

Laâyoune, October 04, 2022

HERO MOTOSPORTS ACHIEVES YET ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE STAGE RESULT AT RALLYE DU MAROC '22

ROSS BRANCH REGISTERS HIS THIRD STAGE PODIUM AT THE RACE

Hero MotoSports Team Rally, the motorsport team of the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - **Hero MotoCorp**, successfully completed the third stage of the Rallye Du Maroc with a podium finish.



Ross Branch crossed the finish line with the third-fastest time, bagging his third stage podium so far at the race after the wins in Stages 1A and 1B. His teammate Franco Caimi continued his consistent performance and finished again in the top 10, claiming 9th place.

Finishing closely behind him was Sebastian Bühler at the 13th position in the Rally GP class.

Stage 3 of Rallye Du Maroc on Tuesday, October 4th was announced by the organisers to be the most difficult in the rally, and it truly lived up to its billing. The 324 km special around Laâyoune started in the morning with a long stretch of dunes before moving into steep descents. Adding to the thrill, a tricky section of plateaus led the riders to finish on more technical tracks. The stage demanded cautious riding from the competitors, and required their exceptional navigation capabilities to reach the finish line.

Starting the day at the 12th position, Ross Branch rode with much confidence, competing for the top spots. His focused ride today earned him yet another podium finish, and a rise to overall 4th place in the Rally GP class rankings.



Having enjoyed a steady performance so far in Morocco, Franco has been consistently fighting to stay in the top 10 positions every day. His solid performance today places him at the 10th place on the overall rankings table. Sebastian Bühler, too, made a few navigational errors and found today's stage difficult. However, his consistent improvement since the start of the rally has awarded him the 13th place in the overall Rally GP class rankings.

With just two days left in the race, the competitors who have reached the bivouac in Laâyoune are now preparing to push harder for a final dash to the top of the table.

Stage 4 tomorrow will be a long day taking the riders and teams back to Tan-Tan, and clocking almost 560 km, of which 350 km will constitute the timed special.

ROSS BRANCH:

"Today's stage was quite rough, exactly like how it was briefed to us. But I did start off well, and was able to get a great pace throughout the rally. I did have a small crash in the dunes, but it didn't set me back by much. I'm happy to have finished in the third place today, and looking forward to the rest of the race!"

FRANCO CAIMI:

"It was another tough day in the desert for me. Anyhow my bike was performing well, and I'm happy that I made it back safe. I lost a little bit of time after refueling, but other than that it was a good fight today, and I will continue pushing till the end. Looking forward to tomorrow!"



SEBASTIAN BÜHLER:

"Even though the stage was tough, I feel I had another good day. I have been improving my rhythm each day since the start of Rallye Du Maroc, and today was no different. I made a couple of small navigation errors, but I'm learning and improving daily; so I'm happy with my overall performance so far."

<u>Provisional Rankings – Stage 3 (Rally GP Class)</u>

1.	Luciano Benavides	Husqvarna Factory Racing	03h 09m 42s
2.	Skyler Howes	Husqvarna Factory Racing	+ 0m 25s
3.	Ross Branch	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 2m 38s
9.	Franco Caimi	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 6m 26s
13.	Sebastian Bühler	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 10m 11s

Provisional Overall Standings after Stage 2 (Rally GP Class)

1.	Skyler Howes	Husqvarna Factory Racing	11h 22m 51s
2.	Luciano Benavides	Husqvarna Factory Racing	+ 3m 17s
3.	Toby Price	Red Bull KTM Factory Team	+ 4m 45s
4.	Ross Branch	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 6m 46s
10.	Franco Caimi	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 20m 13s
13.	Sebastian Bühler	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	+ 40m 14s

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