

**Each one of us grows up with a dream!
In our minds we set a certain image of ourselves and what we would like to become, hoping for our dream to come true. Some of us wait for the storm to come and sweep us off our feet without any effort. Others try until they give up, and then there are those who just won't give in before they reach their goal.**

An Egyptian Dream

By YASMIN EL HABASHY

Andre Sakakini grew up with the dream of becoming a professional rider. Being from Alexandria, he began riding at the age of 10 at Alexandria Sporting Club. It was soon obvious that he had the talent for the art of riding within him, and this was proved by the titles that he gained. For three years in a row, Sakakini won the junior championship, followed by a couple of years in grade B, and then five years in a row he was the grade A champion.

At the age of 25, Sakakini was driven by ambition and persistence to give his dream a serious chance, and he took off to Europe to go professional. He first went to Italy for a year, where he won a big Grand Prix 'The President Cup'. This achievement was a good start for him, and it fueled him up with even more determination. After that he moved to Belgium, where he trained with Nelson Pessoa for a year.

Sakakini finally settled down in Germany, and he realized that 'this was it', this was the chance he had been waiting for to prove himself to the world of riding. He started by training young horses and eventually selling them as well as training young riders to build himself a base and to keep his sport going. It was very hard for him in the beginning. He was independently trying to stick to his dream, in spite of the fact that there were no available sponsors at the time to help him economically, and most importantly, no family to support him morally. Along the way life got easier, and Andre Sakakini proved his abilities as an international rider, and won several events around Europe and big Grand Prix, as in Rayon and Vienna.

Just About a year ago, Sakakini found a sponsor, who has actually helped him fulfill the rest of his dream. Sheikh Fahad Zahid of Saudia Arabia, a well known businessman, has bought Sakakini highly competitive horses and has given him the chance to focus completely on himself and his riding. 'Eastern Night' is the name of the horse that Sakakini will be riding in October at the World Equestrian Games taking place in Rome.

The World Equestrian Games will be held during the period 2 -- 11 of October 1998. Eventing, driving, and vaulting will be held during the first weekend, while jumping and dressage will take place the second weekend in which Sakakini shall compete in.



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