

PRESS INFO - DAKAR 2015

Leg 12 : Termas Rio Hondo - Rosario (01/16/2015)

Liaison: 248 km - SS: 298 km - Liaison: 478 km

Final straight...

The penultimate stage of this 38th Dakar was the longest of the 2015 edition, with a total distance of just over 1000 km. On the 298 km timed sector, there was more to lose than to win, with the possibility of jeopardising the hopes of climbing on the final podium tomorrow in Buenos Aires.

For the two Team DESSOUDE crews, there were no particular problems. They covered the kilometres at a good pace, and on crossing the finish line, Thierry MAGNALDI and Guy LENEVEU had set the 22nd fastest time. Very much at ease on this route, the Juke Buggy was able to really show what it could do, despite the many potential traps and the ever-present dust. A fine, consistent performance which placed the #328 just over 14' behind the leaders. Thierry looks back over his day.



"Like yesterday, we were given a very WRC-style stage, fast and very technical. Corners with tight angles, bumps and of course, the dust... It was important not to do more than necessary to avoid the risks of going off the track. And a few cars crossed that limit and made mistakes. Tomorrow, we will be taking great care, as Buenos Aires is not very far now..."

For LIU Kun and LIAO Min, another cloudless day which took the Chinese crew another step closer to their original goal, to climb up on the finish podium in Buenos Aires. The rookies managed a good pace while the DESSOUDE Proto N05 complied perfectly with all their requests. They crossed the finish line having set the 32nd time.



On the eve of the final stage, André DESSOUDE gave his impressions.

"Today was a really long stage, and the liaison seemed never-ending. Everyone is getting tired, the crews, the cars and the mechanics, of whom a lot is asked due to the very late arrivals. For example, yesterday we had to solve a problem with the fuel pump on the Proto 05 and that took us until 5 am in the morning. At 6 am we had to get underway to cover nearly 1000 km...

The two cars have not had any particular problems on the end stage of the rally, so I just have some regrets about the rather too rapid start to the event which caused some damage. But we can't rewrite history. But it is certain that driving here in the second part of the pack is very complicated due to the dust, there is no enjoyment in that, and I have to say that some drivers have had some very big frights.



Apparently there has been some heavy rain recently on the area of the final special stage, and it will be muddy. You have to be careful of last-minute problems. The rally will only be over when we are actually in Buenos Aires... "



Tomorrow, the caravan will finally head for Buenos Aires. The final deliverance after two weeks of racing at a frantic pace. Before starting the celebrations, there are another 174 km of special stage to cover, over terrain that, as André DESSOUDE mentioned, could be tricky. The mud may replace the dust, but in both cases prudence will be the key in order to be able to climb up on the final podium.







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