

RALLY NZ RISING STARS

Hello all,

It's been 6 weeks since Rally Whangarei and in my opinion that's too long!

Last weekend I attended the Elite Motorsport Academy Graduate camp held in Christchurch. It consisted of two jam-packed days of fitness testing, sports psychology lectures, nutrition education and sponsorship. It was good to regroup after an entire year and catch up with my buddies and to further my knowledge on the subjects we started learning. What the Academy of Sport and Motorsport NZ have put together with the motorsport academy is world class and I really recommend any young driver, whether it is race or rallying, to apply for the camp and be in for a career changing week, not to mention a lot of fun!

Now with Rally Nelson this weekend I am really looking forward to getting back in the seat and getting some really good stages in. My aim for this weekend is to be comfortably in the top 5 and to set fast stage times. Although it is not my most preferred round of the NZRC, it was a bit of a battle in the sometimes rough conditions in the little Fiesta but I think it's going to be really good in the Seed Force Subaru. Last year at Nelson, which was held later on in the season and was the host of the last round, we won the Group N two-wheel drive New Zealand Rally Championship. This year it is the second to last round and we are currently sitting second in the NZ Junior championship so instead of defending a lead this time we will be chasing to get the top spot of the junior championship.

I am looking forward to recce and seeing what the roads have in store us. For the first time Ben and I are writing our own notes with just ONE pass through each stage so we will be relying a lot on getting them right and making sure the in car camera is rolling so we can go back and check to get them spot on!

Doing this means that I have had to give up the luxury of flying everywhere and now drive my mighty Toyota Levin to each round which has been dedicated as our reconnaissance car and set up with all the marks on the steering wheel and the trip meter so all the notes we write will all be the same. It is a lot more extra work for Ben and I but it is well worth it in the long run.

I'm hoping the weather down here in Nelson is going to stay nice for us but we will have to just wait and see! "The Two Bens" facebook page will have regular updates as we get along.

Until then,
Yours Sincerely
Ben Jagger