

# Good horsemanship is humility and compassion

Daniel Zetterman, with his horse Glory Days, left a big impression on the Tunne Hevonen staff in Hamina Bastion. Finns have been familiar with Daniel's father, horse expert Royne Zetterman since decades ago. Daniel, the son of Royne Zetterman, who has worked as both a rider and seller of horses, still states that his mother has had the greatest influence on his career with horses.

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Pictures: Tunne Hevonen/ Tiina Panula, Minna Lindström



Daniel Zetterman and Glory Days

Daniel Zetterman regrets that Bastion is a bit far away, but it's a really great place, and the good courses and prizes offer some comfort.

-The base could've used improving, though, and the hotel, he chuckles.

Despite his young age, Daniel Zetterman is a full-time horse professional. He explains that a good jumper has a good nature, is intelligent and has a great heart. Jumping skills and good training are also required, so that the horse can learn to use its body correctly. If the horse is also skilled at evaluating and observing the fences, you are close to having the perfect horse.

-A show horse also has to enjoy performing and being on display, Daniel describes

## All expectations are not on the horse

-The human must be a humble and compassionate leader for the horse. A good horseman builds a deep trust in his horse. Horses are prey animals, so they can recognize and relate to the moods of the rider. If the rider is afraid, the horse will be afraid as well. Horses prefer to work with riders who are calm and collected, Daniel explains his philosophy.

Technical knowhow is needed as well, and Daniel says he has learned a lot from his mother.

-She taught me how to seek a "flow" when approaching fences. By flow I mean that the rider is able to find the correct

*"My future dreams include the Olympic games, world championships... I don't want competitions for every weekend, but rather in a more focused manner, one or two per month. On a longer term my dream is to keep working with horses, and to become a better and better rider and horseman."*



Co-operation led to the first perfect clear of the Nations Cup.

pace of canter together with the horse, and is then able to plan the route he wants to take around the course, and give the horse the freedom to move.

## Technical skills and feelings

-It's very important to have a good system. A good rider keeps his horse disciplined, but is pleasant to carry and keeps up a good flow.

I'm also really precise when it comes to small details in everyday life. I personally check that saddles are a good fit, and I want to saddle my horses myself to make sure the saddle is put on correctly, to avoid chafing or potential discomfort to the horse, Daniel explains.

-Many riders focus too much on the distance when they're approaching a fence. In my opinion, a good rider should know and feel the rhythm of their horse's canter, and make their way around the course based on that. When you do, your movement on the course will be relaxed, light and balanced. You can learn this feeling with a good teacher and through repetition. A rider must know his horse so well that he can, in a way, feel the right choices on the course – that's flow!, Daniel reminds.



Both the horse and the rider feel good after a successful performance.