



ROMA



83° CSIO ROMA

PIAZZA DI SIENA



Federazione Italiana Sport Equestri

21 > 24 MAGGIO 2015

Masters fratelli d'Inzeo

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SWEDEN'S VON ECKERMANN CLAIMS THE LORO PIANA CITY OF ROME GRAND PRIX TITLE

Henrik von Eckermann became only the second Swedish rider to claim the City of Rome Grand Prix title when coming out on top with the 13-year-old gelding, Cantinero, at CSIO Rome - fratelli d'Inzeo Masters - at Piazza di Siena today. Strategy played a major role in this competition, but the 33-year-old kept a very cool head to come out on top despite adding a single time penalty to his zero score in the first round. Once again, course designer Uliano Vezzani kept the riders thinking, with first-round clears very difficult to get, and only one fault-free second effort. The triple combination at fence five and the tricky double at fence nine were both highly influential in the first round, as were the penultimate vertical and final oxer which regularly hit the floor when riders realised they were about to exceed the 78-seconds time-allowed. And only four returned on a zero score, led by Britain's Robert Whitaker who was first to take a shorter line to the vertical at fence 10 which helped him make it home without time-faults. He was joined in the clear-round corner by Von Eckermann, America's Laura Kraut with Cedric and Australia's Edwina Tops-Alexander, the latter producing the quickest clear and therefore last to go when the top-13 returned to ride against the clock.



The second-round line-up included five riders carrying just a single time-penalty, and the fastest four-faulters, and, fourth into ring after round two got underway, it was Spain's Sergio Alvarez Moya who was the only one to add nothing to his scoreline. However carrying four faults for a mistake at the bogey second element of the first-round double, he had to sit it out to see where that would leave him at the end of the day. The Netherlands' Maikel van der Vleuten and Jeroen Dubbeldam each carried just a single time fault and team and individual world champion, Dubbeldam, temporarily took the lead when adding just one more after van der Vleuten added two. And when defending Rome Grand Prix champion, Canada's Eric Lamaze, left one on the floor this time out then it was left to the four first-round clears to keep the Dutchman at bay. But Robert Whitaker's Catwalk clipped the very first fence to leave it wide open, and when von Eckermann followed, with Cantinero giving an exhibition of classic jumping, he went out in front with the clock showing 48.67 seconds and all the fences still perfectly in place. That put it right up to the final two ladies, and when America's Laura Kraut and Cedric missed their stride to the oxer near the entrance to the arena, and Australia's Edwina Tops-Alexander and Heidi du Ruisseau Z left the third fence on the floor, then von Eckermann would follow in the steps of the only previous Swedish winners, Lisen Bratt and Casanova, to take the coveted trophy. Dubbeldam and van der Vleuten filled second and third places and Alvarez Moya finished fourth. Talking about his horse, Cantinero, afterwards, von Eckermann, who is employed as rider at the yard of legendary German jumping star Ludger Beerbaum, said, "he is owned by the Qatar Armed Forces, and I





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started to ride him before Gothenburg last year. We jumped double-clear in Barcelona at the Furusiyya Nations Cup Final year”, he explained.

Asked about his strategy in today’s second round he replied, “I didn’t worry about a time fault, I just wanted to go for a safe clear. This horse and I are not that far in our relationship that we can go into a jump-off and give it everything”. And asked if he was surprised that two of the top lady riders in the world both faulted, to leave him clear winner, he answered with a laugh, “I said to my groom we might have to be happy to be third today. I didn’t think I would win, but I didn’t mind when they both had fences down!” “It’s fantastic to win this competition, my boss won it also with the horse that I ride now - Gotha - and two years ago I was here with Gotha and we finished fifth or sixth with the fastest time but a fence down. I always like Rome and am very happy to come here, it is such a nice show” he said. Asked if his loyalties are ever tested by his residency in Germany, he had no hesitation in replying, “my heart will always stay in Sweden, but I’m very grateful for all I have learned in Germany and happy to stay there and have such great opportunities with Ludger”. Today’s result was a big turn-around for von Eckermann who didn’t enjoy such a happy time when taking a fall from Cantinero at the leg of the Global Champions Tour staged on his home turf just a week ago. “I always believed in this horse, he has all the quality, although last week when I was eating the dirt in Hamburg I wasn’t so happy! But that’s the sport, that’s what makes the sport, and tomorrow I will celebrate my 34th birthday and on Friday I go to Aachen!”

As CSIO Rome 2015 - fratelli d’Inzeo Masters at Piazza di Siena came to a close, America’s Laura Kraut was presented with the Master fratelli d’Inzeo trophy presented by Cristina, daughter of the great Piero d’Inzeo, and Guido, son of his much-loved brother Raimondo.



LUCA LEADS THE ITALIAN CHARGE IN THE CORRIERE DELLO SPORT SPEED EVENT

Italian riders were untouchable when taking the top five places in Sunday’s Corriere dello Sport Speed competition won by Lorenzo De Luca and the 11-year-old mare Zoe II. Last night’s Loro Piana Six-Bar winner, Emanuele Gaudiano, set a big target when just third to go with Cocoshynsky who went like a bullet to post a time of 56.21 seconds, and another 24 horse-and-rider combinations took their turn before de Luca bettered that when scorching through the finish more than two seconds faster in 54.88.

*Loro Piana*



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However speed riding is very much a speciality for Italian showjumpers, and 28-year-old de Lorenzo was strongly challenged by Filippo Moyersoen who, at the age of 60, still knows exactly how to put his foot to the floor. Coasting home in 55.66 seconds with the 10-year-old mare Loro Piana Bircichina Bella, the man from Milan could not be outdone for runner-up spot, although the equally-popular Luca Moneta came close when slotting into third with Bonheur S who broke the beam in 55.71 seconds. Gaudiano had to settle for fourth, while Emilio Bicocchi rounded up the Italian domination when slotting into fifth with Hialoubet Vassago.

Asked about his Formula 1-style tour of the 12-fence course, de Luca said, "I don't ride her like that every day! She has a huge stride so I just kept her moving. I saw Emanuele's round and he was quite fast so that gave me an idea of what I needed to do."

He said he really like competing with mares. "They have something special, and Zoe is lovely. She needed this speed competition today. I've had her two years now and I know that to keep her motivated she must not be asked to do the same thing every day. But she is very honest and very careful. She can jump in a big class, she finished seventh in the Grand Prix at Geneva, and she is better when she jumps every day when she is at a show. I did the Small Grand Prix with her yesterday and that put her in the right frame of mind for today" he explained.

Moyersoen thoroughly enjoyed himself. "The competition was fun to ride and fun to watch!" he said. "There were a few lines that were quite challenging, and you needed to keep a good rhythm. All of the first five Italian horses were very fast, and it was a lot of fun to be all together with them at the prize-giving!"

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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 Furuslyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Series.

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