

PROFILES & INTERVIEWS



BY NERMIN MARWAN

IN-DEPTH
WITH THE SHINING STAR OF MRT 2022

ABDELKEBIR OUADDAR

IT'S HARD TO INTRODUCE A DAZZLING STAR LIKE HIM, BUT IF I HAD TO, I WOULD SAY THAT WE ARE MEETING TODAY THE TRUE MEANING OF HORSEMANSHIP & ONE OF THE MOST HUMBLE RIDERS THAT WE MET; ABDELKEBIR OUADDAR.

WE CAN'T MENTION THE MRT, WITHOUT MENTIONING ABDELKEBIR OUADDAR AND ISTANBULL V.H OOIEVAARSHOF. HAVING BEEN THE FAVORITE DUO FOR THE MOROCCAN CROWD, SINCE THEIR VICTORY IN TETOUAN AND THE INCREDIBLE FEAT IN EL JADIDA!



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First of all Congratulations on your amazing performance in The MRT 2022 and your winnings in Tetouan and El Jadida, and let's begin with them;

WINNING AT HOMELAND MUST'VE BEEN AMAZING, HOW DID IT FEEL?

Nothing beats winning at home, with a crowd cheering and supporting you all the way to victory and singing the national anthem.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR, STARTING AS A 1* SHOW AND BECOMING A 4* SHOW OVER THE YEARS?

The Morocco Royal Tour is no longer a second-class show, the competitors know that if they want to win a class, they have to bring their top horses. Even in the 1*classes, the young horses have to be competitive in order to win or be placed in a class.

The **MRT** is a really great show with a top atmosphere, everything is well organized from the moment the riders decide to come to the show (*all the documents for the sea crossing are done with the MRT staff and the forwarding agents*) until the

return to their stables or Europe. The installations are super for the horses, the arenas are great and the grooms are super taken care of with good food during the tour! We have nothing to envy other international horse shows!

And at last, the concept is unique. The tour is organized in October while it's sunny in Morocco and not freezing or raining a lot. So the weather brings a plus at this time. The three shows are organized in three different cities, each one has its uniqueness and charm. *"It's not only about the sport but the Moroccan culture as well".*

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STABLING; AND THE DETAILS AROUND IT?

In Tetouan, the horses sleep in real boxes and not stalls; they could almost feel at home. In Rabat and El Jadida, they are in stalls but they have a lot of space to walk during the day and with the sun all the Tour, we can't complain.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE COURSES ?

Each week we had different course designers, they adjusted to the level of the riders on the first days to have a memorable Grand Prix each week. The

fences are atypic in Morocco with a lot of craft work, symbols of the cities and the country. We had the water jump during the Nations Cup in Rabat also.

Also the one star was a good formation for the young horses because the courses are very different each day and they can learn a lot.

HOW DO YOU COMPARE THE VENUES, DO YOU THINK THEY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER?

The Tour is well thought out! Two big arenas and an indoor show to finish the tour and prepare for the European indoor season! Each one of the venues has a specialty: in Tetouan, we are inside the Royal Guard with an Andalusian feel, in Rabat the main event is the Nation's Cup and we could see the crowd cheering us from the moment we did the parade and in El Jadida, it's during the Salon du Cheval where we have not only the jumping competition but all the others disciplines where the Moroccan and Arabian horses are the main focus!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE QUALITY OF RIDERS THAT CAME TO THE SHOW?

As always, top riders came to this MRT of 2022.

We had Simon Delestre for the 3 shows, David Will, Luciana Diniz, and Emanuele Gaudiano and these are only a few names.

IS THERE ANYONE THAT YOU WANT TO DEDICATE THIS WIN TO?

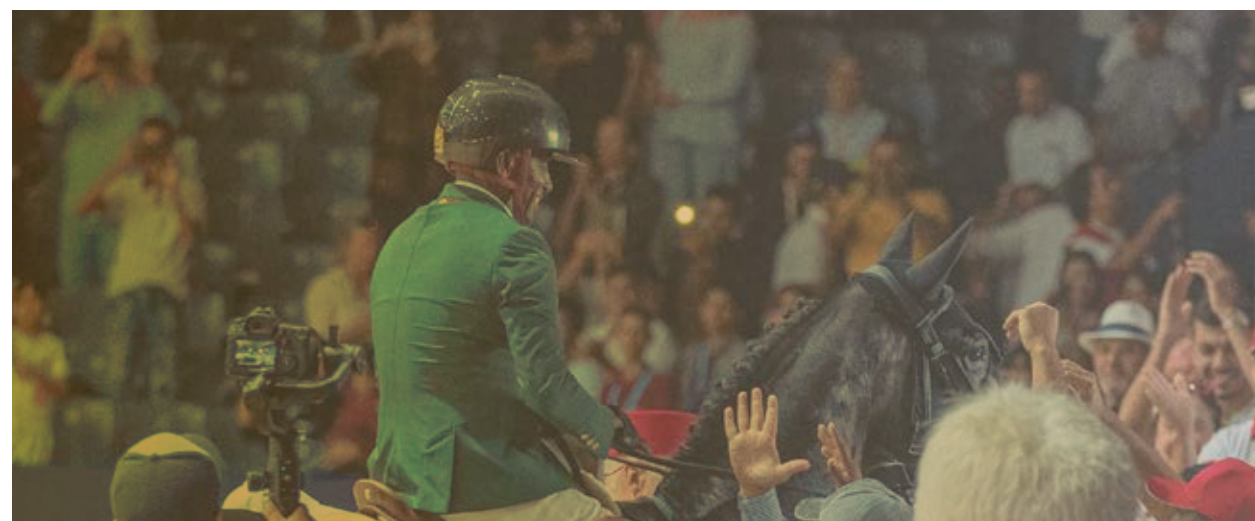
I dedicate all my wins to His Majesty The King Mohammed VI, May God glorify him, he is the owner of my horses and thanks to him I am where I am today. I owe him my sports career.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR START IN THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD AND WHEN DID YOU START RIDING COMPETITIVELY?

I started riding in Dar Es Salam with the actual president of the FRMSE, Charif Moulay Abdallah Alaoui when we were young. From that first ride on a horse, I did not want to do anything else in my life.

WHO WAS OUADDAR'S IDOL AS A YOUNG RIDER?

All the big names, Pessoa, Rozier. I went to ride with Nelson Pessoa when I was 20 something like that and since 2012 Marcel Rozier has been my



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coach. They taught me much more concepts than just riding a horse; like Horsemanship, the respect, and love of the horse and more.

BEING SUCH A PROMINENT RIDER; YOU MUST HAVE A PARTICULAR ROUTINE, WHAT DO YOU FOLLOW WITH YOUR HORSES?

I love to spend time with my horses, take care of them. I had this routine with Quickly to sit with him during his naps, now I do the same with Istanbul. I ride my horses a lot outside, to the beaches, the racetracks, and the forest of Bois-le-Roi.

I really like the work at home, all the efforts from the team, taking care of the horses, and spending time with my staff. One of my favorite activities is cleaning the stables, washing, sweeping the stables, and maintaining the arenas with my favorite engine: the tractor.

A difficult win that has special value to you.

That's a hard question! But El Jadida's win is one to remember! It's the first victory for Morocco since the beginning of the MRT and I am very proud to be the one winning the Grand Prix Sa Majesté Le Roi Mohammed VI.

Also, the indoor is not an arena with a lot of space and you need to have your horse with you 100% and a horse like Istanbul is really sensitive, and to win with this horse this grand Prix has a special place in my heart.

I also have two wins that have a special place in my heart, it was with Quickly, the Saut Hermes in 2016, and the 1m55 in Stuttgart in 2013.

HORSES THAT YOU FELT WERE GREAT PARTNERS AND WHY?

I have fond memories with all of my horses, grand Prix horses, fast classes' horses, I love my horses very much and they gave me a lot of great moments during my career so I can't choose only a few names.

SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS THERE DURING THE JOURNEY OF SUCCESS. WHO SHARED YOURS?

My whole team (*my trainer, grooms, riders, vets, farriers, the FRMSE*) and my family for sure.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE KEY TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL RIDER?

Hard work pays off . But it's important to stay humble and keep a goal in mind.

