

Emotional Breen scoops award

MOTORSPORT

CRAIG BREEN made a successful return to the IRC over the weekend by claiming sixth overall in Rallye Sanremo.

It was Breen's first time competing in Italy since his best friend and former co-driver Gareth Roberts lost his life in an accident in the Targa Florio-Rally Internazionale di Sicilia in the middle of June.

Breen's latest performance

earned him the Colin McRae IRC Flat Out Trophy.

"This has been a very difficult week for me, my first time back to drive the Peugeot 207 and my first time in Italy since the accident," said Breen afterwards.

"Driving on the same type of roads brings back so many memories. I'm very happy with my performance, it was a pity to pick up the puncture this morning, I'm sure we could have secured a position or two higher only for that."

Higgins fulfils boyhood dream

GOLF

DAVID HIGGINS crowned an all-conquering year on the Irish PGA Tour by capturing the PGA Championship at Mount Juliet.

He beat Noel Murray (22) from Massereene by birdieing the third play-off hole (the par-five 17th) with an immaculate pitch from 87 yards to two feet. Kilkenny native Gary Murphy also made the sudden-death play-off with all three finishing on seven-under-

par for the reduced 54-hole event.

After Murphy dropped out on the first, the pair then halved the second (18th) in par and returned to the 17th where Murray made a marvellous attempt at birdie, his sand shot rimming the hole.

The 39-year-old winner, whose father, Liam, lifted the trophy in 1983, said: "I remember looking at trophy as a young lad and saying it would be lovely to win it. I tried for a long time to win it and did it today and I'm just delighted."

Dublin Inter came close to making it two wins from two at their new home in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght before eventually falling 48-65 to a buoyant UCD Marian team.

DCU Saints beat Killester 67-54 in the North Dublin derby, while UL Eagles beat Moycullen 78-62.

In the Nivea Women's Superleague, Meteors got their first win of the campaign with a 39-35 victory over north Dublin rivals Killester.

Meanwhile, UL Basketball Club continued their unbeaten streak with a 61-34 win over a young Singleton Supervalu Brunell team. DCU Mercy thumped a struggling Liffey Celtics side 72-19.