

Nino des Buissonets

Acquired by Marius Huchin, Nino des Buissonets integrate the Haras des Princes, which he left at 9 years old when bought by Gilbert De Roock who later sold it to Germany where he quickly evolved at the 1.50m level ridden by Tim Hoster . A few months later, he will be acquired by the Zurich patron Urs Schwarzenbach for Steve Guerdat. Less than two years later and after gaining a second place in the final of the World Cup, Nino des Buissonets wins the individual gold medal at London Olympics!

Nino des Buissonets (Kannan x Almé x Narcos II).

His grandmother is a full sister to the SF stallion Fuego du Prélet (Jalisco B) that has evolved at a high level ridden by Dirk Demeersman. Fuego du Prelet is the sire of Vivant (another participant at the Olympic Games in London under the saddle of Katharina Offel)

After joining him this evening by phone, Marius Huchin (who owned Nino until the age of 9) said: "I bought him from a dealer an hour away from home, Patrick Varlet, Nino was 18 months old and already gelded. He jumped 50cm poles in a very demonstrative way. The deal was closed quickly. He was not easy to handle and that is why his breeder had neutered him fairly quickly. At home, he spent a couple years in his pasture before being ridden. He free jumped very little, Nino began his career under the saddle of Guillaume Foutrier. At age 4 he was double clear at the Fontainebleau finals, at 5 he was injured and he started at 6 in international 6y/o events. At age 9, he competed successfully at 1.40m internationally. Patrick Carron then told my father that we should not keep this horse and Guillaume always told us that our stallion, Number One d'Iso was much better.

Three weeks later, the horse was sold through Gaetan Decroix of Wisbecq.

Today, we know that they were wrong, but it is nice to see that despite all the experience Patrick Carron has accumulated he can make mistakes.

Nino was not an easy ride and Steve is one of the best riders in the world, today I am really happy and I think that if we had kept the horse, what would he have done? Nothing at all! Today I am very happy that I can tell people that we bought Nino very young and that we sold him as a nine year old. We had an Olympic horse in our stables, it's a great advertisement!

Every time we think of his breeder, Jean-Luc Deroubaix, who passed away some years ago. He was an encyclopedia of the Selle Français origins: he knew everything.

He left us too soon and if he could know that Nino is the Olympic Champion... you can imagine his joy and pride.

Translated by Andy Smaga from the Studforlife interview.