

Amazing win of Vinyes-Mercader and Suzuki in the 2WD category in Ourense.

Joan Vinyes-Jordi Mercader had the two-wheel drive (2WD) category under control in the 44 Rally of Ourense, undoubtedly the most difficult rally of the Spanish Asphalt Rally Championship. The Suzuki Motorsport driver dominated without problems, like he did last year, achieving his fourth triumph out of four this season. After this excellent first half of the season, the Andorran driver consolidates his leadership of the 2WD Spanish Cup provisional classification.

What's more, Vinyes-Mercader rounded it all up with 4th place in the scratch classification. As far as the scratch triumph goes, this time there wasn't much of a fight. Fuster-Aviñó (Porsche GT3) imposed the superiority of his vehicle's mechanics in front of Senra-Vázquez (peugeot 306 Maxi) and Pérez-Velasco (Peugeot 207 S2000).

The 2011 event of the Motor-Racing Team Ourense started with a mixed (gravel and asphalt) Super Special Stage, which took place the day before the beginning of the rally (Friday 17th). By obtaining the scratch time among the 2WD, Vinyes turned those 2km of timed race into a clear statement: he didn't want any surprises during the rally.

Once the rally started for real, on Saturday (18th) at 8am, the differences kept increasing. After going through Toen and San Pedro de Rocas twice and racing the super special stage again, the advantage over Rubén Gracia, 2nd in the 2WD classification, was close to 6'.

The rest of the event didn't bring any major changes. Vinyes kept posting the best partial times and only at the very end did he decide to relax a bit and ensure the excellent result.

At the end of the race, Vinyes beamed with satisfaction over the triumph and after being able to maintain his winning streak in the 2WD Spanish Cup. This is what he had to say: *A victory is what we needed to keep our chances towards winning the championship title like last year. I'm ecstatic because of the win and the fact that the first half of the season has been perfect, as far as results go. The Ourense is a very difficult rally, with a lot of kilometres and tricky roadsides. We've overcome all the obstacles, we've driven very fast and the reward has been the victory. Couldn't ask for anything more. Vinyes also commented on the progress of the race as follows: As I said, we set a very fast pace from the very beginning. This way we've been able to leave behind our closest competitors in the 2WD provisional classification and we've advanced to 5th place in the scratch. Of course, we weren't going to improve on the latter, not that we needed to, but at least there was no one close enough to put any pressure on us from behind. At the end of the event, we focussed on avoiding mistakes and punctures; everything went according to plan. I really want to thank Suzuki Motorsport and the ARVidal team for doing a great job once again.*

The Spanish Asphalt Rally Championship will now close for vacation until the third week of August. More precisely, it will be on the 19th and 20th when the Rally of Ferrol will take place, hence starting the second half of the championship.

Press Service.

Classification 44 Rally of Ourense - Scratch

1.-Fuster-Aviño (Porsche 911 GT3) 2h14'08.5, 2.-Senra-Vazquez (Peugeot 306 Maxi) a 2'00.5, 3.-Perez-Velasco (Peugeot 207 S2000) a 2'18.5, **4.-Vinyes-Mercader (Suzuki Swift S1600)** a 4'34.2, 5.-Ramos-Costoya (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X) a 10'07.1,

Classification 44 Rally of Ourense - 2WD Spanish Cup up to 1600cc.

1.-Vinyes-Mercader (Suzuki Swift S1600) 2h18'42.7, 2.-Anxustegi-Suarez (Suzuki Swift S1600) a 9'03.5, 3.-Pujol-Rosell (Ford Fiesta R2) a 18'24.1.