

## SHANGHAI SWANS CLING TO THEIR LEAD IN THE GCL FINAL OF SAINT TROPEZ



RAMATUELLE, FRANCE—For a destination so renowned for luxury, there's certainly no shortage of top sport at the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show. On a sunny, Saturday afternoon on June 2, 2018, the packed French stands were treated to yet another example of top-class show jumping in the GCL Final of St. Tropez. Two stellar rounds produced by Pedro Veniss and Daniel Deusser gave the Shanghai Swans the victory, making them the only team to finish on zero in GCL competition.

Following Thursday's GCL of Saint Tropez Round 1, the Shanghai Swans were one of two teams on a faultless score, the second being the Miami Celtics. Clears were hard to come by early in Saturday's Final, with course



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designer Uliano Vezzani's 1.55/1.60m track—which included eight, related distances in the 12-jump course—proving a puzzle it would take more than 20 rounds to solve.

The only pair to do it together was Veniss and the 14-year-old Selle Français stallion, Quabri de l'Isle, and Deusser, riding the 10-year-old Zangersheide stallion Tobago Z. “To be honest, the fences were big enough today,” Deusser said of the course. “It’s quite a small ring here, so the fences come quite quick. Even around the corner, there was not [ten seconds] to breath. I think, at the end, that was the main reason why we had faults everywhere.”

Though delighted with their win, the Swans are already eyeing qualification for the League final during the Global Champions Playoffs, taking place in Prague December 13-16, 2018. “For sure, [the Playoffs ] are the goal for this year, so we’re going to keep fighting for that,” said Veniss.

Once again on Saturday, the London Knights, comprised of Ben Maher (Winning Good) and Olivier Philippaerts (H&M Legend of Love) finished on the podium, adding just four to their score and taking second place in the GCL of Saint Tropez. Third went to Roger Yves Bost (Sunshine du Phare) and Carlos Enrique Lopez Lizarazo (this time on Admara 2) who brought a much-needed rise in the standings to the 16th-ranked Chantilly Pegasus.

With 134 total points—16 more than their closest rival, Valkenswaard United, on 118—the London Knights have a healthy lead and will maintain their hold on the #1 position in the standings. Thanks to their victory in Saint Tropez, the Shanghai Swans will move up from fourth place to third.

Carlos Enrique Lopez Lizarazo's clear time of 64.99 also earned he and Admara 2 first place for Colombia in the individual competition. Egypt's Sameh El Dahan and and trusted partner, Suma's Zorro, stopped the clock at 66.69 seconds, taking second. Spain's Sergio Alvarez Moya and Charmeur finished third with 67.92.

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Next up: the Global Champions League moves up the Cote d'Azur to Cannes, the tour's next stop, where competition continues next week (June 7-9).

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### **ABOUT THE LONGINES ATHINA ONASSIS HORSE SHOW**

The event is labeled 5-stars (CSI5\*), a pledge of excellence and athletic performance and is organized by Athina Onassis. The Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show moved to France in 2014, to the beautiful Pampelonne Beach in Ramatuelle, associated with international jet-setters and the "Saint-Tropez Legend".

From May 31 to June 2, 2018, the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show will feature two different levels of competition for a total of € 617,000 in prize money. The world's best riders / horses will compete in the 6 classes of the CSI5\*, all valid for the Longines world ranking - including the leading event, the Longines Global Champions Grand Prix of Saint-Tropez, with €300,000 in prize money - and the new Global Champions League, where the best riders from the different countries will participate in teams for incredible competition during the championship season.

The 9 classes of the CSI2\* will be reserved for amateur riders who will have the privilege of competing in the same arena as the best riders. A total of one hundred riders and nearly 200 horses are expected in Ramatuelle, representing more than twenty countries.

For more information, visit our website: [www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com](http://www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com)

### **ABOUT LONGINES - TITLE PARTNER FOR THE EVENT**

Based in Saint-Imier, Switzerland, since 1832, the Longines watch making expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. Longines has a legacy of many years of experience as a timekeeper for world sports championships or as a partner with international sports federations, developing strong, lasting



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