



May 2017

Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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FEI Classics™: Olympic champion Michael Jung (GER) takes over Kentucky lead after cross country

30 Apr 2017
By Kate Green

Even dual Olympic champion Michael Jung admitted cross country day at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, third leg of the FEI Classics™, was a tough one, with Derek di Grazia's track posing a serious challenge. However, the German maestro is yet again in pole position on FischerRocana FST, despite finishing four seconds (1.6 time penalties) over the optimum time of 11 minutes 17 seconds and surviving a precarious moment when the brave little mare made an enormous leap into the lake.

Jung, currently third in the FEI Classics™ having led the series last year, has a fence in hand to win a record third successive Kentucky on the same horse. His nearest challenger is Frenchman Maxime Livio, current leader of the FEI Classics™ after his win last year in Pau, who rode a masterful round to finish exactly on the optimum time on Qalao Des Mers to rise from eighth place after dressage to second.

"Today was not our best ride but we have a true partnership and kept fighting," said Jung. "FischerRocana looks very well after the finish - she is a tough girl!"

The leaderboard has changed dramatically and a brilliant, committed ride by the sole British representative, Zara Tindall on High Kingdom, has propelled her from 16th to third place. A determined Matthew Brown, previously 19th after dressage, has leapt to fourth place on Super Socks BCF and is the highest placed American rider.

Demonstrating the openness of the competition, Erin Sylvester (USA), who was only 51st after dressage, is now 13th on Mettraise after finishing bang on the optimum time.

There were 26 clear rounds from the 42 finishers and six within the optimum time. Dressage leaders Clark Montgomery (USA) and Loughan Glen dramatically lost their chance of retaining their position with a disappointing refusal at a skinny brush at fence 18a.

Three other riders in contention after dressage also disappeared off the leaderboard: both Kim Severson (USA), third on Cooley Cross Border, and Jessica Phoenix (CAN), fifth on Bentley's Best, retired after run-outs at corners and Elizabeth Halliday-Sharp (USA), fourth, parted company from Fernhill By Night at the Normandy Bank.

Tomorrow's jumping finale, which starts at 1pm local time, is sure to be a tense affair as the magnificent Michael Jung bids to make history - again.

Results after cross-country:

- 1, Michael Jung/FischerRocana FST (GER) 37.1 + 1.6 = 38.7
- 2, Maxime Livio/Qalao Des Mers (FRA) 44.8 + 0 = 44.8
- 3, Zara Tindall/ High Kingdom (GBR) 46.6 + 0 = 46.6

FEI Classics™ 2016/2017 calendar

1. Les 4 Etoiles de Pau CCI 4* (FRA) - 12-16 October 2016
2. Australian International 3 Day Event, Adelaide (AUS) - 3-6 November 2016

3. Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event (USA) - 27-30 April 2017
4. Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials (GBR) - 3-7 May 2017
5. Luhmühlen CCI 4* presented by DHL (GER) - 15-18 June 2017
6. Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials (GBR) - 31 August-3 September 2017

About FEI Classics™

The FEI Classics™ series links the elite 4* fixtures on the international Eventing calendar, with points accumulated across the six events - Pau (FRA), Adelaide (AUS), Kentucky (USA), Badminton (GBR), Luhmühlen (GER), and Burghley (GBR). Visit [FEI Classics™ hub](#) for further series information.



The seemingly unstoppable Michael Jung (GER) and FischerRocana FST take the lead after cross country at Kentucky, third leg of the FEI Classics™ series. (FEI/Rebecca Berry)

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We understand the needs of each discipline and our background in chemistry, construction, and manufacturing enables us to create carefully balanced products that perform consistently in any climate. Our clients range from nationally recognized competitors to the private discerning rider. We know it's essential to provide meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit the horse and the rider. Using advances in technology and our continuous innovation, we remain at the forefront of arena footing development. We believe we have the best riding surface solutions available today, supplied and installed by the best riding surfaces company.

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US Equestrian Developing Human Sports Science Medicine Program Therapist Network

April 25, 2017
Posted in [MiscellaneousUSA](#)



US Equestrian is in its second year of developing the Human Sports Science Medicine Program (HSSM). US Equestrian is happy to announce that Andy Thomas, who was an integral part of the program last year, will be on board with us again this year.

