

News briefing
January 22, 2019

Oliver Solberg Volkswagen Dealer Team Bauhaus member Q&A

Seventeen-year-old Oliver Solberg has been named as a Volkswagen Dealer Team Bauhaus driver, just three days after winning Rally Alūksne on his debut in a Volkswagen Polo GTI R5.

Oliver, how important is your deal with this Swedish dealer team?

"It's really important for what I am doing in Latvia and here at home in Sweden. Any partnership a driver can make is vital – so for me to be involved with Johan [Kristoffersson] and Volkswagen Dealer Team Bauhaus at this age (17) is really good news for me. It is also really cool that Solberg and Kristoffersson continue to work together, but now in another form."

What does your agreement actually mean?

"I will continue to run my own car through OSM (Oliver Solberg Motorsport), this is the team which prepares the Polo GTI R5 for me to drive. Volkswagen Dealer Team Bauhaus will provide a good contribution to the budget I need for the events in the Latvian Rally Championship.

Will you compete in Sweden?

"Not this season – I'm too young still, but that's something we're considering for next year. Instead, I will focus my competition in Latvia this year."

And that campaign started very well last weekend...

"It did, it was fantastic to win my first ever event in a four-wheel drive car at Rally Alūksne. The only problem is that I didn't want to get out of the Polo at the end. I love driving this car so much!"

There's a great family connection for you and fellow Volkswagen Dealer Team Bauhaus member Johan Kristoffersson?

"There is. I know Johan for a very long time now, he's like family for us. He was team-mate at PSRX Volkswagen Sweden with my Dad for the last two years and I think we all know how successful he has been in winning two World RX titles and every [World RX] race except one last year. I am really looking forward to working with him again this year – Johan's such a focused guy and an incredible competitor. I can learn lots from him this season. The co-operation is really cool."

What's your next event?

"The next round of the Latvian Rally Championship. It's called Rallijs Sarma (Gulbene, Latvia, February 9) and it's another winter event. That will be my first as an official Volkswagen Dealer Team Bauhaus driver, I'm very excited about that."

And then you'll be at Rally Sweden the weekend after?

"Yes, that's the plan – but I won't be competing. Like I said, I'm too young for now. I'm allowed to drive on the road at home in Sweden, but only with one of my parents sitting alongside me. Being 17, I'm still classed as a learner driver in Sweden. I'm learning plenty about road safety, which is a vital part of our education as young drivers.

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Produced in association with Words PR