



Press release
27th of September 2008

LEG 6 : « DAUPHIN »

Transfer : 1 km - Special : 168 km (one lap) - Transfer : 1 km

AMV Shamrock - Rallye du Maroc (21st-27th of September 2008)

BLUE A WINNING COLOR...SCHLESSER AND FRETIGNE THE WINNERS!

The last leg of this AMV Shamrock-Rallye du Maroc 2008 did not give us great surprises for the leaders in the overall. The heavy rains in the last hours over the region of Laâyoune made it considerably easier for the competitors by making the sand harder. Beautiful finish line and champagne for the winners. For the bikes, David Frégné wins, ahead of Thierry Bethys and the surprising Bruno Da Costa. Last try for Michel Marchini on this last leg and a fourth place in the overall. Laurent Renault, steady and motivated during six legs, wins the first place for the Enduro Cup. On four wheels Jean-Louis Schlessler wins ahead of Leonid Novitskiy and Ronan Chabot, who wins the T2 category. Spaniard Vicent Climent gets the quad category in front of Vincent Albira and Jean-Christophe Ménard. First SSV Frédéric Alard gets his single seater in front of Alain Fricker.

For the first time since the beginning of the rally the cars and bikes were on a different track. While the cars went over a 30 km sandy reg, the bikes were to meet in the sand pit, 20km where everything could be lost. But the heavy sand made it easier in the end.

At km 27 the tracks joined again and became fast as it overlooked a gigantic chott. Nearing the Atlantic ocean, the 68 km alongside the beach were much awaited for..

And five for David Frégné ...

After six days of an eventful race, **David Frégné** got his 5th victory on this rally. A lot of fun and happiness for the Team HFP Yamaha rider :

« It's a race I particularly like and I'll never forget it was the first rally I ever was in, thanks to Jean-Claude Olivier. Since then we've come back often to test our bikes. Big changes this year and the level is much higher. It is a great race, difficult and which has managed to stay convivial. The navigation was much harder than usual and more accurate too. It's a perfect rally for beginners. I was focused until the last kilometer and did not want to think it was going to be easy. I am happy to win in Morocco for the 5th time! »

Second place behind David Frégné is **Thierry Bethys**, on a Honda. Results after this rally : *« I had a good week. The changes towards the end of the week made it interesting. Yesterday I had my first hard fall and it made me more cautious. Going through the dunes was fairly physical but*



my goal was to keep my second place. When I arrived on the beach I obviously thought of the Touquet...Thanks to all the people who allow me to live my passion, my sponsor and my teammates. And Bravo to Bruno! »

On the third step of the podium, another Honda, **Bruno Da Costa's**. Threatened by Michel Marchini, Bruno succeeded in keeping his third place in the special:

« If you'd told me at the beginning of this rally that I would be on the podium, I would have signed up for it immediately. And I am on it! I was under pressure until the end and it was the rain that helped me today by allowing me to follow David and Michel's traces. The rally was nice and the organization at the top. Now I just have to convince my sponsors to get me to Tunisia! »

Fourth in the overall after winning a number of scratches, but unhappy at the beginning, **Michel Marchini** does not regret coming :

« My mistakes at the beginning cost me a lot but in terms of performance I am into it and it was satisfying. A few regrets in terms of navigation, with my poor choices. But you learn from your mistakes and I did well all the same. A beautiful rally with great legs. Next race for me is the Dakar, on the same bike. »

In the top five, **Mickael Pisano** thinks he learned a lot for his third participation in a rally. The severe penalties and spirits down at the beginning still let him finish happy.

Congratulations to Moroccan rider **Harite Gabari**, who is very happy with his first experience of the competition and who also hopes to come to Tunisia.

