

## **DRESSAGE**

### **Tanya Karen Seymour**

#### **Campaign for the 2012 London Olympic Games**



I was born and grew up in South Africa and was riding before I could even walk. It has been my dream to represent South Africa at the Olympics before I can even remember. It was why in 2005 I made the decision to leave all my friends and family to base myself here in Germany, the 'horse capitol of the world'. I spent a number of years riding for and training with Ulla Salzgeber, World and Olympic gold medallist. I then spent time with Wolfram Wittig (trainer of Isabel Werth) and I am now based at the Bockmanns yard riding for Markus Gribbe. (Canadian Olympic team coach). It is an amazing yard right in the centre of the 'horse world' with access to many fantastic competitions.

#### **My Campaign**

Having been very fortunate to be recently given the ride on the Bockmanns Grand prix stallion, Connection, I look forward to getting to know him in the next few weeks. I will then look forward to starting our first Grand Prix together in the near future. With access to many international competitions, I hope to gain as many world ranking points and qualifying scores as I can, leading up to London 2012. My second horse, Ramoneur I will continue to compete at PSG, Intermediate I level this year while focusing on the Grand Prix work at home. I will then look forward to starting him in Grand prix early next year with the hope of also achieving the necessary qualifying scores to be eligible for selection for London too.

I am also fortunate to be surrounded by a number of top riders and trainers pushing me to new levels every day. I have the help from Markus Gribbe on a daily basis who has great experience in preparation for such competitions.

#### **My Team**

Vet: Dr Stadtbaumer

Farrier: Peter Ogriovich

Trainer: Markus Gribbe

Physiotherapist: Herman Wigger

Horse Physiotherapist: Mieke Geier

#### **Horses**

Connection is a 11yo Licensed stallion owned by the Bockmanns who has already competed at Grand prix level with super scores. We are getting to know each other more and more each day and I'm finding him to be a very kind, honest and reliable horse with fantastic movement that I really look forward to competing soon at Grand Prix.

My second horse is Ramoneur a 9yo Licensed stallion from Rohdiamant. We started our competition season this year at PSG/Inter I level and so far he has not been unplaced with fantastic scores, recently scoring over 75% at an international show in the PSG special amongst some of the best riders in Germany. This horse is one of the kindest, most trainable and spectacular horses I have had the privilege of riding.

My third horse is Sirlano, a 6yo Sir Donnerhall gelding. He is competing at M level with already many successes. He qualified for the 5yo and 6yo World Young Horse Championships. He is an extraordinary horse with amazing talent that I look forward to competing at PSG level next year with the aim to have him ready for the Rio Olympic Games if not for Normandie.

#### **In Summary**

My dream is to one day represent South Africa at the Olympics as not always been an easy one. I have achieved my goals through years of hard work, long days and pure determination. Through this time I have gained the knowledge and experience needed to compete at this level. And now I am fortunate to be surrounded by so many wonderful people that are all standing behind and supporting me in my goals. I am also very lucky to be situated in the centre of the horse world and have access to some of the best riders, trainers and competitions there is to offer, always pushing me to higher levels. With this and my pure determination I will keep pursuing my goals to one day make South Africa proud.