



JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE
CSIO*** SAMSUNG SUPER LEAGUE - FEI**
LA BAULE, DU 4 AU 7 MAI 2006

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WHAT THEY TOLD

Following the drawing, the eight leaders' team of the Samsung Super League – FEI got the opportunity to explain their strategy about the whole season.

Maria Gretzer (Sweden): *"We qualified for the Super League last year but we didn't make enough to stay in the competition. Now we are back, we have a strong desire to keep our place and we will do all what we will able to in order to succeed. This is our goal".*

Rolf Grass (Switzerland) : *"The team who is competing in La Baule will be completely different than the Aachen one in May. I will mix these two teams for Lucerne in order to constitute the group that will participate to the WEG in August".*

Kurt Gravemeier (Germany) : *" I thank the organizer committee for this beautiful competition that is taking place on a excellent ground and may the best rider win! I have seven riders on my short list today : Marcus Ehning, Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum, Marco Kutcher, Otto Becker, Lars Nieberg, Christian Ahlmann, Ludger Beerbaum. Five of them are there. I will give my definitive selection mid-June, following the German Championship"*

Jean-Maurice Bonneau (France) : *"We will compete in all the Super Leagues legs. I am not going to try my hand this year. I make my first team compete in La Baule, Aachen and Lucerne and another team in Roma in order to have my WEG team structure mid-June"*

Georges Morris (United States) : *"I am glad to have made the American selection system more flexible. It was established for 20 years on the trials results, and we know how many dramas that have resulted in This year, the selection is more subjective : two riders have been qualified depending on their performance – Beezie Madden and Mc Lain Ward – and eight more following the trials, in Florida. These ten riders will compete in the Super League and the four best ones in the World Championships. The team mainstays, group A, are in La Baule these days and will be in Aachen. The group B will compete in Roma and Lucerne. I will give my selection at the end of these four competitions"*



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Dereck Ricketts (Great Britain) : *"I thank Samsung that allows us to compete eight competitions of a very high level. The team present in La Baule won't be the one who will compete in the three next SSL for World Cup final reasons. The Super League will be my WEG selection basis"*.

Robert Splaine (Ireland), international rider, has just taken back the leader team position : *"I have organized the SSL these last years, so I know how this circuit is fantastic and how it is hard to keep its place too. We were lucky last year. This year, our goal is to keep ourselves in the Super League, it's very very important for us. The four first legs will be my WEG selection basis. We do not have many horses even if we have very good riders. We are testing new pairs there; it is interesting for the composition of our team"*

Rob Ehrens (Netherlands) : *"My first experience in La Baule in 2005 as team leader was not a success : I was the first rider to jump and we finished at the last placing. Today I am second and I hope to make better than obtain the next to last placing. In fact, I do hope to get the first placing. I am optimist about the competition, even if the pairs who are present in La Baule are not the same than the ones who won the bronze medal at the European Championships in Rimini. Our goal is to keep ourselves in Super League"*

Michael Stone (FEI sport manager) : *"Thanks to Samsung, the total prize money of the Super League Samsung of France – FEI has increased this year again. There will be 125 000 Swiss francs attributed to the winner team (25 000 FS more than in 2005) and a prize has been created for the best SSL rider who will receive 50.000 FS"*.

"By this way, we hope to increase again the quality of the participation in Super League" has specified **Jaehoon Lee**, sport sponsoring manager of Samsung Electronics Co.

La Baule's press office
Nathalie Fey



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