



## **HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY CREATES HISTORY!**

### **JROD WINS STAGE 3 AT DAKAR 2022**

**Al Qaisumah, Saudi Arabia, January 04, 2021**

**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**, the motorsports team of the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - **Hero MotoCorp**, created history today, January 4, 2022, as it won Stage 3 of the ongoing Dakar Rally 2022.

**This is the first-ever stage win at the Dakar – the toughest race in the world – by an Indian Team and an Indian manufacturer.**



Joaquim Rodrigues, in his sixth consecutive appearance at Dakar for the team, won Stage 3. After a remarkable come-back in Stage 2, following a difficult Stage 1, Joaquim put up a

fantastic performance right from the start of Stage 3. The capable Hero Rally 450 performed well in the variety of extreme terrains during the stage.

Confident from their consistent performance over the last two days, Hero MotoSports riders Joaquim Rodrigues and Aaron Maré had a field day at Stage 3. Both the Rally GP class riders made aggressive efforts today. Aaron Maré had enjoyed yet another mistake free day on the Hero Rally 450 and finished the stage in 18<sup>th</sup> position. With this result he continues to be in the top-10 in overall rankings at the 10<sup>th</sup> place.

Starting from Al Qaisumah early in the morning, riders started the race today after traversing 214 kms of liaison. The 255 km special section was lined with long stretches of alternating dune ridges and fast plateaus, and complicated intersections. Navigating through the terrain was indeed a tough task, but both riders aced all hurdles to mark a day in history for Hero MotoSports.

Tomorrow, the rally will present the longest stage of Dakar 2022, a total of 707 kms from Al Qaisumah to Riyadh, including a special section of 465 kms. Almost 200 kms of fast tracks, numerous wadi crossings and chains of dunes are on the menu.



**Wolfgang Fischer, Team Manager, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:**

*"We've made history! It's amazing to enjoy the first stage win for Hero MotoSports at the Dakar today. We're experiencing the sweet taste of victory after all the hard work a lot of people have put in over the past few last months and years. It is also JRod's first stage win at the Dakar, and he absolutely deserves it. I'm really happy that he's the one to have brought home this achievement for Hero MotoSports. Congratulations to the entire team, and to all our fans around the globe."*

**Joaquim Rodrigues, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:** *"I'm extremely happy with how my day has turned out. Even though the stage was really fast, with a lot of difficulty around alternating dunes and tracks, I was able to push hard right from the very first kilometer. The Hero Rally 450 has been performing extremely well, and I'm happy that our great combination has helped bring home the first stage win at the Dakar. Thank you, Hero MotoSports, for all the effort they have invested in me, and for putting me through a large number of races this year – this has definitely boosted my confidence by leaps and bounds."*

**Aaron Maré, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:** *"The stage was really fast today, having been shortened by about a 100kms. My focus was hence on avoiding any navigation mistakes or crashes. Overall it was another consistent day for me, I didn't lose much time, and I'm happy with my start position for tomorrow. I'm also elated to have been part of the team when it marked this historic achievement. JRod delivered an incredible performance today, and I'm so happy for him!"*

**Provisional Stage 3 Rankings - RallyGP class:**

|     |                          |                                   |             |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.  | <b>Joaquim Rodrigues</b> | <b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b> | 02h 34m 41s |
| 2.  | Toby Price               | Red Bull KTM Factory Racing       | + 01m 03s   |
| 3.  | Mason Klein              | BAS World KTM Racing              | + 01m 14s   |
| 4.  | Skyler Howes             | Husqvarna Factory Racing          | + 01m 26s   |
| 5.  | Daniel Sanders           | GasGas Factory Racing             | + 02m 55s   |
| 18. | <b>Aaron Maré</b>        | <b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b> | + 07m 30s   |

**Provisional Overall Standings after Stage 3 - RallyGP class:**

|     |                          |                                   |             |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.  | Sam Sunderland           | GasGas Factory Racing             | 11m 13m 40s |
| 2.  | Adrien van Beveren       | Monster Energy Yamaha             | + 04s       |
| 3.  | Matthias Walkner         | Red Bull KTM Factory Team         | + 01m 30s   |
| 4.  | Skyler Howes             | Husqvarna Factory Racing          | + 03m 55s   |
| 10. | <b>Aaron Maré</b>        | <b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b> | + 18m 41s   |
| 16. | <b>Joaquim Rodrigues</b> | <b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b> | + 37m 43s   |

---

Follow the team:

[www.heromotospports.com](http://www.heromotospports.com)

FB: /HeroMotoSports

Twitter: @Hero\_MotoSports

IG: @heromotospports

**Press contact Hero MotoSports Team Rally**

e-Mail: [corporate.communication@heromotocorp.com](mailto:corporate.communication@heromotocorp.com)

**Download for media use:**

<http://www.heromotosports.com/media-kit/>

