RICHARD VOGEL WINS

THE ELUSIVE ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF AACHEN

A Rolex Grand Slam of Showjumping Event

IN AN AMAZING DISPLAY OF PRECISION AND SPEED, GERMANY'S RICHARD VOGEL AND HIS UNRIVALLED 14-YEAR-OLD STALLION UNITED TOUCH S, CAPTURED A WIN IN THE ROLEX GRAND PRIX AT CHIO AACHEN.

Entering a packed, electric Soers arena under immense pressure as the Rolex Grand Slam of Showjumping Live Contender, Vogel delivered flawless three-round clears to capture back-to-back Major victories and claim a glorious €500,000 bonus.

The demanding course designed by Frank Rothenberger, pushed the world's best to their limits. Only three horse-and-rider combinations managed to survive the demanding initial rounds to advance to the decisive jump-off.

First to set the pace was Vogel's business and competition partner, Sophie Hinners, who clocked a clear round in 51.62 seconds riding Iron Dames Singclair.

Unfazed, Vogel took to the arena and chased down the lead, crossing the timers in a blistering 45.57 seconds.

Last to challenge was Argentina's José María Larocca, who put up a valiant effort riding Finn Lente. Stopping the clock in 47.36 seconds, Larocca secured second place, splitting the field to leave Germany with a one-three finish at the top of the podium.

"A deeply emotional victory and a childhood dream realized on the sport's grandest stage," an ecstatic Vogel shared.

This win marks consecutive Major titles for Vogel following his victory at The Dutch Masters in March, keeping his pursuit of the ultimate equestrian grand slam alive as the journey heads to the CSIO Spruce Meadows 'Masters' Tournament. For the young German, winning in front of an ecstatic home crowd also redeemed a heart-breaking final-fence penalty from two years prior - sealing a monumental milestone in his career.

Photos by Baroness Ludwiga von Korff
Rolex/Tom Lovelock