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Home win: Kopecký victorious after thriller in the ŠKODA Fabia R5

- › **Twist on the final stage: ŠKODA works driver wins dramatic duel with Václav Pech at the Rally Český Krumlov**
- › **New rally car fast and reliable once again at the second event in the Czech Rally Championship**
- › **Kopecký: "Fantastic battle with a fantastic car"**

Český Krumlov, 23 May 2015 – After a real thriller, Jan Kopecký (CZ) in the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 celebrated his second win at the second event in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR). On the final of 14 special stages at the 43rd edition of the Rally Český Krumlov, the works driver sailed past Václav Pech (CZ) after a dramatic duel at the home event. This saw Kopecký extend his lead at the top of the table. The new ŠKODA Fabia R5 proved to be reliable and fast once again at the rally steeped in tradition in South Bohemia.

"Congratulations on getting the win at the last minute! The most important thing is that our new ŠKODA Fabia R5 finished a whole rally without any problems once again. With competing in both the Czech Republic and our comeback in the World Rally Championship, this weekend is a real challenge for the whole team," said ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek.

In changeable weather conditions, the fans at the track experienced a thrilling duel on the narrow asphalt tracks of the 169.10 kilometres of special stages. Kopecký and his co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) initially took the lead in the overall standings on day one, before they were slowed down by damage to the rear left tyre on the sixth special stage. The ŠKODA duo lost 22.8 seconds to Václav Pech, who went into the final special stage with an advantage of 10.6 seconds. However, Pech made a mistake on the stage and Kopecký ended up winning with an advantage of 4.7 seconds over his rival.

"It's fantastic to get the win again in the second race with the Fabia R5. It was a fantastic battle with a fantastic car, which thrilled the spectators. We drove fast, but without taking any excessive risks," said Kopecký. The 33-year-old extended his lead in the overall standings, after he was victorious when the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 made its international rallying debut at the Rally Šumava Klatovy. "My new tool worked perfectly once again this time," said Kopecký full of praise. The old hand was at the top of the results sheet on eight special stages at the Rally Český Krumlov.

After the successful home event, next up for Kopecký is a start in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). The Czech will take the wheel of a ŠKODA Fabia R5 at the Rally Italy on Sardinia from 11 to 14 June. European Champion Esapekka Lappi (FIN) will also be in action. Kopecký, who last raced for ŠKODA in the WRC in 2007: "I'm really looking forward to this fascinating challenge on the world stage of rallying with the ŠKODA Fabia





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R5." A week after that, Kopecký will continue his fight for the title in the Czech Rally Championship at the Rally Hustopeče.

The number of the Rally Český Krumlov: 6 of 10

With six cars in the top ten of the overall standings, ŠKODA was the dominant brand at the Rally Český Krumlov. Alongside Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler in the new Fabia R5, Pavel Valoušek (CZ), Martin Vlček (CZ), Jan Černý (CZ) and Jan Jelínek (CZ) in the Fabia Super 2000 also made it into the top ten. Also, Karel Trněný (CZ) in the ŠKODA Fabia WRC finished in tenth.

Rally Český Krumlov – Final result

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5 | 1:36:00.8 hrs. |
| 2. Pech/Uhel (CZ/CZ), Mini John Cooper Works S2000 | + 0:04.7 min. |
| 3. Valoušek/Havelková (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 | + 3:57.1 min. |
| 4. Odložilík/Tureček (CZ/CZ), Ford Fiesta R5 | + 4:49.7 min. |
| 5. Vlček/Žáková, ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 | + 5:23.6 min. |

Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

| Event | Date |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rally Šumava Klatovy | 24/04 – 25/04/2015 |
| Rally Český Krumlov | 22/05 – 23/05/2015 |
| Rally Hustopeče | 19/06 – 20/06/2015 |
| Rally Bohemia | 10/07 – 12/07/2015 |
| Barum Czech Rally Zlín | 28/08 – 30/08/2015 |
| Rally Příbram | 02/10 – 04/10/2015 |

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Since 2008, all evaluated ŠKODA models have received a 5-star safety rating from Euro NCAP.





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Press release image:



Home event for the ŠKODA Fabia R5 at the Rally Český Krumlov

With the second win on their second start with the new Fabia R5, Jan Kopecký (CZ) and Pavel Dresler (CZ) extend their lead in the Czech Rally Championship.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been involved in the world of motorsport since 1901. The brand has taken home many trophies from the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and several famous races, such as the oldest rally in the world – the Monte Carlo, which has taken place annually since 1911.

The Fabia Super 2000 rally car is the most successful model in ŠKODA's 114-year history in motorsport. In 2014, ŠKODA won a hat-trick of titles in the Manufacturers' and Drivers' competitions in the APRC. The new reigning champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) achieved the momentous feat of becoming the first duo in history to win the Drivers' title in the ERC and then the APRC in consecutive years.

In the ERC, ŠKODA Motorsport took the title for the third time in a row in 2014, thanks to Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000. Before Lappi, the Finn Juho Hänninen (2012) and Jan Kopecký (2013) had won the European title with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000.

Between 2009 and 2014, ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 drivers won a total of 50 national and international titles.

The International Automobile Federation FIA approved ŠKODA's new rally car - the Fabia R5 on 1 April, 2015. The new rally car was presented to the International Press in the Czech Republic on 15 April. The ŠKODA Fabia R5 celebrated its competitive début at the Šumava Rally, Czech Republic in 2015.





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ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle production companies in the world. In 1895, the Czech headquarters in Mladá Boleslav began producing bicycles, followed by the production of motorbikes and cars.
- › currently has seven passenger car models: Citigo, Fabia, Roomster/Praktik, Rapid, Octavia, Yeti and Superb.
- › in 2014 delivered more than one million vehicles to customers around the world for the first time in a single year.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful automotive groups 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. It also manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India, mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 25,900 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

