



## Eric Lamaze Third in \$1 Million CN International Grand Prix

*Olympic Champions Eric Lamaze and Hickstead placed third in the \$1 million CN International at the Spruce Meadows "Masters" Tournament on Sunday, September 12, in Calgary, Alberta.*

**Photo by Cealy Tetley**

**September 12, 2010 – Calgary, Alberta** – In front of 76,947 show jumping fans, Canadian Olympic Champion Eric Lamaze placed third in the \$1 million CN International held Sunday, September 12, at the CSIO5\* Spruce Meadows "Masters" Tournament in Calgary, AB. Despite competing with a broken bone in his left foot, Lamaze of Schomberg, ON, jumped clear in the first round riding his Olympic partner, Hickstead. His first round performance put Lamaze in the enviable position of being the last of 12 riders to return for the second round. At the third fence, Hickstead made a great effort, causing Lamaze to lose his left stirrup. Not able to get his stirrup back in time for the double liverpool combination at fence four, Lamaze was forced to circle. Lamaze and Hickstead went on to jump the rest of the course clear, but incurred four faults for circling as well as three time faults for exceeding the time allowed.



Jeroen Dubbeldam of The Netherlands won the event with one time fault riding BMC Van Grunsven Simon while Richard Spooner of the United States placed second with four faults riding Cristallo.

"I have been trying to protect my left foot by landing in my right stirrup, and the jumps just got too big," explained Lamaze, who first underwent surgery on his foot on July 20. "The second round was as big as I have ever jumped anywhere in the world. I wasn't going into that combination without my stirrups. I may be sitting on Hickstead, but I still need two stirrups!"

Had he won Sunday's \$1 million CN International at Spruce Meadows, Lamaze would have claimed the first place cheque of \$325,000 as well as a \$450,000 bonus for winning three events in the CN Precision Series this year, having already won the \$200,000 CN Reliability Grand Prix during the

Spruce Meadows “National” Tournament in June as well as the \$200,000 ATCO Power Queen Elizabeth II Cup during the “North American” Tournament in July.

“Financially, it was not as successful as it could have been for me, but I am still very happy to be third,” said Lamaze, who earned \$100,000 for his third place finish. “That’s the sport, and I still had a good result. We are already competing for a lot of money, and the bonus money is just the icing on the cake.”

Lamaze’s first competition back after breaking his foot was at CSIO5\* Gijon, Spain, where he jumped double clear for the second-placed Canadian Show Jumping Team in the Nations’ Cup on Friday, September 3, riding Atlete van t Heike. Lamaze was scheduled to compete for Canada at the CSIO5\* Barcelona, Spain, the week after Spruce Meadows, but due to the injury to his foot, has requested that Canadian teammate and close friend Yann Candele of Caledon, ON, compete his horses.

“I need another operation to fix my foot, but there is not a lot of time before the World Championships,” said Lamaze, who is focusing on the upcoming World Equestrian Games being held in Lexington, Kentucky, from September 25 to October 10. “My other horses are in Barcelona, but I am going to pass and have Yann Candele ride them. It is important that the Canadian Team have a fourth rider in the Nations’ Cup and not have to compete with a three-man team, so this is the best solution for Canada, and for the Team.”

Lamaze broke his foot on July 18 while competing in the €350,000 Rolex Grand Prix of Aachen, Germany, which he won after jumping three clear rounds with Hickstead. Lamaze is under the care of leading doctors in Brussels, Belgium, where he is based.

Despite not competing in the month of August, Lamaze is currently ranked the number three show jumping rider in the world. In July, he took over top spot on the Spruce Meadows all-time money list with earnings in excess of \$2.8 million at the Calgary venue alone.

<b>Prize Money Won</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Prize Money Lost</b>	<b>-\$325,000</b>
<b>Prize Money Lost</b>	<b>-\$450,000</b>
<b>One Lost Stirrup</b>	<b>-\$675,000</b>

## **A Review of The 675,000 Dollar Lost Stirrup Story**

The companion article “[Tack and Strategic Planning](#)” should be read to fully appreciate the events of the “\$675,000 Lost Stirrup”.

The stirrup that Mr. Lamaze used during this competition was a ‘Jin Stirrup’ also known by the name ‘Wild Kart’. On the day of the “675,000 Lost Stirrup”, Mr. Lamaze was riding at a distinct disadvantage

considering the concept of Tack and Strategic Planning. The ultra-light, all-aluminum stirrups may be comfortable when riding, but when they are lost the light stirrup is less predictable to retrieve. This 'fly away' tendency reduced the chance of regaining his stirrup which would have allowed him to continue on to the set of doubles. A stirrup with some residual weight will hang 'true' when lost and is more reliable to retrieve.

The all-aluminum stirrup had no 'forward facing' characteristics. There is no positive benefit to a stirrup that naturally lays flat against a horse's side. Conventionally designed stirrups, when lost, turn back to the horse's side making the opening for the foot smaller and smaller. Eventually, when the stirrup flattens, the stirrup is difficult or even impossible to retrieve. A stirrup designed with a 'forward facing' characteristic will tend to remain open to the foot when lost compared to a traditionally designed stirrup. A rider employing a Strategic Planning technique would have greatly improved their chances of recovering their stirrup and continuing on course.

Before the early 1990s, stirrups had a one to one relationship regarding the width and the inside height. If the width between the stirrup branches at the tread was 4.75", the height from the tread upwards to the upper, inner arch was also 4.75". Modern stirrups are designed to be taller than they are wider. Any small increase in the height, allows for a greater area for the foot to retrieve a lost stirrup and to escape a stirrup during a fall. The all-aluminum 'Jin Stirrup' of 2010 was designed on a one to one basis causing the opening for the foot to be smaller than optimal and more difficult to retrieve. If the opening were larger, the chances of a positive retrieval would have been increased and Mr. Lamaze would have had a better chance at continuing on course, potentially winning the class and gaining the \$675,000 additional prize money.

It is clear that a stirrup with some residual weight, a 'forward facing' design and a modern, larger opening for the foot would have provided a greater advantage to Mr. Lamaze. Utilizing Tack and Strategic Planning as an essential part of your competitive riding, your riding will be rewarded with better results, a more secure riding position and increased safety.