

News release
September 28, 2017
ALL-INKL.COM World RX of Germany

Estering kicks off the PSRX Volkswagen Sweden victory tour

What do you do when you're approaching the penultimate round of the FIA World Rallycross Championship on the back of seven wins from 10 events?

You change nothing.

How does winning the drivers' and teams' titles with two rounds to spare change the PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden tactics?

It doesn't. Nothing changes.

Nothing, that is, except for the size of smile on the faces of the Torsby team. The PSRX Volkswagen Sweden boys and girls won't be hard to spot at this weekend's World RX of Germany in Estering, they'll be the ones walking around looking slightly dazed. But deliriously happy.

This has been a dream season for Petter Solberg's team and nobody's enjoyed 2017 more than Johan Kristoffersson: the FIA World Rallycross Champion.

"I have been in a bit of a different world since I won the title in Riga (World RX of Latvia, September 15/16)," said the champ. "Winning a world championship is something I've dreamed of and worked towards since I was a boy and when it finally arrived, I have to be honest and say it totally lived up to the expectation. Being a world champion is the best thing ever!

"But what really made it special for me was that we won the teams' championship at the same time. Honestly, we say this every week and I'm sure some people will listen to this (read it, actually champ...) say: "Ah, that's Kristoffersson talking about the team again, blah, blah, blah." But I'm going to say it: this team is like no other team I've ever known; it's a family.

"Every single member of the team has worked so hard for the last nine months – we all deserve a piece of this. We've worked, won and become world championship together."

Johan starts this weekend's ALL-INKL.COM World RX of Germany chasing an astonishing sixth victory in succession. A win on Sunday would mean a seventh win from 11 races for him and an eighth success in the season for PSRX Volkswagen Sweden.

Fortunately for Johan, he's got an inside line on how to score a win in northern Germany – Petter's won three years ago.

Our two-time World RX champion team owner Petter will arrive in Germany ready to race just five days after a successful operation on his broken collarbone – the result of a semi-final accident last time out in Latvia.

Typically, Petter is only looking forward and only interested in the next challenge and the next race.

“Buxtehude is a good track,” said Petter, “we’ve had some great races here in the past. The feeling really is a special one coming here as champions. Obviously Latvia didn’t end the way I would have liked, but being able to reflect of what we have done this season brings so much satisfaction. Honestly, when I think where we were when we started talking to Volkswagen Motorsport – two titles and all these race wins were a world away. But we’ve done it and we’ve done it with the best team in the world.”

And this weekend that team gets 50 per cent bigger with the arrival of a third driver.

“We have Dieter Depping with us for his home race,” added Petter. “This is great for the team. Dieter will be our second registered point-scoring entry. He’s a really good guy. He came to a test with Johan and I last month and I think that helped him. Obviously, he’s a very good driver, but working with the set-up Johan and I have on the Polo helped him as well. Driving quickly on the asphalt comes quite naturally, it’s when you get on the loose that things get interesting and Dieter has learned a lot on this side from the team.

“It’s really exciting for us to run three cars, it shows that the team is capable of stepping up again with the logistics and preparation.”

Dieter admitted he didn’t need much persuading when the call came with the offer of a seat in the world’s fastest RX car.

“When [Volkswagen Motorsport director] Sven Smeets asked me if I could envisage starting at my home race in Buxtehude, I didn’t need to think about it for long,” explained the 51-year-old, beaming. “I’m really looking forward to the races at the Estering track, but I also have a huge amount of respect for them – particularly the start.

“Nevertheless, I am well prepared for the weekend. In the last few weeks I did a lot of extra training sessions and raised the intensity of my normal workout – which was probably needed for an old man like me!

“Luckily Petter and Johan gave full support of their experience in rallycross and some very useful tips, for example in terms of race strategy and the start procedure. So my big thanks goes to Petter Solberg and his whole team, who are taking me and my Polo under their wing for this competition.

"Of course my expectations are down to earth but hopefully I can be good for some good surprise."

What? When?

Qualifying 1/2: Saturday September 30 1200/1300

Qualifying 3/4: Sunday October 1 1000/1100

Semi-finals/Final: Sunday October 1 1500

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Estering is another place in the world best known for the FIA World Rallycross Championship's annual visit. Just south-west of Hamburg in Germany's far north, the Buxtehude circuit really is all about the racing, with RX part of the town's tale since 1972. And the track's a classic as well; we're talking a 36-second lap when you're on a flier, but there's a bit of everything in there to keep you entertained from a tight hairpin right to a full-beans, knife-edge flat right.

Previous winners:

Kevin Eriksson (2016)

Davy Jeanney (2015)

Petter Solberg (2014)

Closest international airport:

Hamburg Finkenwerder 21km

Currency:

Euro

Capital city:

Berlin

Language:

German

Seriously... Germany feels the need, the need for speed – or at least it does on 70 per cent of its autobahns where there are no speed limits. Happy days.

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