# HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY CLAIMS VICTORY IN STAGE 4 OF ABU DHABI DESERT CHALLENGE 2026

## MIKE DOCHERTY COMES BACK TO WIN THE STAGE 4, MOVES TO 3RD PLACE IN OVERALL RANKINGS

## DAVID BRACERAS DELIVERS A STEADY TOP-4 RALLY 2 FINISH

Al Dhafra Region, UAE | 26th Nov 2026

Hero MotoSports Team Rally delivered a dominant bounce-back performance on Stage 4 of the 35th Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge. South African rally-raid star Mike Docherty stormed to a sensational 1st-place finish both in the overall and in the Rally 2 category, defeating the factory Rally GP contenders once again to claim his third stage win of the week following victories in the Prologue and Stage 1.





Entering the penultimate day determined to recover from his Stage 3 setback, Docherty attacked the soft dunes from the outset, maintaining blistering pace and razor-sharp roadbook accuracy across the entire special, to edge out a thrilling stage win by 10s. After the dominating performance in Stage 4, Mike moves into 3rd place in the overall rankings and extends his lead in the Rally 2 class at the end of four stages.

Meanwhile, Spanish rookie David Braceras tackled the deepest dunes of the rally with maturity well beyond his experience. Following up his maiden W2RC stage podium on Stage 3, the 23-year-old Spaniard prioritized clean navigation and rhythm through the technical crests of the Liwa desert. He brought his Hero 450 Rally safely home in 6th place overall and 4th in Rally 2 in today's stage, holding 8th overall and 4th in the Rally 2 standings at the end of the four stages, heading into the rally finale.

With just one stage remaining, the squad returns to the Madinat Zayed bivouac tonight to prepare for the decisive Stage 5 tomorrow. The grand finale will take competitors on a 377-kilometer journey back to Al Ain, featuring 219 kilometres of timed special, where Docherty will open the road in pursuit of a historic overall podium and Rally 2 crown.




**Michael Docherty, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally,** said:
"I just tried to ride at a comfortable pace today and carry the pace and rhythm to the end. The last waypoint was a bit tricky, the notes did not make too much sense, and I lost some time in finding it and in the end won the stage by just 10s. It is nice to win another stage for the team. Overall, the bike handled very well in the dunes and everything seems to be working well. Tomorrow I will open the stage, so I am just going to go out there and treat it like a practice for Dakar. "

**David Braceras, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally,** said:
"Today was probably the hardest stage of the week with only the dunes to tackle today. I chose to ride with caution today because I wanted to understand the dunes, especially the broken dunes, to learn how to read the desert better. Towards the end, a lot of riders lost time in finding a waypoint but I managed to find it quickly and made up for some lost time. I am taking it step-by-step and looking forward to the last step tomorrow."

## Overall Provisional Rankings – Stage 4

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **01.** | **Mike Docherty** | **Hero MotoSports Team Rally** | **03h 05m 38s** |
| 02. | Adrian Van Beveren | Monster Energy Honda HRC | + 00m 10s |
| 03. | Toscha Schareina | Monster Energy Honda HRC | + 01m 32s |
| 04. | Martim Ventura | Monster Energy Honda HRC | + 07m 20s |
| **06.** | **David Braceras** | **Hero MotoSports Team Rally** | **+ 13m 33s** |

## Provisional Rankings – Stage 4 – Rally 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mike Docherty | Hero MotoSports Team Rally | 1st Place |
| David Braceras | Hero MotoSports Team Rally | 4th Place |

## Overall Provisional Rankings at the end of Stage 4

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01. | Adrian Van Beveren | Monster Energy Honda HRC | 11h 06m 39s |
| 02. | Toscha Schareina | Monster Energy Honda HRC | + 01m 57s |
| **03.** | **Mike Docherty** | **Hero MotoSports Team Rally** | **+ 07m 12s** |
| 04. | Daniel Sanders | Redbull KTM Factory Team | + 17m 01s |
| **08.** | **David Braceras** | **Hero MotoSports Team Rally** | **+ 43m 40s** |

## Provisional Rankings at the end of Stage 4 – Rally 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mike Docherty | Hero MotoSports Team Rally | 1st Place |
| David Braceras | Hero MotoSports Team Rally | 4th Place |

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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.