

# Evergreen

BY SIMA FARES

If pictures could talk, then this photo says it all. A World Cup wall fence, put up at 190 cm is not just any fence you jump any day. Here's the story.

It's **General Gamal Hares** riding the German mare **Abla**, at the **Puissance** competition in **Bearitz, France, 1964**.



Such competitions usually begin at a height of 160 cm, where the height of the fences increases accordingly with every round, until there is only one rider left (the winner!). Endurance, strength and stamina are extremely vital for the riders who wish to compete in these competitions. It is also very hectic and puts a lot of pressure on both the horse and the rider. In this Puissance competition, the final round, with fences put up at a height of 205 cm, was between General Hares and top Brazilian rider Nelson Pessoa riding Grand Jest. General Hares beat Pessoa, and won first place, a triumphant finale, as this was his last Puissance competition. General Hares also won first place in his first Puissance competition in Italy, 1949, riding El Nil.

With an extensive riding background, General Hares followed his father's footsteps who was a cavalry veterinarian officer. Some of his greatest results were achieved when he represented Egypt in international competitions abroad.

It includes the Olympics in 1952, 1956 and 1960; World Cup competitions in Germany, 1956 and in Venice, Italy, 1960; Mediterranean Games in Beirut, Lebanon, 1959; and other international competitions in the years 1949, 1951, 1954, 1958 and 1963. General Hares' most outstanding results include finishing fourth as a team in the 1960 Rome Olympics Nations Cup; finishing seventh as individual result in the same competition; finishing eighth at the World Cup in Venice, Italy, 1960. The list is endless!

Furthermore, General Hares was the trainer of the national team in the years 1979, 1983 and 1991, and was a member of the Olympic committee from 1993 until 1996. He received the Sports Award of the first degree in 1980.

With such a fulfilling and satisfactory past, General Hares still continues to set records with experience, dignity and style. For a man who continues to celebrate his birthday each year by jumping a 160 cm jump, General Hares remains in a league of his own.

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