



Dos Hermanas, Sevilla , Spain, Oct 19, 2022

## HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY COMMENCES ITS CAMPAIGN AT THE ANDALUCIA RALLY

**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**, the motorsport team of the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - **Hero MotoCorp**, kicked off their Andalucia Rally campaign with the Prologue Stage today. After successfully completing the administrative and technical checks over the last day and a half, the 4-rider team of Joaquim Rodrigues, Franco Caimi, Ross Branch and Sebastian Bühler took to the start line in the afternoon.



The short 9.6 km stage, set around the Grand Dos Hermanas Racecourse, was of strategic importance as the top 15 overall finishers in the bikes will get to pick their start position for the much longer 320 km stage set for tomorrow.

The stage was short, fast and slippery, making it tricky for the riders. Joaquim Rodrigues and Ross Branch completed the stage in the top 10 at 5th and 8th positions respectively. Sebastian Bühler finished at the 11th place, but Franco had a crash during the stage, relegating him to 14th in the Rally GP classification.



The 2022 edition of the Andalucia Rally is the final round of the newly formed World Rally Raid Championship. The remaining days will see the riders complete a total of 4 stages and cover 1965 km during the course of the rally, with 1053 km of competitive sections. The first full stage of the rally, tomorrow, will consist of 146 km of liaison sections in addition to the 319 km race distance as the riders take a loop of Sevilla before returning to Dos Hermanas in the evening.

**WOLFGANG FISCHER, Team Manager, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:**

*“We are happy to be back in Spain for the Andalucia Rally. This is the last race of the World Rally Raid Championship and the last race before the Dakar Rally. The Andalucia Rally is unique in the championship as it does not take part in the desert, instead in the hills and countryside in the south of Spain. It is good to have all 4 of our riders back on the start line, especially JRod, who has recovered from his crash in Morocco. It was a little unfortunate for Franco, who had a crash in the Qualifying stage, but he is ok and the bike is fine, so we are all set for Stage 1 of the Rally.”*

**JOAQUIM RODRIGUES:**

*“The qualifying stage was fast and slippery. It was tricky, but I managed to register a good time. It is a long race and I am looking forward to day 1.”*



**FRANCO CAIMI:**

*"It was not a great start for me today, with a crash on the stage. Fortunately, I am not hurt, so I am preparing for the stage tomorrow and for the rest of the rally."*

**ROSS BRANCH:**

*"I really wanted to win the stage and I gave it everything, and I am happy with the result. It was great to ride here with the spectators cheering us on. I am looking forward to the rest of the race."*

**SEBASTIAN BÜHLER:**

*"I felt good on the qualifying stage. The terrain here is quite different from Morocco, but this is the terrain that I am used to, so I am looking forward to the remaining stages of the Rally."*



## Qualifying Stage Rankings [RallyGP class]:

1.	Sam Sunderland	GasGas Factory Racing	01h 05m 28s
2.	Kevin Benavides	Red Bull KTM Factory	+ 00m 24s
3.	Adrien Van Beveren	Monster Energy Honda Team	+ 00m 40s
5.	<b>Joaquim Rodrigues</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 00m 48s
8.	<b>Ross Branch</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 01m 20s
11.	<b>Sebastian Bühler</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 02m 08s
14.	<b>Franco Caimi</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 22m 00s

*A multiplication factor of 8 is applied to the Qualifying stage times*

### For more information:

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