

**SPORT
IN BRIEF****Breen blitz sea
€500,000 prize****MOTORSPORT**

WATERFORD driver Craig Breen scored a tremendous victory in the FIA World Rally Championship Academy at the weekend, clinching a prize valued at €500,000 on the final day of the final rally of the series, WRC Rally GB, and ensuring him a place in next year's WRC events.

At the end of three days of high-speed driving through the Welsh forests, the 21-year-old was the crown winner of the Academy section of the final WRC event of the year, leaving him tied on points with his Estonian rival Egon Kaur.

The tie-deciding mechanism was the number of fastest stage times scored in all of the year's rallies, and Breen triumphed in style.

As they set out on the final day, Breen was more than four minutes clear of Kaur, but the Estonian beat the weekend with a 20-point lead.

With a seven-point difference between first and second places, Waterford man needed bonus points for best time on each stage, and on the first two days, he had picked up nine of the 11 possible stage wins against none for Kaur.

However, the Baltic driver opened the final day with a bang, upping his pace to take the opening stage, leaving Breen with the demanding target of needing every one of the remaining five points available, which he managed to achieve.

After his title was confirmed, Breen said: "I can't find words to describe this moment. For sure it's the most amazing feeling to finally get here after all the effort we've put in."

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