFIDENCE

Kimi Raikkonen has said his second points finish in the World Rally Championship in Turkey last month has provided a major boost in his efforts to establish himself as a WRC frontrunner.

Stilo-supported Raikkonen finished fifth on Rally of Turkey last month on only his eighth competitive outing in a rally car and his fourth on gravel.

"It's a sign that we're going in the right direction," said the 30-year-old former Formula

One world champion. "In Jordan the speed was not so good but we finished the rally; in Turkey it was bit better and we finished fifth. In fact, we did not do anything that was very different: it was just a question of having more time in the car and working with the pacenotes. In some places I felt confident, in others less confident. But for sure, a result like this helps."

The next WRC event on Raikkonen's schedule is Rally de Portugal at the end of May.



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