



Royal

By Omar Abouzeid

HRH Sheikha Latifah Al Maktoum comes from a family that adores horses. Her parents and uncles trained her to horse back ride at a very young age. She was born on September 7th 1985 and she started to compete at the age of 13.

ality

at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games



Horse Times magazine recently corresponded with HRH Sheikha Latifah Al Maktoum about how she feels about her riding career as well as her passion for horses. In regards to having a favourite horse, she states that she loves all her horses and doesn't really have a favourite one; each one is special to her in their own right.

As a show jumper, HRH Sheikha Latifah qualified for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games that came after a good performance in the Jump-Off on the concluding day of the 7th Qatar International Show Jumping Championship on March 11th 2007. HRH Sheikha Latifah was riding her own horse Kalaska De Semilly (Diamant De Semilly - Normandy Night).

In the Individual Qualifier for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, HRH

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Sheikha Latifah clocked 47.72 seconds to reserve her berth for the Games. The show jumping team from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia qualified as the only team for the 2008 Games.

HRH Sheikha Latifah was under pressure and felt she wouldn't be able to make it through just before the event. "I was under tremendous pressure in the first 2 rounds and it is always difficult to perform under pressure. It wasn't an easy course, as we saw not many riders got through, but at the end all that matters is the qualifier for the Olympics

and I have done it! I'm still not expecting much since I have no experience in that level, but it's every rider's dream, and I am very excited" said an exuberant Sheikha Latifah. While praising the facilities and the efforts of the organising committee, HRH Sheikha Latifah said: "The championship was organised very well, with the provision of great facilities, and it was a great ground to work on."

On her dreams and aspirations, HRH Sheikha Latifah is purely focused on preparing herself very well for the Olympic Games with Eric Levallois as her trainer. At present she is in France getting her summer training, roaming afterwards to Egypt where she will participate in the Arab League Championships, and finally to Dubai for the Maktoum challenge. **HT**