

#JUMPINGDINARD #DINARDVILLESPORTIVE

JULY 18-21, 2024

20 RUE DU VAL PORÉE, DINARD

Sunday July 21, 2024

KEVIN STAUT GIVES A RECITAL FOR THE DINARD PUBLIC

With just a few days to go before the Olympic Games, French Kevin Staut won the Rolex Grand Prix Ville de Dinard, a stage on the Rolex Series circuit. It was the crowning glory of four days of great sport at Jumping International de Dinard. After an impressive jump-off, he beat two members of the world's top 5, Swiss Steve Guerdat (no.4), the 2012 Olympic champion, and Austrian Max Kühner (no.3), the defending champion.



And suddenly, the packed stands at Val Porée exploded. After holding their breath for the last few strides of Kevin Staut's jump-off, his clear round of the final obstacle, with the fastest time, unleashed an entire crowd, immediately on their feet to salute his incredible performance. Now ranked no17 in the world, but one of the most consistent riders in the top 10 for many years, the Frenchman savoured the moment, his bombshell outstretched towards the Breton sky, blue as if for evidence, and his admiring gaze on Beau de Laubry Z, his 11-year-old Zangerscheide gelding.

In the jump-off, Guerdat, the 2012 Olympic champion in London, was the first to set the bar very high (42'44). Until the Frenchman was the last to start, no one had managed to get within 1 second. Olympic team champion in Rio, European individual champion in 1999 and a pillar of the French team for more than 15 years, the man from Normandy set off taking all the risks, cutting every trajectory. This commitment was essential if he was to win. A winning bet. By taking 1'02 off the Swiss rider's time, he succeeds Alexis Deroubaix, the last French winner at Dinard, in 2019 with Timon d'Aure. "I'm obviously delighted, said the day's big winner. We've had some incredible sport again. Dinard is a great competition, with an extraordinary public and a very special course with uneven ground on which my horse is at ease. History shines through in this competition and that gives it another dimension. It's a competition that takes up the basics of our sport. I've taken part in the Grand Prix maybe ten or even fifteen times. I've often been runner-up but I've never had the pleasure of winning because the level is always extraordinary. It's a great joy. All the more so in a Rolex Series event. Rolex has been a loyal partner of our sport for a very long time, with a real family spirit. On a personal level, it's also a great support. This kind of victory is a way of repaying that support." It's the perfect scenario to build up confidence just a few days before the Paris Olympic Games, where Staut will be defending the colours of France in the gardens of the Château de Versailles, this time with Viking d'la Rousserie. It's always good to win, it gives you great energy,' he admits. But I've ridden every event in this competition without thinking about what comes next. It'll be time to think about that afterwards.

In the end, Steve Guerdat finished second, between satisfaction oscillating and frustration. "In a competition like this, you don't ask yourself any questions, explains the Swiss rider. Especially with a horse I know well. So I tried everything from the start. My horse was fantastic, but from number 3, I realised that I was lacking a bit of madness in this jump-off. I realised quite quickly that it wasn't going to be enough. It's a bit of a disappointment because it's a competition that's close to my heart but I haven't won yet."

On the demanding course designed by Jean-François Morand (14 obstacles, 17 efforts), only six of the thirty-eight couples managed to leave the course without a penalty. Steve Guerdat (world n°4) with his Selle Français Venard de Cerisy was the first to do so, followed by Austrian Max Kühner (n°3) with EIC Cooley Jump The Q, determined to retain the title he won last year. The duo were then joined by Mexican Federico Fernandez (Romeo), Nicolas Delmotte (Jordan Molga M), Lorenzo de Luca (Denver de Talma) and Kevin Staut (Beau de Laubry Z).



The CSI3* Grand Prix for Harold Boisset

Launched by the Prix Grand Hôtel Barrière (1.50m, with jump-off), the final act of the CSI 3*, the day's action began with Harold Boisset on T'Obetty du Domaine, the fastest of the 8 runners-up, ahead of Rio Olympic team champion Kevin Staut on Vida Loca Z and Italy's Lorenzo de Luca on Violino il Palazetto. The epilogue to the CSI 1*, the Prix Laiterie de Montaigu (1.40m, with jump-off), was won by Mexican Maria Michel on Galvano van de Vlasput, 1"37 faster in the jump-off than French Quentin Salliot (Beatnik Boistillac) and 2"13 faster than the Czech Republican Valnetyna Kukova (Oak Grove's Laith).

An extremely positive edition

"This year's event was a great success, with a huge number of spectators, says Danièle Mars, the competition's president. On Saturday, the Derby de Bretagne put on a great show with a number of participants that we'd probably never seen before. On Sunday, the Rolex Grand Prix Ville de Dinard also delighted us with a magnificent jump-off. To have our competition included in the Rolex Series, a circuit that brings together only historic and high-quality competitions, is a great recognition of our work. We had brought our dates forward a little because of the Olympic Games, but next year we'll be returning to our historic date on the last weekend in July. See you on 24-27 July!"

