



Headlines

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AL SHIRA'AA HORSE SHOW ABDUALLAH AL MARRI THRILLED TO WIN FIRST GRANDPRIX ON HOME TURF

VIA THE NATIONAL


Abdullah Al Marri termed as “special” his first Grand Prix win at home.

Al Marri steered Sama Dubai to victory on the final day of the CSI 4-star Al Shira'aa Horse Show at Al Forsan International Sports Resorts in Abu Dhabi. In the process, the Emirati edged out defending champion Henrik von Eckermann of Sweden for the prize worth €62,000 (Dh261, 145).

“For two years I have been waiting for this, because in the first version of the Al Shira'aa International Horse Show I made the fastest time but put the last fence down,” Al Marri said. “I can’t thank the team behind me enough.”

“This is an incredible mare and she has been with me for nine years,” Al Marri said. “She had some bad luck in the summer with an injury, and for a while I thought she may never compete again. But today, thanks to the amazing support of the team, she won a Grand Prix.”

He was one of only nine riders to clear the 160-centimetre first round, and he and his mare were the first to go into the jump off. 🏆



AL MAKTOUM CHALLENGE ROUND 1

CHARLIE APPLEBY BANKS ON GOLD TOWN

Via The National sport

The Maktoum Challenge Round 1 for both thoroughbreds and Purebred Arabians is the highlight of the second meeting of this year's Dubai World Cup Carnival at Meydan Racecourse.

The Group 2 race for thoroughbreds has drawn nine runners, including Gold Town, Godolphin's UAE 2000 Guinea's winner trained by Charlie Appleby and ridden by James Doyle.

"Gold Town was impressive in the UAE 2000 Guineas, but the trip of the UAE Derby was too far for him at that stage of his career," Appleby told the Godolphin website.

Masaarr is an interesting runner in his first local start for the Jebel Ali Stables' trainer Nicholas Bachalard.

Simon Crisford's African Ride with 10-time French champion jockey Christophe Soumillon while


Korean raider Dolkong complete the lineup.

The Group 1 Maktoum Challenge Round 1 has drawn the maximum 16 runners allowed.

Eric Lemartinel is double handed with Mawahib, the choice of stable jockey Pat Cosgrave, and RB Torch.

Mawahib, with three runs already under her belt, is looking to break her duck for the season. RB Torch has run four times, winning the Group 3 Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan President's Cup in Abu Dhabi.

Jean de Roualle's Mirna, Ernst Oertel's AF Al Sajanjle and Ali Rashid Al Raihe's AF Mahshoum, are also entered.

Godolphin trainer Saeed bin Suroor has a strong presence in the UAE 2,000 Guineas Trial with Royal Marine and Burj. 



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IT'S SWISS BLISS AS BRILLIANT

FUCHS AND CLOONEY WIN AT BASEL

Via FEI/ Louise Parkes

Martin Fuchs stormed to victory at tenth leg of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2018/2019 Western European League at Basel (SUI).

“It’s amazing! So many people came here today, lots of my friends and my family, so to win at home in front of them is always so special - this was a great day for me and my amazing horse Clooney!” Fuchs said.

Fuchs entered the arena the result was still wide open and the crowd was buzzing in anticipation. Clooney was crowned Swiss Horse of the Year.

“He was a bit fresh and spooky in the first round and the short time-allowed didn’t make it any easier - I was just inside time which was a bit lucky!” he said afterwards. But he did have a plan. “I saw the riders going before me and I discussed what to do with Steve (Guerdat) and my dad (Thomas Fuchs)” he explained.

Result:

1, Clooney (Martin Fuchs) SUI 0/0 37.61

2, Sterrehof’s Calimero (Marc Houtzager) NED 0/0 38.84

3, Apart (Pieter Devos) BEL 0/4 36.98. 🏆



COUNTING DOWN TO THE LONGINES FEI JUMPING NATIONSCUP™ 2019 SERIES

VIA FEI/ LOUISE PARKES

The excitement is already building ahead of the opening round of the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ 2019 series which will kick off at Deeridge Farm in Wellington, Florida (USA) next month.

The Wellington fixture is part of the three-leg North America, Central America & Caribbean league that also includes a visit to Coapexpan (MEX) in May and to Langley (CAN) in June. There will be a single qualifier for the Middle East region at Abu Dhabi (UAE) in February, while the sole Europe Division 2 qualifier looks set to take place in Athens (GRE), with full details yet to be confirmed.

For the 10 Europe Division 1 teams the edge-of-the-seat action gets underway at La Baule (FRA) in May, and from there it moves on to St Gallen (SUI), Sopot (POL) and Geesteren (NED) in June, and then to Falsterbo (SWE) and Hickstead (GBR) in July. This

league is always hotly contested, with emotions running particularly high when riders are flying their country's flag in front of their home crowd. The last of the seven legs in this division will take place in Dublin (IRL) in August, and each team has been allocated four specific qualifying opportunities, with all four results counting in the battle for a qualifying spot at the 2019 Final.

"We call ourselves the "Never Give up Team" because we were fighting to the very last rider!" said the Belgian Chef d'Equipe that day.

For the seventh successive season the Final will return to the Spanish venue from 3 to 10 October this year, and there will be an extra-special edge to it. Because along with the hugely prestigious Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ 2019 trophy, the last remaining qualifying spot for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will also be up for grabs. 🏆



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LONGINES RANKINGS

SWISS OLYMPIC CHAMPION BACK TO WORLD NUMBER ONE

VIA FEI

Steve Guerdat, the Swiss star who took individual Jumping gold at the London 2012 Olympic Games, has reclaimed the world number one slot in the Longines Rankings.

He was previously 140 points off the lead in second place behind Harrie Smolders, has now jumped ahead of the Dutch athlete with a 55-point advantage.

Four-time Olympian last topped the world rankings in November 2012 and his return to the number one slot, on 3,050 points, follows a series of impressive.

Individual bronze medallist at the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018, Guerdat also leads the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Western European League standings and will be aiming for a third victory in the seasonal Final at Gothenburg. 

LONGINES LEG IN LEIPZIG

AWESOME AHLMANN SCORES AGAIN

VIA FEI/ Louise Parkes

It's long been one of his favourite venues, and Germany's Christian Ahlmann had his home crowd in the palm of his hand once again when scorching to victory in the eleventh leg of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2018/2019 Western European League at Leipzig.


Ahlmann's record at Leipzig is quite something. This was his seventh win at the fixture which celebrates its 22nd anniversary this year, and it was here that he steered Taloubet Z to claim the FEI World Cup™ jumping title back in 2011. It was also here that he retired that great stallion after their final and emotional winning performance 12 months ago. It

holds a very special place in his heart. "This has always been an amazing show for me, and for my horses!" he said.

"Caribis jumped very, very well - the course really suited him, the short distances were good for me so that was our luck today!" Ahlmann said.

"He's always been a bit in the shadow of Taloubet and Codex, but he's taken a huge step forward over the last season and he's ready for big things now. He jumps really light and he's very quick in a jump-off, he's a very sporty horse!" he said of the stallion he knows well, because they've been a partnership for the last five years.

Result:

- 1, Caribis Z (Christian Ahlmann) GER 0/0 40.70
- 2, Uno de la Roque (Francois Mathy Jr) BEL 0/0 41.49
- 3, Armitages Boy (Lorenzo de Luca) ITA 0/0 42.19. 





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