



Team DESSOUDE



PRESS INFO - DAKAR 2015

Leg 2 : Villa Carlos Paz - San Juan (01/05/2015)

Liaison: 26 km - SS: 518 km - Liaison: 81 km

A stage in hell for Team DESSOUDE's crews...



This second leg between Villa Carlos Paz and San Juan had the longest special stage of the rally, 518 km, a true showpiece in the heat and on a very bad track where the fesh fesh chose to spice up the run.

After the 625km of this leg, competitors arrived at the bivouac of San Juan located at the foot of the Andes and where the thermometer showed 40°C in the shade, meaning over 50°C in full sun.

The bravest driver would not resist to such conditions. Moreover, for safety reasons, the last riders were stopped to prevent any medical problems and especially dehydration.



For the DESSOUDE team, the day started quite well and the plan went properly with a progression between the 30th and 40th places. But soon after the 100th km, everything changed for the Juke Buggy, stopped with a broken alternator belt. The crew fixed the problem but one hour was gone.

The rest of the stage will be painful with now many cars to pass and very bad track conditions. The heat is stifling, big holes and ditches are very frequent and the fesh-fesh is everywhere. The engines start to heat forcing crews to make breaks and the fesh-fesh offers zero visibility. The special stage gradually turns into hell on earth where every mile becomes increasingly challenging. The Buggy Juke succeed in reaching to this treatment and joins San Juan in the late evening.



For the Chinese crews, the first half of the special stage was with no particular problem. Both Proto DESSOUE ran regularly while their drivers remain highly concentrated. Zhong was around 65th place overall and Liu fifteen positions further. But around the CP 2, the story changed and the two cars were gradually losing precious minutes that turned into hours.

The conditions are more difficult and the lack of visibility does not help with the night. Liu Kun damaged the front of his car and the headlights are broken. Too dangerous to drive at night in such conditions, the crew of the #393 will wait daylight to reach the bivouac. As for the Proto #363, it is also expected to reach the bivouac in the early hours of the morning.

This leg will leave traces on all the competitors. No time to relax and the crews must think about tomorrow ... The Dakar has just begun!



Tomorrow, the special stage will be shorter, 284 km, a good thing for those who arrived very late the night before. Cars and bikes will borrow different routes but will be able to enjoy the beautiful scenery that await them in one of the most beautiful regions of Argentina. Following the red tracks or dipping in sumptuous canyons, the competitors will appreciate the landscape before reaching the bivouac of Chilecito.

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CLASSEMENT GENERAL OVERALL CLASSIFICATION

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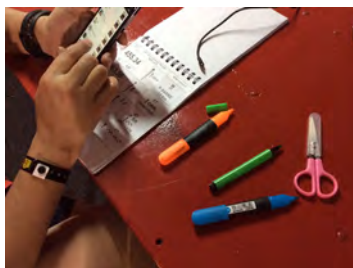
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