

Hublot Polo Gold Cup in Gstaad 2023

Sébastien Le Page and his fantastic Argentinian teammates win for the second time



For more than two and a half decades, the picturesque mountain backdrop around the polo field at Saanen airport has provided an exceptional ambience for Switzerland's most prestigious summer polo tournament. Last year, Sébastien Le Page and his Argentinian teammates won the Hublot Polo Gold Cup in the colours of Clinique La Prairie. This year, the owner of the Polo and Country Club Zurich, played together with Facundo Kelly (4) Francisco Fucci (4) and Raul Laplacette (6) for Team Gstaad. Thanks to a fantastic team performance and Raul La Placette who was once again outstanding, who scored 7 goals for his team, Team Gstaad won 11:5 against Team Hublot.



In Gstaad colors, Sébastien Le Page and his Argentinian teammates win the Hublot Polo Gold Cup Gstaad for the second time

Photo credit: Der Rote Drache / K.Gralla

Martincito Aguerre's genius was not enough in the final. Indeed, Raul Laplacette's teamwork proved unbeatable. Despite once again scoring eleven goals (that's Team Gstaad's daily rate since last Thursday!), it was also the fierce defense of the defending champions that made the difference. The Hublot players were never able to find a way through their opponents' defensive wall. And if they did, Raul Laplacette was there to calmly steal the ball from the impudent attacker. Freeing up space, the men from Gstaad could quietly move forward and score on the other side. The only solution for Martin Aguerre Jr. was to try his luck from far, far away. He succeeded twice and scored his other three goals from penalties. Five goals were all the team could score today.

Second title in two years: the polo field at Saanen airport is now one of the favorite fields of Raul Laplacette, most valuable player of the final and top scorer of the tournament with 17 goals: "On this kind of field, you have to move forward with the ball, attack, attack, attack, and keep attacking. As it is a smaller field than usual, you always have to try and get close to the goal to have a chance of scoring. In any case, that was our tactic. But it was also thanks to our organization that we were able to succeed: good players and fast horses. These are essential to play good polo."

A Swiss organization set up at the Polo Park Zurich by team captain Sébastien Le Page. "This second victory is all the more pleasing because it's practically the same team than last year, which proves that the organization is working very well", rejoices Le Page. "It's a



Matias Gonzalez and Raul Laplacette

Photo credit: Der Rote Drache / K.Gralla

real pleasure because we've been working on it all year round for several years. So, I'm both very tired and very happy. I'm going to be able to savour this victory and drink some champagne, because I've not been drinking for the last two weeks." The French captain also paid tribute to his star player: "Raul is incredible, he controls the game so much that it seems like he's doing nothing, when in fact he's everywhere and scoring an incredible number of goals. I think he's one of the best players on the planet". For sure, on the Gstaad field, he could be a 10-goaler!

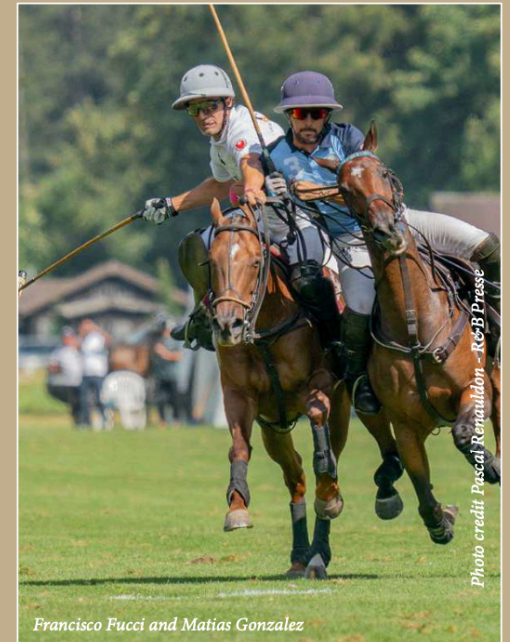
The match for third place was much tighter, with Kielder Agro Group taking their first win of the tournament thanks to two fiery opening chukkers: 5-0, an advantage they maintained by battling hard right to the end: only one goal scored in the last two periods, while Gstaad Palace scored five in their turn. Final score: 6-5.

Raul Laplacette, who scored 7 goals in the final was awarded as Most Valuable Player. Tintin, a 8-year-old dark bay gelding, born in Argentina (by Cuarteto- a son of the famous Cuartetera - and Pollilla) played by Raul Laplacette was awarded as Best Playing Pony. But let's look at the details.



Facundo Kelly

Photo credit: Pascal Renauldon - Re:B Presse



Francisco Fucci and Matias Gonzalez

Photo credit: Pascal Renauldon - Re:B Presse



Sébastien Le Page, Juan Correa and Raul Laplacette

Photo credit: Der Rote Drache / K.Gralla



Most Valuable Player Raul Laplacette

Ranking

Team Gstaad (HCP 14)

- Sébastien Le Page (0)
- Facundo Kelly (4)
- Francisco Fucci (4),
- Raul Laplacette (6)

Team Hublot (HCP 13)

- Jürgen Schröder (0)
- Juan Correa (3)
- Matias Gonzalez (4)
- Martin Aguerre Jr. (7)

Team Kielder Agro Group (HCP 14)

- Cedric Schweri (0)
- Joao Novaes (5)
- Tomi Astelarra (3)
- Francisco Menendez (6)

Team Gstaad Palace (HCP 14)

- Peter Cromm (0)
- Pedro Fernandez Llorente (5)
- Teo von Neufforge (5)
- Segundo Condesse (4)