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**LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING 2017/2018 - OSLO OPENER LOOKS SET TO BE A SIZZLER AS SERIES CELEBRATES ITS FABULOUS 40TH!!**

by Louise Parkes

**All roads lead to final in Paris next April; 13 stops in 10 countries along the way.**

The days are getting shorter and the nights longer, but all across Western Europe equestrian fans know that means just one thing - the start of the much-loved Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping season. And this is going to be a really special one, as the series celebrates its 40th anniversary and the Final returns to Paris (FRA) where it was held just once before, 30 long years ago.

The record books show Germany and the USA neck-and-neck in terms of title victories with 10 apiece, and nothing could demonstrate just how much success means more than the sheer joy of 2017 champion, America's multi-medalled McLain Ward, who won through in a classic finale on home ground in Omaha, Nebraska earlier this year. Because this is one they all want, no matter what other prestigious titles they have taken. The trophy has legendary status and the winners take their place in the annals of equestrian history amongst giants of this hugely popular sport.



It took Ward at least 25 attempts to do it, and he didn't disguise his sheer delight when he succeeded at last. As the new Western European League gets underway in Oslo, Norway next Sunday, the battle for one of the 18 coveted qualifying spots in this region commences. And with five of the top 10, and 11 of the top 20 in the Longines Rankings lining out, the opener looks like a sizzler.

Currently world no. 3, Frenchman Kevin Staut enjoyed another incredibly consistent season when topping the 2017 Western European League table, and he'll be hoping to collect some useful early points on his journey to the 2018 Final which will take place at the AccorHôtels Arena in his country's capital city next April. However Oslo has also attracted so many of the other big names, including Italy's Lorenzo de Luca who has enjoyed an extraordinary run of form over the last 12 months, and the newly-crowned European champion, Peder Fredricson from Sweden.



Add in the 2012 Olympic champion Steve Guerdat from Switzerland who posted a back-to-back double of World Cup wins in 2015 and 2016, and 2014 champion Germany's Daniel Deusser along with so many more, and it's clearly going to be an awesome start to the 13-leg series.



Moving on to superb indoor venues in Helsinki (FIN), Verona (ITA), Lyon (FRA), Stuttgart (GER), Madrid (ESP), La Coruna (ESP), London Olympia (GBR) and Mechelen (BEL) before 2017 draws to a close, the action resumes in 2018 with the last four legs in Leipzig (GER), Zurich (SUI), Bordeaux (FRA) and then Gothenburg (SWE). The Swedish city has hosted many finals including the inaugural edition in 1979 when Austria's Hugo Simon won the first of his three titles. But the only time the Final was previously staged in Paris it was an American who came out on top, Katharine Burdsall steering The Natural to victory ahead of French rider Philippe Rozier, then aged just 24, who would go on to be part of that gold medal winning side at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games 29 years later.

Every season new talent shines throughout the qualifying rounds and last year Italy's Alberto Zorzi announced his very definite arrival at the top end of the sport with victory in Oslo. The 28-year-old was lying 109th in the Longines rankings at the time, but put himself very firmly on the map by pinning German ace, and three-time FEI World Cup™ Jumping champion, Marcus Ehning into runner-up spot despite a first-to-go draw in both rounds of the competition. He returns to the Norwegian fixture this year having relentlessly climbed up the rankings list all the way to 13th spot, and brings his winning ride, Fair Light van't Heike with him. Zorzi may well be one to watch as this new Western European League progresses.

The excitement begins on Sunday 15 October, and if you can't be in a ringside seat then follow all the season's action LIVE on [www.feitv.org](http://www.feitv.org). Don't miss a hoofbeat, it's going to be epic.....!



**ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW and FAST FACTS**

**Firsts In Jumping**

The first FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final was held in Gothenburg, Sweden in 1979.  
 The first winner was Austria’s Hugo Simon riding Gladstone.  
 The first rider to win the series title three times was Hugo Simon who only announced his retirement from the sport recently at the age of 74.  
 The first startlist consisted of 27 riders from 9 countries.  
 The first woman to win the title was America’s Melanie Smith with Calypso.  
 The first rider to post a double of wins was Canada’s Ian Millar, and he did it back-to-back with the same horse, the legendary Big Ben in 1989 and 1990.  
 The first time the Final visited the USA was in 1980 when it was staged in Baltimore.  
 The first, and only, horse-and-rider combination to win the title at three consecutive Finals was the Brazilian duo of Rodrigo Pessoa and the fabulous stallion Baloubet du Rouet who reigned supreme from 1998 to 2000.

