

Brendan's nomination for the FIA Young Driver Excellence Academy was featured in a story in the Bendigo Advertiser on 25 October, 2011.

Reeves in race for young drivers' academy

TRAVIS KING

WEDDERBURN rally driver Brendan Reeves is in the running to join an elite young drivers' academy in Europe next year.

Reeves has been nominated by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport for the selection event in Austria where 30 international finalists will compete for 18 positions at the FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy.

An Australian Institute of Sport product, Reeves races in the World Rally Championship Academy Series with sister Rhianon Smyth and said he had trained hard to give himself the best chance at the November trials.

"It's great to be given this opportunity by CAMS and the FIA," Reeves said.

"This is a great chance to move one step closer to my goal of a full-time career as a rally driver and I'll be giving it my all."

The FIA Academy prepares the most talented young drivers for the pinnacle of their sport.

Reeves is familiar with the selection process from the Pirelli Star Driver Shootout in Spain which he won last year and has gone on to star in the series.

"Whilst driving will certainly be a part of the selection process, I know that the selection panel will be looking for drivers who are both physically fit and also adept at dealing with the media," he said.

Reeves races Ford Fiesta R2 rally cars and is fifth in the Academy Series after a string of strong results, including finishing

fourth in his first three races.

He will join fellow Australian nominee - Formula Ford driver Jack Le Brocq - at the November trials and, if selected, they will take part in the program's workshops in Europe next year.

CAMS' chief executive David Morgan said the FIA Academy was an excellent opportunity for driver progression and he expected both Australian drivers to do well.

"With the results that Brendan and Jack have already achieved - as well as the undoubted talent that they have shown in their young careers - we are confident that they will be excellent ambassadors for Australian motor sport," Morgan said.