



SAN RAFAEL, ARGENTINA | 26 MAY 2026

## **HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY FACES THE COMPLEX NAVIGATION CHALLENGE ON STAGE 2 OF DESAFÍO RUTA 40**

Hero MotoSports Team Rally completed a demanding Stage 2 of the 2026 Desafío Ruta 40 as the rally continued south into Mendoza province and the bivouac relocated to San Rafael.

The shortened stage featured rutted tracks, sandy terrain, vegetation, and technical navigation sectors that demanded precision and concentration throughout the day.





Ross Branch showed strong pace and confidence on the bike but lost time following a few mistakes during the special. The Motswana rider also suffered an impact from a large thorn bush during the stage, adding to an already challenging day. Despite the setbacks, Branch remained positive and focused on improving heading into Stage 3.

Nacho Cornejo experienced a difficult start to the day following a small crash in the opening kilometers and struggled to find his rhythm through the tight and twisty terrain. Despite the disappointment, the Chilean rider remains fully focused on regrouping and responding positively in the next stage.



**Ross Branch, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:**

“There were definitely some positives to take from today and overall I am feeling comfortable on the bike, but at this level small mistakes can have a big impact, especially on a shorter stage like this. The mentality stays positive though, and as a team we know we are capable of much more, so now the focus is on regrouping and coming back stronger on Stage 3.”

**Nacho Cornejo, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:**

“It was not the day I was hoping for and after the small crash this morning I struggled to really find my rhythm in the tighter sections of the stage. That said, this is part of rally racing and the important thing now is to stay focused and keep working. The goal is to reset mentally and come back ready to fight again tomorrow.”

## Provisional Rankings - Stage 1

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01.	Daniel Sanders	Redbull KTM Racing Team	01h 39m 43s
02.	Luciano Benavides	Redbull KTM Racing Team	+05m 00s
03.	Tosha Schareina	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+05m 17s
<b>14.</b>	<b>Ross Branch</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	<b>+10m 30s</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Nacho Cornejo</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	<b>+13m 58s</b>
DNS	Michael Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	DNS

## Overall Provisional Rankings – After Stage 1

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01.	Daniel Sanders	Redbull KTM Racing Team	05h 20m 11s
02.	Tosha Schareina	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+11m 02s
03.	Ricky Brabec	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+12m 35s
<b>08.</b>	<b>Ross Branch</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	<b>+22m 05s</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Nacho Cornejo</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	<b>+34m 28s</b>
DNS	Michael Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	DNS

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