

## Tarmac debut looming for Gill and Brkic in Austria



This weekend's Rally Weiz will mark the second rally of Taylor Gill and Dan Brkic's FIA Rally Star program, as the pair make their much-anticipated tarmac rally debut.

Fresh off a stellar performance at the San Marino Rally just four weeks ago, the Australian team is eager to get underway and start Austria's Rally Weiz from their high seeding position.

Gill's performance at the San Marino Rally impressed all, including himself, but he realises that it is only going to get tougher from here.

"San Marino ran on almost the perfect script for us," Gill said.

"We went into the rally without high expectations and were able to finish every kilometre and take out the class win.

"San Marino was a gravel rally, and it put my mind at ease a bit as that's what I've done in the past, but this weekend's Austrian tarmac is going to be a huge challenge."

While not a stranger to the sealed surface, Gill admits that there's a certain amount of caution to be taken coming into the weekend.

He began his career in karting as a child, but his recent experience is limited.

“Apart from some tarmac sections in Adelaide's Australian Rally Championship round last year, I've never driven competitively on tarmac so I'm really interested to see how we'll go.

“We've had a day of tarmac testing as well as a day of tutoring at the Caneva Rally School in Italy, but in the scheme of things, our knowledge is very limited, so I'll be learning plenty all the way through.”

Gill and Brkic pride themselves on their preparation and have already been putting in the hours to make sure they are in the best position to be successful.

“We will have an even bigger challenge in the pre-event recce as trial some subtle changes to our pace notes to make them better suited to tarmac,” he added.



“Our research tells us that roads will be tricky, and if wet, can become really shiny and slippery, so we'll have to ensure we are on top of our game and make no mistakes in any case.”



“We’ve completed the pre-event test and were happy with our driving, and really learned a lot about the car on tarmac,” Gill added.

While the San Marino Rally was just over 70 competitive kilometres, Rally Weiz is more of a challenge, at just over double that competitive distance.

The opening day of the rally begins at lunchtime Friday, with four stages totalling 48km, with the remaining 98km taking place throughout Saturday.

“It will be nice to sink our teeth into a two-day rally. Friday’s five stages will give us a good opportunity to get a feel for the car on the tarmac and see where we are at, and then Saturday we will adapt and make improvements.”

As car six in the event, Gill leads the FIA Rally Star drivers into the stages as part of a competitive 43-car field.

The event covers 145 competitive kilometres in 13 stages over two days rallying around Graz, Austria.

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

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XjY0IMWAN83Jewd-di0nCWMgDhP8G2Jw?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XjY0IMWAN83Jewd-di0nCWMgDhP8G2Jw?usp=share_link)

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