



JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE

CSIO***** SUPER LEAGUE

LA BAULE, FROM 10 TO 13 MAY 2007

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A PRESTIGIOUS DERBY

Favorites and top horses will be running for the Derby de la Région des Pays de la Loire this afternoon.

The favorite is naturally French rider Michel Hécart, winner last year with That's Life who is once again riding his 'Irish pony' in the event (1.56m at the withers). The most serious challengers will certainly be Ludo Philippaerts with the dark bay horse Tauber van Het Kapelhof, and Markus Fuchs and Silver II, who both have good experience in the arena.

A few ex-top champions will also be in the event whose course has been designed by Serge Houtmann: Richmond Park, previous Olympic horse of the Swedish rider Zettermann who is now ridden by Brazilian Pedro Veniss, Exploit du Roulard, John Whitaker's ex-Grand Prix horse ridden in this Derby by Jean-Marc Nicolas (Fra).

And there are a few new riders who could claim the top prize: Ismène du Thot, Kévin Staut's excellent mare, who will be jumping last ; Koro d'Or, Michel Robert's very fast horse (unfortunately the rider has a dislocated shoulder...) and Oxford d'Esquelmes with Robert Breul.

All of which makes it very difficult to say who might win. The main winner in all this is the Derby, which should be really exciting from start to finish.

The first horse will start at 15h30.

Nathalie Fey
Press department



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines