



[March 2019](#)

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It's a Hat-Trick for Germany's Deusser with Brilliant Win in Bordeaux



Germany's Daniel Deusser produced his third sensational win of the season at the 13th and last qualifier of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2018/2019 Western European League in Bordeaux, France riding Tobago Z. (FEI/Eric Knoll)

Daniel Deusser produced his third sensational win of the season at the 13th and last qualifier of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2018/2019 Western European League in Bordeaux, France.

The 37-year-old German cruised to victory with Calisto Blue at round 3 in Verona (ITA) last October, and then rocketed up the series leaderboard when winning again at round 6 in Madrid (ESP) the following month with Tobago Z. Already heading the WEL leaderboard before the competition began, the World No 5 rider and 2014

Longines champion has now accumulated a massive 99 points, and looks set to really put it up to the rest of the them when the Longines 2019 Final gets underway in Gothenburg (SWE) on 3 April.

The top-18 riders on the Western European League table are all eligible for the Longines 2019 Final and current World No. 1, Steve Guerdat, will be chasing down his third title when the action gets underway in seven weeks time.

After tonight's Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ prizegiving, the Swiss super-hero whose extraordinarily successful year in 2018 included individual bronze at the FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Tryon (USA) last September, was presented with the prestigious Longines FEI World's Best Rider Award for 2018. And Steve also accepted the Longines FEI World's Best Horse Award 2018 on behalf of his brilliant mare, Albfuehren's Bianca.

Meanwhile, Deusser, has decided that Tobago Z will be his choice as he strives for a second Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ series title. "He'll have four weeks off now and then I'll take him to 's-Hertogenbosch (NED) for a last run before the Final. It's not an advantage to go to Gothenburg as the (WEL) leader, but it's a really good feeling all the same!" he concluded.

Read more [here](#).

Team Germany Scoops the Honours in Abu Dhabi



Sven Schlüsselburg and his grey gelding Bud Spencer picked up just a single time fault in both rounds to help Team Germany to victory at Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi (UAE). (FEI/Martin Dokoupil)

Team Germany pipped Ireland to win the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ of the United Arab Emirates while the hosts and Saudi Arabia claimed the two qualifying spots on offer for the 2019 series Final in Barcelona (ESP) next October.

It was a convincing German victory as Mario Stevens (36), Sven Schlüsselburg (37), Miriam Schneider (38) and Philipp Weishaupt (33) took a firm grip on the leaderboard with just a single time fault to count in the first round, and they finished well clear of the chasing Irish who had to settle for runner-up spot with a final score of six.

It wasn't just about winning however, as four nations - Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates - were chasing just two places for teams from the Middle East region at the 2019 Longines Final in Barcelona (ESP) next October. UAE and Saudi Arabia each completed on an 18-fault total to clinch those spots, their quicker combined times leaving the hosts in third at the end of the day ahead of their Saudi neighbours in fourth place.

The 3.8m open water at fence four in the first round proved a challenge to many and Irish chances were rattled when David Simpson's 11-year-old stallion, Jenson, took fright here and, losing his concentration and nerve, was eliminated a few fences later. But, with the open water replaced by an oxer in the second round, the pair returned to post a classic clear over the course designed by Spain's Santiago Varela at their next attempt.

Team Jordan's chances of claiming one of the coveted qualifying spots were crushed when last-line rider, Ibrahim Hani Bisharat was given the ejector-seat by his grey stallion, Chactino, over the oxer at fence five. And he wasn't the only rider to hit the floor. Saudi Arabian pathfinder, Abdulrahman Bader Alrajhi parted company with Domingo when the gelding put in a stop, while Irish anchor, Mark McAuley, also got to eat some of the desert dirt.

Second-last to go, McAuley looked set to wrap up the now-recovered Irish effort with a lovely double-clear from Jasco vd Bisschop. But the talented 10-year-old suddenly seemed to see a ghost and pulled violently left in front of the very last fence. Miraculously the Irishman persuaded the horse to get airborne, but the pair landed in a heap of poles, and both looked completely mystified as they left the arena, fortunately unscathed.

There was no drama for the Germans however, Mario Stevens and Talisman de Mazure leading off with a clear and lowering only the new oxer at fence four second time out, and Sven Schlüsselburg giving a superb account of himself with just a single time penalty in each round with his handsome grey, Bud Spencer. Schneider had two fences down in the first round but Fidelius grew in confidence with every step and this promising pair secured the top step of the podium with their lovely second-round clear even before anchorman Weishaupt headed back into the arena.

Weishaupt's Catokia had been foot-perfect in round one, but after the 12-year-old mare who won Thursday's Longines Grand Prix faulted twice at the triple combination, three fences from home, the world no. 31, and the most experienced rider on the team, opted to retire. Nothing to be gained, because the win was already in the bag.

The Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ 2019 series now moves on to Coapexpan (MEX) in early May where the second leg of the North/Central America and Caribbean League will take place.

Get full results and read more [here](#).

In Memoriam: FEI pays tribute to Double World Champion Tjeerd Velstra (NED)



Tjeerd Velstra, former double world Driving champion and one of equestrian sports true horseman, has passed away after a long illness. He was 79.

After a successful career as a jumping athlete, Velstra made the switch to four-in-hand carriage driving in 1976. Just six years later and again in 1986 he became individual World Champion. He also played an instrumental role in winning many team gold medals for the Netherlands.

As the Dutch team coach from 2007 to 2010, Velstra led his drivers to many team and individual World Championships medals.

The FEI expresses its sincere condolences to Tjeerd Velstra's family and friends, the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation (KNHS) and the global equestrian community.

Read more [here](#).

14 Winter Horse Keeping Tips from Attwood Equestrian Surfaces

Do you know that meme of Jack Nicholson from the movie "The Shining" where he has icicles hanging off his face? And it says, "The horses have been fed". Every person who takes care of their own horses clicks on it and laughs because they know how miserable it can get during the worst of the winter weather. And what lengths we will go to ensure our horses are warm and happy during deep freezes. The following are some easy tips to help you make sure your four-hooved friends are getting what they need.

Blanketing

1. Some say blanketing is the worst thing you can do for a horse, while others are piling them on. The differences of opinions on the subject of blanketing could make up enough blog posts to fill half of the Internet. If you do choose to blanket, make sure that its effective and appropriate for your horse's lifestyle.

2. Always make sure the horse is clean and dry before you put a blanket on. This keeps the horse more comfortable and less at risk of getting skin conditions like scratches and rain rot. It also helps preserve the waterproofing in the lining if the blanket is a turnout blanket. Constant dirt ground into the lining erodes the effectiveness of the waterproofing negating any good the blanket might be offering.

3. Look under the hood from time to time. Meaning.... If your horse is not in work, chances are the blankets will go on for weeks at a time, sometimes longer. You want to make sure that your horse is maintaining a good weight and there is not anything amiss like a wound you have not seen.

4. Also, blanket appropriately. If your horse is not clipped, in good weight, and has access to good forage, you will not have to blanket them that heavily to keep them warm. Make sure blankets fit correctly, not causing any sores, and are in good shape. If they are meant to keep the horse dry then make sure the waterproofing is effective.

Feeding for a happy winter horse

5. You might want to think about modifying your horse's diet as the winter settles in. As the fields lose their nutritional value, it's super important to keep forage in front of the horses. This keeps their guts moving and in good health. Whether you use round bales or square bales, this constant supply of forage helps keep the horse warm and maintaining their weight. And it's far better for the horse's health to feed more hay than grain.

Teeth

6. Have your horse's teeth checked regularly. While it's important any time of the year, it's even more so during the winter months when horses are depending on round bales to see them through. If they cannot properly chew the dense hay, they will not get the nutrition so needed to keep warm.

Water and Salt

7. Access to clean water is vital no matter what time of year it is. In the southern climates, many people keep automatic waterers in their pastures. While they are convenient, they are not always reliable. Check them often, clear any ice, make sure the water flow is consistent. Having a second water source during the freezing months is a great way to relieve the worry about horses not getting enough water. With a good quality tank water heater, you should be all set. And it costs pennies to run.

8. If you have access to hot water, offer your horse warm water throughout the day. Horses will drink more water if it's warm. Also, mix warm water with their grain to make a bit of a soupy mash. Anytime you can hydrate your horse it's a win-win.

9. With horses eating more hay in the wintertime there is always the worry that they are not drinking enough water. Impaction can happen quickly with deadly results. Place a salt block in a dry area, preferably in a pan to keep it clean and out of the dirt. Check the block throughout the season as they can disappear quickly.

If Your Horse is in Full Work

10. In the wintertime, drying a horse out after a good workout can be hard especially if they have grown a good winter coat. If you clip them then stabling and blanketing them appropriately is the due course. Avoid putting a sweaty horse out into the cold, their muscles will stiffen considerably which can be detrimental.

Shelter

11. No matter what climate or season, a horse should have access to shelter to get out of the wind, rain, snow or sun. Even if they come in during a portion of the day, a shelter is important in keeping a horse comfortable and in good weight. Stress from extreme conditions can have long-term adverse effects on the horse's health.

Mud 101

12. Winter can bring freezing days, but it also brings mud. You want to make sure your horse has a place that is dry and free of mud for their shelter area and at least some of its pasture. If you are building a horse arena and are putting in drainage, keep in mind that access water may be running out to your pastures creating a sea of mud. Plan for all seasons.

