



SERGIO ALVAREZ MOYA

LEARNS FROM THE BEST

DATE OF BIRTH: 7 JANUARY 1985

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem

THAT AFFABLE YOUNG RIDER, THE ONE WITH A SMILE AS BIG AS HIMSELF, THE ONE SEEN WALKING AROUND SHOWS TALKING TO ALL, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE ONE CLOSELY WATCHING EVERY VETERAN RIDER, IS THAT ASPIRING SPANIARD SERGIO ALVAREZ MOYA.

Born into a family passionate about riding, he started at the age of seven and is now ranked within the top 100 Rolex world rankings as well as being leader of the Spanish rankings. Moya has certainly proved his riding talents through his participations among the elite world of show jumping. Together with his eldest brother, they form a resilient partnership that brings forth a formula to success.

Despite his young age Sergio is now the veteran of three European championships and two world championships. the most recent one, in Lexington was noteworthy especially as this was the first in which he rode action breaker, probably his number one ride, but who has been entirely produced by Sergio himself. "I am the only person who has ridden him ever" remarked the Spaniard about his horse who this year was second in the grand prix of Aachen and sixth in the GCT of Monaco.

FAMILY & BUSINESS:

I have two older brothers and we all started riding at the same time; my uncle had a few horses and we all loved them. My parents always supported our love for the horse – something I am very thankful for, although at present, I'm the only one who rides professionally. My brother Julio and I are partners in a small business, AM Horses. He helps me a lot in the sport and apart from my show horses, we have around 60 young ones. We choose them together through trying to buy the most suitable ones in order to train them up to top competition levels. At that stage, we sell some although I try to keep a few for myself!

TRAINING & MEMORABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:



I will always remember the day I won the Junior European Championships in 2001 along with a few national championships. But I have very special memories of the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen where I finished 18th. I was only 21 years old then and never rode in such a big show before. As for training, from when I first started until the age of 18, I had a very good trainer from Argentina but lived in Spain. Sadly, he passed away a few years ago, but I will always keep Victor Aguero in my heart as I learned a lot from him. Afterwards I trained with Albert Voorn and dressage rider Jordi Domingo. Currently I do not have a trainer, consequently I always try to learn from the best riders I see jumping during big shows.

SPONSORSHIP & HORSES:

I have CWD Saddles and GPS as small sponsors for now, but I don't have a big one. Of course it would be such huge support to have a sponsor since it's hard to keep riding at top shows, doing it all on my own. Currently, I have five horses that I jump at five star shows; my brother and myself own 'Action Breaker' a ten year old stallion that I jumped in the GCT of Monaco, and 'Cashew' an eight year old gelding which I jumped at a few big classes and one which I believe a lot in. I also have 'Mme Pompadour' and 'What's Next' from Marta Ortega which I'm very lucky to ride. I also ride 'Wisconsin 111' which is owned by a Belgian friend, Willfried Floren, a top owner and partner of mine.

GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR PARTICIPATIONS & FUTURE EVENTS:

Fortunately I rode at a few GCT competitions and I really like the event's system; I think the availability of electrifying competition is there. I try to maintain my level of riding and stay within the top 30 rankings so I can compete at all the shows I want to. For me I always want to improve and after the World Championships, there will be other horses to ride (Sergio had a very good time at Stuttgart recently) and next year's European Championships to work toward. Especially important as they are in Spain!

LOVED ONES:

As a rider, I love to watch John Whitaker; I think he is just amazing. As a person, I have to thank my parents and my uncle since they always helped me as much as they could, and my brother given that he is always working very hard and is always trying to keep good horses for me so I can improve my riding and develop further in the sport. My girlfriend Marta has also been of great support to me.

DREAMS & ASPIRATIONS:

I hope I continue to ride and learn from my horses, and of course I also dream to win the Grand Prix of Aachen or a medal at a major championship. Riding in the Super League this season has been good experience and I hope we can re-qualify as a team in 2011. 