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73rd Rallye Sanremo: puncture for Crugnola, Andolfi in the lead

The reigning Italian champion suffers two punctures and, having run out of spare tyres, is forced to retire. Andolfi takes the lead as he aims for his second victory in the Western Ligurian rally

SANREMO, 18 October – First the left, then the right. The four morning stages of the 73rd Rallye Sanremo seal the fate of Andrea Crugnola's double puncture. The Ypsilon driver first suffered a puncture to his front left tyre on Ghimbegna stage, losing just 28 seconds, then suffered another to his front right tyre on the Langan stage, which cost the Varese-based driver a full 28 minutes, dropping to 41st position in the overall standings and forcing him to retire before the next stage as he had no spare tyres left. Fabio Andolfi took immediate advantage, winning two of the four special stages and heading into the mid-day break with a 14.9-second lead over Roberto Daprà, who overtook Simone Campedelli to move up to second place and, crucially, extended his lead over Boštjan Avbelj – his only rival in the Italian championship – who was chasing him from 4th position.

QUOTES AT REGROUPING

1. Daprà. – “Four stages from now until the end of the Championship may seem like few, but they're actually many. We'll try to do our best to manage the gap. It's not easy because there's always a risk round every bend. The stages are brilliant.”

9. Nucita – “The aim is always to be there to try out new approaches, and I enjoy driving. The stages are all difficult but, all things considered, we're satisfied.”

2. Avbelj – “We've shown we can be quick on the first lap and we're aiming to improve.”

5. Andolfi – “The aim is always to win. Being in a Lancia at Sanremo is as important as it is brilliant.”

22. Ardizzone – “We're trying to do our best, but it'll be tough because everyone's giving it their all. I really liked the Langan stage because on that downhill section, it's the more experienced drivers who get a good result.”

4. Canton (Campedelli) – “We had a puncture on the rear right tyre on the penultimate stage, but we're aiming to stay on the podium. The stages here are very technical and you can't afford to lose a single second.”

21. Di Pietro – “Everything's going well; we're right up there with the trophy contenders who are giving it their all, and we're pleased.”

All the information on the events' official websites:

www.rallyesanmarco.it and www.rallydellepalme.it

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