

# Results Obtained in Training Romanian Sport Horses for Jumping Competitions

Flavia Luminiţa Bochiş

*Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine from Timişoara,  
Faculty of Animal Sciences and Biotechnologies, 300645-Timisoara, Calea Aradului, 119, Romania*

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## Abstract

A number of 29 equines, Romanian Sport Horse stallions, were taken as green horses, break into the saddle, and teach into basic training while later train as jumpers over three years. The obstacle courses results had been obtained in our country, in Hungary and in Serbia. There were courses jumped in the national championship, some demonstrations organized in Romania or in the two foreign countries, or periodically test pattern courses run on the own arena. The best results, respectively more than 50% obstacle courses with no fault points over 3 years, were run by five stallions, and the same percent for 2 seasons, was reached by nine stallions.

**Keywords:** obstacle courses, show jumping competition

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## 1. Introduction

The obstacle show jumping is a relatively new equestrian discipline, late in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when crossing different fences became a feature of the fox hunting sport, using horses which were capable of jumping fences. Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were not established rules for show jumping and courses; everything was built only with imagination. Show jumping is an equestrian sport event, where each horse-rider couple must run in average about 12-20 obstacles, named a set course [1-3], within a specified time, in relation to the level of performance [4-7]. Normally, for every kind of fence, there is a different type of approaching and cross over. The most used obstacles are the vertical fence and the oxer fence. For crossing over the vertical, which is a high fence, the horse must jump only in report to the height of the bar. In the oxer case, which is a large obstacle, the horse must jump related to the height and the largeness of it indeed. Faults or penalties are collected if the couple brings down the highest

element of an obstacle, if the horse refuses to jump or when the allocated time exceeds the allowed seconds.

Today, the generally and most used scoring rules in show jumping are:

- First refuse or vaulting at an obstacle, 4 points penalties, second time, elimination;
- Horse knocking down the highest element of the fence, over the jump, 4 points;
- One or more feet in the water jump, or any imprint in the limits, 4 points fault;
- Exceeding the time allowed, 1 penalty point, for every four seconds and over the allocated time, elimination;
- Falling down of the rider, horse or both, elimination.

Nowadays, there are six (A, B, C, D, E, F) levels of show jumping, which determine the height and the width of the fences, as the length of the course indeed.

## 2. Materials and methods

The horse material which was taken into basic training [8, 9], between 1994-2010 years, was

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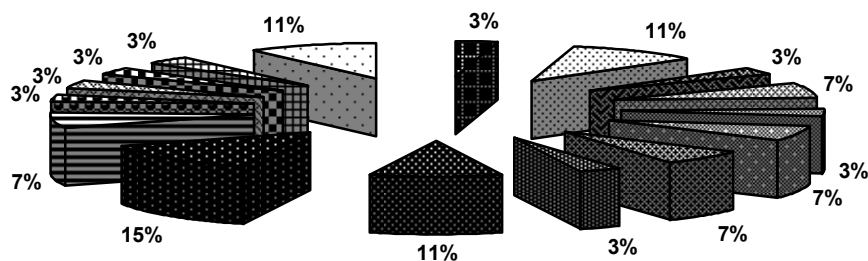
\* Corresponding author: Flavia Bochiş,  
Tel: 0744611321, Email: [flavia25cai@gmail.com](mailto:flavia25cai@gmail.com)

represented by a number of 29 individuals of Romanian Sport Horses, produced by the Jegalia Stud in principal (27 individuals) and from the Izvin Stud (2 individuals). The age for taken into training of the young horses, was in average 42 month, with more or less variations (1 to 6 month) depending with the date of birth and the time of classification.

In December 2000, respectively, a little beat later, at the beginning of the competitive season 2001, there were in training a number of 15 stallions used in jumping. They were taken into broken work, in the last years, starting with 1993. Among 2001 to 2009, in the lot of the jumpers, there was a

new entry represented by a number of 14 stallions as follows: 2001, 2004 and 2005 - one individual/year, 2006 – 5 individuals, 2007 – 4 individuals, 2008 and 2009, each one, one individual.

