

News release
September 14, 2017
Neste World RX of Latvia

PSRX Volkswagen Sweden is ready for the numbers game

Ordinarily, here at PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden, we wouldn't dream of arguing with Plato. He is to Greek philosophy what Petter and Johan are to rallycross.

But this time, and we're sorry to say this Plato, but he's got it wrong.

OK, half-wrong.

Tricky one, taking on the founder of the western world's first ever institution of advanced learning. But we've got to take him to task.

Plato said: "A good decision is based on knowledge and not numbers."

This week, we have to disagree. Partially. This week, when the FIA World Rallycross Championship lands in Latvia, the PSRX Volkswagen Sweden will be basing decisions on numbers. And knowledge.

The big number is: one.

If Johan Kristoffersson finishes World RX of Latvia with maximum points (30), nobody except the superstar Swede or his triple World Champion PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team-mate Petter Solberg can lift this year's World RX crown.

If Johan scores maximum points and Petter takes less than 17 points in Riga on Sunday, then Johan will not only take the 2017 FIA World Rallycross Championship, he will also become the most successful driver in a single season of this hugely popular global race series (currently he has five wins this year – Petter managed that in 2014).

That's numbers part one. Here's part two...

PSRX Volkswagen Sweden leads the Teams' Championship by 112 points. Petter and Johan need to equal the score of second-placed squad Peugeot-Hansen (Sébastien Loeb/Timmy Hansen) to realise Solberg's dream of a Teams' title.

Three-time FIA World Champion (and twice FIA World RX champ) Petter's a man who loves a good number.

"Number one is the only one that counts," said the Norwegian star. "This is why we are in competition. Normally, I would say that if you come to a race

and you want to finish second, then you should go home. But this time I wouldn't mind to finish second – but that's only if the car ahead of me looks a lot like mine!

"This is a big weekend for PSRX Volkswagen Sweden, but the preparation and everything remains exactly the same. We have progressed really well this year and now we have to trust in the work we've done and the set-up we've found for these incredible Polo GTI Supercars."

Understandably, Johan wasn't taking anything for granted.

"Nothing is won yet," he said. "I'm not thinking about anything except for each race. It's one step at a time this weekend. Firstly, the main thing is to stay neat and tidy. More than anywhere, that's so important at this racetrack: with the barriers so close, we have to be really careful."

"I would be telling you a lie if I said I hadn't thought about what might happen this weekend, of course I have. But now the race is coming, it's time to stop thinking about this and focus on the plan Petter, me and the rest of the team has made."

Want to share that plan with us Mr. K?

"Sure, I'll tell you all about it on Sunday afternoon..."

What we hate here at PSRX Volkswagen Sweden is a release short on numbers. So here are a few more we've prepared for you...

Following the PSRX Volkswagen Sweden win last time out in Lohéac (World RX of France, September 1-3) Volkswagen now has **11** World RX wins – that's more than any other carmaker in the history of the series.

Johan Kristoffersson has won **four** races in a row now. Nobody else has ever managed such a run in the series.

But Johan's 2017 season tally is, of course, **five** wins.

But PSRX Volkswagen Sweden's 2017 season tally is, of course, **six** wins.

The maximum points available to a driver each weekend is 30. Johan has scored an average of **26.78** from the first nine rounds this season.

And, seen as we're going to Latvia, here's a more specific number for you: 13.8. That is, in megabytes per second, the average internet speed in Latvia.

See, it's not just Johan and Petter that'll be quick in Riga this weekend.

Now, Plato, see our point? Good decisions have to be based on knowledge

and numbers this weekend.

Just before we go, it's worth pointing out that all of the above is based on PSRX Volkswagen Sweden being perfectly well behaved. FIA World RX competition remains open to penalty and the loss of points. Such a situation would, naturally, alter the mathematics above.

What? When?

Qualifying 1/2: Saturday September 16 1200/1430

Qualifying 3/4: Sunday September 17 0930/1000

Semi-finals/Final: Sunday September 17 1500

Neste World RX of Latvia September

If you want capital city racing, this is as good as it gets. As the drivers are tearing up this lovely circuit, they can just catch a glimpse of some of Riga's taller apartment blocks. The Bikernieki National Sports Base has hosted motorsport events since 1966, but World RX's arrival heralded a major overhaul of the track in 2015. The gravel was laid with beautifully profiled jumps, but this is not a place for the wild-at-heart. Lined by ARMCO for much of the lap, Latvia loves and Riga rewards the neat and tidy.

Previous winners:

Sébastien Loeb (2016)

Closest international airport:

Riga International 10km

Currency:

Euro

Capital city:

Riga

Language:

Latvian

Seriously... Fancy a bath? And a beer? How about beer in the bath? Or even a bath in beer? Come to Riga and you can have a beer spa. Immerse yourself in a warm beer bath, while simultaneously sinking a cold one. What's not to love about Latvia?

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