



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

Press Release N°10, 4 May 2006

THE YOUNGEST PARTICIPANT OF THE « OFFICIEL DE FRANCE »

Fayçal Al Chalaan is the youngest rider who is competing. He is 18 and already on the starting block for the WEG, to which he qualified in the Arabian league, with three others members of his Saoudian team.

Since two months now he has settled down in Europe (in Belgium) for this show, and one week ago he has chosen the great Danish trainer Henk Nooren to coach him.

He just bought Nonplusultra 3, a 12 years old oldenbourg approved stallion to the Greek Antonis Petris, in view to participating to the event. « I got the impression that I know him for more than a year even if I have only ridden him for two months. There is a real synergy between us. However, as it is his biggest competition with me I am not sure yet about entering him in the Grand Prix. We must move forward step by step ». Since the beginning of the competition, at his own paste, Fayçal keeps making clear rounds. For example, with Rathwan, in the preparatory trails at the Derby where he was qualified: «No doubt that I will participate to the Derby. The horse was doing well at the CSI of Fontainebleau (6th) last week, and he is bloody, has a good heart and is very respectful ».

His father, the Prince Saoud, sport horses breeder in France with quite some success (1st of the 4 and 5 years old in Fontainebleau this year) is obviously very proud of his son « He does not try to force the horses to adapt to him, but he adapts himself to the horses. Up to now he has been very competitive with all the different horses he has ridden. Last year, he won the Inter-Islamic championships just in front of the ex-bronze medal of the Sydney OG, Khaled Al Eid, and a few other Olympics riders. And he will also be the youngest rider at the WEG in Aachen».

*La Baule's press office
Nathalie Fey*



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines