

**LAJOSCHA FIRES OFF BENCH TO TAKE LISTED RACE DESPITE FIRMER TURF BLACK-TYPE SCORE QUALIFIES HIM FOR THE 2023 MELBOURNE CUP ANDREAS WOEHLER TO BRING HIM BACK IN 2 WEEKS FOR 2-MILE GROUP 2**



*Lajoscha saw out every yard of the 14 furlongs Sunday at Hoppegarten in the Listed Altano-Rennen in Berlin.*

As Lajoscha's odds drifted from being a close second choice two days before the race to an 8 to 1 chance at post time yesterday at Hoppegarten racecourse in suburban Berlin, Germany, connections of the Irish-bred son of Gleneagles had every right to wonder which version of the 5-year-old would appear on course for the 14-furlong Altano-Rennen.

Lajoscha did not come into the Altano-Rennen exactly as planned. However, his class prevailed and he won the Listed race with authority for Woehler and jockey Eddie Pedroza in fine style over the 14 furlongs in Berlin. Now Herr Woehler will bring him back in 2 weeks at the same Hoppegarten racecourse for Germany's top race for Stayers, the Group 2 Oleander-Rennen going 2 miles.

The lightly-raced but well-performed 5-year-old improved his record to 4 wins and 1 second in 7 career outings. His lone losses—and they both were too bad to be true—came last year when eased in France when incorrectly tried on a synthetic track, and the year before in France when he did not handle firmish ground at Saint-Cloud.

Lajoscha broke his maiden at Cologne racecourse in Germany on debut by a stunning 15 lengths, yet was beaten off by nearly 50 lengths second time out when showing a decided distaste for firmer turf. He put that form well in the rearview mirror next time when taking a Chantilly Listed race by 6 lengths.



*Bionic jockey Eddie Pedroza (he rides with two hip replacements) did not have to get to the bottom of Lajoscha to ensure victorying the Listed prep race for the impending Group 2 Oleander-Rennen back in just 2 weeks*

For Team Valor, the horse overcame a torn cruciate ligament to run a bang-up second in the late fall of last season, but then fizzled on the synthetic in France.

“His coat had come in, which is always a very good sign, and he had trained well,” the Melbourne Cup-winning conditioner said. “He is, of course, a big horse, and he was carrying quite a bit of condition still from the winter and the ground was against him, but he is a high-quality animal. So, I told Eddie to ride him in front as I thought it would discourage his rivals.”

Lajoscha dodged a horse next to him that reared straight up at the break. The TVI colorbearer broke straight, moved over a lane to stay in the clear, and Pedroza gently let him know that he should move into command.

At first Lajoscha had his ears pinned and he did not look happy, but soon when he realized he could merely skip along in front, his ears went up and he proceeded to have a merry old time leading his 8 opponents around the large racecourse situated in a suburb of the German capitol. The Hoppegarten stretch is long, yet Pedroza let the horse know that he wished him to move earlier than usual, so as to continue the game plan to discourage his rivals. Pedroza niggled at the horse before the top of the lane and Lajoscha set sail before coming off the bend. He opened up a sizable lead, kept to his task when double Group 3-winning Stayer Aff un Zo came at him. That gigantic Kallisto horse could never get closer than the 1 3/4-length margin by which he lost.

[Race video](#)

