



## Malley set for Hawkes Bay battle.

The fourth round of both the New Zealand Rally Championship and the New Zealand Fiesta Sporting Trophy will be a crucial round for 24 year old Aucklander Patrick Malley.

Malley is lying second in the Fiesta Challenge and fourth in Kiwi 2 after a double DNF at Otago and getting stuck behind overseas competitors at Whangarei "There are 67 points up for grabs in both championships." Says Malley who is looking to make up serious ground at Hawke's Bay. Recent rounds have seen a lot of DNF's for the two wheel drives so anything can happen.

Malley and co-driver 'Crunch' Bennett will tackle the Hawkes Bay rally in one of two NZ Truth backed Ford Fiesta ST's. The other will be driven by father Dermott and co-driven by mother Linzi, the first time both Patrick and Dermott will have competed in identical cars. "There will be no excuses available to either me or Dad when we get to the end. We will be driving identical cars, so this will help settle the talks over the dinner table about who is fastest."

The greatest focus however will be placed on the battle with current Fiesta Sporting Trophy (FST) points leader Ben Jagger. "Ben has a healthy buffer heading into the Bay, but it isn't 'unassailable' and we will throw everything we have at him to peg it back." says Malley on Jagger's 21 point lead in the Fiesta Sporting Trophy. Next is the challenge to get back into the top 3 in Kiwi 2.

Malley will be able to carry experience gained from the recent Motorsport New Zealand Elite Academy, where he finished a strong second against his fellow young competitors, into not only the rest of the season, but also to the Fiesta Sporting Trophy international shootout that will be held in England later this year. "It was a great experience to be included for the 2008 Elite Motorsport Academy, and a real eye-opener. I hope to use everything that I have learnt to good use over the next few months and it will give me an edge if we travel over to UK for the Fiesta International Shootout and aim to win against the other international competitors. FST really is the training ground for the young New Zealand drivers who are looking to expand their careers onto the international stage."

And just incase Malley needs further motivation, he considers the Hawkes Bay event to be his home event despite living in Auckland. "It's great to be back on what I consider to be my home roads. I haven't competed on most roads that will be used this year, but Hawkes Bay was where I began my driving career and I want to pay that back with a win. This will be no small feat with the likes of Aaron (Cook), Dave (Strong) and Ben (Jagger) to race against, but I'm sure we can do it."

*Press Release by Blair Bartels*

