

The 19-year-old rider, with Marc Colomer as his mentor, confirms his progression and the expectations of the Girona manufacturer

Jeroni Fajardo: "The GAS GAS School of Champions is a fantastic idea"

There is no questioning it. GAS GAS has become a great pool of young riders under the already renowned name, the School of Champions, that has not taken too long to give its first fruits. Behind this concept there is the intense work of two couples who are soon to climb to the top of the sport and be there a long period of time.

Adam Raga's career under the counselling of seven-time world champion Jordi Tarrés has now been followed by the meteoric ascent of Jeroni Fajardo under the supervision of another world champion, Marc Colomer. Fajardo's promising season had its climax last weekend with his win in the Spanish Trial Championship's sixth round, held in Villameca, León, where the young GAS GAS rider achieved his first win ever in a Spanish Championship round.

Before the GAS GAS School of Champions, we must remember that the Spanish manufacturer has always focused on doing good training and formation work on many of the riders that have had a relevant place in the history of trial, apart from the mentioned above. Amós Bilbao, Albert Cabestany, Marc Freixa, David Cobos, Marcel Justribó, Joan Pons, Marc Catllà, Jordi Pascuet, Laia Sanz... The best Spanish trial riders have competed and won on GAS GAS bikes.

Race after race, Jeroni Fajardo has demonstrated his progression and, above all, his commitment when it comes to learning from Marc Colomer's advice. For Fajardo, having a person like Marc next to him is fundamental for his development: **"I trust him a lot, and I also respect him very much. He is a very important person in my life and he is really helping me a lot. The GAS GAS School of Champions is a fantastic idea. They have shouldered me since I was very young and it is thanks to them that I am where I am now. Obviously my present situation would not have been possible had it not been for their help."** On his part, Colomer expects the win Fajardo achieved in León to be the first in a long list: **"The concept of formation and training started**



with the Tarrés-Raga couple and it worked very well. I expect that it will be the same for us and that we may achieve lots of success. It is a very good and positive philosophy for the youngsters who are starting in the trial world.”



The 1996 World Trial Champion Marc Colomer is not surprised by Fajardo's performance: **“It is the fruit of the work we have been doing. Already last year he started collecting some good results and the winter training has been very good. The truth is that he was always close to success, although he came short of it many times. The Villameca win will no doubt be a step ahead in his sports career. He deserves it.”** Jeroni Fajardo is in the fourth place in the provisional Spanish Trial Championship standings with two rounds to go, and he counts on the Villameca win and a third place in Osuna, Seville, as his best results. The rider from Pals, Girona, has also finished the World Trial Championship in the sixth place, with highlights such as his two fourth places in Japan and Switzerland.

