

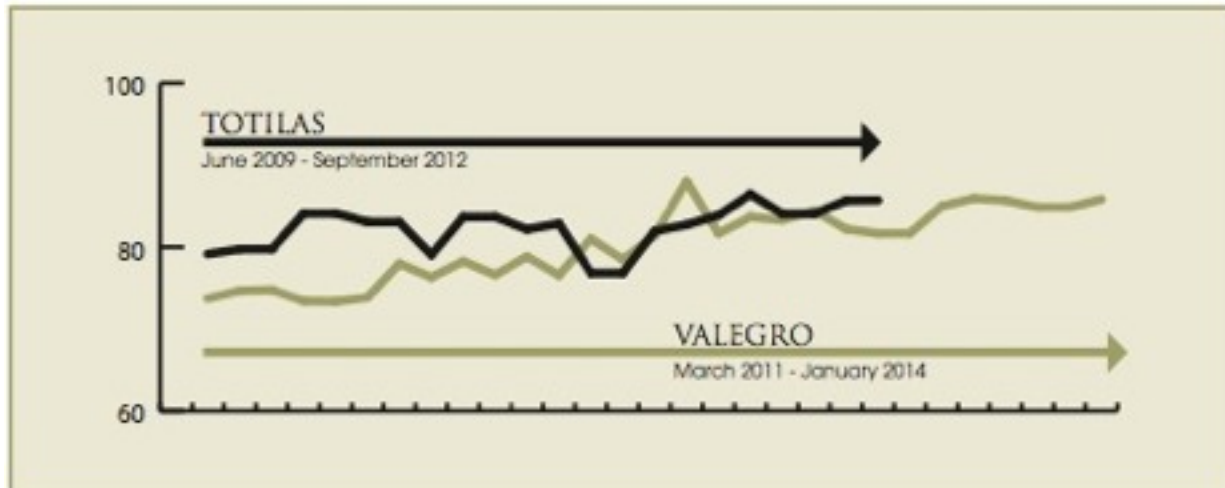
GLOBAL DRESSAGE ANALYTICS

AN EXERCISE IN FUN! COMPARING TOTILAS AND VALEGRO

In the last five years two horses have totally dominated the international scene, Totilas and Valegro, between them they have redefined excellence and of course assured themselves of a big role in the future genetics of the discipline! Totilas was brought to us by one of the most well-established professionals of the era, Edward Gal, while Valegro was the wings on which a new Dressage star Charlotte Dujardin was launched under the guidance of that other master professional Carl Hester. Totilas hit the International scene in June 2009 and hit his pinnacle at the WEG in Lexington, KY on October 1st 2010. Then Edward lost the ride and Totilas has not competed for almost two years. Six months later in March 2011 Charlotte and Valegro hit the ground running and by April 2012 they were performing at and above the same level as Edward and Totilas had. Since then Valegro has taken almost every honor possible.

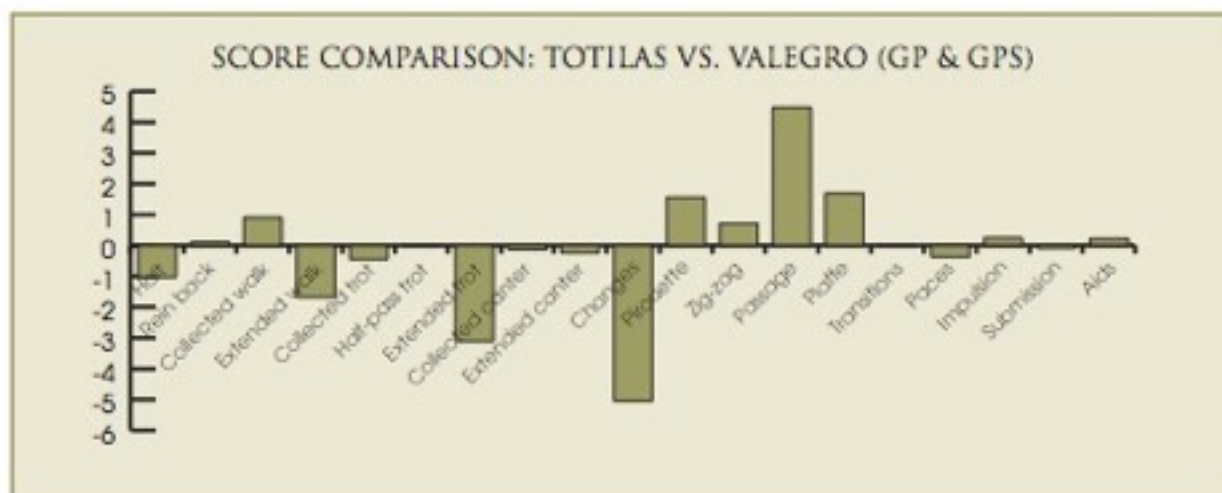


So, these couples never met in a dressage arena, but for fun we could study the numbers and imagine how things might have been if they had of done! The last (non-Freestyle) score for Edward and Totilas was 85.7 in the Special at Lexington while the last Grand Prix score for Charlotte and Valegro at Amsterdam was 85.8! Amazingly, tantalizingly close.



Both the couples have been to 2 major championships (and of course won everything at each one), Totilas at Windsor (EC) and Lexington(WEG) and Valegro at London(OG) and Herring(EC), so from the figure scores at each of those events we can make a virtual competition to compare their relative strengths! Of course, it is just fun, these were two years or more apart, the judges were not the same at each event, the use of 7 judges and half-points was not yet in place for Totilas. But what you will see is how astonishingly close these two horses were...

To get better statistics we have combined the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special results from these championship events and then plotted them on the same graph. In this graph we show not the actual scores but the difference between the two horses. Where Totilas scores more than Valegro the bars are above the centerline, when Valegro scores more than Totilas, the bars are below the centerline, and what is shown is the coefficient corrected point difference between the combinations.



Here we see the collected power of Edward and Totilas with their beautiful passage and piaffe as the figure types where they would come out on top, and we see the relaxed yet perfect changes and extended paces of Charlotte and Valegro! On average scores, Valegro would just tip Totilas at the post with an 84.7 compared to an 84.2, but with the new piaffe coefficients for 2014 they would be at 84.7(T) and 84.8(V), far too close to call. But in the last three years Charlotte and Valegro have steadily improved their passage scores by more than 0.7% and the trend is very steady...

Two beautiful horses, two superb riders, as a last fun exercise we could ask what would be perfection today? What if we could take the best figures of these two combinations and put them all together in one ride? Actually the final score of that super-horse would be about 87%, perhaps we will see it one day in a championship from Valegro? Or perhaps we must wait till the next giant hits the arena!

Extracted from the World Dressage Masters Guide 2014. ©2014
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