



SQUARE LEFT

NEWS

Brits looking to challenge in the Mexican mountains



Britain's WRC stars Kris Meeke and Elfyn Evans are both looking forward to next week's Rally Mexico after a difficult Rally Sweden.

Mexico, the third round of the 2018 season, is the first gravel event of the year and the first to be held in warmer temperatures after the sub-zero conditions of Monte-Carlo and Sweden.

Meeke took victory last year despite a high speed excursion on the final stage, and is looking to replicate the same kind of performance this time around.

“Mexico is a bit like Catalonia, one of the gravel rallies where we were pretty competitive last year,” Meeke said.

“Since then, we have made further improvements to the car, so I have high hopes that we can get among the frontrunners.

“It’s definitely an event I like. As the full power of the cars isn’t available [due to altitude] you have to be as clean as possible in your driving.

“We need to make the most of running seventh on the road on day one. That will be key to getting a good result.”

M-Sport’s Elfyn Evans will start the first day even further down the road in eighth after a sixth place finish in Monte-Carlo and a non-score in Sweden.

The pace has been there, but the luck has so far deserted the Welshman.

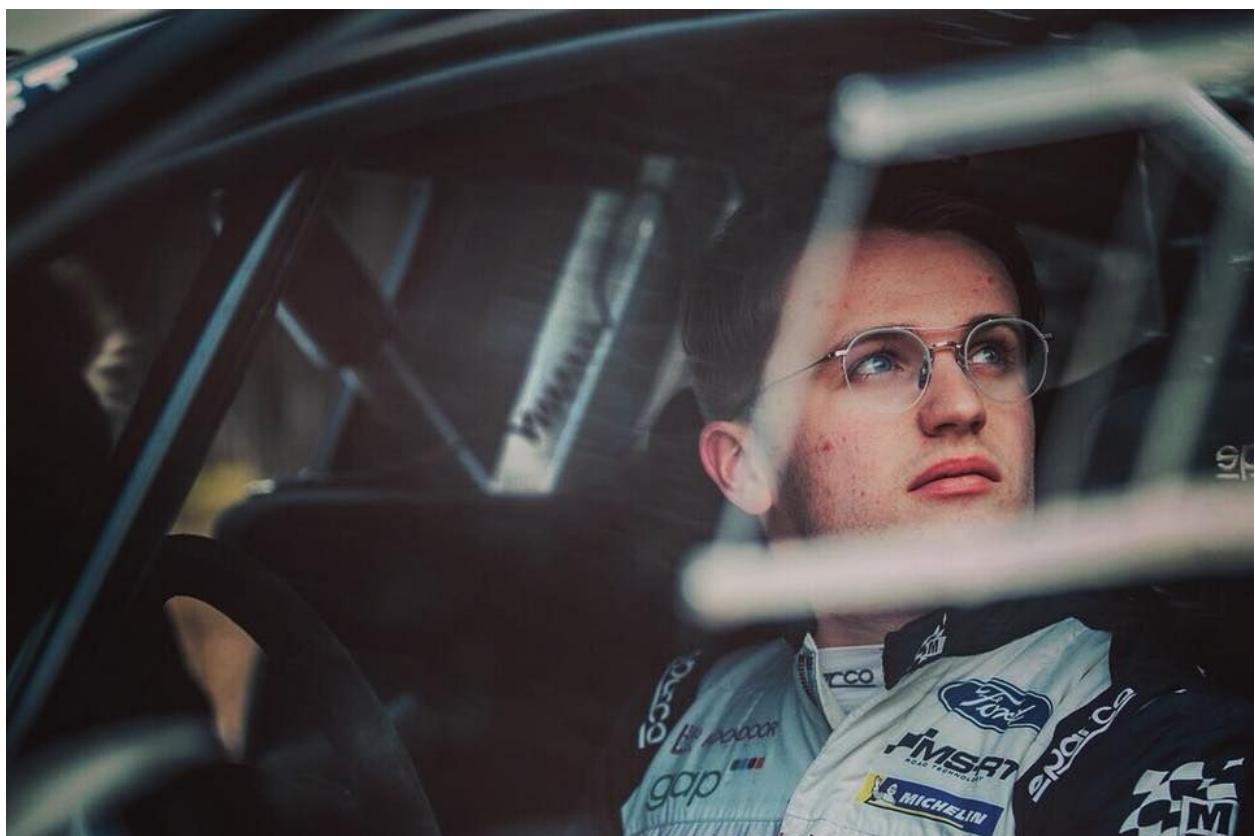
He is however looking forward to the Mexican challenge and the opportunity to ignite his 2018 campaign.

“Rally Mexico is an event that I really enjoy,” he said.

"We've done well there in the past. It's one of those events where a clever run can deliver the results.

"We'll have a good road position, but that's not without its challenges, as there's an added risk of rocks being pulled onto the racing line.

"We'll need to stay focused and hopefully we can deliver a strong result to really kick-start our 2018 campaign."



The United Kingdom will also be represented in the WRC2 support category in Mexico as M-Sport driver Gus Greensmith starts his first event of 2018 in an R5.

Greensmith completed his first year with four-wheel-drive machinery last year, taking 11th in the WRC2 championship with a best finish of fifth.

The 21-year-old may lack in experience compared to his rivals, but he is optimistic ahead of his Mexico debut.

“The only thing I am feeling ahead of Rally Mexico is pure excitement,” he said.

“It feels like an incredibly long time since I have been behind the wheel and I am looking forward to kick-starting my 2018 WRC2 campaign with a good result this week.

“We completed an extensive 200km test in Greystoke last week which proved incredibly valuable in terms of regaining the same level of confidence I had in the middle of last year.

“We have another test in Mexico lined up before the event, and this will be important when it comes to adapting my driving style at high altitude.

“I feel that a podium is a realistic target, and a positive one to ensure we finish the rally and collect a good haul of points to use as momentum going forwards.”