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73rd Rallye Sanremo: the first evening of Sanremo says Andrea Crugnola

The reigning Italian champion is pushing hard right from the start to secure the victory that is still missing from his honours list. Speed and tactical skill guide the rides of the contenders for the Italian title, Roberto Daprà and Boštjan Avbelj.

SANREMO, 18 October – Three stages – including yesterday afternoon's spectacular "show stage" at Porto Sole – set the tone for what will be the key themes of this 73rd edition of the Western Ligurian race. Namely, Andrea Crugnola racing towards victory, with Fabio Andolfi (17.5" behind) in hot pursuit, closely marked by Simone Campedelli (18.5" behind); Roberto Daprà (20.1 seconds behind) and Boštjan Avbelj (16.2 seconds behind Daprà) keeping a close eye on one another, whilst Andrea Nucita, in seventh place, aims to confirm the lead he has already secured in the Promotion class. But this is only the first stage. The Porto Sole round gets underway, with the 'terraces' overlooking the track packed with spectators, and it is Nucita who sets the fastest time, two tenths of a second ahead of Crugnola, whilst some crews make route errors on the winding section in front of the yachts. Crugnola shows his determination to win the Sanremo for the first time, taking both Colle d'Oggia and Rezzo to take the lead ahead of Andolfi, setting up an all-Lancia one-two, followed by Campedelli's Toyota, which is pushing hard to hold on to a podium place; following them is the battle between the two contenders for the Italian championship, with Roberto Daprà having to balance his desire to attack on stages he particularly likes with the need to keep a steady head, whilst Avbelj struggles with a lack of confidence on stages that do not suit him. In the Junior class, Lorenzo Varesco has already pulled away from his rivals in his Ypsilon, having built up a 35-second lead over the runner-up, Matteo Scalet; in the Lancia Trophy, Nicolò Ardizzone leads the pack with an 8.1-second lead over Edoardo De Anton; amongst the Suzukis, Jean Claude Vallino is in the lead, driving cautiously at Porto Sole whilst attacking at Colle d'Oggia and Rezzo; Dello Russo is the sole contender in the Toyota GR Yaris following Marcello Razzini's retirement at Porto Sole.

1st Sanremo Rallye Electric: Timo Schulz continues to lead the standings. Carpasio behind the Finn Dante Johansson, Rezzo behind the German Timo Schulz. This is the outcome of the second day's action, which saw the thirteen Opel Mokka competitors in action for a standings that continue to be led by the German, who has managed to extend his lead to 23.4 seconds over French Tom Dufour and to 46.6 seconds over British Ian Lloyd, who has been closed in on by just one tenth of a second by Spanish Alex Jovè Velasco. The two Italians, Valentino Ledda in fifth and Matteo Greco in sixth, hold their positions

All the information on the events' official websites:
www.rallyesanremo.it and www.rallydellepalme.it

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