



JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE

CSIO***** SUPER LIGUE

LA BAULE, DU 5 AU 8 MAI 2005

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THE AMERICAN GIRLS CONQUER THE SAMSUNG SUPER LEAGUE

The four riders from the American team, Laura Kraut, Schuyler Riley, Georgina Bloomberg and Beezie Madden achieved without discussion the Nations' Cup of the SSL yesterday, Friday, 6 May, with 16 faults ahead of the British team (20 faults) and the French (23 faults). In the packed stands, the public was similarly conquered by this exclusively female quartet.

During the press conference, George Morris, the American trainer, former champion (fourth in the 1960 Rome Olympic Games), now age 67, explained that the arrival of the American teams on a foreign continent, at the time of the highlight competitions of the season, was a heavy investment for the USA : \$1.5 million.

This money came from USET, the foundation of the USEF (national federation) responsible for collecting funds from private patrons to assist the riders to make these expensive trips, notably for the Samsung Super League.

"It is a large investment for us, on the financial level as well as logistically" George Morris said. A large investment shared by the riders who provided approximately 45 percent of the necessary funds for this trip from their own pockets.

It is not only a question of transporting the horses from the United States by plane, but also of financing the riding expenses (so everyone is delighted when they can divide a 'common purse' by capturing opportunities as soon as they can to reduce these expense) of the advance formation of combinations in Europe.

Thus, Anne Kursinski, Beezie Madden and Schuyler Riley have based themselves with Dutchman Johan Heins, Georgina Bloomberg (daughter of the mayor of New York) is with German Dietmar Gugler, while Laura Kraut is with Emile Hendrix, also in the Netherlands, a country to which they feel close. Indeed, they are in fact riding Dutch horses in which they find, they say, *"something of the thoroughbred that we've ridden in the past, and who were light, reactive, and sensitive."*



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It is true that they selected models and characters in their horses that are very close to their American thoroughbred. But on the track one could be mistaken. When they were asked about the reasons for their victories, the four hearts turn towards THEIR George, whom they look at with doe eyes : *"He gives us confidence, convinces us that we can win. He is our light, our leader in a team based on confidence and mutual respect."*

Viewed from the outside, the five Americans exude the true air of a tight band of happy girlfriends ... delighted to profit from their stay in La Baule, which witnessed the first victory of an American team on the François André stagge. Historic!

*La Baule's press office
Karine Devilder and Nathalie Fey*



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