AN EXCEPTIONAL DAY FOR PEDER FREDRICSON,
DOUBLE WINNER OF THE GLOBAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
AND THE LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR OF RAMATUELLE/SAINT-TROPEZ GRAND PRIX

After his victory in the Global Champions League, as a member of the Valkenswaard United team, the Swedish rider did it again and won the Longines Global Champions Tour of Ramatuelle/Saint-Tropez Grand Prix, with his amazing Catch me Not S. They had already won the big class on Friday. A great weekend overall for the Swede...

The public present at the seventh edition of the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show of Ramatuelle/Saint-Tropez, host of the third leg of the Global Champions League and the Longines Global Champions Tour, could expect to see some amazing sport this afternoon, with thirty-three competitors among the best combinations in the world, thirteen fences and sixteen jumps, standing at 1.60m, the required height for the Olympics, in a ring a stone's throw from the mythical, Pampelonne Beach. And the event certainly lived up to their expectations! The clear rounds in the first round were few and far between on the course designed by France's Grégory Bodo...but they made way for a really splendid jump-off with the crème de la crème competing! Six riders managed to qualify, providing top-notch performances!

The Netherlands' Harrie Smolders on Monaco and Belgium's Pieter Devos and Claire Z were first to go in this jump-off and each had one pole down. Hot on their heels, two Swedes, Peder Fredericson and Henrik von Eckerman, fought it out, both finishing double clear. The former had the upper hand with Catch me Not S, finishing a second faster than the latter with King Edward. So would the victory be Swedish or French? Last to go, French riders Nicolas Delmotte on Urvoso du Roch and Simon Delestre on Hermès Ryan didn't manage to unseat the Scandinavians, who finished in first and second place. Even so, Simon Delestre, the rider from Lorraine, finished on the third step of the podium, in all likelihood disappointed that he knocked down the course's final fence, but extremely proud of his exceptional Hermès Ryan, who is still a great performer at sixteen-years-old.

The next event for the riders will be the Longines Global Champions Tour and the Global Champions League of Valkenswaard, next weekend. They will return to the French Riviera in a year's time, for the eighth edition of the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show.

The LAOHS website: https://www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com/
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EARLIER IN THE DAY, A VICTORY FOR VALKENSWAARD UNITED IN THE GLOBAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE OF RAMATUELLE/SAINT-TROPEZ

After a lot of suspense, the Valkenswaard United team won the third leg of the Global Champions League, as part of the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show in Ramatuelle/Saint-Tropez. After the first round, the team, made up of Edwina Tops-Alexander and Peder Fredricson, were neck and neck with the Shanghai Swans (Christian Ahlmann and Max Kühner). The Australian and the Swede, riding Identity Vitseroel and H&M All In respectively, went out of the ring with four faults each, i.e. eight faults in total, after two rounds, following their clear round on Thursday. The Shanghai Swans, who were also clear after the first round, could have eight faults maximum, in a faster time than their rivals. Germany's Christian Ahlmann with Solid Gold Z was the first Swan team member to go. He had one down and left his team member with the difficult task of jumping clear...or going really fast if he knocked a pole down. Austria's Kühner was last to go and also had one down with EIC Coriolis des Isles, finishing the class with four faults, making a total of eight faults for the Shanghai Swans. So in terms of penalties Valkenswaard United and the Shanghai Swans had the same score, with eight faults for both of the rounds. In this case, the rules specify that the winning team is the one that has the fastest time for both riders' rounds in this second round. Valkenwsaard United were more than two seconds faster than the Shanghai Swans, with a total time of 135:59, resulting in the latter being unseated in Saint-Tropez and finishing second. The London Knights made up of Ben Maher and Nicola Philippaerts finished third with twelve faults in total over the two rounds. Both riders chose to compete in the second round with the horses that they had already ridden in the first one: Ginger-Blue for the British rider and Katanga v/h Dingeshof for the Belgian rider.

The Shanghai Swans remain in the lead after this third leg of the Global Champions League, followed by the Valkenswaard United team and Madrid in Motion, third in the provisional overall ranking, and tenth in the Ramatuelle/Saint-Tropez event.

A brilliant performance individually for French riders Delestre and Levy
The team mates of the two riders per team entered in the Global Champions League as well as other riders who are not in a team can compete alongside them individually. And in the individual competition, the French riders clearly played their cards right. Simon Delestre on Hermès Ryan finished first in the class, ahead of Nicola Philippaerts, competing for the London Knights team, and Edward Levy, had a really fantastic weekend in Saint-Tropez, finishing third with Rebeca LS. The individual ranking of the Global Champions League, a qualifier for the Global Champions Tour Grand Prix, also determines the starting order of this weekend's final class.