

LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING 2016/17

Part 1: The Essentials



CARPE



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From Oslo to Omaha: The Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Western European League begins

by Louise Parkes

The Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping 2016/2017 season looks set for an explosive start with the top three finishers at last year's Final all signed up for the opening event in Oslo (NOR) next week. Switzerland's Steve Guerdat will be chasing down his third title in a row, runner-up Harrie Smolders from the Netherlands will be hoping to move up one step on the podium this time around and Germany's Daniel Deusser, who was third at the thrilling 2015/2016 Final in Gothenburg (SWE), will be one of the biggest threats throughout the entire season. Like Guerdat, the 2014 champion is something of a World Cup specialist and, on flying form right now, he will be gunning down those maximum points when the action gets underway on 16 October.



The League includes 13 qualifying rounds, and it's going to be fast and furious with nine legs taking place before the end of the year. Helsinki (FIN) and Lyon (FRA) swiftly follow Oslo in October, and then it's on to Verona (ITA), Stuttgart (GER) and Madrid (ESP) in November. A brand new fixture at La Coruna (ESP) gets the action underway in December while the popular Christmas shows at London Olympia (GBR) and Mechelen (BEL) lead into a short break before competition resumes at Leipzig (GER) in January. This will be followed by Zurich (SUI), Bordeaux (FRA) and Gothenburg (SWE), and the last few events are always guaranteed to be electrifying.



Rivalry

The selection of the Centurylink Centre in Omaha, Nebraska (USA) for the 2016/2017 Final brings a whole new dimension to the series and racks up the traditional inter-continental rivalry between Europe and the USA. In the early years of the FEI World Cup™ Jumping series the Americans were all but unstoppable when taking seven of the first nine titles. But once the Europeans got a grip they proved difficult to contain and German riders became the ones to beat. That was until Rich Fellers and the incredible stallion, Flexible, hoisted the US flag once again in 2012 only to be immediately followed onto the top step of the Final podium by fellow-American Beezie Madden. This brought the US tally of wins to nine and put them on level pegging with the Germans until Deusser put Germany back out in front again. It seems very likely however that the host nation will be determined to redress that imbalance when the Final returns to US territory next March.

The vibrant city of Omaha, a midwestern sport-loving gem that staged several Olympic trials ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, offers a variety of attractions including top restaurants, hotels and museums, and will be a fascinating back-drop to a week of great sport during which course designer Alan Wade from Ireland will test the best in the battle for the 2016/2017 title. In this indoor contest the ability to ride at speed is key to success, and US riders are particularly skilled at that. But there's a long way to go before the curtain is raised for the competitions that will decide the fate of the much-coveted FEI World Cup™ Jumping trophy and the €1.3m in Final prizemoney.

A total of 15 Leagues are taking place across the globe, stretching from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South East and Central Asia and China, across North and South America, the Middle East and on to Caucasia and Central and Western Europe. In all, 109 qualifying events will have been staged before the 2017 Final begins.

Stunning startlist

The stunning startlist for Oslo includes World No. 2 Simon Delestre from France along with his compatriots Penelope Leprevost and Kevin Staut from the gold-medal-winning team at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Harrie Smolders brings his Olympic ride, the lovely stallion Emerald, while Team bronze medallists Daniel Deusser and Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum are in the crack German line-out along with Marcus Ehning, and the latter two are amongst the elite group of riders who have claimed the prestigious FEI World Cup™ Jumping title three times.



The first three-time champion was the man who claimed the inaugural honours back in 1979, Austria's Hugo Simon, but Rodrigo Pessoa holds a particularly special place in the history of the series. The Brazilian is the only rider to record a hat-trick over three successive years, between 1998 and 2000, partnering the same brilliant stallion, Baloubet du Rouet who continues to wield his extraordinary influence across the sport through the performances of his many successful offspring.

The Swedish flag will be flying high as individual Olympic silver medallist, Peder Fredricson, brings out the super-exciting H&M All In who was one of the most spectacular horses in Rio.

And there will be three members of the same family flying the Norwegian flag, Johan-Sebastian and Victoria Gulliksen along with their father Geir, but they will all have to be right on top of their game to see off the efforts of so many of the biggest names in the sport.

The defending champion, Switzerland's Steve Guerdat, brings the horse with which he won his latest title, Corbinian, which suggests he'll be going out there with all guns blazing as the race to Omaha begins.



There are 11 qualifying legs of Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Western European League, before the **Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final in Omaha, Nebraska (USA) on 27 March – 2 April 2017.**

The FEI World Cup™ Jumping series has produced many of the greatest talents ever seen in the sport, and the **Western European League has been the breeding ground of legends.**

The defending series champion is Switzerland's Steve Guerdat, Olympic gold medallist at London 2012, who came out on top at the Las Vegas Final 2015 and again at the Gothenburg Final 2016.

