

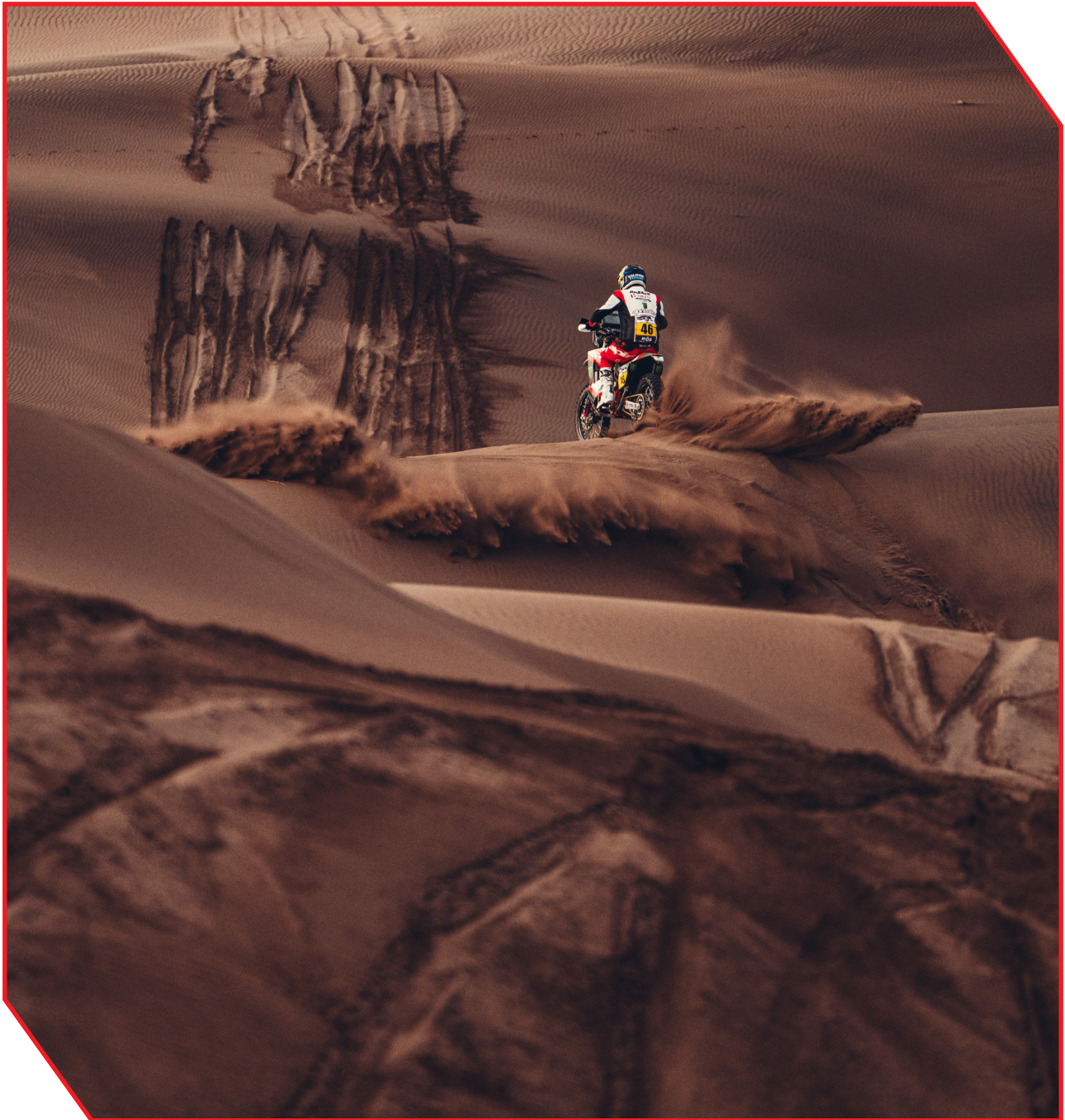


SAN RAFAEL, ARGENTINA | 27 MAY 2026

HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY CONTINUES TOP 10 CHARGE AFTER STAGE 3

Hero MotoSports Team Rally completed the longest stage of the 2026 Desafío Ruta 40 as competitors tackled a demanding 409-kilometre special stage through the dunes of Nihuil, dry riverbeds, and high-altitude mountainous terrain around San Rafael. The stage combined fast sections, technical terrain, and physically demanding conditions throughout one of the toughest days of the rally so far.





Ross Branch delivered another solid and consistent performance to remain inside the overall top 10 despite several challenges throughout the stage, including dust, minor brake issues, and the demanding altitude conditions later in the day. The Motswana rider maintained a steady rhythm throughout the stage and continues to build momentum heading into the final two days of the rally.

Nacho Cornejo also completed a clean and steady stage without any major mistakes across the varied terrain. The Chilean rider made several passes during the special and felt increasingly comfortable as the day progressed. Cornejo now sits 14th overall and remains focused on continuing his push towards the top 10 over the remaining stages.



Ross Branch, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:

“It was an amazing stage through some really incredible areas today, especially up in the mountains at high altitude. I felt really comfortable on the bike during the first part of the stage and things were going well, but I had a small crash just after the refuel which cost me a bit of time and rhythm, and also a few smaller issues resulting from this. No excuses though. I managed to settle back in afterwards and finish the stage strongly, so overall I’m happy to still be healthy heading into the final two stages where we can keep working to make some improvements.”

Nacho Cornejo, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:

“It was a long but really beautiful stage today and I definitely felt some improvements on the bike compared to yesterday. Of course, I’m still not where I want to be in terms of the overall result, but the feeling is moving in the right direction and now the focus is to keep working and continue improving over the final stages. I’m very grateful to the whole team for all their effort and support, and we’ll keep pushing to close the gap to the riders ahead.”

Provisional Rankings - Stage 3

01.	Daniel Sanders	Redbull KTM Racing Team	04h 16m 55s
02.	Luciano Benavides	Redbull KTM Racing Team	+00m 58s
03.	Tosha Schareina	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+02m 37s
08.	Ross Branch	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+15m 58s
13.	Nacho Cornejo	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+20m 48s

Overall Provisional Rankings – After Stage 3

01.	Daniel Sanders	Redbull KTM Racing Team	09h 37m 06s
02.	Tosha Schareina	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+13m 38s
03.	Luciano Benavides	Redbull KTM Racing Team	+15m 58s
08.	Ross Branch	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+38m 03s
14.	Nacho Cornejo	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+55m 16s

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