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GERMANY'S VOGEL FLIES TO VICTORY IN LORO PIANA GRAND PRIX



Ph. ©Sport e Salute/Simone Ferraro

It was a German one-two in the Loro Piana Grand Prix at the 90th anniversary CSIO Rome - Piazza di Siena 2023 today when Richard Vogel and Capano Baloubet pipped compatriot Jana Wargers and Dorette in an exciting 17-way jump-off against the clock.

With places in tomorrow's €500,000 Rolex Grand Prix still up for grabs the competition was hot in the first round and fences down proved very costly, with the penultimate double proving particularly influential on the 13-fence track.

TARGET

It was **Wargers** who set the target in the second round with a brilliant run with her 14-year-old mare that stopped the clock on **37.92 seconds**. But her advantage was short-lived when, two horses later, **Vogel** shaved three-quarters of a second off that when racing home in **37.16**.

Vogel's ride was dramatic however, because coming out of the all-important rollback to the vertical third-last **Capano Baloubet** drifted left and caught the standard, almost dislodging the poles which somehow stayed in place.

In the end he couldn't be ousted from pole position despite the best efforts of the rest of the field, **Italy's Michael Cristofolletti** and **Everest DR** coming closest to the German duo at the head of affairs to slot into third place in a time of **38.73**. Switzerland's **Niklaus Schurtenberger** and Lireu (**39.75**) slotted into fourth, The Netherlands' **Kim Emmen** and Island VG (**39.95**) into fifth and Italy's **Lorenzo de Luca** and Curcuma IL Palazzetto (**39.96**) into sixth.

FORTUNE

Winner **Vogel** was thrilled with his win with such a young horse but knew that fortune favoured him today.

*«He's obviously a very nice horse, I've had him since he was six years old and was German champion as a seven-year-old so he's been a promising horse for some time. I'm very happy that **family Tracy from the USA** have bought the horse to secure it for me for the future»,* he said.

Like many other European riders he likes to compete in Florida circuit in America from January to March each year «because it sets the horses up for the rest of the season and this horse was there this year and won the last Grand Prix there», he explained.

«Today I felt he went really well, it is my first big class on grass with him so he's a bit inexperienced on grass, and he handled it very well. I know I was very lucky in the jump-off, but as my grandfather always says «nobody wins with bad luck and today good luck was on my side!», he added.

Vogel will line out in tomorrow's **Rolex Grand Prix** finale and will be a serious contender with his top ride, the 11-year-old stallion United Touch with which he finished eighth at this year's **World Cup Final in Omaha, USA**.

A total of **50 horse-and-rider combinations** will compete for the prestigious title that was won 12 months ago by **Denis Lynch** and Brooklyn Heights. The 47-year-old Irishman, also previously a winner in 2008 with Lantinus, is back to defend his title this year riding the horse that helped seal victory for Ireland in yesterday's **Intesa Sanpaolo Nations Cup**, the 10-year-old stallion Vistogrand.

TRIBUTE TO SCUDERIA 1918 HALIFAX VAN HET KLUIZEBOS



Ph. ©Sport e Salute/Simone Ferraro

When a great champion leaves competition the emotion is always intense. The mind goes to all the times you applauded him. To the courses experienced with bated breath until the last jump. To the victories.

Scuderia 1918 Halifax van het Kluizebos with his extraordinary career has often been at the centre of it all. Today many of his fans went a bit emotional when he took the stage in 'his' Piazza di Siena, in the field where after 24 years he brought the 2018 Rolex Grand Prix victory back to Italy.

But the most beautiful words that could be spoken to commemorate this touching moment are those that his rider Lorenzo De Luca was unable to read due to emotion, and which he entrusted to a written message.

Dear Halifax Entering this very special camp with you today moves me deep inside!

As I write this letter, a few tears of joy and a lot of good memories inevitably escape.

What emotions you have given me and have given all fans of show jumping in Italy and elsewhere.

Thank you because you are a true champion. You always have been... And I am honoured I've been part of your career.

Thank you for having shared with me your exuberance, your desire to win and thank you for having shown everyone that you are the best horse a rider could ever wish to ride.

Thank you for everything! Thank you for giving me everything and more, in every showground in the world.

Thank you for being the perfect teammate.

A special thanks of course to Stephan Conter and Luc Tilleman who entrusted you to me when you were only 8 years old. And

*thanks to Maria and Emanuele Anchisi who made sure that this
very special horse wore the Italian colours.
Now enjoy your well-deserved retirement.*

You will always be in my heart

Lorenzo

The chestnut stallion, born in 2007, will be passing on his quality to future generations as part of **Scuderia 1918** breeding programme.

PRESS CONFERENCES ON SUNDAY, MAY 28TH

As usual at the Csio Roma Piazza di Siena-Master d'Inzeo, on the final day there will be a press conference with the **Organising Committee** (11.00 am Casino dell'Orologio) and one with the protagonists of the **Rolex Grand Prix Roma** (3.45 pm Casino dell'Orologio).

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