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Rally Hustopeče: Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler scored fourth win in a row in the Czech Rally Championship

- › ŠKODA team Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler continued their winning streak, remaining undefeated in the 2017 Czech Rally Championship (MČR)
- › Team mates and WRC 2 leaders Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson fought back to fifth position after suffering a puncture on the last stage of the first leg
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “Jan and Pavel delivered a really great drive, while Pontus and Jonas learned a lot for the upcoming tarmac WRC 2 Rally Deutschland.”

Hustopeče, 17 June 2017 – The fourth round of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), held in the region of South Moravia, saw a fierce competition for victory. However, the fourth win in a row for ŠKODA Motorsport factory team Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) was no surprise. The Czech champions only briefly lost the lead at the Rally Hustopeče, after the fourth stage when they suffered a puncture. But two stages after they moved into the lead and controlled the rally up to the finish line in Hustopeče where they were cheered by enthusiastic fans. ŠKODA teammates Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson fought back to fifth position after collecting a puncture on the last stage of the first leg.

Friday afternoon Jan Kopecký scored the fastest time on both of the first two stages before losing the lead after stage four. A puncture cost him more than 20 seconds. “It happened under braking in a compression. I didn’t hit anything, but unfortunately the tyre got deflated”, Kopecký wondered. Ford driver Václav Pech suffered from the same mishap allowing Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) to move into the lead. But in the sixth stage, the Swedish pair got a puncture as well. They had to drive more than ten kilometres with a flat tyre and lost nearly one and a half minute. While Tidemand/Andersson consequently dropped down to ninth position, ŠKODA teammates Kopecký/Dresler inherited the number one spot again.

On the final day of the rally, Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler controlled their lead in a dominant way and drove to a well-deserved victory. The reigning Czech Rally Champions scored five fastest times in total and are now in a strong position to achieve their target of winning the championship for the third consecutive time.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek was delighted: “Soon after their win at the WRC 2 Rally Sardegna Italia, Jan and Pavel proved to be nearly unbeatable on home soil. Pontus and Jonas on the other hand improved their driving on tarmac for the upcoming German round of the World Rally Championship.”

At the finish line, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler celebrated their victory in style. “It was really a challenging rally, but I have again to thank my team which provided me with such a great car,” emphasized Kopecký. Teammate Pontus Tidemand draw the following conclusion: “I really enjoyed the great special stages and the fantastic atmosphere of the Czech Rally Championship.”





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Rally Hustopeče (MČR) final standings

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 1:27.17.5 h.
2. Pech jun./Uhel (CZE/CZE), Ford Fiesta R5, +41.2 min.
3. Jakeš/Ehlová (CZE/CZE), Ford Fiesta R5, +51.5 min.
4. Valoušek/Havelková (CZE/CZE), Ford Fiesta R5, +54.3 min.
5. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1:53.0 min.
6. Dohnal/Michal (CZE/CZE), Ford Focus WRC 06, +1.54.6 min.

Number of the day: 13

Since the Rally of Wales 2016 and for more than eight months, ŠKODA Motorsport won in total 13 rallies in a row in both World Rally Championship (WRC 2) and Czech Rally Championship (MČR).

The 2017 calendar of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Valašská Rally	25/03–26/03/2017
Rally Šumava Klatovy	21/04–22/04/2017
Rally Český Krumlov	19/05–20/05/2017
Rally Hustopeče	16/06–17/06/2017
Rally Bohemia	01/07–02/07/2017
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	25/08–27/08/2017
Rally Příbram	06/10–08/10/2017

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Media images:



ŠKODA at Rally Hustopeče

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 continued their winning streak with a dominant victory in the Czech Rally Championship at Rally Hustopeče

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the Rally Hustopeče

Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) fought back after a puncture to fifth place at Rally Hustopeče

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

2016 was one of the most successful years in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker for the first time. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PRY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In 2017, works duos Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) will contest selected races in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Kopecký/Dresler will also compete in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), where they will be looking to claim a third title in a row.

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- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, YETI, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2016 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 30,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

