



THE BIRTH OF AN OLYMPIAN SHEIKH ALI AL THANI

“It’s not just about the riders, it’s the system we have, Jan Tops, our trainer, the vet, the grooms, the horses, the stables and the whole system is very effective.”

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT?

We have been working and planning for the Games for four years; we made a plan and our first goal was to qualify. As you know it's not easy for our region to qualify as we only have one spot. After we qualified we had a new goal which was to be in the best shape possible and give the horses the best care. I have to say that the whole team was great; we all had great results and we got what we worked so hard for.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT STRUGGLE YOU WENT THROUGH TO BE WHERE YOU ARE TODAY?

Thank god, I can't say we had struggles; however, as you know we work with horses so the main problem we can face is injuries to horses so we were all doing our best and hoping to get the five horses safe and sound to the Games. I had two horses ready for the Olympics but one of them was injured just months before the Games so I was in stress all the time because I had to keep the horse in the best shape till the Olympics.

IF YOU CREDIT THIS ACHIEVEMENT TO ANYONE, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My father; When I first told him that I want to ride a long time ago he told me, "If you really want it go for it, never give up, but if you don't want it from the bottom of your heart, you better not start at all, so give it your all and never quit." He is also a sportsman and he gave me a lot of advice; even at the Olympics he called me every day. My father made me who I am today. 🏆

