

20.08.16
News release

Osian avoids the tank traps to lead in Germany

Welsh rally star Osian Pryce turned in a controlled but dominant drive to maintain his Rally Germany lead in the latest round of the Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy round.

Osian and co-driver Dale Furniss were quickest out of the blocks this morning, starting their weekend with two fastest times. Leading by 1m10s after that second stage, a more conservative plan was pressed into action for the remainder of the day aboard their Ford Fiesta R2T.

"It's been pretty much the perfect day," said Osian. "It's been hard, mind; when you're pushing flat-out and driving as quickly as you can go that brings its own focus. But when you've got a gap to manage, it's quite a different proposition.

"Where the roads have been quite rough with a few rocks around, we've just throttled back and taken it a bit more steady. The first couple of stages this morning were nice, they're a bit wider than the vineyards yesterday which meant we could play with the car a bit more and not be so restricted to one line.

"Today was about the Baumholder stages though. This is the place where the American army comes to test its tanks, so it's a pretty serious place with some very, very big concrete blocks at the side of the road to keep the tanks in place. These hinkelsteins are pretty merciless, they certainly don't move if you hit them.

"I have to say though, I absolutely loved the place. We only got one run through the 25-mile stage – the first one was cancelled after another crew crashed – but it was mega. Everything worked so well, the car, the tyres, everything. A great way to finish the day.

"Now though, it's all eyes on the finish tomorrow afternoon. We've got four stages to get through, so it's about managing the lead again."

The event finishes back at Trier's historic Porta Nigra, the Roman black gate, at 1600 tomorrow.

Today was...

Osian's day in detail. His times against his DDFT rivals:

SS6: fastest (1st in DDFT) *perfect start to the day on tricky country roads*

SS7: fastest (1st in DDFT) *two out of two fastest times; lead now 1m10.4s*

SS8: 5th fastest (1st in DDFT) *cautious first run at short Panzerplatte stage*
SS9: 6th fastest (1st in DDFT) *lots of rocks means sensible approach*
SS10: stage cancelled due to accident for earlier competitor
SS11: 3rd fastest (1st in DDFT) *starting to manage the lead now*
SS12: 5th fastest (1st in DDFT) *continue with middle-of-the-road approach*
SS13: 3rd fastest (1st in DDFT) *final run at short Panzerplatte, lots of rocks*
SS14: 2nd fastest (1st in DDFT) *perfect run through the day's longest stage*

Weather:

Today: overcast with occasional rain, temperatures ranging from 14-22 degrees

Tomorrow: similar to today with occasional rain and temperatures around 20 degrees

Tomorrow is...

Sunday August 21

Osian's day starts: 0710

Osian's day finishes: 1600

Number of stages: four

Competitive distance: 36.82 miles (59.26km)

Total distance: 170.28 miles (274.03km)

Longest stage: SS16/18 Sauertal 9.22 miles (14.84km)

Shortest stage: SS15/17 Dhrontal 9.19 miles (14.79km)

Meet Osian...

Date of birth: 24.02.93

Lives: Machynlleth

Co-driver: Dale Furniss

First rally: Rally Kurzeme (Latvia) August 2009 – 37th overall, eighth 2WD

Rally starts: 60

British Rally Championship event wins: 5*

British Rally Championship results: 2nd (2013/14), 3rd (2012)

World Rally Championship starts: 8

World Rally Championship class wins: 2

Website: osianpryce.com

* Including Osian's dominant National Rally Cup victory on this year's Mid Wales Stages

About ADAC Rallye Deutschland

August 18-21

Based: Trier

Surface: asphalt

Stages: 18

Competitive distance: 190.64 miles (306.80km)

Total distance: 743.49 miles (1,196.49km)

Website: www.adac-rallye-deutschland.de

ADAC Rallye Deutschland Itinerary

Thursday August 18
Ceremonial Start podium at Porta Nigra, Trier 2015

Friday August 19
SS1 Mittelmosel 1 13.67 miles (22.0km) 1006
SS2 Moselland 1 14.52 miles (23.38km) 1044
Service Messepark 1237
SS3 Mittelmosel 2 13.67 miles (22.0km) 1458
SS4 Moselland 2 14.52 miles (23.38km) 1536
SS5 Super Special Stage Ollmuth 5.10 miles (8.21km) 1812

Saturday August 20
SS6 Freisen-Westrich 1 9.15 miles (14.73km) 0815
SS7 Bosenberg 1 8.97 miles (14.45km) 0841
SS8 Super Special Stage Arena Panzerplatte 1 1.78 miles (2.87km) 1017
SS9 Super Special Stage Arena Panzerplatte 2 1.78 miles (2.87km) 1028
SS10 Panzerplatte Lang 1 25.35 miles (40.80km) 1046
Service Messepark 1300
SS11 Freisen-Westrich 2 9.15 miles (14.73km) 1528
SS12 Bosenberg 2 8.97 miles (14.45km) 1554
SS13 Super Special Stage Arena Panzerplatte 3 1.78 miles (2.87km) 1730
SS14 Panzerplatte Lang 2 25.35 miles (40.80km) 1748
Service Messepark 2002

