

News release
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PSRX Volkswagen Sweden faces down drama and extends its lead in World RX

PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden moved further clear at the top of the FIA World Rallycross Championship teams' standings after another podium finish at today's World RX of Hockenheim.

Johan Kristoffersson took his second consecutive podium finish after he and PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team owner Petter Solberg maintained the Torsby-based squad's 100 per cent record of two Polo GTI Supercars in every final.

The result and the extension of the team's lead at the top of the table masks what was, however, an exceptionally difficult weekend – particularly for Petter.

Hockenheim, the third round of the season, was a real rollercoaster for the two-time World RX Champion. Fastest in free practice, he came under attack in the early qualifying rounds but bounced back with an exceptional win in qualifying three. Second in Q4 carried him from an overnight 14th up to fifth.

"That was a real rescue mission," said Petter. "The first part of qualifying was really tough, but that's when you have to dig deep. I'm going to be honest now, it was absolutely terrifying when I was hit by another car. I have had some big crashes in my career, but that one really scared me. When I came out of that race, I didn't know what would happen.

"As a team, we were a little bit in crisis. We came together and talked about the technical and sporting side of what had happened and what we thought we could achieve with the rest of the weekend. At that time, just making the cut looked like it could be tough. But I wouldn't want any other team around me at a time like this. PSRX Volkswagen Sweden showed what it's all about this weekend; we used all of our experience, knowledge, strength and determination to put this weekend back together. And it worked. Making the final, for me, was like winning the final. This one really was unbelievable."

Petter's heroic fightback ended with second in the semi-final – behind Johan – and fourth in the final. The Norwegian superstar's efforts were rewarded with him holding on to third in the championship.

Johan was on sublime form, winning his semi and finishing runner-up in the final.

"PSRX Volkswagen Sweden did an amazing job this weekend," said Johan. "This team is still really new – don't forget we didn't start until just a few months ago – but in round one the team was fourth in the final, last time we

were third, this time we are second... in Belgium we will continue this progression and hopefully make first!

"Petter had a tough one, but for me things were a bit more straightforward. The Polo GTI Supercar is showing amazing speed and we did this again this time, but we came up against a really tough guy in the final. I have to pay tribute to Mattias [Ekström]. He drove six really strong laps in that last race.

"The big thing for me, for Petter and the team is what we are doing in the teams' championship; 17 points clear is very, very impressive for this new team. We're still learning, we're still developing and we're still getting faster – but this weekend we showed how to work as a team. I'm proud to be part of PSRX Volkswagen Sweden."

Result:

1 Mattias Ekström	6m04.066s
2 Johan Kristoffersson	6m04.774s
3 Timmy Hansen	6m06.567s
4 Petter Solberg	6m09.362s
5 Sébastien Loeb	6m10.418s
6 Toomas Heikkinen	6m10.889s

Drivers' championship positions:

1 Ekström	85pts
2 Kristoffersson	69pts
3 Solberg	62pts
4 Loeb	48pts
5 Hansen	47pts
6 Scheider	41pts

Teams' championship positions:

1 PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	131pts
2 EKS	114pts
3 Team Peugeot-Hansen	95pts

Next time out World RX of Coyote Belgium (May 12-14)

Not the street circuit made famous by such motorbike masters as John Surtees, but a new facility completed in 2010, Circuit Jules Tacheny in the town of Mettet. Both Petter and Johan have enjoyed semi-final success, but neither has won the final in Belgium before. They're chasing a change of fortunes close to Charleroi this weekend.

Want to know more?

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