



## **HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY DELIVER A STELLAR STAGE 3 AT THE RALLYE DU MAROC**

### **BUHLER & CAIMI FINISH THE STAGE IN TOP 5**

**Zagora, Morocco, October 11, 2021**

**Hero MotoSports Team Rally** had a great Monday in the office, as the team delivered 2 Top 5 finishes in Stage 3 of the ongoing Rallye Du Maroc. Sebastian Buhler finished in the second position and Franco Caimi in fifth.



Starting the Stage in 17<sup>th</sup> position, Sebastian Buhler was on the pace immediately. Trialing new components on his bike in preparation for Dakar '22, he was within the Top 3 at every checkpoint, eventually finishing in second place.

Franco Caimi also rode with the aim to gain more experience on the bike, while also sharpening his navigation skills in race conditions. His steady ride rewarded him with a fifth place.

Joaquim Rodrigues, who still remains a contender for a top finish in the rally, delivered a determined ride. Despite losing time early in the stage, he recovered well to finish in the ninth position. He remains at the 11<sup>th</sup> place in the overall rankings.

Stage 3 of the rally comprised of a taxing 340 kms of special stages and 260 kms of liaison. The long loop in the Saharan desert was complicated by the ruts left by the bikes, cars and trucks that

ran here during Stage 2. With the two longest days of the rally completed, Stage 4 will bring another 360km of special stages for the riders to tackle.



**Joaquim Rodrigues, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:** *"Today was not an easy day for me. I made an error in navigation and lost a lot of time in coming back to the route. Also had a crash on some rocks, but I am unhurt. The bike was damaged a bit, so I took it easy after that, and was able to bring the bike to the finish with a good result, so I am happy with that."*

**Franco Caimi, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:** *"I am happy to be back in the race after my problems earlier. It was a long stage, and I am happy with the result. We were able to put some more mileage on the bikes and every bit of training and experience will help. Congratulations to my teammate Basti who finished second, so overall, it was a good day for the team."*

**Sebastian Buhler, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally:** *"Very happy with the stage today. It was hard and fast with some dangers, but I felt good on the bike and was able to get into a good rhythm. We had some problems in Stage 2 with some of the parts that we were testing, but thanks to the team, who worked hard and found a solution."*





### Provisional Stage 3 rankings

1	Ricky Brabec	Monster Energy Honda Team	3h 30m 32s
2	<b>Sebastian Buhler</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 02m 04s
3	Andrew Short	Monster Yamaha Rally Team	+ 05m 24s
4	Adrien van Beveren	Monster Yamaha Rally Team	+ 05m 46s
5	<b>Franco Caimi</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 06m 12s
9	<b>Joaquim Rodrigues</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 11m 01s

### Provisional Overall rankings after Stage 3

1	Ricky Brabec	Monster Energy Honda Team	10h 43m 43s
2	Joan Barreda Bort	Monster Energy Honda Team	+ 09m 42s
3	Pablo Quintanilla	Monster Energy Honda Team	+ 10m 27s
11	<b>Joaquim Rodrigues</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 32m 41s
26	<b>Franco Caimi</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 20h 31m 07s
28	<b>Sebastian Buhler</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 40h 23m 17s

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