

NEWS

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BREEN UNBOWED BY VW SNUB

Irish ace out to build on German win

Breen has made up lost ground in title race

By Dan McCalla

Craig Breen hopes that his maiden WRC Academy victory on Rally Germany at the weekend will prove wrong the Volkswagen bosses who turned him down for an evaluation drive.

The Irishman headed off a late-rally charge from Spanish Tarmac expert Yeray Lemes late in the event to take victory by 15.1 seconds. The win, allied to series leader Egon Kaur finishing a lowly eighth, means that Breen has halved Kaur's lead from 52 points to 26 with just Rally France and Rally GB remaining.

The victory came on the back of Breen being notified by VW

Motorsport chiefs that he will not be considered for a drive in one of their Skoda Fabia S2000s with which they are trying out young rally talent this year. Breen had contacted VW to put himself forward for a drive, but the German marque politely declined the 21-year-old's advances.

"I wasn't so much disappointed by VW saying no, I was more encouraged to put the effort in and bounce back from the second place in Finland," said the Pirelli Star Driver. "I'm happy that I've been able to show my pace in Finland and in Germany. I've been the only driver in the series who has been competitive on both surfaces."

As Breen hadn't competed in Germany before, he watched DVD

POINTS

WRC Academy Cup
After 4/6 rounds

POS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	Egon Kaur	92pts
2	Craig Breen	66
3	Brendan Reeves	36
4	Yeray Lemes	35
5	Jan Cerny	33
6	Andrea Crugnola	31

footage of each stage and made a page of notes on every test before conducting his recce. Breen said it made a difference to his pace notes, and he intends to continue the practice: "I think it was one of the key reasons I won. I spent a lot of time doing the research and on that last stage our notes were perfect."



Breen took German silverware