WHO WERE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL COACHES IN YOUR CAREER?

Marcel Rozier for sure, we did more than 10 years together and it's still the one I go to after the course walk to watch the first riders (*if I can, depending on the startlist*). We always watch a few riders and see where the difficulties are in the course.

He's almost the first one to come to the stables at home! He loves horses so much, Grand Prix horse or not, he likes to watch the horses get their treatments after each show... And he's very nice with all my staff, he keeps on giving advice to the grooms and riders and that's what makes us a really good team.

WHO IS THE ONE YOU GO TO FOR ADVICE IN REGARD TO RIDING?

Marcel for sure.

HT EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH

BEEZIE MADDEN

OUR MEETING WITH THE FOUR-TIME OLYMPIC
EQUESTRIAN CHAMPION, THE SUPERSTAR
SHOWJUMPER ; BEEZIE MADDEN





FIRST OF ALL, HORSE TIMES IS REALLY DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU, AND I BELIEVE WE HAVE A LOT TO DISCUSS TOGETHER. LET'S START WITH YOUR CHILDHOOD, WHEN IT ALL STARTED.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED AS AN EQUESTRIAN?

My parents, Joe and Kathy Patton, owned a horse farm near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My brother and I grew up riding horses and at age 4, I was given a pony for Christmas.

WHEN DID YOU START RIDING COMPETITIVELY?

I started when I was around the age of 6 with my first pony, Flicka.

BEING SUCH A PROMINENT RIDER; YOU MUST

HAVE A PARTICULAR ROUTINE, WHAT DO YOU FOLLOW WITH YOUR HORSES?

Each horse is different with different needs, but generally we set annual goals for each horse and work back from there to formulate the best plan for their development both at home and in competition. On a day-to-day basis we make sure that all of our horses get turned out, go on the walker to move some and get varying types of exercise from trail riding and flat work to gymnastics and jumping.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA BY WHICH YOU CHOOSE YOUR HORSES? HOW DO YOU TEST IT? AND WOULD YOU MIND BUYING A HORSE THAT WAS RIDDEN BY ANOTHER TOP RIDER AND WAS ALREADY SUCCESSFUL?

We generally try each horse at least twice and



evaluate their athletic ability as well as a veterinary evaluation, but temperament is a big factor, as well. Ultimately, though, it really comes down to my feeling when riding the horse and John's impressions and feelings when watching me ride the horse. I would not discount a horse ridden by another top rider, but generally we look for younger horses to develop.

IS THERE A HORSE THAT MADE YOU BECOME A BETTER RIDER, AND WHY?

Each horse and each relationship with each horse is very different. I would say that I have learned something new from every horse I have ridden that has made me better. In our sport you are constantly learning and working to improve.

TELL US ABOUT THE MOST CHALLENGING TIME IN YOUR CAREER, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?



One of the most challenging times was when Judgement ISF first came to us. He was a big and powerful stallion, and he had a fear of the water jumps. John and I really took our time with him and utilized positive reinforcement clicker training, which had been used quite a bit with marine animals, but not as much with horses at the time. Thinking outside the box and taking our time really paid off, as he went on to have an incredible career in show jumping.

YOU'VE BEEN AN OLYMPIC MEDALIST 4 TIMES TILL NOW, HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOURSELF FOR SUCH AN EVENT EVERY TIME? AND HOW DID YOU CHANGE SINCE YOUR FIRST WIN TILL NOW?

My first Olympics was very much a first-time experience, and I really didn't know fully what to



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expect. Certainly, now with experience and multiple games, I know what to expect and at the end of one we are already planning for the next putting competition schedules together etc. so that we have horses that have the experience horse need to be ready for the Olympics at the right time. However, one thing never changes and that is the feeling you get from the honor of representing and riding for your team and your country.

YOU HAVE COMPETED ALL AROUND THE WORLD; TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE ARENA AND WHY DO YOU FIND IT SPECIAL?

There are many great arenas, but one of my favorites is Aachen. The atmosphere and competition are like no other in the world.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE KEY TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL RIDER?

