HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY SECURES ANOTHER RALLY 2 PODIUM IN STAGE 3

DAVID BRACERAS SECURES HIS FIRST PODIUM IN RALLY 2

MICHAEL DOCHERTY CONTINUES TO LEAD IN RALLY 2

Al Dhafra Region, UAE | 25th Nov 2026

Hero MotoSports Team Rally, the motorsport team of the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, Hero MotoCorp, showcased its resilience on Stage 3 of the 35th Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, as Spanish rally-raid rookie David Braceras powered to his first-ever stage podium in a W2RC race with a 3rd-place finish in the Rally 2 category. Meanwhile, overnight overall leader Michael Docherty endured a challenging afternoon in the soft sands, losing nearly 10 minutes in the second half of the special stage to finally concede his lead in the provisional overall FIM standings.

Michael, entered the Stage 3 unbeaten after sweeping the Prologue, Stage 1, and Stage 2 in Rally 2 and holding the overall FIM lead against factory Rally GP rivals and remained firmly in lead for most the of stage 3 as well until an unfortunate navigation mistake made him lose critical time in the second half of the special.





As a result, he finished the stage 3 in 10th place in the overall standings and 6th in the Rally 2. Despite the setback, Docherty remains firmly in the fight at 5th place in the overall rankings and retains his overall lead in the Rally 2 standings heading into the final two stages.

On the other hand, his teammate David continued his solid upward trajectory. Building on his composed top-five runs earlier in the week, the Spaniard kept a clean sheet on navigation and maintained strong pace across the dunes to secure a well-earned spot on the Rally 2 podium, his first of the rally career and first with the Hero MotoSports Team.

Concluding the demanding two-day Marathon leg, Stage 3 took competitors across a 401-kilometer route back toward the Madinat Zayed bivouac, featuring 286 kilometres of timed special.

Reunited with their mechanics and support crew at the Madinat Zayed bivouac tonight, the squad will prepare for Stage 4, which will challenge the competitors with a gruelling 351-kilometer loop- including 258 kilometres of timed special, pushing deep into the towering dunes of the Rub Al Khali (Empty Quarter). This will be an all-important penultimate stage, which will be crucial for the competitors to try to shake up the rankings one more time before the final stage.



Michael Docherty, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
"I started the stage well and was going good for most part of the stage. Then at one point, I went on to the wrong piste and went off-direction. I finally found a waypoint only to realise that I have skipped a few before, so I had to backtrack my way to collect all the waypoints. I lost a lot of time because of this, so the only thing to do is to learn from it and move ahead. The bike is working so well and I did not have to do any work on it during the Marathon stay. Tomorrow is a proper day out in the dunes so I am going to give it my best."

David Braceras, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
"I thoroughly enjoyed my first marathon stage. All the riders had a great time, and camping next to the sea was an incredible experience. I started the stage slightly late due to a minor GPS issue, but once underway, I found a smooth rhythm and strong pace without any navigation errors. The navigation became quite tricky after the refueling point, so I slowed down slightly to stay focused on the roadbook. I'm really happy with how the bike is performing—now it's just about carrying this momentum all the way to the finish."

Overall Provisional Rankings – Stage 3

01.	Toscha Schareina	Monster Energy Honda HRC	02h 32m 46s
02.	Adrian Van Beveren	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+ 00m 59s
03.	Luciano Benavides	Redbull KTM Factory Team	+ 01m 23s
07.	**David Braceras**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 06m 30s**
10.	**Mike Docherty**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 09m 55s**

Provisional Rankings – Stage 3 – Rally 2

David Braceras	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	3rd Place
Mike Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	6th Place

Overall Provisional Rankings at the end of Stage 3

01.	Adrian Van Beveren	Monster Energy Honda HRC	08h 00m 51s
04.	Toscha Schareina	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+ 00m 35s
02.	Daniel Sanders	Redbull KTM Factory Team	+ 01m 23s
05.	**Mike Docherty**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 07m 22s**
09.	**David Braceras**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 30m 17s**

Provisional Rankings at the end of Stage 3 – Rally 2

Mike Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	1st Place
David Braceras	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	5th Place

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Press Contact:
corporate.communication@heromotocorp.com

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About Hero MotoCorp

Hero MotoCorp, headquartered in New Delhi, India, is the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters for 25 consecutive years with ~$5 billion revenue. The Company's global footprint spans 53 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and Latin America with a customer base of over 130 million. The Company operates eight manufacturing facilities - six in India and one each in Colombia and Bangladesh - along with two Research and Development centres: Hero Centre for Innovation and Technology (CIT) in India and Hero Tech Centre Germany (TCG). Hero MotoCorp is driving the transition to electric mobility through VIDA. Strategic alliances with Harley-Davidson and Zero Motorcycles support the design and development of premium and electric motorcycles, respectively. Further demonstrating its commitment to the EV future, the Company has made strategic investments in two- and three-wheeler EV manufacturers, Ather Energy and Euler Motors. Hero MotoCorp is the only Indian two-wheeler manufacturer listed on the prestigious Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). Hero MotoCorp's Executive Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal, was named to the 2025 TIME100 Climate List of the 100 most influential leaders driving business climate action. Beyond mobility, Hero MotoCorp is a major global promoter of sports, including golf, football, field hockey, and cricket. Hero MotoSports Team Rally is India, a flag bearer in global rally racing.