



Mezaira'a, March 1, 2024

## TEAM HERO MOTOSPORTS CONTINUES TO LEAD THE ADDC '24

### ROSS BRANCH WINS STAGE 3

**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**, the motorsport team of the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - **Hero MotoCorp**, completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage of ADDC 2024, maintaining their overall lead position in the rally.

Hero factory rider Ross Branch was the first to cross the finish line of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage, bagging his 2<sup>nd</sup> stage victory at this edition of the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge. His team mate Aaron Marè finished the stage just 5 minutes behind, in the 4<sup>th</sup> place. Aaron continues to maintain his overall lead position at ADDC '24 for the second consecutive day.

Having won the previous Stage, Aaron Marè was tasked with the role of leading the pack in Stage 3. Continuing his remarkable performance so far in the race, the South African opened the stage well, making no navigational errors. His team mate Ross Branch caught up with him around 80-85 kms into the stage, and the duo rode together until the finish line. For the Botswanan Ross who suffered time losses due to an engine issue earlier in the race, the last two days will be crucial as he aims to finish on the podium. As the race crosses its mid-point, the team continues to hope to finish this edition of ADDC with a great result.

The third stage of the desert race was a 414 km loop around Mezaira'a, of which 251 km formed the special. Rains and storms throughout the night left the desert wet - hardening the sand on the top layers while the layers below remained soft. This made conquering the dunes of the Empty Quarter all the more difficult for competitors in Stage 3.

Next up is another 345 km long loop around Mezaira'a in the Empty Quarter, of which 231 km will be timed. With 85% terrain made up of sand and dunes, clubbed with the fiery heat of the desert, stage 4 will form yet another long and tough special.

#### **Ross Branch:**

*"It was a really good stage. The morning had a lot of wet dunes from the rain, so I could follow the lines from Aaron and the others who opened the stage. Before 100 km we grouped together and rode all the way to the finish. Overall, it was a good day, and I had a lot of fun. I'm feeling good on the bike, and am able to maintain a good rhythm. Looking forward to the last two days!"*

**Aaron Maré:**

*“When I opened Stage 3 today it was quite chilly from the rain. The stage was quite tough in some of the sections, where the sand looked hard, but was actually soft underneath – making it difficult for us to ride. Ross caught up with me around 80-85 km and then we rode together till the end. It was great to ride with him finally, and see how he navigates. I made a small mistake in between, lost some time and then again joined the guys in front. We finished another day safe, still maintaining the overall lead - I'm happy with my performance so far.”*

**Provisional Rankings – Stage 3:**

1.	<b>Ross Branch</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	3h 36m 39s
2.	Konrad Dabrowski	Duust Rally Team	+ 3m 05s
3.	Jean-Loup Lepad	Duust Rally Team	+ 4m 16s
4.	<b>Aaron Maré</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 5m 28s
5.	Jan Brabec	Strojrent Racing	+ 21m 28s

**Provisional Overall Standings after Stage 3:**

1.	<b>Aaron Maré</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	10h 33m 34s
2.	Konrad Dabrowski	Duust Rally Team	+ 5m 05s
3.	Jean-Loup Lepad	Duust Rally Team	+ 20m 01s
4.	<b>Ross Branch</b>	<b>Hero MotoSports Team Rally</b>	+ 40m 24s
5.	Jan Brabec	Strojrent Racing	+ 1h 22m 00s

\*\*\*\*\*

**For more information:**

[www.heromotocorp.com](http://www.heromotocorp.com) / **FB:** /HeroMotoCorpIndia | **Twitter:** @HeroMotoCorp | **IG:** @HeroMotoCorp

*Press Contact:*

*corporate.communication@heromotocorp.com*

**Follow the team:**

[www.heromotospports.com](http://www.heromotospports.com) / **IG:** @Heromotospports | **FB:** HeroMotoSports  
**/Twitter:**@hero\_motospports