There is no key, trick, or shortcut to success. The key is actually hard work and taking the time to do things right even if it takes a little longer one

small decision at a time and eventually the totality of those decisions results in success. You must also be diligent in your pursuit of your goals and not view setbacks or obstacles as barriers but instead learning opportunities to teach you and make you better so that you can progress to the next level. Talent is helpful but it is not everything, having a passion for the sport and the horses and doing what is right for your horses is necessary to be successful for a long period of time.

WHO WERE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL COACHES IN YOUR CAREER?

I had many different trainers through my junior years, but I was very fortunate to work with Katie Prudent and then my husband John. I would say that he has definitely been the most influential coach in my career.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE EQUESTRIAN SHOWJUMPING SPORT DEVELOPING FROM BEING A SPORT TO BEING AN INDUSTRY? ARE WE ON A POSITIVE ROUTE OR ARE WE

GOING TO SUFFER FROM SOME CHANGES TO THE FACT THAT THE SPORT IS BECOMING INDUSTRIALIZED?

I think there are positive and negatives to the way the sport is growing and developing. There are more and more people participating in the sport on an international level, and I think more and more countries have riders that can be competitive at a high level. I think on an average, the level of riding is better, and this benefits the sport and our horses. The growth has led to more prize money which helps our riders and owners and makes our sport more important in some ways. All of this has also raised the price of horses which is good for dealers but not as good for involving more people into the sport. I also think that even though it's difficult to find top horses, there are more good horses being bred and developed.

The biggest challenge in our sport is going to be sorting out what events are considered the top-level events, and for the riders to be able to schedule their horses to peak at these events and also have

some down time.

WHO IS THE ONE YOU GO TO FOR ADVICE IN REGARDS OF RIDING?

My husband John.

WHO WAS MADDEN'S IDOL AS A YOUNG RIDER?

Katie Prudent, I was fortunate to be able to train with her and work for her and be a part of her team for a period of time.

AS BEEZIE MADDEN, WHO GAVE SO MUCH TIME DEVELOPING HER TECHNICAL & RIDING SKILLS, HER WINNING CAPACITY, NOW WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO?

I look forward everyday to being able to do what I love to do as a job. We have some great young horses and riders we are working with to develop, and I am looking forward to competing with them and working towards the goals we set for each horse and rider.

PROFILES AND INTERVIEWS
HORSETIMES MEETS THE PROMISING

CHAMPION HAYA ELBORAIE

WHAT DOES IT REALLY TAKE TO DEVELOP A YOUNG
RIDER INTO BEING A STAR?

INITIALLY, STRUCTURE AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE
ARE ESSENTIAL. FOLLOWED BY RING CRAFT, WHERE
THE NUMBER OF SHOWS STRUCTURES YOUR
BACKBONE, THAT HELPS YOU CONTROL YOUR
PERFORMANCE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY YOUR
CHARACTER. ALL OF THAT FINALLY ENABLES YOU TO
TRAIN YOURSELF TO DEAL WITH FEAR, DOUBT, AND
STRESS.



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PROFILES & INTERVIEWS



OUR GUEST TODAY IS THE PROMISING YOUNG RIDER HAYA ELBORAIE, THE DAUGHTER OF THE RENOWNED EGYPTIAN RIDER MOHAMED OSAMA ELBORAIE, WHO RECENTLY REPRESENTED EGYPT IN THE YOUTH EQUESTRIAN GAMES 2022 IN AACHEN.

COULD YOU PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

My name is Haya Elboraie and I'm 16 years old. I started riding at a really young age and I competed in my first full season at 9 years of age.

HOW DID YOUR PASSION FOR HORSES START?

My passion for horses started at a very young age because I was always present around horses and always watched my parents ride.

BORAIE BEING YOUR COACH, WHO ELSE ADDED TO YOU?

There are many people who have helped me develop and learn more including, Alice Debany as her clinics were extremely beneficial and full

of new things to learn.

Congratulations for your great performance in the Youth Olympics in AACHEN , let's talk About it

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR SUCH A GREAT EVENT LIKE THE YOUTH OLYMPICS?

When I knew about the games, I started preparing by riding different horses that I haven't ridden before just practice the feeling as the horse I was going to ride there was a horse that I haven't ridden before.

