

HÄKKINEN TESTING ON THE KEMIJOKI RIVER IN ROVANIEMI

In Rovaniemi area started Mika Häkkinen (two time F1 champion) preparing for his first ever rally Arctic Lapland Rally. Just before christmas Häkkinen drove two days on ice in Vanntauskoski and Alakorkalo and one day in the woods. After first two days of testing Häkkinen was in a very positive mood and he assured that he is very motivated.

On tuesday December 17 th he put on the helmet first time since he finished his F1 career. .It is nice to get to try a rally car in the winter conditions.. .On the ice I.ve driven when I was 16 or 17 years old so it.s been a while.. Häkkinen knows that he´s a beginner when it comes to driving a rally car so he.s accepted all the advices willingly given. Advices and comments from from Arto Kapanen are very important. In rally also the experience and hard work will have an considerable effect on the final results.

My goal is to get to the finish and that would be great. But most of all I want to enjoy the experinece Häkkinen said.

Mika ponted out that he doesn.t have any pressure put on by the Mitsubishi team though he is driving a WRC car.

The second test period just before the rally is the most impotant because then he.ll get the whole picture of the course. Häkkinen didn.t turn down the possibility that he might been seen driving a rally car after the Arctic Lapland Rally. We.ll see how the first rally goes. If I am second in the final results I.ll be sure there will be more rallies, Häkkinen lauhgt.

It is possible that Häkkinen won.t be the only one driving Mitsubishi WRC car in the Arctic Lapland Rally. It is very big thing for Arctic Lapland Rally that Häkkinen will be driving in January 24 . 25.2003.