



JUMPER OF THE YEAR

THE STORY OF BERTRAM ALLEN

A YOUNG JOCKEY WITH EXQUISITE SKILLS

By Menna Loutfy

HE WAS GIVEN MANY TITLES ALONG HIS RIDING JOURNEY, BEING THE YOUNGEST RIDER TO COMPETE IN THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN CAEN, NORMANDY, FRANCE, IN 2014 . HE WAS NAMED THE IRISH FIELD SENIOR SHOWJUMPER OF THE YEAR, IRISH FIELD STAR OF THE YEAR AND THE YOUNG SPORT STAR OF THE YEAR. A RIDER WITH SKILLS BEYOND HIS 21 YEARS OF AGE, THIS YEAR BERTRAM ALLEN WAS TITLED 'JUMPER OF THE YEAR' BY THE IRISH EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE.

GROWING UP AS A RIDER

A story of a boy who was born in the county of Wexford, Ireland in **1995**. Bertram grew up in a family of horses by tradition; his parents bred racehorses and taught him to ride at a young age. He was eight when he started riding ponies in the countryside and on Hunts along with his siblings, who also have noticeable contributions to the sport. In **2010**, Bertram made his first European presence in the European Pony Championships held at Bishop Burton College in East Yorkshire, England. With the companionship of his beautiful mare Acapella Z, he was the only rider to jump four clear rounds in the pony class, winning the Gold medal in the individual competition.

"It is always a privilege to train good horses and good jockeys. I have trained this partnership from day one, and they have always been on an upward curve," commented Allen's trainer, former Irish Army show jumping star Con Power.

THE TRIP TO GERMANY

A year later in **2011**, the young man had a transition year in school, so he went to Hunxe, Germany to improve his riding skills. After a while he decided to stay there and his parents supported that by buying him a stable. Luckily, this stable was only twenty minutes away from Marcus Ehning, who then became Bertram's trainer and mentor.

"It is his incredible talent that has enabled him to prove himself in the sport at such a young age. Bertram has a super eye and a great instinct" Marcus says.

Aged only **16**, Bertram was by himself in a different country, responsible for managing the stable. He spoke about his strategy

in the horse business, saying that his focus is to buy youngsters that are not too expensive and train them well until they are eight or nine year olds.

The young champion competes with different horses, but a lot of his major results were in partnership with the beautiful grey mare, **Molly Malone V**. On a YouTube interview with Animo TV, he spoke of her saying, *"I got Molly when she was quite young. She was only five years old, so I can definitely say that she grew up with me. Molly's a really fantastic horse."*

A SERIES OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

The beginning was when Bertram Allen was **17**; he placed **7th** in the individual Junior European Championship Ebreichsdorf AUT. Due to his unquestionable talent along with hard work and persistence, he succeeded in becoming the **Silver medalist** at the same championship the following year at the Junior European Championship Ebreichsdorf AUT **2013**.

The year **2014** marked his first participation in the **World Equestrian Games** in Caen, France, where he was the youngest rider in competition. The magnificent rider accompanied with Molly Malone ranked **7th**. The following year Bertram and Molly won the **Bronze medal** in the **FEI World Cup** in Las Vegas, USA.

But unfortunately, the road is never clear of stumbles. The only controversy in the rider's story was back in the **2015** London Olympia Horse show.

AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT

The Olympia Grand Prix CSI5* winner Bertram Allen was disqualified by the Ground Jury

under Article 242.3.1 of the FEI Jumping Rules. The FEI steward examined Quiet Easy in the mandatory post-competition boot and bandage control, when she found blood on his offside flank.

Allen tried to file an appeal on the disqualification which was lodged by **Ms. Mhairi Alexander** with the help of the horse's owner **Emma Phillips**. The appeal committee upheld the decision that was taken by the ground jury, that he was correctly disqualified from competition.

"I am devastated by the decision of the ground jury to eliminate me and my horse. Quiet Easy's performance was truly outstanding. At some point during my very fast round against the clock, my leg must have slipped giving my horse the tiniest of nicks on his side which bled ever so slightly."

"I totally understand the rules in relation to the treatment of horses in competition, but I'm disappointed that the officials didn't use any discretion on this occasion".

The rider later spoke of his gratitude to his friends, supporters and family who stood by him at that time.

THE STORY IS JUST BEGINNING

All stories have endings, but the hero of this story still has a lot ahead of him. Bertram Allen is definitely one of the best riders in the world. He was lucky enough to be born in a family of riders who supported him, in addition to a strong talent in riding which contributed significantly to his success. Having that much of a strong background of achievements at this young age, Bertram Allen has a bright future ahead of him. 🏆



Ireland's Bertram Allen & Molly Malone at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy