



Kevin Abbring races UNKORRUPTED into the final at Barcelona RX

Round 1 of the 2021 FIA World Rallycross Championship hosts long-awaited race action in front of fans at Circuit de Catalunya

- Abbring finishes p6 overall at the 2021 FIA World Rallycross Championship season opener, having won 3 out of 4 qualifiers and racing his final with only 3 gears
- The Dutch driver leaves round 1 in Barcelona with 14 Championship points
- UNKORRUPTED Megane R.S. RX shows promising race pace for the remainder of the season



The long-awaited 2021 FIA World Rallycross Championship season kick-off saw Kevin Abbring drive his UNKORRUPTED team to 6th place, leaving Barcelona with 14 Championship points.

The FIA World Rallycross Championship has seen a few changes since the last time the fans enjoyed race action eight months ago, amongst them the appointment of new commercial rights holder, WRC Promoter, and the realisation of the first ever electric support series, RX2e. However, one thing that has certainly proven to remain unchanged is the high-impact, excitement-fuelled race action as seen throughout this first round one of the Championship under scorching sun at Catalunya Circuit.

Dutch driver Kevin Abbring impressed with promising pace from the start, demonstrating the work put into the Mégane R.S. RX and his driving practice over the winter as he won his first qualifier showing impressive speed. He continued in the same way in the 2nd qualifier, leading the pack until he clipped a track barrier and damaged his front right wing on the last lap, pushing him wide off the track, from where he finished that race in 4th.



Having finished day 1 in p7 overall and with the UNKORRUPTED team having fixed the car overnight following the impact in Q2, Abbring kicked off day 2 in style, posting the 3rd fastest time in warm up.

Back in fighting form, Abbring won his 3rd qualifier despite some contact on the straight costing him significant time.

The last qualifier of the day had the Dutch driver race his Mégane R.S. RX into the lead for another qualifier win with the 6th fastest time of the qualifier and a p8 overall, bagging himself a spot on the 2nd row of the 2nd semi-final.

The semi-finals saw plenty of drama and following a massive fight into the first corner, Abbring managed to race into P2 despite losing two gears through the impact. He dropped into P3 upon re-joining the track following his joker and defended his position until he crossed the finish line for a place in the final.

With no time to get the car fixed in time for the last race of round 1, Abbring lined up on the 3rd row of the Barcelona RX final and carried his Mégane R.S. RX home in 6th place overall, leaving round 1 of the FIA World Rallycross Championship with 14 Championship points and in a strong position for UNKORRUPTED as we look ahead to the next round in Holjes, Sweden (Nb with round 2 of the Championship at Nürburgring having been postponed until 27/28 November).

"It's been a fantastic race weekend here in Barcelona and so good to see fans in the race stands again. We put down some great fights, showed good pace, and I'm pumped about the work we've put in as a team. There's always room for improvement but to race into the final despite having only 3 gears and having waited to race for so long, there's no way we leave this place disappointed. We've shown we deserve to be amongst the top of the FIA World Rallycross Championship and I'm super excited to head to Sweden next.", Abbring commented.



About Kevin Abbring:

Hailing from the Netherlands, Kevin, whose father was also a successful driver, has a motorsport CV as varied as it is impressive. Having started off in rallycross, he was the 2005 and 2006 Champion in the Dutch Ford RST series before moving his focus to rallying. He impressed with class wins in both the WRC and IRC and made his top line WRC debut with Hyundai in 2015, scoring points and winning stages at the highest level of rallying. After a decade in rallying, Kevin came back to rallycross in 2019, making his World RX debut in Hell, Norway, with ES Motorsports and impressing by leading the final on his way to 4th place - a feat he repeated in his second race at the Swedish track in Höljes! 2020 saw a change as he drove a Clio R.S. RX for UNKORRUPTED in select World RX races, and in 2021 the team stays the same but he will be driving the top-level Megane R.S. RX in the full FIA World Rallycross Championship. Abbring is also still the youngest Junior WRC round winner, won WRC classes with both VW and Peugeot and in 2011, was crowned 'driver of the year' by the FIA. Over the last few years, he's worked for multiple factory teams as a development driver in WRC, R5 and WRX, and in the last 12 months he has been at the forefront of the push towards a sustainable future in motorsport - most notably with GCK Motorsport and their work towards a hydrogen-powered Dakar Rally vehicle.

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