

# Flying Breen hits the high spots at home and away

## BY A SPECIAL COR-RESPONDENT

IT HAS been a roller coaster year for Kilkenny teenager Craig Breen. The former karting ace is now leading the Fiesta Sport Trophy Ireland and UK series after another brilliant victory on round five of the UK series on Rally Isle of Man.

The victory gave him a five point lead in the series over English driver Matt Edwards with the final two rounds of the championship, the Ulster International and Trackrod rallies to come. Few could have forecast such a superb season.

Breen, who hails from Piltown, admitted to being surprised: "I started the season to have a go at rallying. When we got to Galway I didn't know even if rallying was going to be my thing, but I was surprised at the result we achieved, and then we led

and though the notes had a huge amount of detail. Having this detail proved valuable on the event."

Round five of the FST UK series couldn't have gone more smoothly for the Dairwood Design team, and with rivals Mark Donnelly and Kris Hall inverting their Fiesta's on the first stage, it put Craig firmly in the driving seat. Indeed, at the end of the eight stages that decided the Fiesta result he had almost a three minute margin over his nearest rivals.

"Everything just worked great," he admitted. "We backed off a bit on the final few stages to make sure of a trouble free finish. After

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something to learn from. I know exactly what I did wrong, so it hasn't annoyed me too much or effected my focus for the next event."

Craig's stage times were impressive against the more powerful two wheel cars. This weekend he has the opportunity to step into a more powerful front wheel drive car, as he debuts the new Fiesta R2 in Ireland on the ALMC Stages.

The ALMC is the next round of the Irish National Junior Championship, another championship that Craig could win in 2009. He is very excited about the new machine after a successful first taste of it in Chatsworth.

"It's perfect timing with Ford and M-Sport introducing the new car," he said. "It has more power and it's a proper rally car. Marko Martin was testing the car on Spanish tarmac, so I