Sunday August 21
SS15 Dhrontal 1 9.19 miles (14.79km) 0713
SS16 Sauertal 1 9.22 miles (14.84km) 0842
SS17 Dhrontal 2 9.19 miles (14.79km) 0947
SS18 Sauertal 2 9.22 miles (14.84km) 1208
Service Messepark 1258

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Now say hello to the Ford Fiesta R2T

Engine: 999cc turbo, 12-valve, three cylinders
Max power: 180bhp @ 6,200rpm
Max torque: 250Nm @ 4,000rpm
Transmission: Sadev five-speed sequential gearbox, plated limited-slip differential and uprated driveshafts
Suspension: Adjustable Reiger dampers, Eibach springs
Brakes: 285mm discs four-piston calipers (front gravel); 310mm discs four-piston calipers (front asphalt); 280mm discs two-piston calipers (rear); hydraulic handbrake
Wheels: OZ Racing 6x15-inch (gravel); 6.5x15-inch (asphalt)

Dimensions: length 3982mm; width 1695mm; height 1481mm; wheelbase 2490mm
Weight: 1030kg

Osian's guide to 2016

Osian and Dale will contest five rounds of the World Rally Championship in the Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy. Here's the details and an Osian download on the big five.

Been and gone...

Rally Portugal

May 19-22

Based: Matosinhos

Surface: gravel

Osian outings: 2 (2015, retired – mechanical; 2016 1st in DDFT)

Result: **1st**

Stage wins: 4

Stages led: 1

Osian and Dale took a sensible approach to the first half of the Porto-based opener, but still remained in the top three throughout the event. Moved to the front on the final day and took the win by almost two minutes.

Rally Poland

June 30-July 3

Based: Mikolajki

Surface: gravel

Osian outings: 2 (2015, 2nd Junior WRC; 2016 2nd in DDFT)

Result: 2nd

Stage wins: 8

Stages led: 4

Rarely has second place been celebrated in quite such a fashion. Osian's result secured him the first major victory of the World Rally Championship season so far. Leading the points race after the first two DDFT rounds, Osian and Dale are now confirmed as factory DMACK drivers for two WRC events in a Ford Fiesta R5 next season.

Rally Finland

July 28-31

Based: Jyväskylä

Surface: gravel

Osian outings: 1 (2016 6th in DDFT)

Result: 6th

Stage wins: 8

Stages led: 5

Leading at the end of the opening day, Osian's debut on the world's fastest rally went south when he slipped off the road early on Saturday. Despite that misdemeanor, he and Dale returned for the final day on Sunday and went fastest on every stage. What impressed onlookers most about Osian's

maiden Rally Finland outing was the speed he showed from the start, on an event that's reckoned to be tougher than any for a rookie.

Happening now...

Rally Germany

August 18-21

Based: Trier

Surface: asphalt

Osian outings: 0

Osian says: "This is a rally of three parts: the vineyard stages, the military testing ground and the country stages. The vineyards are absolutely full of hairpins, winding their way up and down the Mosel valley; absolute precision on the handbrake is called for here. Baumholder is an area used by the army to test tanks, which means plenty of surface changes from good asphalt to really broken concrete; the big danger here is from hinkelsteins, these are massive lumps of rock at the side of the road used to keep tanks on the straight and narrow. And if they don't move for tanks, they're not about to move for our Ford Fiesta R2T!

"Finally, the country roads. We'll feel a bit more at home here, these are not too dissimilar to what we see in Ireland. And, running through the countryside, these stages are prone to the same kind of cow-related surface changes we see in Ireland..."

Up and coming...

Rally of Spain

October 13-16

Based: Salou

Surface: gravel/asphalt

Osian outings: 0

Osian says: "Two rallies in one when we get to the final event in Catalunya. The first day is on the gravel, which looks to be fairly similar in places to Portugal, but then it's a weekend on the asphalt. The Tarmac stages are all really nice and now some of the most famous in the world. Generally, they're double-width roads which flow quite nicely and allow you to carry good speed.

"Like the four events before Spain, I can't wait to get there and try them out for myself!"

About the Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy

The brainchild of M-Sport World Rally Team principal Malcolm Wilson and DMACK managing director Dick Cormack, the DDFT takes the best young drivers from around the world and pitches them into a five-round fight for the biggest prize south of the World Rally Championship itself.

There's a season in a Ford Fiesta R5 car at rallying's second tier – WRC2 – on offer to the winner after five rounds. The structure of DDFT has changed slightly this season, with rallies being paired (Portugal and Poland; Poland and

Finland; Germany and Spain) and the crew gathering the most points from each of those two rallies will win two rallies in the R5 car next season.

Winning a full WRC2 season of 2017 competition in an M-Sport Fiesta R5 will require consistent speed from Osian and Dale this year.

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