Beat: Sports

OBJECTIF RIO - The French Equestrian Team ready for RIO Olympic Games 2016

During the 7th Edition SAUT HERMES

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USPA NEWS - La Fédération Française d´Equitation organized a Press Conference in March 18, 2016 during the 7th Edition of the 'Saut Hermès' au Grand Palais in PARIS. Were attending : Serge Lecomte (President of Fédération Française d´Equitation), Sophie Dubourg (National Technical Director), Philippe Guerdat...

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The National Team was also attending the Press Conference giving their testimonies and answering to Journalists' questions. They were as follow : Timothée Anciaume, Roger-Yves Bost, Patrice Delaveau, Simon Delestre, Pénélope Leprévost, Philippe Rozier, Kevin Staut.

Eventing began in Europe, where soldiers wanted to test how their horses would react in different situations. The first official competition was held in France in 1902 and then the sport spread to North America, Australia and New Zealand. On its Olympic debut at the Stockholm 1912 Games, the sport was still known as Cheval D'Arms due to its origins in the French military. Although women have been able to compete in Olympic eventing since 1952, they did not participate until Tokyo 1964, when the USA's Helena du Pont won team silver.

Germany has won seven Olympic eventing gold medals and has the current Olympic (Michael Jung) and world (Sandra Auffarth) individual champions. Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, the USA and Australia are also strong contenders who will challenge German domination at the Rio 2016 Games. Equestrian is the only Olympic sport in which men and women compete on equal terms.

Each of the three disciplines “ dressage, cross country and jumping “ has its own day. Riders compete on the same horse in all three disciplines with their scores counting for both the individual and team competitions. A rider´s final score is the total number of penalties accumulated across all three events, the winner being the rider with the lowest score. Teams consist of three or four riders but only the scores of the three best-performing riders (those with the fewest penalties) are counted.

Source : La Fédération Française d´Equitation and Rio 2016

Ruby BIRD
http://www.portfolio.uspa24.com/
Yasmina BEDDOU
http://www.yasmina-beddou.uspa24.com/

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:
UPA United Press Agency LTD
483 Green Lanes
UK, London N13NV 4BS
contact (at) unitedpressagency.com
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