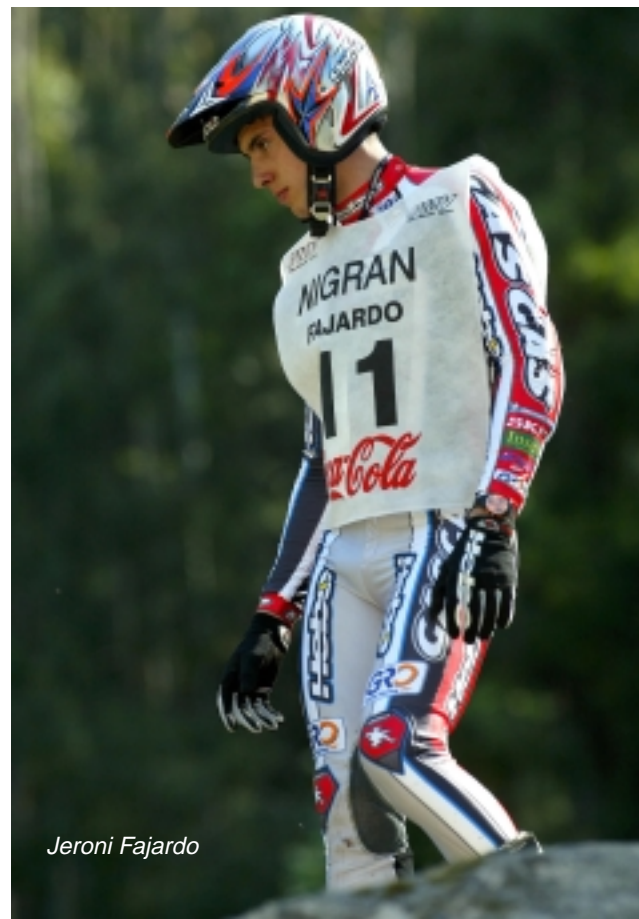
Work, work and more work

Jeroni Fajardo's season is naturally intense. Head-to-head training days follow one another so as to be as fit as possible for the next event: **“Our training system varies according to the competitions we have tackled. What we do is review those aspects where we have failed so as to better and perfect them. I usually train on my bike around four hours in the morning, and I go to the gym in the afternoon. The exercises are basically centred on coordination and skill. The question is to be swift and have good balance, rather than building up muscles by lifting weights,”** Fajardo thinks.

In his first year as a mentor and tutor of a young promise, Marc Colomer is applying his wide experience and knowledge in the trial world: **“The method combines theory and practice, that is, a bit of everything. Fajardo had his own method before being with me. The truth is that we train almost every day and depending on the race that we are preparing for. We normally choose a place that suits us, always in Girona. We must be constant and keep a daily work line”.**

GAS GAS, a winning manufacturer

Competing under the structure of a works team is the dream of any professional rider. At 19, Fajardo has achieved this aim and is riding one of the most competitive bikes of the Championship, the GG TXT Pro 280, in the works “Jordi Tarrés-GAS GAS” team. All the solutions applied to the works bikes for their adaptation to the rider's riding styles and transformation into number one bikes in competition are later introduced in the series GAS GAS bikes. The new 2005 TXT Pro 300 has already started its production in the summer. This is a model that took Adam Raga to the win in the 2004 Indoor World Trial Championship and was also in the hands of Jeroni Fajardo when he won the Villameca Spanish



Jeroni Fajardo



Championship trial last weekend.

Returning to the sports field, Colomer comments: **"Being shouldered by a big manufacturer is very important. All the tests are organised by the GAS GAS manager and the rider only has no other worries but to ride. Regarding the bike, it has got everything. It is superior to the rest, particularly in its weight (5kg less). This is fundamental, because it means 10% less of the total weight. We are very satisfied, although this does not mean that they have stopped working on it. They are constantly adapting it to the rider's needs."**

At the same time, having a champion bike means an extra push when aiming at a win. **"It is clear that a winning machine gives you more confidence and greater chances to overcome obstacles other riders cannot face. I can only praise the team and our bike,"** states Fajardo.

Novelties for the 2005 season

Already in the closing stages of the calendar, Fajardo points out his targets: **"We still have a couple of races (depending on whether the last one is held or not) and it is important to get a good result. My main target is to win, or to be on the rostrum in any case. I have been feeling in good shape in recent weeks and the results are showing that."** For next year, the young Catalan espoir will climb another step in his particular evolution and will tackle the World Indoor Trial Championship. For the moment, Fajardo is cautious: **"I am very happy with everything. For next year's World Indoor Championship, we will have to train very hard first, and depending on the results I will choose my targets. This year, apart from the psychological preparation with Marc, another key factor was training more often than in previous years. We will have to wait and see."**

On his part, Colomer recognises that the 2004 season has exceeded the initial aims they had at the start of the year: **"The results we have achieved in this season have been superior to the ones we had chosen to aim for. The objectives for 2005? It is too soon to say that, and we will have to wait until the end of this season to think about it."**

Jeroeni Fajardo has a promising future ahead. The route to success is being run at enormous speed and the training period is clearly in a rising line. The next stop will be in the Trial de Igualada, the seventh round of the Spanish Trial Championship, on 17 October.

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