

News release
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Tough Turkey test for Solberg

FIA World Rallycross Championship leader Petter Solberg endured the toughest weekend in his title defence yet at this weekend's World RX of Turkey.

The Norwegian star failed to reach the final after suffering a broken driveshaft on the startline in the semi-final.

Petter said: "What a tough weekend. So tough! We have been fighting so hard all the time here in Turkey. The Intercity Park RX track proved to be very difficult, and we struggled a lot to find the right speed on gravel.

"But we never gave up and, eventually, after trying all there was to try we found the answer before the fourth heat. We were second quickest in that heat, just beaten by Mattias Ekström.

"At that point, we were fifth – one position better than in Barcelona, where we went on to win two weeks ago. As usual, we gave it everything to get to the semi-final, but when I dropped the clutch on the startline a rear driveshaft broke. My race and my weekend was over.

"I am so, *so* disappointed. You know me and you know my team – we give this thing everything and this hurts me. Tonight we are all hurting a little bit in PSRX.

"We lost almost half our lead in the FIA World RX Championship; we are now down to 19 points ahead of Timmy Hansen with two races left on the calendar.

"As usual, we were so focused on this race. The driveshaft is just pure bad luck. After seeing the way Barcelona came together for us after the heats, we were really hopeful we could do the same this time. Instead, we did our worst result ever in the FIA World Rallycross Championship.

"Only half an hour after the final, which we had to watch on TV, my team and I sat down in a strategy meeting for the last two races of the season. We are desperate to strike back after this. Next up is Italy, I won the title there last year and we will fight like hell to make sure we come away from there smiling again."

The three-word weekend:

Totally, utterly, gutted.

The big (but not big enough) number:

19 is the points difference with two rounds to go

Result:

1 Timmy Hansen	6m02.470s
2 Andreas Bakkerud	6m02.747s
3 Johan Kristoffersson	6m04.940s
4 Mattias Ekström	6m12.032s
5 Davey Jeanney	6m12.457s
6 Anton Marklund	DNF

Drivers' championship positions:

1 Petter Solberg	256pts
2 Timmy Hansen	237pts
3 Johan Kristoffersson	201pts
4 Andreas Bakkerud	188pts
6 Mattias Ekström	181pts

Teams' championship positions:

1 Peugeot-Hansen	418pts
2 Ford Olsbergs MSE	337pts
3 SDRX	281pts

Next time out World RX of Italy (October 16-18)

How can we forget Brescia's Franciacorta International Circuit? It was there last year that Petter turned third into first. Third place in the final was good enough to seal the first FIA World Rallycross Championship title. Franciacorta's a great place for the PSRX fightback...

Almost finally, an answer:

55mph. But that's only wild turkeys. The ones which end up on our plate are too fat to fly.

Finally, a question:

How many times will Petter blink during a four-lap race in Italy later this month?

Want to know more about your FIA World Rallycross Champion?

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