



## Markus Fuchs last “hunt”

It was an emotional farewell for Markus Fuchs on Saturday in the Generali Speed Class during the CSIO St. Gallen: Niklaus Rutschi and Beat Mändli made sure, that the Swiss got the first two places. But the big applause and thanks of the 12'000 spectators, that came even though it was raining heavy, was for Markus Fuchs, the great fighter, which retired from his sports-career.

As last rider Markus Fuchs came in the arena for his final international class. In his usual way of fighting he led his 17 year old mare Granie through the course without giving away only a centimetre. You could have heard a needle fall. Everybody wished the 54 year old horseman this success for his farewell. But at the spiteful fifth fence, the triple bare, unfortunately a rail dropped. This mistake was the reason, that Markus Fuchs could not celebrate his fifth triumph in the “parcours de chasse” of the CSIO's Switzerland. The fourth in the final ranking list with high speed and short ways to take got more applause than the winner.

“I rode to the first place in jodhpurs Markus gave to me on Friday, since he doesn't need them anymore” said winner Niklaus Rutschi from Alberswil. Markus Fuchs' answer to this was “If I would have known you would snap the success, I would never have given you those pants”.

There it was again, the humour of the sly “fox”, which will be missed during all coming tournaments. To the music of his favourite band “ABBA” the most popular Swiss rider of all times rode his rounds of honour in the arena. After receiving presents and honours a great sportsman and fighter in the course said goodbye. A big party with beer, brezels and cheese for everybody on the show ground was, despite to the bad weather, a dignified scenery for his farewell.