



ROMA



83° CSIO ROMA

PIAZZA DI SIENA



Federazione Italiana Sport Equestri

21 > 24 MAGGIO 2015

Master fratelli d'Incea

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TOP TWO PLACES FOR ITALY IN SMALL GRAND PRIX



talian Juan Carlos Garcia and Emanuele Gaudiano took the top two places in the MAG-JLT Small Grand Prix which was a whirlwind affair, with riders going at terrific speed in the 18-horse jump-off. Sweden's Douglas Lindelow set a strong target when first to go against the clock and clear in 39.33 seconds with Casello but, sixth into the arena, Garcia whipped the crowd into a frenzy with a dare-devil ride with Moka de Mescam who raced through the finish in 36.88 seconds which really put it up to the rest of them.

With riders attempting to shorten the distances between fences, some arrived at acute angles on take-off, and both Spain's Pilar Cordon (Nuage Bleu) and Sweden's Henrik von Eckermann (Crespo PKZ) ground to a halt when meeting the double, three fences from home, on a bad stride while young Belgian star, Nicola Philippaerts, found himself galloping past the final obstacle when H&M Quenzo de la Roque drifted to the right. With just three left to go, Gaudiano set off like a rocket with the 10-year-old Admara but he couldn't quite catch his fellow-countryman when stopping the clock on 37.18 seconds. But Qatar's Sheikh Ali Bin Khalid was the quickest of the day, cross the line in 36.21 seconds without ever seeming to apply any pressure at all to his 10-year-old gelding First Devision, but leaving a pole on the floor to line up in ninth place at the end of the competition.

Garcia said he could hardly remember the last time he enjoyed a win at CSIO Rome, and joked, "three years ago Emanuele (Gaudiano) was first in the Small Grand Prix and I was second, so I needed two years to learn how to beat him!" Talking about the 15-year-old Moka de Mescam he said, "I have had him a long time and I know him well, I know exactly how he can win - the only place I have to stay very quiet is in the combinations, otherwise I can really go fast. Today we won the class with our speed between fences one and three", he explained.

Gaudiano has had Admara since the gelding was a two-year-old. "He was just eight years old when he won the Small Grand Prix here" said the 28-year-old rider who, as one of the top four finishers in this competition, has qualified for tomorrow's Loro Piana Grand Prix along with Garcia.





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GAUDIANO HAS THE LAST LAUGH IN LORO PIANA SIX-BAR

Emanuele Gaudiano had to settle for runner-up spot a few hours earlier, but in the Loro Piana Six-Bar which brought Saturday's action to a close the young Italian was in a league of his own when producing the only double-clear of the competition. And he did it in style.

A total of 14 horse-and-rider combinations lined out, and nine were faultless over the first line of six verticals. However with the final two bars raised to 1.70m and a massive 1.85m respectively, only Gaudiano's handsome stallion, Caspar, left them all intact second time out. The imposing grey made it look very simple, and his rider was more than pleased. Because he only planned to use this competition as training for tomorrow's Loro Piana Grand Prix and had already decided that two rounds of the Six-Bar line would be enough for his horse.

"He has huge scope" said the delighted rider afterwards. "I bought this horse together with a friend when he was a three-year-old and I started him in Youngster competitions and now he is nine. Last year we did 3 and 4-Star Grand Prix competitions and the Hong Kong Gucci Masters. I'm not sure what to expect with him in the Rome Grand Prix, it's a bit spooky in this arena so I hope he goes well" he said.

It was an exceptional result, especially considering it was Caspar's very first time to compete in a Six-Bar class. And course designer, Uliano Vezzani, set them a tough test with a short distance between the last two obstacles. However it presented no difficulty to the colossal grey - "he is so careful and has so much scope" said Gaudiano, who explained that many of the faults collected by other riders were due to the fact that horses were jumping towards the entrance to the arena. "They could see their way home and some of them were going too much forward and were not concentrated, but Caspar listened to me and did a great job - and if he jumps like this tomorrow, well, who knows!" he added.



SPEEDY POPPY WINS FOR MARTINENGO



Giulia Martinengo topped Saturday's opening Speed class with the 12-year-old mare Fixdesign Pop Lady d'Elle. "Speedy Poppy always wins a competition, even in these important shows!" said the 36-year-old Italian. "She's my speed horse and she's always ready to do her best. The course was perfect as usual, fun to ride and fun to watch for sure. This is no surprise since Uliano is the best course designer in the world." Asked about how she felt yesterday in the second round of the Nations Cup, after such a brilliant first round, she said, "I made a mistake after the combination, I was too relaxed and

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thought everything was going smoothly and I didn't think I needed to do any more. I was just too confident." she said, referring to her double-error with Fixdesign Funke van't Heike. However their opening clear round was copybook, and suggests that the 10-year-old mare, who only got the call-up for the team at the last moment, is absolutely ready to step up to top level. "Funke did so well yesterday that I will ride her in the Grand Prix tomorrow" Martinengo added.

Great Britain's William Whitaker lined up second with the Irish gelding Glenavadra Brilliant in today's opening class. "This is my first time here in Rome and it's a fantastic show - it's also extra special because so many of the Whitaker family are here including my parents. For me, it's been a bit of a four-fault week so far, so it's good to get in the placings at last!" said the 25-year-old rider, holding his nine-month-old son, Oliver, in his arms after the prize-giving ceremony.

"My horse is owned by Kelvin McDonald and I've had him for three years now. He's a lovely gelding, a gentle giant, and he always tries so hard. He was second in the Derby at La Baule last week, I've had a lot of success with him in Derby classes, he was second at Dinard and in Lummen, third at the Hickstead Derby and fourth in Hamburg. I will ride Fandango in the Grand Prix tomorrow," he commented.

FEI PRESIDENT IN ROME

Ingmar de Vos, President of the Federation Equestre Internationale, attended Piazza di Siena where he made a presentation during the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup presented by Longines to Lalla Novo, Giulia Serventi and Stefano Angioni, legendary riders who all made a huge contribution to Italian equestrianism and who competed in the Nations Cup of Rome during their long and successful careers. De Vos, former Secretary General at the FEI, was appointed President in December 2014 following the two-year term of Princess Haya of Jordan. During his visit to Rome, the FEI



President also made an official visit to the headquarters of the Italian Olympic Committee where, accompanied by the President of FISE, Vittoria Orlandi, he met the President Giovanni Malagò, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President of ASOIF (Association Summer Olympics International Federations).

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The CSIO of Rome Piazza di Siena - Master fratelli d'Inzeo organized by Integer by TBWA\Italia group according FEI, FISE (Italian Equestrian Federation) and CONI (Italian Olympic Committee) - is one of the most important show jumping event in the world. Reached in 2015 its 83rd edition, the competition will be held in the historic oval arena of Villa Borghese from 21 to 24 May and it will be the third of the eight rounds of Europe Division 1 of the prestigious circuit of Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Series.



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