TELL US ABOUT THE MOMENT, WHEN YOU KNEW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO RIDE AT THE YOUTH EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN AACHEN.

It was definitely surreal!

As Aachen is one of the biggest shows in the world and it's an amazing opportunity to ride there.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN AACHEN?

My experience in Aachen was truly amazing, it was such a great experience. I was surrounded by so many world-class riders and I got to meet new people and make new friends. It is a life-changing experience that I will never forget.

TELL US ABOUT THIS WIN, AND HOW DID YOU FEEL?

To win a bronze medal in such a show was just truly amazing and I'm really grateful that I was lucky enough to come home with a medal.



AMONG THE HORSES YOU'VE PARTNERED WITH, WHO WAS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL HORSE?

That's a really difficult question; each horse was a different experience for me and each one definitely taught me something new.

HOW DO YOU BOND WITH YOUR HORSES?

For me getting to know the horses is extremely important so it always takes a little bit of time until you know the horse you're riding by heart.

TELL US ABOUT THE MOST CHALLENGING TIME IN YOUR CAREER, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?

The most challenging time for me was when my horse broke his leg in the arena. I just didn't understand what was happening and I was extremely confused. This horse taught me so many things, so when he broke his leg I was heartbroken, because I knew I had lost him.

WHAT WAS THE BEST ADVICE YOU WERE GIVEN?

That fear is just an illusion and it really helped, as it allowed me to teach myself how to control my nerves during a show and in the arena.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO BESIDES HORSE RIDING?

I enjoy playing sports like Padel and Football.

WHO WAS HAYA'S IDOL AS A YOUNG RIDER?

My idol as a young rider was and will always be my father because I love to watch the way he handles things, and everything I know I got from him. My father is my biggest inspiration in this sport and it's an honor to be his daughter and student.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE?

I really want to focus on riding more international shows and to jump U25 classes.

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR YOUR FATHER?

"Thank you very much for believing in me and giving me so many opportunities that no one else could've given me. I'm truly thankful for all the work you put towards my education and I hope that I could make you proud one day."

EXCLUSIVE WITH TOKYO OLYMPIC CHAMPION

JULIA KRAJEWSKI

IN PART OF OUR OLYMPIC COVERAGE OF TOKYO 2021,
WE WERE REALLY LUCKY TO MEET WITH GERMANY'S
CHAMPION JULIA KRAJEWSKI; THE FIRST WOMAN EVER
TO WIN A GOLD MEDAL IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTING.





FIRST OF ALL, CONGRATULATIONS; TELL US ABOUT THIS WIN? DID YOU SEE IT COMING, ESPECIALLY THAT YOU ARE THE FIRST FEMALE ATHLETE EVER TO WIN THE GOLD?

Thank you very much!

Obviously, winning the Olympics is the ultimate dream, to be honest, that kind of dream you have but don't think you will actually achieve it. And no, I didn't see it coming a year ago, or even when I knew I will go to the Olympics. I was hoping for a top 5-8 finish. Eventually winning was then the most emotional feeling and still difficult to realize sometimes. It's an achievement that stays forever and I am mostly thankful to my horse Amande, my team around me and all the people that kept believing in all the difficult times I certainly had in the years before.

Being the first female athlete was a bit surprising for me, as we have many very successful female

riders in our sport, but I think or hope it sends the signal to all the girls out there, that everything is possible of you have a passion and a dream.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES MUST'VE BEEN DIFFICULT WITH THE PANDEMIC AND ALL, HOW DID YOU PREPARE?

Well yes, there was a lot of uncertainty, and also the delay of one year with many shows being cancelled. The delay certainly helped me, because it only opened up the chance to qualify and prepare my horse Amande, which would not have been possible the year before. When I knew it was scheduled for the summer of 2021, I decided to develop a plan and tried to stick to it as much as possible, and if not, adjust which what was possible.