FEI World Cup™ Jumping - world's oldest indoor Jumping series

The very first series Final took place in Gothenburg in 1979, and Austria's Hugo Simon was the first champion. Riding Gladstone, he finished ahead of America's Katie Monaghan and The Jones Boy in second place, and America's Norman dell Joio with Allegro and Ireland's Eddie Macken with Carroll's of Dundalk shared third place.

US riders claimed the trophy seven times for the first nine years of the series, but there was a 25-year gap before Rich Fellers re-claimed it in 2012 with the brilliant stallion Flexible. Bezie Madden then made it a back-to-back win for the US at the 2013 Final with Simon. Three riders have claimed the FEI World Cup™ Jumping title on three occasions, Germany's Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum and Marcus Ehning, and Rodrigo Pessoa from Brazil. Pessoa has the distinction of being the only rider to secure three back-to-back wins, and he did so with the same stallion, Baloubet du Rouet, between 1998 and 2000.



The Calendar

Oslo	16.10.2016	14:00	15:55	Sunday
Helsinki	23.10.2016	15:40	17:50	Sunday
Lyon	30.10.2016	15:30	17:30	Sunday
Verona	13.11.2016	14:30		Sunday
Stuttgart	20.11.2016	15:25		Sunday
Madrid	27.11.2016	13:00	15:10	Sunday
La Coruna	11.12.2016	17:00	19.15	Sunday
London				
Olympia	18.12.2016	14:35	16:30	Sunday
Mechelen	30.12.2016	15:30	17:40	Friday
Leipzig	22.01.2017	14:15	16:10	Sunday
Zurich	29.01.2017	14:25	16:40	Sunday
Bordeaux	04.02.2017	20:30	22:45	Saturday
Göteborg	26.02.2017	tbc	tbc	Sunday

Athletes

The world's best athletes will compete in the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping 2016/17 series to gain precious points for the series Final in Omaha.

Athletes competing in each series qualifier are listed on the Organiser websites in the run up to competitions - [click button below](#):



Latest series standings, competition results & news

View latest series standings, competition results and news via the buttons below and in the series hub here <http://bit.ly/1YYcSnG>:





Winners (riders)

Year won	Rider name	NAT	Year born		Age won
1979	Hugo Simon	AUT	1942	Aug-03	36
1980	Conrad Homfeld	USA	1951	Dec-25	28
1981	Michael Matz	USA	1951	Jan-23	30
1982	Melanie Smith	USA	1949	Sep-23	32
1983	Norman Dello Joio	USA	1956	Jun-17	26
1984	Mario Deslauriers	CAN	1965	Feb-23	19
1985	Conrad Homfeld	USA	1951	Dec-25	33
1986	Leslie Burr Lenehan	USA	1956	Oct-01	29
1987	Katharine Burdsall	USA	1958	Oct-17	28
1988	Ian Millar	CAN	1947	Jan-06	41
1989	Ian Millar	CAN	1947	Jan-06	42
1990	John Whitaker	GBR	1955	Aug-05	34
1991	John Whitaker	GBR	1955	Aug-05	35
1992	Thomas Frühmann	AUT	1951	Jan-23	41
1993	Ludger Beerbaum	GER	1963	Aug-26	29
1994	Jos Lansink	NED	1961	Mar-19	33
1995	Nick Skelton	GBR	1957	Dec-30	38
1996	Hugo Simon	AUT	1942	Aug-03	53
1997	Hugo Simon	AUT	1942	Aug-03	54
1998	Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	1972	Nov-29	25
1999	Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	1972	Nov-29	26
2000	Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	1972	Nov-29	27
2001	Markus Fuchs	SUI	1955	Jun-23	45
2002	Otto Becker	GER	1958	Dec-03	43
2003	Marcus Ehning	GER	1974	Apr-19	29
2004	Bruno Broucqsault	FRA	1959	Feb-06	45
2005	Meredith M.-Beerbaum	GER	1973	Dec-27	31
2006	Marcus Ehning	GER	1974	Apr-19	32
2007	Beat Mändli	SUI	1969	Oct-01	37
2008	Meredith M.-Beerbaum	GER	1973	Dec-27	34
2009	Meredith M.-Beerbaum	GER	1973	Dec-27	35
2010	Marcus Ehning	GER	1974	Apr-19	36
2011	Christian Ahlmann	GER	1974	Dec-17	37
2012	Rich Fellars	USA	1959	Oct-03	52
2013	Elizabeth "Beezie" Madden	USA	1963	Nov-20	50
2014	Daniel Deusser	GER	1981	Aug-13	33
2015	Steve Guerdat	SUI	1982	Jun-10	33
2016	Steve Guerdat	SUI	1982	Jun-10	34

Winners (horses)

