

Taylor Gill tops opening FIA Rally Star event



Taylor Gill and Dan Brkic have completed their first overseas rally in tenth overall, giving them honours at the top of the FIA Rally Star program.

The pairing from New South Wales and Victoria respectively started the event seeded first out of the six FIA Rally Star crews and started strongly on the stages.

On the rally-opening Power Stage, they grabbed a three-second lead, but gradually their lead was cut into through the following Saturday morning by European FIA Rally Star winner, Romet Jurgenson.

Jurgenson, who competed at the WRC's Croatia Rally earlier in the season, was fast on the morning stages, but for Gill, the time loss was minimal.

At the lunchtime service, the Australians had a lead of just three-tenths of a second, and a battle throughout the afternoon looked certain.

"We really enjoyed the battle with Romet throughout the morning," Gill said.

“The stages were really nice to drive but were changing in character, so we had to stay focussed for every one of the stages.”

Despite their wishes, their close battle didn't last long. Jurgenson ran wide on a corner and broke his rear suspension on the first stage after the lunchtime break, ending his rally.

It left Gill with plenty of space over his other FIA Rally Star rivals, and it enabled him to cruise through the final stages with minimal risk.

“We came into the weekend looking for a strong weekend and that's what we got,” Gill added.

“It was always going to be tricky on a new event in a new country, but Dan and I were happy with how we performed.”

Gill and Brkic were one of only a handful of drivers who didn't pick up a two-minute penalty on the rally.

A late adjustment to a liaison section meant the vast majority of the field checked in two minutes early to a time control, and it was a crucial non-error that helped them rise up the leaderboard to tenth.

Had it not been for the time penalties around them, they would have finished in 15th overall.

“To get tenth overall totally exceeded our expectations, and we'll use the confidence to take into our next rally, which will be my first on tarmac.”

“The tests at the Training Camp in Sardinia were important in my development as a driver on tarmac, and I'm sure the next rally will be a huge challenge – I'm really looking forward to it though!”

Rally Weiz in Austria is the next test in Gill's program, with the tarmac event to run on July 13-15.

Behind Gill, only two other FIA Rally Star competitors completed the event. Jose Caparo was second, while Max Smart recovered from his Shakedown roll to finish in third place.

The FIA Rally Star program will choose four of the six drivers to proceed in the program and compete in the Junior World Rally Championship in 2024.

Taylor Gill will be the guest on RallySport Magazine's Special Stage podcast this week.

Ends

More high-resolution images and video can be downloaded from here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XjY0IMWAN83Jewd-di0nCWMgDhP8G2Jw?usp=share_link

Contact Details

Taylor Gill Motorsport

E: media@taylorgillmotorsport.com

