



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

Press Release n°9, 4 May 2006

**THE FAVOURITES OF THE « DERBY DES PAYS DE LA LOIRE »**

The Derby greatest favourite, is Osta Rugs Coronation. This is at least what his rider pretends to. Jean-Claude Van Geenberghe, ex-Belgium citizen, new Ukrainian one: *« my stallion is there for that. He was ninth two years ago, he knows the Derby; he is in good shape and goes straight ahead. I will just need a bit of luck, especially over the oxers which can be lightly to big for him, but I go for it. The fact that he is looked after by Stéphanie Troude, the groom who won the Derby in the last 2 years, gives me even more confidence. Stéphanie Troude was Gregory Wathelet's groom last year and Hervé Godignon's groom in 2004. Conclusion we must win! ».*

Ludo Philippaerts is a serious pretender for the victory with Tauber Van Het Kapelhof (son of the famous Darco), since he has won the Calgary Derby twice, as well as the one of the CSIW of Bordeaux. On the English side, we must not forget the young Ben Maher who, with Alfredo II, has won the famous Hickstead Derby (GBR) last year.

On the French Side, Michel Hécart took second placing in the Derby last year with That's life. This year, he is counting on his horse heart and courage, as he does not think that the horse is ready yet. Having only done 2 outside courses since the beginning of the season and 4 indoor ones, That's Life will perhaps, not have the required physical training for the type of classe. We believe in it.

One outsider could surprise everybody: Hym d'Isigny\*Lassergut, Eric Navet stallion, who has only participated to one Derby (the Arezzo one last year), but *«He is very reliable, very respectful, very courageous, fast... and in good shape. He made an excellent start of the season, and could really be competitive for the Derby.*

The only question mark is concerning the water jump: he has never seen it before Thursday when I first asked him to go through (this was allowed for the participant riders) and he finally accepted it, but I am not sure that he will be happy to jump in it again Saturday». On the other side, the rider is very experienced on the course, he has previously won... in 1988 with Marconne. He will anyway discover the new track as he has not participated for the last 3 years.

La Baule's press office  
Elodie Navet and Nathalie Fey



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines