



## Wael Ibrahim

# THE TRUE LOVE FOR HORSES

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COUNTRY: EGYPT

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THE REAL HEROES OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE TOP RANKING RIDERS, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO STARTED YOUNG, ENCOURAGED BY FAMILY, IN LOVE WITH THEIR SPORT AND THEIR HORSES. THEY ARE SKILLED RIDERS YET THEY ARE TRUE HORSEMEN WHO BRING GENUINE ENRICHMENT TO SHOW JUMPING SPORT IN EGYPT. Wael Ibrahim is one of those many Egyptian riders and in this HT interview, he tells us how he came to be involved in the sport.

### When did you start riding and why did you start?

I started riding in 1991, but I stopped for a long period of time, but then I started riding again in 1999. My first show was in 2001. The reason was my true love for horses since my childhood, thanks to my uncle who encouraged me to ride and love this sport. He was the first person to put me on a saddle.

### Which horses were the most important milestones in your riding path?

I consider Janah to be my real start and Tuskana as the first mare to jump in the big classes, but Adios (the horse I am riding now) is the best horse I have ever ridden.

### How does show jumping affect your life?

Honestly, show jumping sport

and training almost every day is affecting my life positively where I exert my utmost effort in the latter, releasing all negative energy resulting from a long stressful working day. Equestrian is one of the great sports where it affects the riders' personality, teaching him how to be ambitious, patient and ready to face any challenge as well as overcome any obstacles.

### Who were the coaches who had an effect on your riding technique?

I owe everything I achieved earlier or will achieve in the future in this sport to Mr. Ashraf Abdallah; he is my true mentor who provided me with full support and guidance. But I can't forget Eng. Samir Abdelfattah, my lifetime friend Karim Assal and Dr. Karim El Sobky who have all helped me a lot.

### Will you try to encourage your

### children to practice the sport?

To be honest, I will not force my daughter Hana to practice or love a certain sport. She will be totally free to choose the sport she may like.

### What were your most memorable moments with horses?

Any horseback rider goes through happy and sad moments, and there were always extremely emotional moments. For me the most unforgettable and happy moments were winning many important classes, also raising a young horse to be one of the top horses (and that's the case now with my lovely horse Adios). My sad memories include ones where I had a bad course in any show, but my most unforgettable bad memory in this sport was losing my great young horse Alexander which was really heart-breaking. 🐾