

Eryk Goczał and Oriol Mena still in the lead in the Dakar Rally Challenger class

- Eryk Goczał and Oriol Mena were 2nd on the Dakar Rally stage three in the Challenger class
- Energylandia Rally Team crew is still leading in the general standings
- Marek Goczał and Maciej Marton were 3rd at the stage leading from Al Duwadimi to Al Salamiya

Eryk Goczał and Oriol Mena are still leading the Dakar Rally Challenger class. Energylandia Rally Team crew were 2nd today with a short gap to the winners. Eryk's father Marek Goczał alongside his co-driver Maciej Marton were 3rd today, finishing just behind Eryk and Oriol. These two polish crews are still leading the Dakar Rally Challenger class. Eryk's gap over his fathers is currently 15 minutes and 47 seconds. Mitchell Guthrie and Kellon Walch are 3rd.

Unfortunately, Michał Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk finished the stage with a bigger time loss due to the steering problems and rolling the car after having contact with another car. Third stage of the rally led from Al Duwadimi to Al Salamiya. As for now it was the longest stage of the Dakar Rally 2024, as the liaison was 295 kilometers long and the special stage had the distance of 438 kilometers. It was the first part of the marathon stage. Mechanics had only two hours to work on the cars. Then they were closed in the parc ferme.

- The third stage was really difficult. Especially the dunes that were located around the middle of the special stage. You could say they were sand mountains the size of skyscrapers. We had to approach some of them several times. Still I think we gained a lot of time there. Unfortunately, in the last kilometers we had to go back because we had not collected one of the waypoints. We're still in the lead though, so we'll keep pushing tomorrow! – Eryk Goczał said.



- A very difficult stage - I would compare it to the first one. We had huge dunes along the way. It seemed impossible to drive through them. I saw that Michał tried several times and failed. Then there were only rocks, we had a puncture and lost about four minutes there. We are at the finish line and that is the most important thing. I saw that Michał unfortunately had problems, but fortunately they dealt with them and are already at the finish line – Marek Goczał summed up.

- Unfortunately, this was not a happy stage for us. We had some minor problems at the dunes, but they were nothing compared to what happened next. About 60 kilometers before the finish line we reached another car. We sent him a lot of signals on sentinel that we were going to overtake him so that he would let us pass. When we thought he was letting us go, he turned at us and we hit him. We damaged the steering rack. We replaced it, but after a while it turned out that the swing arm was cracked and we rolled after a few kilometers. We reached the finish line in a damaged car. I hope that it's not over yet. Starting tomorrow we will start making up for our losses – Michał Goczał said.



Tomorrow the second part of the marathon stage awaits for the crews. It will lead from Al Salamiya to Al-Hofuf. Liaison will be even longer with 332 kilometers of distance. Although the special stage will be shorter as it's "only" 299 kilometers.



The partners of the team are: Energylandia, Energy2000, Western Camp Resort, Vitabri, Diverse and RMF FM.

#dakar2024 #DK24 #taurus #taurust3max #w2rc #weversports #rmffm #diverse #vitabripolska #energylandia
#energy2000 #westerncampresort