As stood – book origin [10], the entire number of 29 stallions belongs to 16 sires, as it is presented in Figure 1. There were 8 sires, with only one descending in this lot (Calif, Elixir, Erbiu, Guduş, Rug, Sharon, Sică and Stop), a number of 4 stallions with 2 offsprings (Epilog, Finish, Gigi and Normal), 3 sires, each one with 3 descendents (Bambus, Lampion and Trivial), and only one stallion with 4 outcomes for this study (Măcriş).



■ Calif	■ Bambus	■ Elixir	■ Epilog	■ Erbiu	■ Finish	■ Gigi	■ Guduş
■ Lampion	■ Măcriş	■ Normal	■ Rug	■ Sharon	■ Sică	■ Stop	■ Trivial

Figure 1. Percents of offspring's in lot, bring by the different sires

### 3. Results and discussion

Focusing the results obtained by these green horses which were taken in work, first for broken into saddle and later for a future potential jumper, were noticed and counted the training results registered over 3 years of competing. I proceeded like this, because they had never had in the same time the same or even a nearest level of performance in principal due to their age and secondary because of the training period. The obstacle courses results had been obtained in our country, in Hungary and in Serbia. There were courses jumped in the national championship, some demonstrations organized in Romania or in the two foreign countries, or periodically test

pattern courses run on the own arena. All counted results belong to obstacle courses raced on outdoor arenas, covered with sand or grass.

In Table 1, competition year (respectively from March to November), it were counted a total number of 599 obstacle courses, out of which, 250 without penalizations (due to stops, running out or get off bars). There were not obtained faults points for fitting out of the allocated time. The level of the competition was F (90 cm height, 110 cm large obstacles). Looking to the number of the obstacle courses jumped with faults, we registered 349 results, which mean 140% in report to those without penalizations. In this year, the average of jumped courses was 20.65 per individual.

**Table 1.** Results obtained in the first competitiveness year

No.	Horse	Competitional year	Obstacle courses	Without penalization		With penalization	
				No.	%	No.	%
1	Codru	1994	27	16	59.26	11	40.74
2	Cadou	1994	15	9	60.00	6	40.00
3	Cuceritor	1994	15	8	53.33	7	46.67
4	Crăişor	1994	22	5	22.73	17	77.27
5	Dragon	1995	29	12	41.38	17	58.62
6	Dristor	1995	28	16	57.14	12	42.86
7	Delfin	1995	26	15	57.69	11	42.31
8	Denver	1995	12	4	33.33	8	66.67
9	Elogiu	1996	11	4	36.36	7	63.64
10	Fox	1997	18	5	27.78	13	72.22
11	Grozav	1998	14	3	21.43	11	78.57
12	Graur	1998	24	15	62.50	9	37.50
13	Humor	1999	28	18	64.29	10	35.71
14	Hindus	1999	25	10	40.00	15	60.00
15	Hermes	1999	10	2	20.00	8	80.00
16	Julias	2000	19	7	36.84	12	63.16
17	Maxim	2005	26	5	19.23	21	80.77
18	Narator	2005	9	-	-	9	100.00
19	Ovidiu	2006	24	10	41.67	14	58.33
20	Otac	2006	22	12	54.55	10	45.45
21	Ornament	2006	26	5	19.23	21	80.77
22	Ornamental	2006	24	11	45.83	13	54.17
23	Orac	2006	18	8	44.44	10	55.56
24	Peşitor	2007	21	5	23.81	16	76.19
25	Picolo	2007	10	5	50.00	5	50.00
26	Parâng	2007	16	4	25.00	12	75.00
27	Petruş	2007	28	9	32.14	19	67.86
28	Santiago	2008	25	14	56.00	11	44.00
29	Tribun	2009	27	13	48.15	14	51.85

