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NEWS

Mexico podium 'frustrating' for Kris Meeke



Kris Meeke has labelled his first podium of the 2018 World Rally Championship as "frustrating", feeling he had the pace to win Rally Mexico, an event he won 12 months ago.

The Citroen driver led the rally early on before succumbing to the pace of Hyundai's Dani Sordo, but was never far from podium contention.

A couple of spins, some big slides and a half roll on the third-last stage resigned the Northern Irishman to third place, over a minute down on rally winner Sebastien Ogier.

However Meeke still felt there were plenty of positives to draw from Rally Mexico despite feeling he had "no excuses" for not winning the event.

"Obviously there are positives to take out of the weekend, starting with the fact I secured my first podium of the season and picked up good points for the championship," he said, "but I can't help but feel disappointed, especially for the team.

"I had everything you need to win here in Mexico – the pace, the car and the road position – but I didn't do the job.

"I made too many silly mistakes and you just can't get away with that at this level.

"I need to tidy my game up, starting in Corsica where we were competitive last year."

Greensmith shines in the support class

Gus Greensmith got his 2018 WRC2 campaign underway with a second place finish in Mexico with only defending class champion Pontus Tidemand getting the better of him.

Such was the attrition among the main factory drivers, Greensmith also took ninth overall and with it two World Championship points as well as the 18 for second in WRC2.

“I feel pretty good after this one,” he said.

“It’s a relief to get to the end to be honest as it was a rough rally, much rougher than I expected, so to walk away with second in WRC2 and ninth overall is great.

“It was one of those rallies where you don’t want to drive conservatively but with the attrition rate so high and the wise words of Malcolm [Wilson, team owner] and my dad, that’s what we did.

“I don’t want to have to do that again, but they’re a lot cleverer than me and we’re now fourth in the championship after just one rally.

“Everything was brilliant, just brilliant.”