



Team Dessoude



January 2nd 2010
For immediate publication



COLON - CORDOBA
STAGE 1 – SATURDAY JANUARY 2nd

TEAM DESSOUE IN A FINE POSITION !

PRESS INFORMATION

684 kilometres, including a 249 special stage, between Colon and Cordoba, were on the programme for the second part of the first stage. The race is now truly underway, and the Team Dessoude cars are already in a fine position. The evening after the first stage is always vital for the rest of the rally, both for the competitors and for the mechanics. For team manager André Dessoude, it was an opportunity to give a first appraisal: "It is particularly hot, but the team responded well to this first test, apart from a fuel incident which delayed the Great Wall. We are very satisfied with this launch." Christian Lavieille and Jean-Paul Forthomme had announced that they would be on the pace of the leading cars, and it was mission accomplished after this first day of racing. Christian Lavieille explained:

"The special stage was initially very fast, which allowed me to get my driving up to speed. It became more technical afterwards, and we set a good pace while remaining careful, as there were a lot of stones. Unfortunately, at 25 km from the finish line, crossing a ford, the waters of which had risen due to recent heavy rains, lost us 1'30, which is frustrating. We will take care, we promise, but quite clearly we are off to quite a good start." Rather good, as it turns out, as this evening the Dessoude Proto is in 14th position, close to the cars preceding it. The duo is clearly at ease on the Dakar, and is following their game plan.

Another fine performance of the day was that of Jean-Pierre Strugo, associated with Yves Ferry : « This special stage was a good warm-up. For us, it was just the right distance, and the terrain was interesting and varied. We set our pace on that of our main rivals in the classification of the production cars (T2). The aim for this evening is to get a good night's sleep, as yesterday in the first bivouac, we had a few problems." This evening, 'JP' is 36th overall and 3rd in the T2 classification.



TOTAL

BF Goodrich
TAKE CONTROL

FÖRCH

KLI

SSAB

The day also went well for the Buggy shared by Isabelle Patissier and Thierry Delli-Zotti. Their key-word for the day was enjoyment... Isabelle explained : "I would love to only have stages like this one ! An enjoyable route, fantastic scenery, and plenty of people along the sides of the route... There were even people in the fords ! As far as the race was concerned, we are getting our bearings and will increase the pace gradually." This evening, the Buggy is lying in 5th position in the two-wheel-drive classification.



Frédéric Chavigny, with co-driver Jean Brucy, could not hide his satisfaction at the end of the stage, where he finished 5th in the T2 classification : "It was a very good day. We are particularly happy with the car and its handling. The co-driver was up to speed and the driver, I must say, was not too bad ! A hot day, with no incidents for us, which was not the case for everyone on a Dakar which looks like being very difficult."



The Great Wall of Zhou Yong and Sylvain Poncet also looked like having a good day, setting a fine performance.

Unfortunately, at the end of the stage it suffered some problems with its fuel. Delayed, the two men nevertheless managed to reach the finish line where the Dessoude assistance truck was expecting them.

Classification Stage 1 and Overall Classification

1	ROMA/PERRIN	BMW	2.11.15
2	SAINZ/CRUZ	VW	à 2.07
3	PETERHANSEL/COTTRET	BMW	à 2.50
4	AL ATTIYAH/GOTTSCHAIK	VW	à 3.29
5	DE VILLIERS/V.ZITZEWITZ	VW	à 4.31
14	LAVIEILLE/FORHOMME	DESSOUE	à 10.05
30	PATISSIER/DELLI ZOTTI	BUGGY	à 24.31
36	STRUGO/FERRI	DESSOUE	à 29.42
41	CHAVIGNY/BRUCY	DESSOUE	à 35.16
120	ZHOU/PONCET	GREAT WALL	à 2.08.42

This evening in Cordoba, the 2010 Dakar is well underway, and Team Dessoude is already on the pace. The second stage, which takes place tomorrow, will be 687 km long. It will take the team from Cordoba to La Rioja in the heart of Argentina. The kind of terrain crossed will remain the same, but the distances are getting longer...

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Photos

A photo internet site for Team Dessoude is available where high-resolution photos can be downloaded (copyright-free for press use only) : www.teamdessoude.com