

# Khaleej Times <sup>(UAE)</sup>

## HORSE RACING

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## UAE make it four out of four

Ramdass Volvoikar  
Reporting from Pisa (Italy)/Italy  
Filed on August 25, 2015

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**UAE riders won all the three tops spots in the 84-km race on Sunday.**  
(Supplied photo)

**Shaikh Mohammed and Shaikh Hamdan were in attendance to back the team for the second consecutive day.**

UAE riders had entered the Toscana Endurance Lifestyle 2015 in Italy with a sizeable weight and lot of expectations too. And they ticked all the right boxes by making a clean sweep in the four races that they took part in.

After eight podium finishes in three races on Saturday, UAE riders again struck the purple patch winning the top three positions in the only race they participated on Sunday under the magical setting of San Rossore Racecourse in Pisa.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and Shaikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, were in attendance to back the team for the second consecutive day.

Shaikh Hamed bin Dalmook Al Maktoum claimed victory in the 84-kilometre race for the San Rossore Endurance Cup with a good finish. He was leading in the first loop before being displaced by compatriot Saif Ahmed Al Mazrouie in the second loop.

However, Shaikh Hamed came back strongly by winning the third loop, and with it the title. Saif Ahmed had to be content with a second-place finish while another compatriot Saeed Mohammad Khalifa Al Mehairi took the third spot to cap a fantastic display for the UAE, who had fielded 43 riders in the two-day meet.

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Mohammed Essa Al Adhab, racing manager of Dubai Equestrian Club, termed it an excellent effort from the UAE riders after entering the field on Sunday just to gain a qualifying entry for the Balkan Championships for Senior slated later in the year.

"While we had taken yesterday's three races seriously, today we had fielded the team just to allow us have the required participation numbers ahead of the Balkan event. And our riders went a step further and won all the three places. That's an awesome feeling," Al Adhab told the Khaleej Times.

Al Adhab credited the victory to the presence of Shaikh Mohammed and Shaikh Hamdan. "His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Shaikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum world champions themselves and their inputs were of great help to the team. Their mere presence was enough to boost the team morale," remarked Al Adhab.

The impressive showing will be a shot in the arm for the UAE team as they look to participate in the FEI World Endurance Championship for Young Riders & Juniors slated to be held on Oct. 23 and 24 near the coastal town of Santo Domingo, Chile. Apart from that, the UAE are looking at the bigger challenge in the form of the World Endurance Championships, which they will host late next year.

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