



Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of France: Victory for Switzerland, France 3rd

Ten years after its last win in La Baule, Switzerland dominated the Nations Cup 2019! Composed of Niklaus Rutschi (Cardano CH), Bryan Balsiger (Clouzot de Lassus), Paul Estermann (Lord Pepsi) and Steve Guerdat (Albfuehren's Bianca), Switzerland writes its name for the second time on the prestigious record of this legendary team class.

From the first round, Belgium, winner of the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup 2018 series, and Switzerland, led by the 2012 Olympic champion and world n°1 Steve Guerdat (Albfuehren's Bianca), took the command and set the tone by finishing respectively with 4 points. Just behind, Ireland finished with 5 points, placing in front of France, in 4th position with 8 points in spite of Thierry Rozier's clear round with Venezia d'Ecaussinnes.

In the second round, the Swiss team remained an implacable defender and resisted the pressure from the Belgian, who signed two clear rounds with Nicola Philippaerts (H&M Chilli Willi) and Niels Bruynseels (Utamaro d'Ecaussinnes). Showing three clear rounds thanks to Niklaus Rutschi (Cardano CH), Paul Estermann (Lord Pepsi) and Steve Guerdat (Albfuehren's Bianca), the Swiss finally clinched victory with only one point difference with Belgium.

With three clear rounds as well in the team, thanks to Nicolas Delmotte (Ilex VP), Thierry Rozier (Venezia d'Ecaussinnes) and Pénélope Leprevost (Vancouver de Lanlore), France grabbed 1 place and went up to the third step of the podium.

Results: <https://labaule-cheval.com/en/event/schedule/friday-17-may/competition-7/>

Highlights free of rights: <https://transfert.datanaute.com/evs-labaule-2019/>

They said:

Rémi Cléro, President of the Longines International Jumping of La Baule:

« It is always pleasant to watch beautiful rides, and I wanted to thank the riders for that. I also wanted to thank Frederic Cottier, for the design of this Nations Cup 2019. I wish to thank the FEI for its trust as well as our partner Longines. »



Yves Métaireau, Mayor of the City of La Baule:

« First of all, congratulations to the Swiss team for this beautiful performance on a showground that seemed to please all the riders. I am very happy we came back to a Nations Cup on Friday, a tradition that delighted the public. »

Frédéric Cottier (FRA), course designer:

« The Nations Cup is always different. I always considered, even when I was riding, that the course must let the horse go forward. We also have to play with stress, psychology, and the dramatic side of the class...which is quite difficult for a course designer. My job is over when the riders go into the arena, I know what I did, and even if you have to be a little lucky, this year the suspense was on up to the last rider. I also wanted to thank Yves Métaireau who, for the past 25 years, made La Baule a fantastic equestrian scene. You are the most beautiful partner of the show, with a vision towards the future, together with the FFE. »

Andy Kistler (SWI), chef d'équipe:

« We love coming to La Baule, for the show, as well as for the welcoming atmosphere and the city. The public here supports all the teams, but it is right, when Steve (Guerdat) goes into the stadium, we feel that he is at home. »

Steve Guerdat (SWI), 2012 Olympic champion, world n°1:

« Bianca went back to competition in Windsor, and it did not go so well in the Grand Prix. I was a little tense today. She jumped great in the first round. I was a little more confident for the second round. To know that you can bring victory to your team is the best feeling for a sportsman. The Nations Cup is a big moment of sport, especially in front of this public. It motivates to give your very best. This is why we live these moments of sport, why we are athletes. This is what I like so much in our sport. »

PROGRAM: <https://labaule-cheval.com/en/event/schedule/>

LONGINES INTERNATIONAL JUMPING OF LA BAULE: www.labaule-cheval.com

Free entrance