

Waterford News & Star
May 12, 2009

RALLYING/ATHLETICS/GOLF

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Brilliant Breen makes it four wins in a row

AFTER his Pirelli International success a fortnight before, Killmurry rally star Craig Breen returned to Irish Fiesta Sporting Trophy duties in last weekend's (2/3 May) Killarney International Rally of the Lakes - and was once again the man to beat.

However, this would prove to be the young Waterford ace's toughest event yet.

As Craig explains, "the rally started on Saturday morning with a daunting run up the world famous Molls Gap. After my big crash on the Circuit of Ireland, I was anxious to bring the car home in one piece - but also keen to get a respectable time on the board. I caught a slower car, which upset my rhythm and cost me vital seconds".

Indeed he found himself well down the time-sheets at the finish. With their rivals laying down faster times, Craig and his navigator Gareth Roberts knew they

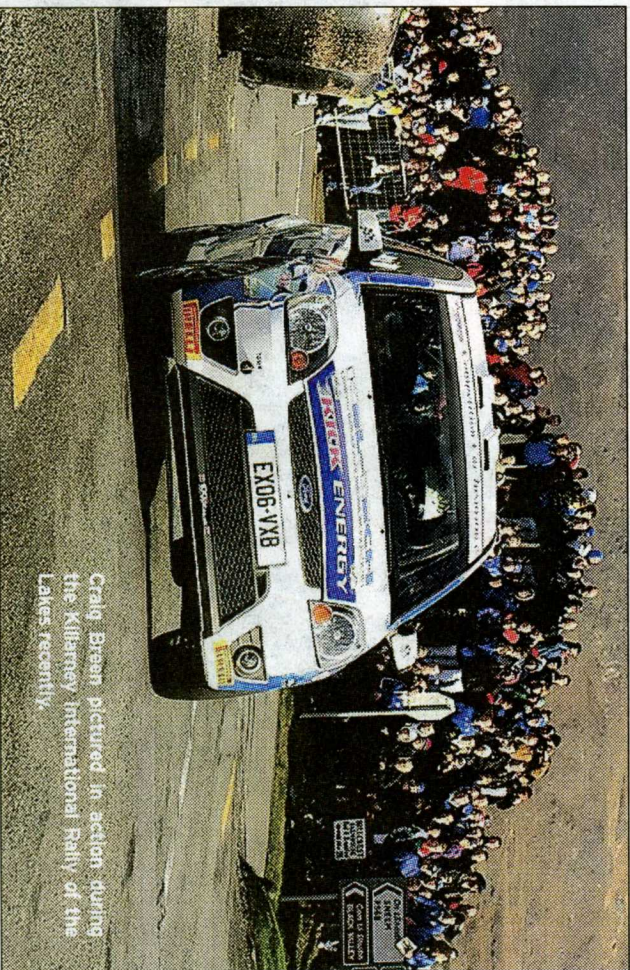
needed to gather themselves and mount a charge - but couldn't quite pull it off on the second stage.

As rain began to fall, Craig dropped more time after again coming across two slower cars that inadvertently baulked him as he tried to find his way past.

With a brief halt in the service area, his Tom Galban Motorsport mechanics quickly made changes to the little Fiesta ST's suspension which would prove to be crucial.

Craig promptly set the fastest time in the following stage, as his rivals failed to match his pace - or crashed trying.

Another fastest time on stage five brought the Gallo-Irish pair to within two seconds of the lead. It was now time to 'give it death', as they say in rallying and a stunning drive saw them develop what was to become an unassailable advantage, as the other crews struggled to make it to the finish line.



Craig Breen pictured in action during the Killarney International Rally of the Lakes recently.

Saturday's triumph has extended Breen and Roberts' lead in the Irish Fiesta Sporting

Trophy Championship to put them fifteen points clear of their nearest rivals.

To follow his fortunes and learn more about his career, visit www.craigbreen.com