

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## MOTORSPORT: Armstrong off to flier

JOCK Armstrong, of Castle Douglas, got his bid to win the Hankook Scottish Rally Championship off to an ideal start, dominating the 120-car field in the opening round, the Snowman Rally in Inverness.

Armstrong, who narrowly missed out on the title last year, was fastest through four of the five Highland stages in his Subaru Impreza to win by 2mins 32secs. Alick Kerr, 22, from Bothwell, was second in another Subaru.

"That's the perfect start to the season," Armstrong said. "Conditions were treacherous in places with a lot of snow and ice, but we were fortunate to make the right tyre choices. Now we can mount a full-on assault on the championship."

Kerr, another of the latest crop of young rally drivers emerging from the junior ranks and who was co-driven for the first time by Elgin's

Neil Shanks, was delighted to beat his previous best placing of fifth. Lockerbie's Mike Faulkner was third in his Mitsubishi, 20 secs behind Kerr.

▣ Less than a month after winning America's Blue Riband sportscar race, the Daytona 24 Hours, in a Porsche, Wishaw's Ryan Dalziel has clinched a drive with another icon of motorsport – Jaguar.

The 27-year-old will pilot the RSR Jaguar team's all-new GT2 car in the American Le Mans Series which gets under way with the Twelve Hours of Sebring in Florida on March 20.

Dalziel will partner team boss Paul Gentilozzi and Marc Goossens in the RSR line-up and is also eyeing an assault on the Le Mans 24 Hours as Jaguar's reserve driver. "I'll certainly be in France for the race, and if another GT2 car drops out we'll take its place," he said.