

WRC continued...

At the completion of the Cyprus rally, rumours were flying as to the future of Duval with Citroen. When it was announced that co-driver Prevot had decided not to continue with Duval, it became a waiting game to see who Citroen would nominate to drive the car, a decision that had to be posted by 6:00pm on Monday, according to WRC regulations. In a quick and surprising decision, it was announced that double-world champion Carlos Sainz will make a return in the interim, until a more permanent solution can be found.

After eight months out of the driver's seat, Sainz comes in for a solid fourth in the Rally of Turkey. Another tough, rocky, gravel event, Turkey saw Loeb making his record-equaling fourth victory, followed in second by a frustrated P. Solberg; "Now we need to come back in Greece, because I'm pissed off with finishing second all the time" said the Norwegian. Peugeot was similarly disappointed with their fourth place finish by Marcus Gronholm. Seems Sebastien Loeb is starting to get under everyone's skin. At this point, Sainz will not deny that he may continue on to Greece, although his original intention was to only stay on for the one event.

The Acropolis Rally Greece is one of the longest standing events in the circuit.

More heat, more gravel, and more punishing stages. Carlos Sainz, still driving for Citroen, was almost able to hold off an enthusiastic Toni Gardemeister, but in the end, Ford's flying Finn was on maximum attack, and took second place. Sainz in third, with teammate Loeb taking first again, breaking his previous record of four consecutive wins. Both Subaru's Petter Solberg and Peugeot's Marcus Gronholm suffered from drive shaft trouble, but Gronholm was able to survive to fourth place, while Solberg placed a miserable 9th. Sainz confirms that this is his last event, having accomplished his task of getting Citroen back in the lead for the manufacturers' standings.

Duval returns for the Rally Argentina, with Citroen's "100 percent confidence".

Photo from Rally-Info.com



Citroen Team Boss Guy Frequelin (C) with Sebastien Loeb (L) and Carlos Sainz (R)

The event is well known for its water-filled fords, or "watersplashes". A challenge mechanically, as teams have learned to prepare the cars for flying through the water at high speeds. While the WRC works on a plan to bring back Colin McRae for the Wales Rally GB, the drivers concentrate on getting their points. Loeb drives his "hardest win so far" taking another first place on the podium, joined by Gronholm and Solberg in second and third, respectively. And Duval? Seventh.

Photo by MGR.com



By Ken Jeffery

Current driver standings: 1. S. Loeb (75), 2. P. Solberg (48), 3. M. Gronholm (45), 4. T. Gardemeister (44), 5. M. Martin (42), 6. H. Rovanypera (20)

Current Team Standings: 1. Citroen (96), 2. Peugeot (90), 3. Ford (62), 4. Subaru (54),