Year won	Horse	Born	Age won	Colour	Sex	Sire	Breed	Bred
1979	Gladstone	1969	10	ch	G	Goetz	Hann.	GER
1980	Balbuco	1965	15	bay	G	-	TB	ARG
1981	Jet Run	1968	13	bay	G	Jet Traffic	TB	USA
1982	Calypso	1973	9	bay	G	Lucky Boy	KWPN	NED
1983	I Love You	1974	9	bay	St	Alme	SF	FRA
1984	Aramis	1977	7	bay	G	Argentan	Hann.	GER
1985	Abdullah	1971	14	grey	St	Donauwind	Trak	CAN
1986	McLain	1971	15	bl.	G	Bariton	Westf.	GER
1987	The Natural	1977	10	bay	G	Diskus	Hann.	GER
1988	Big Ben	1976	12	ch	G	Etretat	BWP	BEL
1989	Big Ben	1976	13	ch	G	Etretat	BWP	BEL
1990	Milton	1978	12	grey	G	Marius	-	GBR
1991	Milton	1978	13	grey	G	Marius	-	GBR
1992	Genius	1982	10	br	G	Grenadier	Hann.	GER
1993	Ratina Z	1982	11	br	M	Ramiro	Hann.	BEL
1994	Libero H	1981	13	br	St	Landgraf	Holst.	GER
1995	Dollar Girl	1980	15	bay	M	Dynamo	Hann.	GER
1996	E.T.	1987	9	ch	G	Espri	Hann.	GER
1997	E.T.	1987	10	ch	G	Espri	Hann.	GER
1998	Baloubet du Rouet	1989	9	ch	St	Galoubet	SF	FRA
1999	Baloubet du Rouet	1989	10	ch	St	Galoubet	SF	FRA
2000	Baloubet du Rouet	1989	11	ch	St	Galoubet	SF	FRA
2001	Tinka's Boy	1989	12	ch	St	Zuidpool	KWPN	NED
2002	Dobel's Cento	1989	13	grey	St	Capitol	Holst.	GER
2003	Anka	1991	12	ch	M	Argentinus	Old	GER
2004	Dileme de Cephe	1991	13	bay	G	Starky	AA	FRA
2005	Shutterfly	1993	12	dbay	G	Silvio I	Hann.	GER
2006	Sandro Boy	1993	13	dbay	St	Sandro	Oldbg	GER
2007	Ideo du Thot	1996	11	bay	G	Arioso du Theillet	SF	FRA
2008	Shutterfly	1993	15	dbay	G	Silvio I	Hann.	GER
2009	Shutterfly	1993	16	dbay	G	Silvio I	Hann.	GER
2010	Plot Blue & Nolttes Küchengirl	1997	13	bay	St	Mr. Blue	KWPN	NED
		1997	13	bay	M	Lord Z	Bayer	GER
2011	Taloubet Z	2000	11	bay	St	Galoubet A	KWPN	NED
2012	Flexible	1996	16	ch	St	Cruising	ISH	IRL
2013	Simon	1999	16	bl.	G	Mr Blue	KWPN	NED
2014	Cornet d'Amour	2003	11	grey	G	Cornet Obolensky	Westf.	BEL
2015	Albfuehren's Paille	2003	11	ch	M	Kannan	SF	GER
2016	Corbinian	2006	10	bay	G	Cornet Obolensky	Westf.	SUI

FEI Online Resources

Access **athlete biographies**, download **FEI SportApp**, watch **FEI TV live & On the Go**, download **images free for editorial use** and **join us on social media**.

Simply click the logos below:

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**FEI Sport App is available on App Store & Google Play*



www.feitv.org



www.feiphotos.org



Dedicated series hashtags:

**#FEIWorldCupWEL #RidetoOmaha #FEIWorldCupFinals #TwoHearts
#Longines**

Longines Rankings - FEI World Rider Rankings for Jumping

Christian Ahlmann (GER) is current world number one and leader of the Longines Rankings



In the lead for three months in a row, Christian Ahlmann (GER) appears to starting a streak. However Simon Delestre (FRA) is on his heels, moving up into the second position and narrowing the gap between Christian and himself to a mere 46 points

The full Longines Rankings can be viewed here:
www.fei.org/fei/fei-partners/longines/rankings

How the Longines Rankings work

The Longines Rankings take into account the points obtained over a twelve month period, beginning on 1 January and ending on 31 December. The FEI publishes a monthly ranking during the first week of every month, showing how many points have been earned during that month.

For more detailed information on how the rankings work, please see Longines Rankings Rules 2016 here:
https://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/Ranking_Rules_2016_clean.pdf

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About Longines and Equestrian Sport

Longines has been based at Saint-Imier (SUI) since 1832. Its watchmaking expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. It has generations of experience as the official timekeeper at world championships and as a partner of international sports federations.



Longines' passion for equestrian sports began in 1878, when it produced a chronograph engraved with a jockey and its mount.

Over the years, the brand has built strong and long-lasting links with equestrian sports. In 1912, Longines was proud to partner with its first Jumping event, the Grande Concurso Hípico Internacional, in Portugal.

Today, Longines' involvement in equestrianism includes Jumping, Endurance and flat racing.

Longines is a member of The Swatch Group S.A., the world's leading manufacturer of horological products. With an excellent reputation for creating refined timepieces, the brand, whose emblem is the winged hourglass, has outlets in over 130 countries.



More information on Longines
www.longines.com