

JUMPING VERONA

2015

Longines FEI World Cup™
Jumping Verona 5-8 Novembre 2015



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ITALIANS ON THE DOUBLE AT JUMPING VERONA



A double of wins put Italian riders in positive mood today at Jumping Verona where the world's top showjumpers are preparing for Sunday's Longines FEI World Cup™ qualifier. Emanuele Gaudiano got the host country off to the perfect start when galloping to victory in the 1.45m Premio Jer with Farao of Heritage, a new horse with which he has only competed twice. "I'm really pleased with him - he learns very fast!" he said of the 10-year-old gelding, after pinning fellow-countryman Emilio Bicocchi into runner-up spot ahead of Britain's Ben Maher in third.

Gaudiano plans to compete with Caspar in Sunday's leg of the Longines Western European League. "I don't think he will be fast enough to win, but I'm hoping for a double-clear and a good placing" said the busy Italian rider who will bring his top horse, Admara, to Doha in Qatar next week for the final of the Global Champions Tour.

Two-in-a-row

Then Roberto Previtali and Fixdesign Lucaine came out to make it two-in-a-row for the host nation, with more than a second of an advantage over runner-up Edwina Tops-Alexander and Questina from Australia in the 1.50m Premio BMW. It was another strong result for the home guard with Juan Carlos Garcia (Moka de Mescan) finishing third, Giulia Martinengo Marquet (Randon Pleasure) in fourth and Emanuele Bianchi (Zycalin W) in seventh spot.

Bianchi has trained with German maestro Ludger Beerbaum who said this morning that "sooner or later" an Italian rider will win the Longines FEI World Cup™ qualifier on home ground, something that has never happened in the 32-year history of the event.

Beerbaum is feeling very much at home in Verona this week. "This is one of the best World Cup events in Europe, along with Lyon and Gothenburg", he commented.

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All fantastic

And Ludger's sister-in-law, Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum agreed. "The facilities, the structure of the show and the quality of the riders here at Verona are all fantastic" said the three-time FEI World Cup champion. She has brought two young horses to this year's fixture.

"Apsara is a nine-year-old mare and this is her first time to play the role of top horse at a show. She will jump her first 1.60m competition here on Sunday, but there always has to be a first time and this is it! It's the first 5-Star show for my other horse, Unbelievable, which has been trained by a friend for the past two years" she explained.

Mario Stevens talked about how delighted he is to be competing alongside so many other top riders from Germany this weekend. "It's difficult to get into the top team in Germany but once you are there it's really nice because everyone helps each other even when we are not at team events" he said. He will ride Brooklyn in Sunday's feature event.

Meanwhile the day began with a win in the 2-Star Speed competition for Jack Whitaker, 14-year-old son of British legend Michael Whitaker who is also competing at the show.

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