US Equestrian's next step is to develop a network of therapists that will be a resource to both US Equestrian athletes and the therapist. There is no cost to a therapist to be involved with US Equestrian's network, but the therapist will have to comply with the below items, some of which are linked to the requirements placed on us as a National Governing Body and some ensure we develop a network that has a similar basis in terms of thought process. In order for a physiotherapist to become a part of the US Equestrian Network a few criteria will need to be followed. Below are the steps:

- Three years' licensed experience as a physical therapist and work in sports of some kind;
- Complete an application, pass a background check, complete SafeSport training (background checks and SafeSport training are to be completed to be recognized by US Equestrian and any other NGB);
- Complete one course with Thomas. Details on the course are listed below, along with dates of where and when the courses will take place. The course is of no cost to the therapist other than travel and accommodations for the course.

Practitioners who meet the requirements will be added to the US Equestrian's Therapists Network List. The list will be distributed to athletes supported by the Federation's High Performance Programs. In time, we hope to develop a method of advertising this list to the entire membership of US Equestrian.

A little background on Thomas: Andy is a British-based physiotherapist. Over the last 12 years working with elite equestrian athletes, he has developed a well-respected program that includes the identification of rider asymmetries, weaknesses, and imbalances. He has also worked to build strength and conditioning exercises to address weaknesses, and has overseen some complex and time-constrained rehabilitation programs. Working with over 500 elite and developing elite riders, Thomas has identified three distinct causes of imbalances which all will have a performance-inhibiting effect on riders. This impact can be seen in areas such as rider suppleness, rider slipping to one side (saddle / rider) on lateral work, etc., and will affect the rider's ability to be coached, the horse's movement, and the combination's performance in the arena.

Management, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of the Human Equestrian Athlete Course Syllabus:

The course is an interactive, hands-on, practical course that will be delivered over eight hours. The course may or may not be split into a two-day course and is divided into three key sections:

- Anatomy, biomechanics, and functional movement patterns of the human equestrian athlete.
- Assessment of common asymmetries and imbalances and associated non-traumatic injury.
- Functional assessment (on horse), identification of common faulty movement patterns, their effect on performance and injury, and development of rehabilitation pathways.

Thomas will conduct his first course in the United States on May 15 (and possibly May 16, depending on how many register). The course will be held at the prestigious Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, N.J. Hamilton Farm houses the offices of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation and the US Equestrian Federation. As a perk for the course being held during this time, the 2017 Dressage Festival of Champions/National Championships will take place during this same week. This will allow practitioners that are new to equestrian sport to watch some of our top athlete/horse combinations compete.

Source : press release USEF

Tell us what you think!

Read more on this interesting topic [here](#).

Footings Facts 2017

Equestrian Base Mats

There can be no questioning the importance of base construction in Equestrian arenas and thoroughbred racing tracks. Conventionally bases have been constructed from drain rock, stone dust, or porous tarmacadam/asphalt.



Each method has its own peculiarities, and its own advantages/disadvantages. Generally the base serves two important functions. Firstly it provides a secure (firm) base upon which the riding surface sits. Secondly, where necessary, as in outdoor facilities it provides a means to divert rainwater away from the arena area, usually by hosting a piped drainage system. The first is important so that the riding surface can be laid, maintained, and removed if necessary. It also provides for a consistent arresting platform, should the riding surface not provide enough shock absorbing capability to arrest the penetrating hooves. Indeed it has been proven scientifically (Mahaffey et al, Biosystems Engineering 114 (2013) 178 - 186) that the base often performs some of the shock-absorption that the riding surface fails to provide. In these cases, from the viewpoint of potential limb damage, a hard, unyielding base may not be a suitable material upon which the riding surface sits. Consequently base mats with a yielding component have been proposed.

