

# CCI 3\*L of Saumur Complet: Jean Lou Bigot, the strong man of the day, at home; China and Thailand qualified for Tokyo Olympics



After his second place on the CCI 4\*L of Saumur Complet, earlier in the day, the local « Saumurois » Jean Lou Bigot wins on the CCI 3\*L, this time associated with Aktion de Belheme. He leads China's Alex Hua Tian, second, and Britain's Francis Whittington. This CCI 3\*L of Saumur Complet was the only opportunity for the Asian nations of Group G to qualify for the upcoming Olympic Games in Tokyo. China and Thailand clinch their sesame by finishing second and third behind Japan, already qualified as a host country!

## Reaction of Jean Lou Bigot, winner of the CCI 3\*L of Saumur Complet 2019

«Aktion de Belheme is a jumping horse and today's show jumping test proved it again. With such horses, you have to take your time (the horse is only nine, ed). So I had chosen this long test to continue to maintain his beautiful gallop on a long cross-country test: I've liked very much what he showed yesterday, it is very encouraging for the future. As for the show jumping of the day, we can really say that it is HIS test. Winning this competition and finishing second in the CCI 4 \* L, at home, in Saumur, is great! All the weekend, I was surrounded by my owners, my partners, etc., and this victory is definitely for them!»

## Reaction of Alex Hua Tian, second of the CCI 3\*L of Saumur Complet 2019 and leader of the Chinese team, qualified for the Olympic Games in Tokyo

«I am delighted with my second place. It's actually the first time this horse has finished a long format since participating in the Rio Olympics. We have had some issues over the past two years, on 4\* shows. So it was good to bring him down one level. The show jumping test is not his strong point generally. Topple a fence today is certainly a shame, but I remain very satisfied. The main concern of the weekend was mainly the qualification of the team. And let's say that we have just experienced a real fairy tale. I would like to congratulate the FEI for introducing this qualification system. You can not imagine how much the news of this qualification is important for China! For the future of sport in China, it's extraordinary. This qualification is only the first step, now remains to qualify the riders individually to form the team. But I am confident! All riders are pros, especially in show-jumping. Each month, they go out in competition. All they need now is to continue to gain experience.»



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