



Team
DESSOUDE



PRESS INFO - DAKAR 2015

Leg 3 : San Juan - Chilecito (01/06/2015)

Liaison: 26 km - SS: 284 km - Liaison: 232 km

The Juke Buggy back in the game amid glorious scenery



This third stage of the 38th edition of the Dakar took place through magnificent locations, in the heart of some of the most beautiful scenery in Argentina. For those who survived yesterday's hellish conditions, those who managed to reach the San Juan bivouac before nightfall, like Thierry Magnaldi and Guy Leneveu, it was a short night before getting back on the trails heading towards Chilecito, the end-point of today's stage.

Different days, different styles, to the great relief of Thierry Magnaldi, who enjoyed himself on today's magnificent tracks. Starting 71st this morning, and setting the 35th fastest time, the driver from the Var region of France is back in the game and fully showed his determination. The Juke's bodywork suffered during yesterday's tough stage, with damage at both the front and rear, but the Buggy's vital organs appear to have been spared. The coming days will confirm or deny this hypothesis. Overall, having been given a three-hour penalty, the Team DESSOUDE Juke Buggy is currently in 57th position.



However, for the two crews of the Proto DESSOUDE N05 vehicles, it was a complicated night.

Having reached the bivouac well after nightfall, at 3 :30 am, after an epic end to the stage, Zhong Lei and Ma Miao were able to tell of their ordeal. Having been hit in the rear by another competitor in a cloud of fesh-fesh, the section covering the jack was seriously damaged. Therefore, their jack was out of operation, and each time they got stuck, they had to rely on other competitors to pull them out. At this pace, and totally dependant on the goodwill of others, they made slow progress over the last 50 kilometres. But even if the bodywork suffered, the rest was going like clockwork. As proof, the rookie Chinese crew finished in the Top 60 of the special stage.



Stopped yesterday at the 423 km mark, the crew of the nr 393 car was overtaken by the night. After damage to the front of the Proto had torn off the headlights, Liu Kun and Liao Min had to resign themselves to spending their first night under the Dakar stars, waiting for the dawn. Showing great perseverance, the Chinese crew managed to reach the start line of today's stage just before the deadline set by the organisation. Despite a shorter stage today, they still had to cover a 284-km special stage... Liu Kun won his bet and finished 68th overall.

There is still a long way to go before the finish line, but after just three stages, the rally has already seen serious damage in the entry list.



Hats off to the Team's mechanics, who worked until the last possible moment on the vehicles, and who can count their hours of sleep over the last 48 hours on the fingers of one hand...

Tomorrow, the rally will cross the border into Chile, over the famous Cordillera of the Andes, via the San Francisco Pass. A magical moment at a height of 4500 metres, before heading for the Atacama Desert and finally the dunes of Copiapo, where the bivouac will be set up...

Team DESSOUDE 's crews

#328 Thierry MAGNALDI (FRA) - Guy LENEVEU (FRA) - Buggy Juke

#363 ZHONG LEI (CHN) - MA MIAO (CHN) - Proto Dessoude 05

#393 LIU KUN (CHN) - LIAO MIN (CHN)- Proto Dessoude 05

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