

News release
May 11, 2017
Coyote World RX of Belgium preview

PSRX Volkswagen Sweden chases more sweet success in Belgium

Belgium produces 220 million kilogrammes of chocolate every year, making it the perfect place for the PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden drivers Petter Solberg and Johan Kristoffersson to hit the sweet spot this weekend.

Both Volkswagen Polo GTI Supercars have made the final at all three rounds of this year's FIA World Rallycross Championship – a superb achievement for the alliance which only came together at the turn of the year – but now the Torbsy team is ready for the next step. And that next step is the highest on the podium.

Team owner Solberg said: "I think we have done some incredible work in the short time we have been with Volkswagen Motorsport. What we are down to now is the small details. When you look at the guys around the paddock, look at [Mattias] Ekström, he has made three good results this year, but he has known his car for the last three years. We knew ours for three months!"

Winter's decision to stick around well into a Swedish spring has also hindered Petter and Johan.

"We've lost out a little bit to the weather at the tests," said two-time FIA World Rallycross Champion Solberg. "We've had snow and then when the snow's gone we've been left with some really cold conditions. It's no surprise that one of the areas where we need more data for this car is in the extreme hot conditions. We're missing some experience for the set-up in some areas, but this will come. And, of course, we are missing our first win for PSRX Volkswagen Sweden and Belgium would be a good place to take it this weekend."

Circuit Jules Tacheny is one of the season's trickier prospects. Both PSRX Volkswagen Sweden drivers have taken semi-final wins, but neither has topped the podium at the Wallonia track. Yet.

"You need a little bit of luck when it comes to the draw for the first qualifying rounds in Belgium," said Solberg. "You really need to be in first or second position because it's a difficult place to overtake here. We have three tracks in the season which are like this: here, Hockenheim and Buxtehude. Let's see what happens, but the big thing for me is the lead in the World RX teams' championship; that's the one I want this year and Johan and I are working really well together in that direction."

Podium finisher in Portugal and Hockenheim, Johan shares Petter's determination to look down on everybody come Sunday afternoon.

“We want that win,” said the superstar Swede. “We have shown we have the pace and the consistency, but, like Petter says, it’s the small details now. We have the best team around us and we are finding those small details – I have really good confidence in everybody here. The good thing is to be back in the car quickly again this week. This championship is fantastic and the racing is so close, when you’re not in the car and feeling that adrenalin, you miss it so much!”

What? When?

Qualifying 1/2: Saturday May 13 1100/1340

Qualifying 3/4: Sunday May 14 1000/1200

Semi-finals/Final: Sunday May 14 1500

Coyote World RX of Belgium

1.15km

61% asphalt/39%gravel

The original Circuit Jules Tacheny was a 5.5-kilometre dash around the streets of Mettet. Mainly known for motorbike races, which were won by legends such as John Surtees and Giacomo Agostini, the best four-wheel action came from Sir Stirling Moss and Robert Manzon who raced Formula 2 here in the early Fifties. Then came World Rallycross. Or actually, a couple of clicks south down the N98 came World Rallycross.

Previous winners:

Toomas Heikkinen (2014/2015)

Mattias Ekström (2016)

Closest international airport:

Brussels South Charleroi

Currency:

Euro

Capital city:

Brussels

Language (s):

Dutch, French, German,

Seriously... whatever you do, make sure you fly into Charleroi Airport for World RX of Belgium – you can’t go wrong: it’s Europe’s most punctual and second only in the world to Osaka in Japan.

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