

News release
April 29, 2015
World RX of Germany preview

Let's hope there's no more ibuprofen. No more sneezing and no more fever. Let's get on with the racing. Let's do what Formula 1 can't do this year... race at Hockenheim.

I have to be honest and say I felt really bad at the opening round in Portugal last week. When you get in the car and the lights go to green, you don't think about anything except the first corner, getting ahead and staying there. It's amazing how your body can pick itself up when you need it most. The adrenalin is quite incredible. The good news is, I'm feeling a bit better now. I still can't say so much – my voice is quite quiet... which is difficult for me!

I'm really excited about getting back in the car for this weekend. Portugal last week showed what good work the PSRX team has done over the winter months. We made a great car to defend our FIA World Rallycross title.

And Portugal was a good start. We won three races and left the track in the lead of the championship. That's where we want to stay.

We know we still have some work to do in some areas and we're always working on the next evolution of the car – we will have more steps coming soon. Hey, you know these guys, they never stop working!

But what about Germany? Well, it's a new track, which is always exciting. Nobody knows what to expect or how the circuit will react if it rains. If it does rain, where will the grip be and which will be the quickest line? When we come to a new circuit for the first time, it's so important to make good use of the practice and early heats in the weekend – you need to find the lines and the fastest way through the corners. Trust me, it's not always the obvious way.

I think we will see more of who's going to challenge this season this weekend as well. We didn't see the full potential from all of the drivers yet, that's for sure. I know this because I have seen the capability of my SDRX team-mate Liam Doran. He has a good car and was unlucky at round one.

But for me and my team, the main objective is the same as with every round: to score some good points. Of course we want to win, we always want to win, but we also want to be the first person ever to defend the FIA World Rallycross Championship title and to do that, we need to build some points with consistent results. That's the aim this weekend.

Circuit:

Length: 1240m

Tarmac: 60%

Dirt 40%

Website: www.hockenheimring.net

Timetable – all local times

Friday May 1

1545 practice

1650 qualifying heats

Saturday May 2

1610 practice

1650 qualifying heats

Sunday May 3

1125 warm up

1140 semi-final

1210 final

Last time out...

Petter shook off illness, a troublesome centre differential and a wobbly gearshift to win three of his six races at the season-opener in Portugal. Solberg just lost out in the final, but collected sufficient points through the opening round to depart Montalegre with the championship lead.

Germany in *anzahl*:

1 is the number of times Robbie Williams has played Hockenheim

2 is the number of times Germany has won the Eurovision Song Contest

9 is the number of countries Germany borders

9.3 is how many cans of Monster Energy Petter will drink this weekend

17 is the number of corners on the original Hockenheim circuit

49 is the international dialing code for Germany

73.780 seconds is Kimi Raikkonen's 2004 lap record at Hockenheim

194 km is the Bertha Benz route, the world's first long-distance road trip

300 kph is the speed of Germany's Intercity Express trains

379 kph is the fastest speed by an everyday driver on the Autobahn

120,000 is how many seats there are at Hockenheim

471,000 is how many people work at the German post office, Deutsche Post

80,620,000 is the population of Germany – biggest in Europe

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