



HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY COMPLETE STAGE 2 AT THE ABU DHABI DESERT CHALLENGE

Abu Dhabi, November 9, 2021

Hero MotoSports Team Rally, the motorsports team of the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - Hero MotoCorp, completed the second stage of the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge with two of the three riders finishing in the top 10 positions.



Sebastian Buhler led the charge for the team, managing a fine balance of fast and safe riding, finishing fifth in the stage.

Joaquim Rodrigues finished the stage in the sixth position, one better than his Stage 1 finish. Franco Caimi however did not have a good day as he encountered a technical difficulty around the 120km mark in the stage, which brought his bike to a stop.

In the overall rankings, Rodrigues has now climbed up to the fifth position while Buhler has also gained a place, and sits in the seventh position.

The second stage of the rally consisted entirely of dunes and covered over 333kms under the hot sun, before finishing at the bivouac in the desert. Stage 3 will see the riders cover an additional 293km in the desert with a relatively short liaison section of 35km.



Joaquim Rodrigues, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally: *“Today was another difficult stage. It is very rare for us to ride such long distances in the dunes, especially under such heat. I am still low on energy, so I am happy that I was able to push through and bring the bike to the finish line. I hope to recover fully soon so I can perform at a higher level.”*

Franco Caimi, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally: *“I started with good pace, but sadly, due to some technical issues, I could not complete the stage. We had good pace and I was fighting for podium positions, so these are the positives we will take from this race.”*

Sebastian Buhler, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally: *“Today was a very long and tough stage in the sand, one of the toughest stages I have ridden. Riding in these deserts is very tricky with long fast plateaus and sudden steep descents. Overall, I am happy with my performance and looking forward to the next stage.”*



Provisional Stage 2 Rankings

1	Adrien van Beveren	Monster Energy Yamaha	04h 24m 34s
2	Matthias Walkner	RedBull KTM Factory Racing	+ 02m 22s
3	Daniel Sanders	GasGas Factory Racing	+ 03m 01s
5	Sebastian Buhler	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 16m 34s
6	Joaquim Rodrigues	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 17m 09s
17	Franco Caimi	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 24h 15m 26s

Provisional Overall Standings:

1	Matthias Walkner	RedBull KTM Factory Racing	07h 52m 31s
2	Adrien van Beveren	Monster Energy Yamaha	+ 02m 39s
3	Daniel Sanders	GasGas Factory Racing	+ 03m 42s
5	Joaquim Rodrigues	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 23m 56s
7	Sebastian Buhler	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 33m 45s
17	Franco Caimi	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 35h 16m 08s

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