



## LEG 14 - FINISH - PISCO / LIMA (Peru)

DAKAR 2012 - Sunday 15th of January

Liaison : 254 km - Special Stage: 29 km

### Lima... the final limit!

After two weeks of intense, demanding racing, having crossed three countries and covered over 8000 kilometres, the competitors in the 2012 Dakar have finally reached their goal. This latest edition finished in the heart of Lima, capital city of Peru, the 27th country to be crossed by the leading cross-country rally since 1979. At the end of the 29-km 'final lap', the survivors of this long journey finally reached the finish podium, which was surrounded by the Peruvian fans, who were discovering the Dakar experience for the first time.

As far as Team Dessoude is concerned, these last two weeks were hardly restful, with both disappointments and satisfaction, as André Dessoude explained :

“We have had a Dakar which included a mix of disappointments and satisfaction. Disappointment with the premature retirement of Christian Lavieille and the Proto 11 on the third stage, followed a few days later by that of Frédéric Chavigny and his Atacama. Despite these two blows, we did not give up. And satisfaction, as the two Oryx Buggies of Thierry Magnaldi and Isabelle Patisier covered the kilometres until the end without any mechanical problems. The T4 fast assistance truck did not have too much work this year ! Thierry is classified 15th overall, third in the two-wheel-drive category (second diesel), while Isabelle finished in the top 30, in 29th position. We have been able to continue working on Thierry’s Diesel version, and I think there is a real potential to continue its development. As far as the classification, the fesh fesh was our worst enemy, as every time a two-wheel-drive vehicle gets stuck there is an immediate penalty. And we can say that in terms of fesh fesh, we had more than our share this year ! We had a very good surprise in the form of Zhou Jihong, who was entering the Dakar for the first time. Behind the wheel of the Proto Dessoude 05, the Chinese driver never grew discouraged despite the all the obstacles in his way, and finished the rally in 19th position,



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the leading Chinese driver (moreover, the best classified since the event began) and the first rookie. He put in a superb performance for his first event, congratulations! It was not exactly a difficult Dakar, but it was certainly a complicated Dakar...”

### **N° 331 Thierry Magnaldi - François Borsotto / Buggy Oryx (Diesel)**

15th overall at 11:59.47 - 3rd of 2WD category (2nd Diesel)



For the ‘young’ Diesel Oryx Buggy of Thierry Magnaldi and François Borsotto, there is a rather positive report. Claiming the 15th position in the overall classification, third in the two-wheel-drive category (and second two-wheel-drive diesel), the crew can rightly be satisfied with their work on arriving in Lima, despite a rather difficult start to the rally.

« This result is great for the whole team.

The overall report is quite satisfactory, considering the youth of the car, and a rather chaotic first week where we had puncture after puncture. We worked hard on the settings, and I have to say that this is very positive for the future evolution of the Buggy. This is a good car, and has great potential. On this Dakar, we took an extra step with the car, and its future is looking good.

This 2012 Dakar was not particularly difficult, and from a driver’s point of view, it became really interesting on the final three days, when the stages were more like those in Africa. The start of the route did not really allow drivers to express themselves, as it is almost impossible to overtake and the race turns into a caravan train over terrain which degrades very quickly.” And what is next for Thierry ? “ What comes next ? You’ll have to ask André Dessoude ! As far as I am concerned, I would like to do this again with Team Dessoude as I really enjoyed the experience...”

### **N° 335 Zhou Jihong - Liao Min / Proto Dessoude 05**

19th overall at 17:25.18 - 1st Rookie and 1st Chinese driver



It was a long road for Zhou Jihong and Liao Min but the Chinese crew never gave up. For his first Dakar, the driver of the Proto Dessoude 05 has seen plenty and had to be mentally strong to keep going until the end. Always positive and willing to help, his 19th place is down to his determination.

After this baptism of fire, Zhou is the leading rookie among the cars, but also the first Chinese driver (the best classified since the Dakar began). A fine reward and a position that he has defended until the very last stage.

« It was sometimes very difficult but we just want to succeed. Day after day, we had to keep going with Lima in our sights. And finally, we are there! It is with great joy that we have proudly carried the colours of China during this edition of the Dakar.»



### **N° 320 Isabelle Patissier - Thierry Delli Zotti / Buggy Oryx (Ess)**

29th overall at 21:19.30 - 7th of 2WD category





In Lima, Isabelle Patissier has just finished her 10th Dakar, at the wheel of her Oryx Buggy. Alongside Thierry Delli Zotti, this 2012 edition was not always very easy to manage and, like her team-mates, she was bothered by the ever-present dust and its consequences.

« The end of the race in Peru was difficult and intense, but we discovered there a magnificent pile of sand, which somewhat

reconciled us with the Dakar ! Year follows year, but the results are not the same. In 2011 we were 16th, and this year 29th. The main thing is that we reached the end of the adventure, and that we have climbed up on the podium in Lima.

However, I do not particularly like this cohabitation between the cars and trucks, in particular on the sort of terrain where there is only one track. Mixing the categories, in the dust, is a bit like Russian roulette. It is complicated and dangerous, and impossible to get back in touch with the competitors in your own category. If there is a problem, there is nothing you can do...

Before thinking about the future, we intend to make the most of Peru, where we have decided to take a week's holiday, including, of course, a visit to Machu Picchu !”

## TODAY'S STAGE



Classement Etape  
Leg Classification

Classement Général  
Overall Classification

The competitors of this 33rd edition of the Dakar will leave Peru with plenty of intense memories of these intensive two weeks in South America. See you all in 2013 !

## CONTACTS

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**TOTAL**

**INTERSPORT**

**FÖRCH**



**SSAB**

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