

News release
September 16, 2018

Another week, another win and another record for Kristoffersson

- Johan takes eight from nine to re-write the history books
- Petter: it's a privilege to have Johan in the team
- Overwhelming support for Petter's medical condition
- PSRX Volkswagen Sweden takes another step towards the championship

Johan Kristoffersson and PSRX Volkswagen Sweden's incredible season continues.

The superstar Swede has now beaten his own record for the number of victories in a year, with his eighth success from nine 2018 races coming up at World RX of Latvia in Riga today (Sunday).

Johan's latest victory was crafted from an exceptional race weekend where he showed the kind of pace and guile we've come to expect from our world champion. And it's a race win that takes him – and PSRX Volkswagen Sweden – another step towards another title.

Petter was back in Riga for the first time since being involved in a heavy crash last year. The triple world champion Norwegian admitted he'd been touched by the support he received after revealing his medical condition ahead of the race.

But, for the third World RX of Latvia in succession, Petter failed to emerge with the result he'd hoped for – a collision in the semi-final kept him out of the top six this time.

Driver	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	INTER	SF	F
Johan Kristoffersson	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Petter Solberg	4	3	12	4	5	4	-

Johan Kristoffersson (SWE) #1

"I had some great memories of winning my first world championship here last year and it was nice to be back again. We did our testing here in the middle of the year, but to see the grandstands full again was really bringing back the memories of last year – it made me want another world championship!

"But what a fantastic weekend again! I've got to say Q1 was crucial here – it was so tight, but beating Loeb by nine-thousandths of a second was vital to get pole for Q2. That helped shape the whole weekend. Turn one here is so important, we saw a lot of chaos here and I tried my best to keep out of it

and succeeded thankfully. From pole it is, of course, much easier to brake late and keep position.

"In the semis, the first couple of laps were actually quite messy and I made a few mistakes; I was more cautious as I knew my pace was good. We made some small changes to the car between the semis and final and it felt even better in the final. We had a great launch off the line, the car was fantastic and I felt comfortable pushing. I have to thank the team for their hard work to improve our starts which was so important here, it's worked well and really made this victory possible.

"Tonight I am ready to make a party with the fans in Riga – it's been a fantastic weekend. Now I can't wait to get in the car again."

Petter Solberg (NOR) #11

"I don't believe in bad luck but that's three times in a row now in Latvia... I feel like I had good pace all weekend but just never had the chance to show it. I was stuck in traffic a lot this morning, some really tough battles but it meant I lost so much time and couldn't get the results I needed to get a front-row spot for the semi-finals.

"That obviously proved to be vital, as in turn one in the semi I felt a hard hit from behind and was pushed into the wall. At that point getting into the final was basically impossible, but our speed in those last five laps was really good and showed what could have been.

"As for Johan, incredible again. I feel so lucky to have him in my team, both as a driver and a person. These results he's getting are hard to believe, but he just keeps going, very proud to have him with us at PSRX.

"It was also great to welcome so many of our friends and partners to this event, it really pushes us on to perform even better and we all really appreciate it – and congratulations to the organisers on another really well-run event.

"It was a tough decision whether or not to talk about what happened for the last year, but I wanted people to know why I had not really been myself. Honestly, the support I got has been more than I could ever imagine and I have to say a big, big thank you to everybody for these messages.

"I think people know I can be a fairly emotional guy sometimes and this has been quite an emotional weekend getting the support I've had. The team, Pernilla, Oliver and everybody around here has been fantastic, but to hear what the fans think has been incredible as well. Thanks guys!"

Pernilla Solberg (PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team principal)

"We knew we had good pace at this track. The mid-season testing gave us some really good data and we came with the Volkswagen Motorsport guys

having some good plans for taking the car forward. The competition is always tough in World RX, there's no doubt about this and we really saw what our rivals are capable of – particularly Peugeot – at Riga.

“But Johan came through again with an amazing start and a great control of the final. It's a real shame for Petter, he doesn't have any luck in Latvia.

“Now we move on to an exciting new chapter at the Circuit of Americas, which is going to be so, so exciting!

“We have achieved so much this season, but at the same time the job is really not finished yet and I know all of the guys, the drivers, the technicians, everybody in this team will keep giving 110 per cent all the way until Sunday night on the last round in South Africa.”

Volkswagen R performance fact:

Because he's broken another record (not just one), we thought it only fair to make this week's performance fact... Johan. World RX of Latvia is his eighth win from nine starts this season – a record; his record-breaking 17th career win; sixth win in succession (another record); 16th time as top qualifier and sixth TQ in succession (this time with the biggest margin ever – and, yes, you guessed it: that's a record).

Result:

1 Johan Kristoffersson	5m01.530s
2 Mattias Ekström	5m03.836s
3 Sébastien Loeb	5m04.862s
4 Niclas Grönholm	5m05.424s
5 Timmy Hansen	5m06.177s
6 Kevin Hansen	5m08.916s

Drivers' championship positions:

1 Kristoffersson	254pts
2 Ekström	181pts
3 Bakkerud	179pts
4 Loeb	176pts
5 Solberg	175pts
6 T Hansen	163pts

Teams' championship positions:

1 PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	428pts
2 EKS Audi Sport	360pts
3 Team Peugeot Total	354pts

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