

Marathon 48H Chrono stage for Eryk Goczał and Oriol Mena

- Eryk Goczał and Oriol Mena won the marathon, two-day “48H Chrono” stage
- Energylandia Rally Team crew increased their lead to over one hour
- Michał Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk were 2nd at the loop around Shubaytah



The drivers returned to the competition in the marathon 48H Chrono stage at dawn. The remaining distance to cover for the top drivers was about 150 kilometers. Eryk Goczał and Oriol Mena continued driving with a great pace today. Ultimately, the Energylandia Rally Team crew won the two-day stage with quite a large advantage over the rest. After a great end to the special stage Michał Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk took second place. This is another 1-2 for the Energylandia Rally Team in this year's Dakar Rally.

Eryk Goczał and Oriol Mena increased their lead in the Challenger class general standings to over 1 hour over Mitchell Guthrie and Kellon Walch, who are in 2nd now. It is worth adding, that Eryk and Oriol finished the stage at 5th place in all cars category, beating many crews in T1 cars. Now they're at 9th place in cars category general standings. Michał Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk moved to the 6th place in the general standings. They are just over half an hour away from the podium spot and will for sure attack in the second week of the rally. After technical problems with the Taurus T3 Max Marek Goczał and Maciej Marton spend the night at the desert and were unable to finish the stage.



- We finished the 6th stage of the rally. It was the most difficult special stage of my life. I don't know how it will sound, but it was the most beautiful hell I have ever been to. I have never experienced so much in two days in my life. So many emotions, the good ones, but also pain and sadness, because unfortunately my dad and Maciek have huge problems with the car. We hope that they will join us soon and will be able to continue competing in the rally – Eryk Goczał said at the finish line.

- There is also a lot of happiness because we completed the first part of the Dakar in a great way and we have over an hour's advantage in the general standings of our class. Now we are waiting for my dad, then we fly to Riyadh for a rest day. I'm glad the car withstood it all. Now, on the rest day, it will be rebuilt, checked and we will continue to fight. This Dakar is really interesting - concluded the stage winner and rally leader in the Challenger class.

- It was such a long and difficult stage that it is hard to describe it in a few words. Thursday was probably the most difficult day of my life. We drove over 400 kilometers across the dunes. The organizer did his best and prepared a great stage for us. At the beginning we were driving at a very good pace, but later it turned out that our car was using too much fuel. I had to change the engine mapping. Unfortunately, because of this, we couldn't reach the top of the next dune and stayed there deep in the sand. We lost about 10, 15 minutes there, but Szymon quickly found a good strategy to dig us out of there - Michał Goczał said.



- While refueling, we found out that Marek and Maciek were unfortunately having some problem with their car. We continued our stage. Unfortunately, we didn't catch one of the waypoints on the top of the high dune... and behind it was a steep, long descent. We had to go back to the very top to get it, we tried about four times. I still don't know how we managed to do it. We were constantly afraid that we wouldn't have enough fuel. We had to slow down and save it. At bivouac, it turned out that we had fuel for a maximum of 5 kilometers left. We managed to complete the stage and we are happy with the result. It's a shame that Marek and Maciek had problems, because they were high in the general standings. I hope that they will be able to return to the competition after a rest day - Energylandia Rally Team driver concluded.

And tomorrow, a long-awaited break in Riyadh awaits for the competitors. This is a good opportunity to rest and regenerate, but also sightseeing, eating well and thinking of a good strategy for the second week of the Dakar Rally 2024.

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

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