



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

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**EHNING, BEERBAUM, WARD, WORLD TIERCÉ IN LA BAULE**

The German Marcus Ehning, world N°1 has obtained first placing of the Grand Prix Longines de la Ville de La Baule, recent winner of the World Cup, just ahead of his compatriot Ludger Beerbaum and the American McLain Ward, elected as the best rider of the competition.

Marcus Ehning has received a standing ovation from the spectators of La Baule. « So incredibly warm. This is the first time that I receive such a standing ovation abroad» said Marcus Ehning. « This is the best week in my life, between Kuala Lumpur and here, I can't believe it! My young mare Kûchengirl is naturally fast. I knew I could be very competitive during this second round that took place like a jump off, as my brother Johannes, who was riding her until last December, has already done excellent jump off with her. He had for instance won the Hamburg Grand Prix. She is very respectful and has her own style. She is very nervous and is scared of the public. Once the starting line is behind her, she is focused and ignores completely what is happening around. During the prize giving ceremony this is another story... According to her particular style, I can now assume that she is potential choice for Aachen. This was her first Grand Prix at this level and I am really happy. »

Ludger Beerbaum was « convinced than Marcus would be faster than me. I did not take all the options that consisted of removing some strides in each straight lines and turns. Marcus should have done one fault to give me a chance to win. But I was 100% with my horse, L'Espoir, I could not do better. Even if Kûchengirl is unbeatable in terms of timing, we will do our best to beat her before the end of the year ».

McLain Ward, 3<sup>rd</sup> placing declared « being lucky to have a mare such as Sapphire, who did not touch a single pole in the competition, but she is not very fast. I lost my sponsor two weeks ago, and I had to sell my house to buy my two mares Sapphire and Goldika. I have no regrets about it».

La Baule's press office  
Nathalie Fey



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines