



34th Sanremo Historic Rally. The first day finishes with Lucky in the lead

SANREMO (12 April) – Three tests won, leading from the first to the last race of the day, 15"5 ahead of the fastest of the rivals. This is the balance of the first day of competition of the 34th Sanremo Historic Rally of Lucky-Pons. The driver from Vicenza and the co-driver from Turin, on board the Lancia Delta 16V, had completed the first lap on the special stages with an 8" net advantage over Lucio Da Zanche and Daniele De Luis, Porsche 911 Group B, who proved to be the most dangerous opponents even in the night round of special stages. On the repetition of the Vignai stage it was Da Zanche to impose himself, but Lucky contained the gap in just 1"4, and then decidedly went on the attack in the next test, Monte Bignone, that the Delta driver ended with 17"9 on from Da Zanche, bringing his advantage to 24"4.

The race seemed to definitely take the way of the Vicenza driver, but the next San Romolo stage, which Lucky faced with tires not suited to the conditions of the tarmac, saw Da Zanche imposing himself with 9" on Lucky to end the day with only 15"5 of delay from the top of the rankings.

"I found the conditions of the stage to be absolutely different from those that the persons on the stage had described to me. Much more dirty, wet, to the point that I took enormous risks without being able to sign the best time. It is true that from the first to the second pass my advantage has increased, but tomorrow's stages can be decidedly favorable to Porsche, especially on a dry surface" said Lucky.

Satisfied Lucio Da Zanche. The driver from Valtellina obtained the best possible result with his Porsche 911 with only 2 WD using only one set of tyres and obtaining a real good result in the last special stage. Without mounting tyres for wet surfaces. "If I had mounted wet surface tyres I would have obtained even a better result on SS San Romolo".

Third place for Toto Riolo-Gianfranco Rappa, Subaru Legacy, who lost contact from the top two finishers with a second lap on the stages that did not satisfy the Cerda driver, "We made wrong all we could make wrong. From not mounting the right tyres in the first two stages of the race because we didn't find our team, to take the wrong decision in the second pass. And at the end of SS San Romolo the hub of the left front wheel stopped, making us lose a lot of time".

Released from the fight for the podium Elia Bossalini, co-driven by Harshana Ratnayake, who after having had problems with his Porsche 911 SCRS in the first pass on the special stages, had electrical problems in the fifth SS of the day (Monte Bignone) which convinced Bossalini not to enter the next test.

Immediately down from the podium the great duel continues for the success of the second Regrouping among the Porsche cars of Davide Negri-Roberto Coppa who passed Marco Bertinotti-Andrea Rondi by 5"9, thanks to a spin of the latter in the repetition of San Romolo.

Only 5"10 from Bertinotti finished Angelo Lombardo-Giuseppe Livecchi, Porsche 911 SC, who took the lead of the Third Regrouping also thanks to an acceleration of the driver of Island Motorsport who in the downhill part of the San Romolo stage obtained the third best time overall.

Lombardo-Livecchi have overtaken Enrico Volpato-Samuele Sordelli's Ford Escort RS at the top of the Third Regrouping, Volpato have made a series of small errors that have compromised their race to the point of being 51"8 late at the end of the first day from Lombardo.

The Tony Fassina-Marco Verdelli ride continues, eighths overall with the Stratos, they count in the light of tomorrow to get a good performance

"I was faster than I thought" said the winner of the 1979 Rallye Sanremo, "but with my age being able to make good times at night it's too much to expect". Roberto Rimoldi-Roberto Consiglio follows in ninth position, not very satisfied with the technical choices made in the race on their Porsche 911 SC and Nicola Patuzzo-Alberto Martini to close the top ten in the overall classification, constant in their performance with



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their Toyota Celica GT Four. The classification of the First Regrouping is always more in favour of Marco Dell'Acqua-Alberto Galli, Porsche 911 S, faster than Nello Parisi-Giuseppe D'Angelo with a same car, winning their category in all the SS of this pass and finishing the day with an advantage of 1'30".



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