



## JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE

CSIO\*\*\*\*\* SUPER LIGUE

LA BAULE, DU 5 AU 8 MAI 2005

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### THE NEW TOP GUN OF THE FRENCH TEAM

#### **Edouard's golden hands**

*Edouard Mathé, 23 years, will honour his very first selection to the senior French team on Friday May 6 in the Nations' Cup.*

This handsome and famous dark young man has entered the heart of Judy-Ann Melchior (who competes in La Baule under Belgian colours), age 19, for the past year now. He will surely enter the heart of the French supporters whose colours he will defend on Friday.

Originally from Niort, he has sailed around all the grounds of Europe with the French junior and young rider teams. Based with Edouard Coupérie in 2002 as a 'commercial rider' (the person who rides the horses for sale in competition in order to show and emphasise their qualities), he rides the chestnut Fée d'Helby with whom he has claimed a number of international placings. Remember: he competed in La Baule with this small chestnut in 2003 and 2004.

In July 2004, following the departure of Jos Lansink, he became the stable jockey for the Zangersheide stud farm in Belgium. "Leon Melchior is a demanding but fair and understanding owner. We have the same objectives. One shouldn't forget that Jos Lansink, originally Dutch, had to change nationality and adopt that of the stud farm which is based in Belgium, in order to compete under Z colours. He has not asked me to do this and when Jean-Maurice Bonneau, who had some good convincing arguments, asked him whether I could compete for France in La Baule, he accepted. It will be the first time that a Z horse will officially line-up under French colours. From a professional perspective it would be difficult to find a better place in the world : I have the best technical staff, the best horses, and the best facilities."



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines



This first Z horse to run under French colors, is the dark bay Oldenburg stallion Air Jordan Z, a nine-year-old by by Argentinus and Matador.

*"My team and I (nb: Leon Melchior and Henk Nooren, former Dutch national trainer who has become the private trainer at Zangersheide) think that the horse is ready. This will be his first very large event after Portugal, Hardelot, and Lummen at the beginning of this season. We are aiming at a great 2006 season rather but when you're offered a chance now, you seize it. I have worked towards this day for many years. »*

The high level career of Air Jordan Z begins on the courses of La Baule with Edouard Mathé. For the future: *"We will see how he jumps this weekend at this level of test and we will plan his programme for the season according to how he goes. This selection of which I have dreamed is a little unexpected, but morally I am right there. Leon Melchior gave me one day to go to Fontainebleau for the regrouping of the French team organized by Jean-Maurice Bonneau. I know the other riders and have been close to them all for years on the circuit. We will learn to know ourselves better... The horse is ready and I am ready, at least morally!"*

La Baule's press office  
Nathalie Fey



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