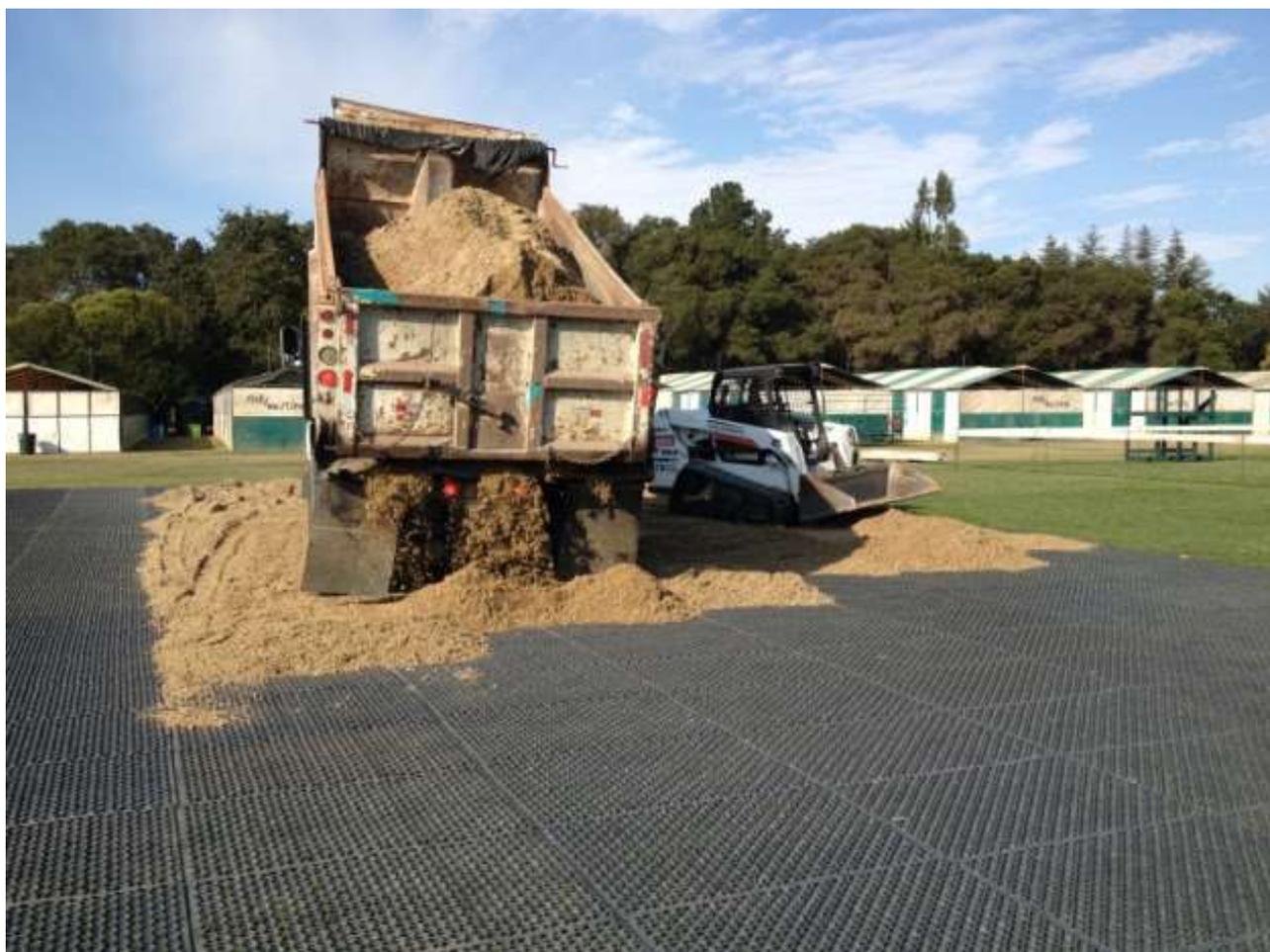
Arena base mats have been around for some years, but have taken time to become popular. Their advantages are numerous, and are often overlooked.



Not only does a good base mat provide a more compliant base surface, helping to mitigate against limb injury as described above, but can also improve water retention thus reducing watering frequency. This is achieved by providing indentations in the top surface that can act as small water reservoirs, allowing water to be fed back into the sand.

This indented top surface, and consequent bottom surface helps to fix the mat to the base material, and the top riding surface (footing) to the mat. In this way the footing enjoys higher shear stiffness - in other words the footing stays put under tight cornering, acceleration or deceleration.

Using base mats in a riding facility may seem like an unwarranted added expense, but in fact the extra mechanical protection a base mat system gives allows a thinner base layer to be used, and a thinner footing (riding) layer. Most mat manufacturers reckon on an approximately 15% - 25% reduction in the amount of base, and riding material, allowing the mat system to virtually pay for itself.



Here at Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, we recognise the advantages a base mat system can bring and offer our ArenaMat base mat system. Our first foray into base mats came about when we were approached to provide our footing for the prestigious Menlo Charity Horse Show. This request challenged us because the event takes place over two weeks once a year on a field that is used for the rest of the year for Polo. Our solution was to use a mat system, placed directly onto the polo field surface, with our Eurotex footing placed on top. At the end of the show, the footing is removed and stored for the following year. The mats are likewise removed and stored until next required. The polo field returns to optimum condition in a matter of days. This system allows the building of temporary arenas, in places where the land needs to be returned to its former use, and is a further benefit of a mat system.

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Attwood Equestrian Surfaces provides meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit both the horse and the rider