**Table 2.** Results obtained in the second competitiveness year

No.	Horse	Competitional year	Obstacle courses	Without penalization		With penalization	
				No.	%	No.	%
1	Codru	1995	30	18	60.00	12	40.00
2	Cadou	1995	14	4	28.57	10	71.43
3	Cuceritor	1995	18	7	38.89	11	61.11
4	Crăişor	1995	17	4	23.53	13	76.47
5	Dragon	1996	32	17	53.13	15	46.88
6	Dristor	1996	33	21	63.64	11	33.33
7	Delfin	1996	29	16	55.17	13	44.83
8	Denver	1997	10	2	20.00	8	80.00
9	Elogiu	1997	16	4	25.00	12	75.00
10	Fox	1998	15	8	53.33	7	46.67
11	Grozav	1999	8	2	25.00	6	75.00
12	Graur	1999	25	14	56.00	11	44.00
13	Humor	2000	25	13	52.00	12	48.00
14	Hindus	2000	28	19	67.86	9	32.14
15	Hermes	2000	14	4	28.57	10	71.43
16	Julias	2001	24	8	33.33	16	66.67
17	Maxim	2006	27	11	40.74	16	59.26
18	Narator	2006	12	2	16.67	10	83.33
19	Ovidiu	2007	29	16	55.17	13	44.83
20	Otac	2007	27	13	48.15	14	51.85
21	Ornament	2007	31	16	51.61	15	48.39
22	Ornamental	2007	24	9	37.50	15	62.50
23	Orac	2007	26	8	30.77	18	69.23
24	Peşitor	2008	18	4	22.22	14	77.78
25	Picolo	2008	16	7	43.75	9	56.25
26	Parâng	2008	16	10	62.50	6	37.50
27	Petruş	2008	33	18	54.55	15	45.45
28	Santiago	2009	28	15	53.57	13	46.43
29	Tribun	2010	25	14	56.00	11	44.00

In the same time, there were a total of 11 horses with 50% or more correct evolutions and 18 stallions finished the competition with more than 50% penalized results. Working over the second year, horses, riders and trainer, counted the results

shown in Table 2. As it can be seen, the entire number of courses per lot was higher, respectively 649, as an implicit result the average per horse was higher (22.41).

**Table 3.** Results obtained in the third competition year

No.	Horse	Competitional year	Obstacle courses	Without penalization		With penalization	
				No.	%	No.	%
1	Codru	1996	32	21	65.63	11	34.38
2	Cadou	1996	10	2	20.00	8	80.00
3	Cuceritor	1996	20	2	10.00	18	90.00
4	Crăişor	1996	15	5	33.33	10	66.67
5	Dragon	1997	33	20	60.61	13	39.39
6	Dristor	1997	31	24	77.42	7	22.58
7	Delfin	1997	30	19	63.33	11	36.67
8	Denver	1998	8	1	12.50	7	87.50
9	Elogiu	1998	12	3	25.00	9	75.00
10	Fox	1999	11	4	36.36	7	63.64
11	Grozav	2000	6	-	-	6	100.00
12	Graur	2000	20	8	40.00	12	60.00
13	Humor	2001	21	7	33.33	14	66.67
14	Hindus	2001	30	17	56.67	13	43.33
15	Hermes	2001	10	2	20.00	8	80.00
16	Julias	2002	16	4	25.00	12	75.00
17	Maxim	2007	26	7	26.92	19	73.08
18	Narator	2007	8	1	12.50	7	87.50
19	Ovidiu	2008	27	14	51.85	13	48.15
20	Otac	2008	23	13	56.52	10	43.48
21	Ornament	2008	28	18	64.29	10	35.71
22	Ornamental	2008	20	16	80.00	4	20.00
23	Orac	2008	25	6	24.00	19	76.00
24	Peşitor	2009	15	3	20.00	12	80.00
25	Picolo	2009	18	10	55.56	8	44.44
26	Parâng	2009	22	14	63.64	8	36.36
27	Petruş	2009	30	16	53.33	15	50.00
28	Santiago	2010	32	22	68.75	10	31.25
29	Tribun	2011	29	18	62.07	11	37.93

