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THE EGYPTIAN MARVEL TEAM FLYING TO TOKYO 2020

BY MENNA LOUTFY

IN OCTOBER 2019 THE EGYPTIAN TEAM CLAIMED THEIR TICKET TO TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES DURING THE NATIONS CUP OF RABAT.

EVERY RIDER LEFT MOROCCO WITH A RESPONSIBILITY OVER HIS SHOULDER. THAT RESPONSIBILITY WAS “RIDING UNDER THE EGYPTIAN FLAG IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES” AFTER 60 YEARS OF INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATION. THIS WAS A START OF A HARD, CHALLENGING, LONG, YET UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY.



First was the spread of COVID 19 pandemic and each rider being in a different country to train for the Olympics especially that it was on and off until May 2020. Mouda Zeyada and Mohamed Talaat trained at Ludger Beerbaum Stables in Germany, Nayel Nassar in Evergate Stables in the United States and Abdelkader Said in the Netherlands.

The team had a lot of challenges; they definitely had a lot of work to do with their riding and horses. They also had to keep communicating with each other to make it to Global Nations cups together as a team, that's when they achieved results as riders and as a team. This was all coordinated under the supervision of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation.

And that's what happened.

NAYEL NASSAR STORMS THE GRAND PRIX OF ST.GALLON

Nayel Nassar (EGY) and Igor Van de Wittemoere win

the €152,000 Longines Grand Prix of Switzerland CSIO 5*.

It was an amazing performance by Nayel and the 13-year-old Igor, clearing the 1.60m obstacles they faced in the two rounds, until they finished the jump-off in 45.32 seconds.

The pair ended up preceding the British rider Scott Brash (GBR) with Hello Vincent (Consul DL Vie Z x Fergar Mail), and Philipp Weishaupt of Germany on Coby 8.

MOUDA ZEYADA HOSPITALIZED IN ST.GALLEN AFTER A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

One day before the Nations Cup of St.Gallen; the youngest rider in the team Mouda Zeyada had a very bad accident that resulted in face and neck injuries. He had to be hospitalized all day and everyone expected that the Egyptian Team will not make it to the Nations Cup the next day.

To everyone's surprise he made a live video on Facebook explaining what happened and how he was so keen to make it out of the hospital and ride the Nations cup. And so he did!

When he managed to stand up for the team and ride the next day. The Egyptian team of Mouda Zeyada, Nayel Nassar, Mohamed Talaat and Karim El-Zoghby came in fourth place after the two rounds of the Nations Cup of St.Gallen.

"My country's Flag on my jacket gave me power, despite my injuries" _he said.

A WEEK LATER

MOUDA ZEYADA AND GALANTHOS FINISH FIFTH IN THE GRAND PRIX OF LA BAULE

On a course designed by Frédéric Cottier; fifty riders were on the start list of the Longines Grand Prix of La Baule. Mouda and Galanthos made a fabulous clear round on the first phase of the competition and he rode the jump-off among 5 other riders where he had one fence down finishing fifth

LGCT STOCKHOLM 2021

ABDELKADER SAID WINS THE LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE

He was the 19th on the start list of the CSI1* Young horses 1.40m challenge; Egypt's Abdelkader Said along with Elfy Des Equinoxes made a clear round with no fences down in 34.67 seconds finishing in first place.



TOKYO 2020

THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION HAS MADE A DECISION REGARDING THE FOUR RIDERS WHO WILL BE PRESENTING EGYPT IN TOKYO 2020. THE FOUR RIDERS ARE ABDEL SAID, MOHAMED TALAAT, MOUDA ZEYADA AND NAYEL NASSAR. EGYPTIANS ARE HAVING HIGH HOPES FOR THE TEAM. HORSE TIMES IS WISHING ALL THE BEST.