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SUBARU DRIVER DAVID HIGGINS STORMS TO OJIBWE FOREST RALLY VICTORY

Cherry Hill, N.J., Aug 24, 2014 - Subaru Rally Team USA driver David Higgins and his co-driver Craig Drew claimed victory at the 2014 Muscatell Ojibwe Forest Rally in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The duo maintained the leading pace despite constant pressure from factory teammates Travis Pastrana and co-driver Chrissie Beavis with their DMACK Tires-shod 2014 Subaru [WRX STI](#) rally car.

The Muscatell Ojibwe Forest Rally was the penultimate event of the eight round 2014 Rally America Championship and featured three days of competition on high-speed and technical forest roads in Northwestern Minnesota. The rally is highly regarded for its flowing and technical sandy gravel roads which are a favorite among rally drivers. Higgins and Drew entered Ojibwe as champions-elect after mathematically securing 2014 Rally America Championship at the previous round, the New England Forest Rally. The 2014 Rally America Driver's Championship will be Higgins' fourth straight driver's championship in a row and his sixth in the USA.

The rally began with a close duel between teammates Higgins and Pastrana, with Pastrana only 24.1 seconds behind at the beginning of the final day of competition and ready to push to close the gap on Higgins. Unfortunately Pastrana slid wide off the racing line and became stuck in a ditch on the final day's first stage. Pastrana tried in vain to free his high-centered Subaru and was forced to retire from the event. It was Pastrana's first non-finish of the season after a string of four consecutive podium finishes prior to Ojibwe. To the delight of the fans, the event organizers allowed Pastrana to race as exhibition only on the final stage of the event which ran through the streets of Detroit Lakes.

The rally however belonged to David Higgins and Craig Drew. They won nearly all of the event's sixteen competition stages, with just two stages narrowly won by Pastrana. Higgins battled through the fog on the second day's night stages to pull time from Pastrana and then never looked back after Pastrana's retirement, winning all of the final day's stages while cruising to the finish.

"This rally is always a difficult one and this year was no different. We had thick fog to contend with on Friday night, plus real tricky road conditions where it would be very slippery and wet in spots," explained Higgins. "Travis (Pastrana) was pushing us real hard and it was a big challenge to go fast in those conditions. After Travis exited the rally we obviously had it easier but we still pushed a bit and tried some different things with the car. The team and our Subaru were perfect again, and big thumbs up to Craig (Drew) as this was the only event in the championship that he had yet to win."

"The Ojibwe Forests Rally organizers put on a fantastic event for both fans and competitors," stated Rob Weir, Subaru

Motorsports marketing manager. "We're proud to put Subaru at the top of the podium at this Rally America round, and look forward to our return in 2015."

The final stop on the Rally America calendar will be the Lake Superior Performance Rally October 17 -18 in Houghton, Michigan.

About Subaru Rally Team USA

Subaru Rally Team USA is managed by Vermont SportsCar and proudly supported by Subaru of America, Inc., Subaru Tecnica International (STI), Method Race Wheels, Royal Purple, eBay Motors, DMACK Tires, RECARO, PIAA and Race Proven. Follow the team on twitter: @srtusa, Instagram: @srtusa and online at www.subaru.com/rally.

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Subaru of America, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan. Headquartered at a zero-landfill office in Cherry Hill, N.J., the company markets and distributes Subaru vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of more than 600 retailers across the United States. All Subaru products are manufactured in zero-landfill production plants and Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc. is the only U.S. automobile production plant to be designated a backyard wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. For additional information visit media.subaru.com.

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