**Table 4.** Results registered over the three years of training and competing

Specification	Obstacle courses number	Average obstacle course number/horse	Obstacle courses without penalization	No. of horses >50% without penalization	Obstacle courses with penalization	No. of horses with 50% penalization
Year I	599	20.65	250	11	349	19
Year II	649	22.41	304	14	345	15
Year III	607	20.93	295	14	312	15
Total	1855	20.98	849	-	1006	-

The difference between the correct jumped courses and the penalized courses was lower, reporting 304 without faults to 345 with faults (Table 4). More than this, a number 14 horses compete without mistakes in more than 50% of evolutions, versus 15 stallions, with penalization points for different causes (stops, running out or get off bars). Comparing to the first season, it was a better result in overall, in one hand counted the

aspect that half of the horses' number had no noticed problems and in the other hand the level of the competition was higher (E level with 100 cm height and 120 cm large obstacles), even in number, diversity and difficulty route of the courses.

After three years of hard work training with all 29 Romanian Sport Horses stallions, were registered an entire number of 1855 jumped obstacle

courses, with an average value of 20.98 courses/horse. The report between the correct and penalized obstacle courses number was 849 to 1006 that showed in percent 45.77, versus 54.23%. The penalizations were accumulated due to various situations: overrun from the accorded time, refuses and run-offs, voltas, knocking down bars, errors in the established route or sometimes fall down of the rider or the horse – rider couple.

It was computed a statistical analyses with the Student test, results obtained for  $t$ , are in table 5. Instead of taken all possible combination for these data's, only one significant difference was found in the first year of competing, between the obstacle courses finished without fault points, versus the results with penalization ( $t=0.01060$ ). For all other values, there were not registered statistical significations (Table 5).

**Table 5.** Statistical signification for the obstacle courses results, jumped by the sport stallions

Obstacle courses number		Obstacle courses without penalization		Obstacle courses with penalization		Obstacle courses without vs. with penalization	
I - II	0.33778	I - II	0.27022	I - II	0.88716	I - I	0.01060
II - III	0.99071	II - III	0.43408	II - III	0.25836	II - II	0.25559
I - III	0.41558	I - III	0.90194	I - III	0.24600	III - III	0.27885

After one, two or three full seasons of training and competing (in some cases), the trainer made a hierarchy for the horses. Based on this, the sport club established the destination for the equine athletes: show jumping horses, schooling horses for beginners (some of them especially for kids), leisure horses or horses for sale.

The best results, respectively more than 50% obstacle courses with no fault points over 3 years, were run by five stallions (Codru, Dristor, Delfin, Santiago and Tribun). With the same percent of good results, but only over two seasons, were nine stallions (Dragon, Graur, Humor, Ovidiu, Otac, Ornament, Picolo, Parâng and Petruţ).

#### 4. Conclusions

A number of 29 equines, Romanian Sport Horse stallions, were taken as green horses, break into the saddle, and teach into basic training while later train as jumpers over three years.

For the whole lot were registered an entire number of 1855 jumped obstacle courses, with an average value of 20.98 courses/horse. The report between the correct and penalized obstacle courses number was 849 to 1006 that showed in percent 45.77, versus 54.23%. The penalizations were accumulated due to various situations: overrun from the accorded time, refuses and run-offs, voltas, knocking down bars, errors in the established route or sometimes fall down of the rider or the horse – rider couple.

The competition level was respected for the FEI rules, obstacle courses, jumped were F level

in the first year, then E and D level, over the next two.

The best results, respectively more than 50% obstacle courses with no fault points over 3 years, were run by five stallions, and the same percent for 2 seasons, was reached by nine stallions.

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