

News release
August 19, 2015
World RX of Norway preview

Petter ready to excel in Hell

Standing watching the final in Canada earlier this month got me more fired up than you could ever imagine for this week's FIA World Rallycross Championship round in Norway.

I'm home. And I'm home to win.

Canada was a massive disappointment and one that kept me awake since the race. All the way home on the plane I was going through what went wrong in my mind. Timmy Hansen did not respect me being ahead into the first corner of our semi-final and didn't brake. That ended the race for both of us.

After thinking a lot about that, as soon as we touched down in Europe, I got it straight in my mind. Forget Canada. Look forward not backwards.

And go to Hell.

Forgetting all the jokes about the name for my home circuit, this is actually one of the really tricky circuits to come to and race on. It's a very technical place and one where you have to get your line right every time around every lap if you want to win.

Last year I was second to Reinis Nitiss. The conditions were really changing in the race last year and I went for a very compromised set up with the car; I didn't want to gamble on running it hard or soft. Really, everything about the race last year was a compromise: I could have pushed Nitiss harder, but with a good gap over Ken Block in third, I settled for points.

This time, there's no compromise. I want to win. It's been too long for me now since I won last and that has to change. And what better place to change it than at my home round of the series? Especially in front of the wonderful Norwegian fans.

It's impossible to overstate just how much the fans help me when I'm competing. Seeing so many Norwegian flags and hearing my name being chanted is incredible for me; it always makes my home race such an emotional one – and I just hope I can deliver this time.

With all of this talk about winning, don't think I have lost sight of what's most important to me, I haven't. I want back-to-back world championship victories, of course I do, but I also want to be extending my lead at the top of the table by being the fastest guy for the *whole* weekend.

Circuit:

Length: 1019m

Max width: 15m

Min width: 10m

Tarmac: 60%

Dirt 40%

Website: www.hellrx.com

Timetable – all local times

Saturday August 22

1030 practice

1300 heat 1/2

1830 autograph session

Sunday August 23

0830 warm up

1000 qualifying heat 3

1100 qualifying heat 4

1345 semi-final

1500 final

1610 World RX press conference

Last time out...

Canada. Hmm, lovely place. Lots of mountains – some very big ones too. And lakes, there are a lot of lakes and bears and things there. Oh, and let's not forget the maple syrup. Here at PSRX, we're big advocates of a policy of plenty of maple syrup on our waffles. Talking of waffles and waffling...

Canada's round of the FIA World Rallycross Championship wasn't very kind to Petter. He got bumped out of the first bend in the semi and didn't make the final for the first time in history. Moving on...

Norway (actually, Petter) in tall:

1 is how many FIA World Rallycross Championship titles Petter Solberg has won

2 is how many FIA titles Petter has won in total (including his 2003 WRC title)

7 is how many World Rallycross finals Petter has won

13 is how many WRC rounds Petter has won

13 again is the age Petter was when he won the Norwegian Radio-control car championship

41 is how many World Rallycross races Petter has won

52 is how many WRC podiums Petter has scored

188 is how many WRC Petter has started

460 is how many stages Petter has won in the WRC

5,165,802 people live in Norway

5,165,803 people would live in Norway, if Petter didn't live in Sweden

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