

Higgins and Drew Dominate with Seventh Oregon Trail Rally Win in the Past Eight Years

Cherry Hill, N.J., April 13, 2018: Subaru Rally Team USA driver David Higgins and co-driver Craig Drew continued their dominance of the Oregon Trail Rally, winning the 2018 edition of the event for the seventh time in the last eight years at the wheel of their Vermont SportsCar-prepared 2018 Subaru WRX STI rally car. The Oregon Trail Rally, regarded as one of the most scenic and challenging rallies in the USA represented round one of the 2018 American Rally Association series. It was the perfect start to Higgins and Drew's 2018 driver's championship campaign as the duo attempt to earn their seventh championship together while driving for Subaru.

"I'm happy to get the win and it was great to be back in my Subaru again," explained Higgins at the podium. "Today was a proper Sunday drive just trying to manage our lead! We stayed clear of any problems and our Subaru STI was perfect. This rally is a joy to drive, it has a little bit of everything and the fans are fantastic." The win was Higgins' seventh in the past eight years, and his ninth career Oregon win from ten starts.

"After 8 months off we were worried about getting back into a rhythm after so long, but the whole weekend has gone perfectly to plan," said co-driver Craig Drew. "It's a perfect start to our 2018 campaign and hopefully we can get the crown back this year."

An expected tight battle with the other Subaru team car of former Subaru World Rally Team star driver Chris Atkinson and his veteran co-driver Stephane Prevot was short lived after a mechanical issue sidelined Atkinson for a portion of Saturday's stages. Atkinson would return for Sunday's stages and although he was out of the running for an overall result Atkinson went fastest on six of eight stages while also growing more comfortable with his Subaru in what was his USA rally debut. Atkinson has been competing in Rallycross for Subaru for the past two years but had yet to compete in a stage rally event.

Higgins and Drew began the rally on a charge, going fastest on three of the first four stages at the fan friendly mix-surfaced stages at Portland International Raceway. With teammate Atkinson just seconds behind them they could not afford to let up on the second day's action, however once Atkinson was sidelined with a mechanical issue Higgins and Drew found themselves with over a 30 second lead to the closest challenger. From there Higgins slowly increased his lead without taking big risks as his rivals all lost some time with vehicle issues. It was a textbook victory for Higgins and Drew as their race-craft coupled with their on-demand outright speed proved yet again the formula for victory.

Subaru Rally Team USA will stay in the Pacific Northwest for next month's legendary Olympus Rally, May 19-20 based around Olympia Washington. Subaru Rally Team USA will enter the #75 Subaru STI for Higgins/Drew with the second team car being driven by Subaru Rallycross driver and former Junior World Rally Champion Patrik Sandell with co-driver Per Almkvist.

Full coverage of Subaru Rally Team USA is available on the Subaru Motorsports App. To download from the iTunes App store, [click here](#), for Android App on Google Play

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About Subaru Rally Team USA

Subaru Rally Team USA is managed by Vermont SportsCar and proudly supported by [Subaru of America, Inc.](#), [Method Race Wheels](#), [DirtFish Rally School](#), [KÜHL](#), [DMACK Tires](#), [PIAA](#), [RECARO](#) and [DBA USA](#). Follow the team online at www.subaru.com/rally

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