I decided not to worry too much about what might be, but rather think step by step along the way. It was a close call to make it to the Olympics at all, so that was a huge success already. I focused on trying to be as prepared as possible from fitness



and training point of view. I also kept my focus on believing in Amande as well as my abilities. And of course, I wouldn't have done all that without the help of my coaches and my boyfriend, they kept reassuring me a lot

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE OLYMPICS COURSE OF EVENTING, HOW CHALLENGING WAS IT? THE DIFFICULTIES YOU FACED?

Everything about the Olympics is somehow special and different from 'normal' shows and even other championships. Starting from the preparations before, the travel, the attention, the competition itself, the pressure that builds. In this case the fact that it was held during a pandemic, also brought its challenges as daily testing that created worries like, what if someone tests positive.

Luckily it didn't happen. Regarding the competition itself, Amande felt great from the day she arrived. So, I tried to stick to my plans and took it discipline by discipline. She had a very nice dressage, couldn't

have been better in her abilities, and I was positively surprised to be that far up the leaderboard.

On the Cross Country I was quite optimistic that the course would suit her, and she made it feel easy eventually, she was so focused, quick and trusting all the way round. It felt amazing to cross the finish line with just 0.4 penalties for time. With that in the bag I felt that the most challenging phase was behind me as she has always been a very good jumper. After the excitement, she felt very fresh and jumped a superb clear round in the first round for the team. After that round I was in the lead and knew I would jump for gold, but I didn't think about it very much. Of course, there was a lot of pressure and a very electric atmosphere, even without spectators, but for some reason I was not very worried that it could go wrong. Amande is the horse you would like to sit on a day like that. She jumped incredible and I had the feeling she was even another 20% better. She gave me an enormous amount of confidence and it felt as if she knew it really mattered that day!



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HOW DO YOU SEE THE PREPARATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION IN TOKYO OLYMPICS? IF YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO CHANGE SOMETHING, WHAT WOULD BE?

I think they succeeded in making everything run as smooth as possible. At least I as an athlete felt that way. Surely it wasn't easy during such challenging times, but the facilities, arenas and tracks were incredible, I personally loved the decorations in the main stadium in dressage and show jumping. Of course, it would have been even better to compete (and eventually win) in front of spectators, but I'm super grateful anyways.

YOU WON A SILVER MEDAL IN TEAM EVENTING IN 2016, WHEN YOU COMPARE BETWEEN JULIA IN 2016 AND JULIA IN 2021, WHAT HAS CHANGED IN YOU?

Well, so much happened in 5 years!

I have ridden many top events and won quite a few major ones like the CHIO Aachen, CCI5* Luhmühlen, CCI4* Bramham, National Championships twice, just to name a few. I have been to the World Equestrian Games and European Championships, all of that with many ups and downs along the way and on three different horses that I brought up myself.

So, I would say I really developed my own system that I trust in, learned to cope with pressure, gathered people around me that I know I can trust, so in 2021 I was just way more up to the challenge of competing at the Olympic Games. So, I would say I really developed my own system, I also learned to cope with pressure and surrounded myself with people that I know I can trust. In 2021, I was just way more up to the challenge of competing at the Olympic Games. Plus, having participated in the Olympics before really helped in being there for the second time.

TELL US ABOUT THE MOST CHALLENGING TIME IN YOUR CAREER, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?

Well, there certainly have been a couple of ups and downs. If it was disappointing championships, public criticism, a positive medication case that stayed a mystery until now or private difficulties. In the end, it's down to doing what I love, which is riding and spending time with horses, plus learning to believe in myself with the help of the people around me.

Naturally, after a big blow, there is disappointment and doubt, but with time passing I just always found the *'spirit'* again and just started to look for new goals, made new plans and just like that, the new year had started. Also, I have to say, I always had big successes in between challenging times, so I always had good reasons to believe in myself again.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FUTURE PLANS.

In 2022 there are the World Championships in Pratoni in Italy where I would like to successfully compete with Amande. Before that, maybe a 5* in spring, but that will depend on the winter and the preparations. Also, I have some nice horses coming up, an 8 yo and two 7 yo that I hope will make their way into top sport in the coming years.

Generally, I want to keep enjoying what I do as well as being able to live in it.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE KEY TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL RIDER?

Hard work, patience and always wanting to improve combined with a good feeling for horses. I also think perseverance in improving yourself counts more than talent.