**Three-Time Champions**

Hugo Simon, Austria - Gladstone 1979, ET FRH in 1996 and 1997.  
 Rodrigo Pessoa, Brazil - 1998 to 2000 all with Baloubet du Rouet.  
 Marcus Ehning, Germany - Anka 2003, Sandro Boy 2006, Noltes Kuchengirl/Plot Blue 2010.  
 Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum, Germany - 2005, 2008 and 2009 all with Shutterfly.

**Lady Champions - The American Girls Are HOT!!!**

There have only been 5 female champions in the 39-year history of the Jumping Final:

Melanie Smith USA with Calypso in 1982  
 Leslie Burr Lenehan USA with McLain in 1986  
 Katharine Burdsall USA with The Natural in 1987  
 Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum, Germany in 2005, 2008, 2009 with Shutterfly.  
 Bezie Madden USA with Simon in 2013.

**Winning-Most Countries**

- |    |             |   |         |
|----|-------------|---|---------|
| 1. | Germany     | - | 10 wins |
| 2. | USA         | - | 9 wins  |
| 3. | Switzerland | - | 4 wins  |

**10 Different Countries Have Hosted Finals**

Gothenburg, Sweden has hosted the most - 14 Finals.  
 Las Vegas is second, having hosted 6 Finals.



### **Youngest/Oldest**

The **Youngest Winning Horse** was the 7-year-old Aramis, ridden by Canada's Mario Deslauriers in Gothenburg, Sweden in 1984.

At 19 years of age Deslauriers is also the **Youngest Winning Rider**.

The **Oldest Winning Horses** were both 16-year-olds, Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum's Shutterfly (GER) in 2009 and Rich Fellers Flexible (USA) in 2012.

The **Oldest Winning Rider** is Hugo Simon (AUT) who was 54 when he won his third and last title in 1997.

### **FAST FACTS:**

**13 qualifiers** staged in **10 different countries** during the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping 2017/2018 Western European League.

Competitions take place at **indoor** venues which add to the intensity and atmosphere of each qualifying leg.

**4 riders** have won the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping title on three occasions but only one of those posted **back-to-back wins** with the same horse - Brazil's Rodrigo Pessoa riding the brilliant stallion Baloubet du Rouet.

There have only been **five lady champions** in the history of this series and the first of those was America's Melanie Smith who came out on top with Calypso in Gothenburg (SWE) at the fourth edition in **1982**.

When Rich Fellers and the amazing stallion Flexible won the title in 2012 he was the first American to do so in 25 years.

Germany's Ludger Beerbaum, who won the title with great mare Ratina Z at Gothenburg in 1993, competed in his 21st Final in Omaha (USA) in 2017.

Switzerland's Steve Guerdat, individual Olympic champion in 2012, came out on top at the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Finals in Las Vegas USA in 2015 and again in Gothenburg SWE in 2016. Each time he has ridden a different horse. He won in Las Vegas with Albufuehrens Paille and in Gothenburg with Corbinian.



There are 13 qualifying legs of Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Western European League, before the **Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final in Paris (FRA) on 10 - 15 April 2018.**

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.**

**2017 champion,** America's multi-medalled McLain Ward, who won through in a classic finale on home ground in Omaha (USA), took at least 25 attempts to do it, and he didn't disguise his sheer delight when he succeeded at last.

#### **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. Beezie 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-Beerbaum 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	15.10.2017	14:00	Sunday
Helsinki	22.10.2017	15:40	Sunday
Verona	29.10.2017	14:15	Sunday
Lyon	05.11.2017	15:30	Sunday
Stuttgart	19.11.2017	15:00	Sunday
Madrid	25.11.2017	21:00	Saturday
La Coruna	10.12.2017	17:00	Sunday
London Olympia	17.12.2017	14:35	Sunday
Mechelen	30.12.2017	15:30	Saturday
Leipzig	21.01.2018	13:30	Sunday
Zurich	28.01.2018	14:30	Sunday
Bordeaux	03.02.2018	20:30	Saturday
Göteborg	25.02.2018	15:00	Sunday

### Athletes

The world's best athletes will compete in the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping 2017/18 series to gain precious points for the series Final in Paris.

