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**KRIS MEEKE (CITROEN XSARA WRC) FIRST AMONG THE WRC-KIT PARTICIPANTS; MARCO BIANCHINI (LANCIA 037) HEADING THE HISTORICS; SIMONE ROMAGNA (LANCIA DELTA 4WD) RULING THE COHORT OF THE MYTHS: THESE ARE THE LEADERS OF THE FIRST LEG OF RALLYLEGEND'S NIGHT-TIME LEG.**

Republic of San Marino. As “guest star” at Rallylegend, Kris Meeke – official driver of the Citroen team for the Mondiale Rally event – has lived up to the expectations. From the very start, he made every effort to get the D-Max team’s 2003 Citroen Xsara WRC, with Derek Brannigan, to lead the **WRC KIT category**. The British driver immediately took over and won all four planned stages putting more than a 33-second gap between himself and the nearest of the competitors. Meeke (a Rallylegend habitué) found the Czech, Stepan Vojtech, with Michal Ernst, in a 1999 Peugeot 206 WRC, hot on his heels. Meanwhile, upstream, the fight was on for the third place, between Luciano Cobbe, with Fabio Turco (2002 Ford Focus WRC), currently ranking third, and the Dane, Kristian Poulsen and fellow countryman Niels Iversen on a 1998 Toyota Corolla WRC. Piero Longhi (1999 Toyota Corolla WRC) and the Belgian Philippe Olczyk (Peugeot206 WRC) made for major withdrawals during the first leg, followed by an attempt to re-join the competition for the second part (both presenting mechanical problems).

The **Historics**, in this first leg, saw the San Marino teams make major inroads, with four teams in the first four places. The struggle so far between the top competitors has most favoured Marco Bianchini, with Daiana Dardieri taking the pace notes, in a 1985 Lancia 037, slightly more than eight seconds ahead of Giuliano Calzolari, with Costa at his side (1981 Ford Escort Rs). Further behind were Davide Cesarini, with Gabrielli, in a 1973 Ford Escort Rs, and Stefano Rosati, with Toccaceli, in a 1979 Talbot Lotus. Unexpectedly, some protagonists had to abandon the event, including “Totò” Riolo (1981 Porsche 911 Sc), who had previously repeatedly triumphed at Rallylegend.

For the **Myth category**, for this first leg, the victors were Simone Romagna, with Dino Lamonato (1990 Lancia Delta 4WD), who hurtled through all four special stages, with Loris Baldacci (from San Marino) and Magnani, also providing a valid performance in a 1998 Renault Clio Williams (second for the category). Close behind were another native of San Marino, Marcello Colombini, with Selva, in a 1987 BMW M3, and Gustavo Trelles from Uruguay, with Del Buono, in a 1990 Lancia Delta 4WD. Andrea Aghini (with Cerrai) started well but an electrical problem in their 1994 Toyota Celica St 205 forced them to withdraw.

#### INFO POINT WEB SITE [WWW.RALLYLEGEND.COM](http://WWW.RALLYLEGEND.COM)

The web site [www.rallylegend.com](http://www.rallylegend.com) is the official info point for news on everything that has to do with this San Marino event. We update the site constantly to provide you with the latest Rallylegend notices, addresses and news.

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