

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



July 8, 2005 - 2008 Olympic Games Equestrian Events in Hong Kong

The equestrian events for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games have been relocated to Hong Kong, President of Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) Liu Qi announced at the 117th International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session. Based on the best interests of the competition and the well-being of the horses, the IOC, the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) and BOCOG agreed on the relocation after constructive negotiations, said an IOC statement. BOCOG believed that the Hong Kong venue will enhance the competition and the excitement of the 2008 Games, adding that the athletes, officials, media and spectators in Hong Kong are an integral part of the Beijing Games.

August 29, 2005 - FEI EIER Open European Championships



110 horses representing 27 nations started on the 160 km course of the FEI Open European Endurance Championship in Compiègne (FRA). 60 horses completed the championship and passed the final veterinary inspection. The United Arab Emirates and its team led by Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum and his 3 sons earned the most medals: the Individual Gold and

Bronze medals and the Team Gold of the Open Championship. Belgium missed the double Team Gold only because Leonard Liessens's horse was eliminated after the finish line for lameness. Belgium however won both the Individual and Team Gold of the European classification. The young Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum (UAE), son of Sheik Mohammed, was the first to cross the finish line after an incredible final race against Belgian Kristel Van Den Abeele and Chanice du Tilleul, to win the Open Championship by the narrowest margin (1 second). A bit less than a minute later, Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed and Orcara crossed the line to earn the individual Bronze. The winning grey mare ridden by Sheikh Hamdan is the renowned Georget, who finished second at the 2004 World Championship under the saddle of Barbara Lissarague (FRA). With a total of 28:35:08, the United Arab Emirates won the Team title of the Open classification, ahead of Belgium (Silver) and France (Bronze).

Aachen September 2005 Showjumping

The many, diverse jumping competitions continually provide new challenges for horse and rider. In spite of sometimes breath taking speed, precision is essential. The horse and rider must conquer the course with as few faults as possible. Faults are comprised of lowered obstacles, refusals, or going over the time allowed. Usually the winner is decided with a jump off, where the participants go all out. Depending on the type of competition, the winner is the rider with the fewest faults, the fastest time or the most points. ■

Past World Champions in Jumping since 1990: →



Eric Navet
1990 Stockholm: Eric Navet on Malesan Quito de Baussy for France



Franke Sloothaak
1994 The Hague: Franke Sloothaak on S.P. Weihawaej for Germany



Rodrigo Pessoa
1998 Rome: Rodrigo Pessoa on Gandini Lianos for Brazil



Dermott Lennon
2002 Jerez: Dermott Lennon on Liscalgot for Ireland