

News release
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Canada dries and perfect PSRX Sweden shines

It's a high-five for PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden, a hat-trick for Johan Kristoffersson and doubles all around as Värmland's finest tops the tables... then dances on them.

World RX of Canada is one of the season's highlights. The first long-haul race of the year, it brings something of a holiday atmosphere and an opportunity to party. But the party can only get started once the job's done. This weekend PSRX Volkswagen Sweden went to work. And they got the job done like never before in North America.

On the streets of Trois-Rivières, Johan and Petter were unbeatable when it came to the business end of this eight round of the 2017 World RX. Johan took his fourth win in five races – and his third on the bounce – and the team took its second one-two of the season, beating Sebastien Loeb into third place.

Johan moves further clear of Petter at the top of the drivers' standings and Petter puts daylight between his second place and Mattias Ekstrom in third; the gap's up to 18 points.

And PSRX Volkswagen Sweden's fifth win in succession widens the gap at the top of the teams' championship standings to 108 points. The team hasn't been beaten since World RX of Hockenheim three months ago.

It's hard to imagine a better result. In fact, Johan can't.

"What can you say?" he said. "It's incredible. What a brilliant result. Yesterday was quite tough with the conditions, but that's when this team really pulled together and came through."

Saturday's free practice was delayed by more than two hours after a torrential downpour. Once back on track, the PSRX Volkswagen Sweden boys struggled for grip, but found track-time traction to go first and third on Saturday night with Johan leading.

Sunday dawned drier, brighter and with more brilliance from the Polo GTI Supercar pair. Petter won Q3, Johan won Q4 to leave them one-two in the semi-finals. They won their respective semis to ensure a PSRX Volkswagen Sweden lock-out of the front row for the final.

And when it came to the final, the result was never in doubt. Actually, it was... nobody was sure if it would be Johan or Petter who won.

Johan's fourth win from eight rounds means he's 35 points clear of Petter at the top of the drivers' standings. The superstar Swede couldn't be happier.

"I really wanted this one," he said. "The atmosphere's so cool out here in Canada and it's always a great race. Everything went to plan this time. Once again, it was crucial that Petter and I went into the semi-finals in first and second so we could capitalise and try to get first and second on the grid in the final. It all worked. It was perfect. I have a huge thanks to the team and to Petter for this weekend. We fly home a very happy team!"

Petter finished this World RX of Canada weekend in hospital last year, the contrast couldn't have been bigger as he leapt into the arms of his teammates.

"You can imagine, the emotion is quite high from this race," said Solberg. "Last year wasn't so good and this time I wanted to come here and forget about that, I wanted to take that pain away and Johan, me and the whole PSRX Volkswagen Sweden couldn't have given me the best fix from last year. I know I say this sometimes, but really, this team is unbelievable. What we achieve is incredible and it makes me so proud.

"It's time for a good celebration in Canada and then we go home and we get back to it. The rest of these guys are not standing still. We see the competition is tough all the time and we have to keep moving forward. The next round in France is going to be an incredible race. We saw Seb [Loeb] was third here and he's going to be so dangerous in front of his home fans next time out. But for now, let's enjoy this one!"

Bring on the tables...

Result:

1 Johan Kristoffersson	5m02.704s
2 Petter Solberg	5m03.776s
3 Sébastien Loeb	5m07.202s
4 Kevin Eriksson	5m10.943s
5 Toomas Heikkinen	5m23.551s
6 Timmy Hansen	DNF

Drivers' championship positions:

1 Kristoffersson	211pts
2 Solberg	176pts
3 Ekström	158pts
4 Loeb	144pts
5 Hansen	135pts
6 Bakkerud	128pts

Teams' championship positions:

1 PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	387pts
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2 Team Peugeot-Hansen	279pts
3 EKS	236pts

Next time out Bretagne World RX of France

Like Meatloaf said: "Two out of three ain't bad..." That's our record at World RX of France. Petter won in 2014 and Johan took the top step at the Circuit de Loheac last year. We love France, we love this racetrack and we love the massive passion these fans have for one man: Petter. Just kidding. We all know it's Johan they love!

Want to know more?

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