



CITROËN TOTAL WORLD RALLY TEAM

2009 FIA WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

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Rally Argentina (April 23-26, 2009) – Day 3

Loeb, Elena and Citroën rack up win five

A perfectly-paced display from the Citroën Total World Rally Team on the 2009 Rally Argentina has produced another one-two finish for the French squad, while the faultless drive of Sébastien Loeb and Daniel Elena has taken their personal score to five straight wins on the South American round. Dani Sordo and Marc Marti finished in their teammates' wake to move into second place in the provisional Drivers' World Championship standings.

Following two long legs on Friday and Saturday, survivors faced a much shorter programme today. The last day's 48 kilometres of competitive action were divided into four different stages, plus a third visit to the super-special in Cordoba Stadium. However, with no chance to service their cars between stages, the majority of the field preferred to take a cautious approach. "It's a bit of a shame to have to drive defensively because today's stages are really nice," observed Sébastien Loeb. "There are quite a few jumps which are fun when you're pushing hard, but we will need to stay fully focused if we want to secure our fifth win here in Argentina..."

Despite their risk-free approach, Sébastien Loeb and Dani Sordo monopolised the top of the timesheets on each of the first two stages. After losing ground early on because of technical trouble, Jari-Matti Latvala responded to claim the next two tests, just tenths of a second clear of the Citroën duo. Sébastien and Dani rounded off the weekend in style by securing one last one-two result for their team in front of a packed-house crowd at Cordoba Stadium.

After wrapping up their 52nd world class success, Sébastien Loeb and Daniel Elena had a special thought for Carlos Sainz who took his own record to 26 WRC wins here in Argentina, in 2004, driving a Xsara WRC with Marc Marti sitting alongside. "So much has happened since then," remembered Sébastien as he savoured his success after the finish. "We were second behind Carlos and Marc that year. Since then, we haven't been beaten here in Argentina. It's always nice to win this rally. This year's event was difficult to begin with and we had to drive flat out until Saturday lunchtime. The situation then tipped in our favour when Mikko Hirvonen hit trouble and we were able to control from in front after that. That said, I tried to keep up a quick pace all the way to the finish because it can be so easy to make a mistake over a jump, or by clouting one of the countless rocks that line the stages here. It's been a dream start to the season for us!"

Dani Sordo finished second overall to dislodge Mikko Hirvonen from second place by one point in the chase for the Drivers' title: "I felt comfortable throughout the weekend. This is our second one-two finish of the year and it's a great result for the whole team. My intention now is to defend my second place in the championship..."

"This rally gave everyone in the team a chance to shine," notes Citroën Racing Director Olivier Quesnel. "This event is particularly tough on the mechanicals, but both our C4 WRCs proved perfectly reliable and they took it all in our



stride. In addition to the strength of our cars, Sébastien and Dani drove with their head and put in a great performance to claim 15 fastest times from 23. They didn't make any mistakes and they both succeeded in turning on the speed when they had to. We fully deserved today's one-two result."

THE RALLY WITH FIGURES

	Sébastien Loeb Daniel Elena		Dani Sordo Marc Martí	
	Stage	Overall	Stage	Overall
SS19 : Villa Giardino / La Falda (15,78 km)	1 st	1 st	2 nd +8''4	2 nd +1'07''0
SS20 : Valle Hermoso / Casa Grande (10,95 km)	1 st	1 st	2 nd +1''7	2 nd +1'08''7
SS21 : Cosquin / Tanti (11,27 km)	2 nd +1''1	1 st	4 th +3''4	2 nd +1'11''0
SS22 : Tanti Nuevo / Villa Garcia (7,60 km)	2 nd +0''2	1 st	4 th +1''8	2 nd +1'12''7
SS23 : Estadio Cordoba 3 (2,40 km)	1 st	1 st	2 nd +0''4	2 nd +1'13''1

Fastest stage times

Day 1 : **SS1 : Sébastien Loeb (Citröen C4)** – SS2 : Jari-Matti Latvala (Ford Focus) – **SS3 : Dani Sordo (Citröen C4)** – **SS4 : Petter Solberg (Citröen Xsara)** – **SS5 : Loeb** – **SS6 : Sordo** – SS7 : Mikko Hirvonen (Ford Focus) – **SS8 : Loeb** – SS9 : Latvala.

Day 2 : **SS10 to 13 : Loeb** – SS14 : Hirvonen – **SS15 : Loeb** – SS16 : Latvala – **SS17 : Loeb**.

Day 3 : SS19 and 20 : S. Loeb – SS21 and 22 : JM. Latvala – **SS23 : S. Loeb**.

Best performers : S. Loeb, 12 fastest times – JM. Latvala 5 – D. Sordo, 3 – M. Hirvonen, 2 – P. Solberg, 1

Leaders : SS1 : S. Loeb – SS2 : JM. Latvala – **SS3 : D. Sordo** – SS4 and 5 : M. Hirvonen – **SS6 : D. Sordo** – SS7 : M. Hirvonen – **SS8 : D. Sordo and M. Hirvonen** – **SS9 to 11 : D. Sordo** – **SS12 to 23 : S. Loeb**.

Final provisional leaderboard

1.	Loeb/Elena	Citröen C4	3h57'40''3
2.	Sordo/Marti	Citröen C4	+1'13''1
3.	H. Solberg/Menkerud	Ford Focus	+4'04''1
4.	Villagra/Perez Companc	Ford Focus	+5'59''7
5.	Wilson/Martin	Ford Focus	+6'10''9
6.	Latvala/Antilla	Ford Focus	+9'50''0
7.	Al Attiyah/Bernacchini	Subaru Impreza	+23'11''6
8.	Marchetto/Diaz	Mitsubishi Lancer	+23'34''3
9.	Ogier/Ingrassia	Citröen C4	+23'53''9
10.	Ligato/Garcia	Mitsubishi Lancer	+25'24''5

Unofficial FIA WRC's standings

	IRL	NOR	CYP	POR	ARG	ITA	GRK	POL	FIN	AUS	ESP	GBR	TOT
1 Sébastien Loeb	10	10	10	10	10								50
2 Dani Sordo	8	4	5	6	8								31
3 Mikko Hirvonen	6	8	8	8	0								30
4 Henning Solberg	5	5	0	4	6								20
5 Petter Solberg	-	3	6	5	0								14
6 Matthew Wilson	2	2	4	0	4								12
7 Jari-Matti Latvala	0	6	0	0	3								9
8 Federico Villagra	-	-	2	2	5								9
9 Chris Atkinson	4	-	-	-	-								4
10 Sébastien Ogier	3	0	0	0	0								3
11 Conrad Rautenbach	0	0	3	0	0								3
12 Khalid Al Qassimi	1	-	1	1	-								3
13 Mads Ostberg	-	0	-	3	-								3
14 Nasser Al Attiyah	-	-	0	0	2								2
15 Urmo Aava	0	1	-	-	-								1
16 Juan Marchetto	-	-	-	-	1								1

1 Citroën Total WRT	18	14	16	16	18								82
2 BP Ford Abu Dhabi	8	14	10	8	3								43
3 Stobart VK M-Sport	8	8	6	5	10								37
4 Citroën Junior Team	5	2	4	0	2								13
5 Munchi's Ford	-	-	3	4	5								12

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Villa Carlos Paz, 26 avril 2009