Snow Balls

13. Check your horse's feet regularly to make sure that rocks or any other foreign substances have not gotten

stuck in their hooves. And if the snow is wet and heavy, snow can ball up in the hooves of horses that are shod. In the colder climates, horsemen have a variety of tricks to keep the snow at bay, including putting on snow pads. The snow pads have a dimple in them that when the horse steps down, the dimple is suppressed. When the horse picks his foot up the dimple pops back knocking the snow out. In a place where the snow comes and stays for months on end, this is a great solution. In other areas where snow is fleeting, home remedies include packing your horse's feet with Crisco or spraying them with Pam.

Safe Footing

14. When the ground freezes, every ripple, every hoof print, becomes a razor edge for your horse to get hurt on, especially as things begin to ice over. If an area of your pasture becomes icy, it might be worth spreading sand over the area or roping it off entirely. You would not want your horse to slip and possibly injure itself.

Winter does not mean automatic doom and gloom for horse and rider. While there can be tough days ahead knocking the ice out of water buckets, frozen water spigots, frozen blankets, wet muddy blankets and more blankets...

You have to admit, there is nothing better than the smell of a horse's fur in the middle of a bright sunny cold day. Stay warm and enjoy the ride.

Product Profile: Arenamat

In Attwood's consistent effort to provide meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit the horse and the rider, we introduce the perfect ingredient to best Arena Footing- ArenaMat!

ArenaMat equestrian mat system is designed to deliver the latest in arena surface technology. This economical system provides many advantages over traditional arena base design. Because of the stability provided by the mats, less sub-base material is required, whilst a thinner layer of top footing material is also facilitated, especially if you choose one of Attwood's top quality, supportive footing products. Finally, a membrane between base and footing is not required.

In cases where you want a temporary facility, ArenaMat can even be placed directly onto reasonably level ground such as turf. All of this helps to reduce cost.

Featuring advanced design, drain channels allow excess water to easily move to the sub-base layer, whilst 'cups' hold water to release it back to the footing layer, significantly reducing watering.

The grid system helps to hold footing in place, improving grip.

The slightly elastic nature of the mat also provides extra cushioning, protecting limbs from injury.

ArenaMat base mat system is specially designed for arena construction.

Benefits Include:

- Cost-effective
- Less sub-base material & thinner footing layer
- Will not clog like membrane layer
- Improves drainage
- Significantly reduces watering
- Improved shock absorption/concussion
- Improved grip
- Simple installation
- U.V., rot resistant, and environmentally friendly material

- Allows easy de-installation of footing
- Can be used without a drainage base for temporary facilities



Tested by the highest level of experts of equestrian sport, ArenaMat has consistently proven it's efficiency. Not just safety and comfort, horses need the perfect spring to perform their best. And that's exactly why ArenaMat is undoubtedly the best choice!

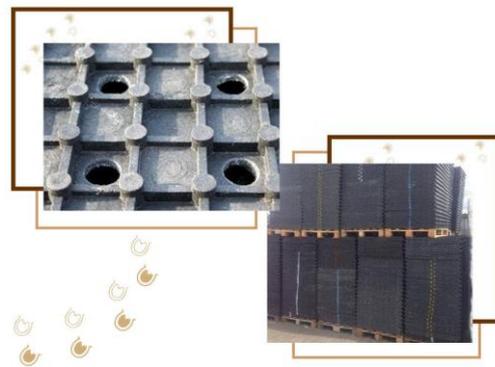
Special Introductory offer on Attwood ArenaMat. Drop us a line at info@equestriansurfaces.com to know more!

Technical Data:

Outdoor ArenaMat

This mat is for outdoor riding arenas, paddocks, hotwalkers and is made from 100% elastic PVC material.

- Length: 3.94 feet
- Width: 2.72 feet
- Height: 1.58"
- Weight: 44 pounds
- Drainage: 190 holes/mat
- Coverage: 10.72 sq ft = 1.19 sq yards
- Water storage capacity: 0.1 gal/ft² (4L/m²)



Interlocking Arena Base Mat System
 Ideal for building short-term show arenas on grass, indoor arenas and Western Pleasure arena construction.

- Length: 3.28 feet
- Width: 2.78 feet
- Height: 1.58"
- Weight: 36-40 lbs
- Drainage: 168 holes/mat
- Coverage: 9.12 sq ft = 1.00 sq yd

Footing Facts - March 2019

Equestrian Base Mats

A couple of years ago we looked at the pros and cons of base mats. Since then it is fair to say that their popularity has increased significantly, particularly in Europe. So this month we re-visit this type of base technology.



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 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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