**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](#)







## Qualification for the FEI WORLD CUP™ FINAL

### Western Europe

- Eighteen Western European Athletes with the highest total points in the Western European League.

### North America

- Seven USA Athletes from the Eastern Sub-League.
- Three USA Athletes from the Western Sub-League.
- Two Canadian Athletes from the Eastern or Western Sub-League (the two Athletes with the most points).
- Two Mexican Athletes from the Eastern or Western Sub-League (the two Athletes with the most points).

### Extra Athletes

- Any Athlete (extra Athlete) from another League, or who is a citizen of a nation not part of a League, domiciled in a country of the League in which he is participating, having gained at least as many points as the last qualified Athlete in that League (prior to substitution) is qualified for the Final in the League in which he has competed. For the North American League, an Athlete who is a citizen of a nation not part of either SubLeague or from another League must obtain at least as many points as the last qualified USA Athlete (prior to substitution) in the Sub-League in which he is participating (Eastern or Western) to qualify for the Final as an extra Athlete, regardless of whether he is domiciled in Canada, Mexico or the USA.

### Qualification of Finalists from other Leagues

- The number of finalists from other Leagues will be determined by the FEI Jumping Committee according to the overall standard of their own League.



**Winners (riders)**

<b>Year won</b>	<b>Rider name</b>	<b>NAT</b>	<b>Year born</b>		<b>Age won</b>
1979	Hugo Simon	AUT	1942	Aug-03	36
1980	Conrad Homfeld	USA	1951	Dec-25	28
1981	Michael Matz	USA	1951	janv.23	30
1982	Melanie Smith	USA	1949	sept.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	janv.06	41
1989	Ian Millar	CAN	1947	janv.06	42
1990	John Whitaker	GBR	1955	Aug-05	34
1991	John Whitaker	GBR	1955	Aug-05	35
1992	Thomas Frühmann	AUT	1951	janv.23	41
1993	Ludger Beerbaum	GER	1963	Aug-26	29
1994	Jos Lansink	NED	1961	mars.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



**Winners (riders)**

<b>Year won</b>	<b>Rider name</b>	<b>NAT</b>	<b>Year born</b>		<b>Age won</b>
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	oct.06	32
2016	Steve Guerdat	SUI	1982	oct.06	33
2017	Mclain Ward	USA	1975	oct.17	42

**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

**Winners (horses)**

Year won	Horse	Born	Age won	Colour	Sex	Sire	Breed	Bred
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 & Noltes 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
2017	HH Azur	2006	11	Bay	M	Thunder Vd Zuuthoeve	SBS	BEL



## FEI Online Resources



The Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping will be broadcast live on [FEI TV](#), the FEI's official video platform.

### Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping online

See all fan site updates: <http://www.fei.org/worldcups2017>

Inside FEI: <http://inside.fei.org/hub/longines/longines-fei-world-cup%E2%84%A2-jumping-weu>

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Access athlete biographies:

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## Longines Rankings - FEI World Rider Rankings for Jumping

Kent Farrington (USA) is current world number one and leader of the Longines Rankings



In the lead since May 2017, Kent Farrington (USA) is not giving way to anyone to break this winning streak and remains at the top of the elite list.

For the ninth consecutive month, Kent Farrington has maintained his position as World No. 1 in the Longines World Rankings list, currently leading the field with 3,313 points. Harrie Smolders (NED), previously positioned in 5th, has jumped into 2<sup>nd</sup>, leading into 2018 with an updated 2,953 points. McLain Ward (USA) now sits in 3rd with 2,903 points.

The full Longines Rankings can be viewed [here](#)

### 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, Click on the Longines Rankings Rules 2017 [here](#)

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# LONGINES®

## About Longines and Equestrian Sport

Longines has been based at Saint-Imier (SUI) since 1832. Its watchmaking expertise reflects a strong devotion to Elegance, Tradition 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 a timepiece was made with a horse and jockey engraved on the watch face.



Over the years, the brand has built strong and long-lasting links with equestrian sports. In 1912, for the first time, the brand was involved as timekeeper for a show jumping event in Portugal.

Today, Longines' involvement in equestrian sports 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 150 countries.



More information on Longines  
[www.longines.com](http://www.longines.com)