

Rider of the Month

Olympia and a World Cup win – that must have been special?

It was my first World Cup win, I think that was the first win for an Australian in a World Cup in London. I think maybe Colleen Brook won a World Cup in Poland a while ago – but that was certainly the first time an Australian had won a World Cup in London. I had a few Aussie cheerers... not so many as the British. After John Whitaker had one down, I think they still thought they were going to win. Then when I was clear and I won, okay I didn't have the same kind of cheers – but Clayton and Lucinda Fredericks were there, David Willis and Rowan, there was a little Australian crowd in the corner so that was quite nice.

Pialotta was an exceptional horse, but this new one, Itot, must be a gear up even from her?

Pialotta was a special horse, and she had done a lot before I got her. She was 14 when I got her, and this one was 12 when I got him. I have two more years up my sleeve with him. I think she has a different mentality. He is for me a lot easier to ride. I do ride him similar to her, so I kind of think that having ridden her, has really helped me ride this one, and to get along with this one so soon. I ride him very differently than his previous rider, Michel Hecart – so maybe that has changed the horse. For me, at the end of the day, he has a better mind and he is extremely brave. He has a big heart and he really gives it his best. Pialotta on her day, was fantastic, and maybe scope wise she was a little bit more elastic, it was a little bit easier for her – she didn't have to put in as much effort. With Itot I feel much more comfortable, I really feel like I can win, every

time I go in the ring. Lots of times, I didn't have that feeling with Pialotta. Obviously at the WEG in Aachen, I had a very strong feeling with her but unfortunately in the end, she went back to her old habits... but I got two fantastic years out of her. She is the horse that really brought me to the level, I have to give her credit for that...

Itot, he's only a little guy?

He's tiny, one metre fifty-seven, 15.2 hands, but he looks like a little stallion, he is full of muscle. We had a nutritionist come the other day to check the horses and he has only 6% body fat. When he went to the Olympics, we weighed him when he arrived and he was 504 kilos and when we left he was 510... he doesn't lose weight travelling, he is a good eater.

I hear you needed the car you won in London – someone stole yours...

Yeah, my Porsche was stolen. Someone, believe it or not, broke into the house and took the keys. The win in London was actually quite good timing but I'm still waiting for the car.

Plans now – the World Cup final in Las Vegas?

My plan is for Itot to have a break now – he has already had a few months off, and he will have another six weeks because he has a big season this year, and he did a lot last year. I have a new mare, Late Night, and she is just turned nine. She has been incredible. In her first Grand Prix – in London – she was fifth, I had one time fault. Then in Zurich she was clear in the World Cup and I had a couple down – little green mistakes – in the jumbotron, to be eleventh. Last week she was clear again in the World Cup and I had one really unlucky fault, and ended up sixth – to be honest

I could have won that World Cup with her. She was ridden by Henrich Engelmann, he did only speed classes with her. We are pretty lucky to have this horse, we are surprised at the potential she has. For sure, she'll jump at the big shows, she's got plenty of scope. She really looks like a Thoroughbred, she's very hot and not so easy, but she's young and has a lot of potential. I have a great connection with her and my plan is to take her to the World Cup final if everything goes to plan...



Each Equimec Rider of the month receives six syringes of Equimec in recognition of their achievement.



Edwina Alexander