For the Enduro Cup, **Laurent Renault** won, surprised as he was by his own performance :

« For my second Shamrock, the goal was to finish and the results were beyond my expectations. First in the Enduro Cup and 10th in the overall is not bad... I loved the conviviality in the discipline and want to thank Thierry Bethys and Franck Helbert for their help. Thanks also to Jean-Paul Higy for his precious help in navigation. I am very happy. »

For the quads, **Vicent Climent** led his Bombardier to the first step of the podium in front of Vincent Albira, very promising for his first race, and Jean-Christophe Ménard, unhappy in this last day :

« It was a difficult time as I had lots of mechanical problems but the opponents were worthy ones too. The organization was perfect and the road books well made. I am very happy with this first place. »

Schlesser at the Top ...

No surprises for the last leg in the cars category. **Jean-Louis Schlesser** finished 22 minutes ahead of Leonid Novitskiy. the « Desert Fox» strikes again :

« The week was nice, we tried a new gearbox and had no problems with it. Novitskiy is a great opponent and the game was a tight one. This team is a very good pair and made us take calculated risks everyday. The rest of the program for the blue buggies : the Africa Race in January 2009 ! »

Arnaud Debron, Jean-Louis Schlesser's co-pilot, was surprised by the quality of the tracks:

« I was pleasantly surprised by the difficulty. I expected something very easy and it wasn't the case. The two lap system, about which I was skeptical to begin with, proved very efficient. And the navigation was pretty tough too... A beautiful rally! »

On the BMW X3 from the X-Raid Team, **Leonid Novitskiy**, second in the overall, got another leg win :

« I am a bit disappointed to finish second but I can only blame myself. I made mistakes and I am paying for it. Even then, we drove well all week and I could use my car to its best potential. We had a number of punctures, and another one with morning. But a good week in terms of driving. »

Third and first on the T2, **Ronan Chabot** got his Production on the final podium :

« This rally was very nice. A race is never over until you pass the finish line... just look at the three punctures we got this morning, within 25 km. Some specials were not to be missed, such as the first one, which made a huge difference from day one. The lap system was very good for the setting up of the cars. And in terms of sports it was a good teaching lesson. All of this is great news for the big event in January. We have found a new organizer, friendly and with lots of charisma,



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and it makes one want to come back... »

Jean-Noël Julien, 4th in the overall and 3rd T1 celebrates his first podium:

« Super week and super rally, as always with NPO. No major problem with the car, which allowed us to concentrate on smaller details for the Dakar. My copilot was a beginner and we had ideal conditions to teach him since the navigation was quite difficult. A tough teaching but the rest should appear easy now. I am happy with this first podium. Thanks to all the MD Rallye Sport team, they did a great job.»

Jean-Noël Julien's team mate at MD rallye Sport **Régis Delahaye** finishes 4th in front of Guillaume Balloy and Etienne Smulevici, who claims having had "a wonderful week!"

For the trucks, **Bruno Bouey, Richard Gonzalez et Jean-Pierre Cottret** won their category on their Renault Kerax, after the withdrawal of Elisabete Jacinto on a mechanical incident.

Finally for the SSVs, **Frédéric Alard** got his Dazon single seater place in first position in front of **Alain Fricker's** Drakart. Some friendly machines which will come back in greater numbers in 2009...

This 2008 AMV Shamrock-Rallye du Maroc edition had quality written all over it. Quality of the competitors and quality of the tracks, for the greatest joy of the competitors, who will have an excellent memory of this Moroccan week.

For NPO, the preparations for the next rally have already started. From April 23rd to May 2nd of 2009, the Rallye de Tunisie will offer, as each year, a long visit in Libya with breathtaking vistas. With ten legs and 5000 km, the Tunisia will go over borders without changing its recipe. Small budgets, convivial bivouacs accessible to all vehicles, quality of the tracks, reliable road books and first rate security systems.

After a much appreciated 2008 edition, this real marathon, the very core of Rallye raids, will go through Africa's most beautiful ergs.

Registration opens on October 15th, 2008.

Find the pictures, available on our website www.npo.fr / PHOTOS :

Find all the information on www.npo.fr

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