PIERGIORGIO BUCCI WINS

HIS SECOND ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF THE SEASON AT LA BAULE

A Rolex Series Event

A PACKED CROWD AT THE STADE FRANÇOIS ANDRÉ WITNESSED ITALY'S PIERGIORGIO BUCCI MAKE HISTORY AT THE JUMPING INTERNATIONAL DE LA BAULE BY WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS ROLEX GRAND PRIX VILLE DE LA BAULE. RIDING HANTANO, BUCCI BECAME THE FIRST RIDER TO CLAIM TWO ROLEX SERIES GRAND PRIX VICTORIES IN THE 2026 SEASON, FOLLOWING HIS RECENT TRIUMPH IN ROME.

Grégory Bodo's demanding 1.60m first-round course proved a severe technical test for the 45 competitors, with only seven horse-and-rider combinations managing to jump clear and advance to the jump-off.

Switzerland's Martin Fuchs was the first to crack the code riding Conner Jei, followed by home favourite Julien Epaillard, then Pieter Devos, Gilles Thomas, Bertram Allen, Cian O'Connor, and finally Bucci.

In an exciting jump-off, Fuchs set a very fast, faultless benchmark of 41.03 seconds. Epaillard eclipsed this time by over two seconds but suffered a costly rail, whilst subsequent challengers failed to unseat the Swiss leader.

As the final rider to enter the arena, Bucci utilised his late draw to perfection. Combining extraordinary speed, precision, and efficiency, the Italian delivered a magnificent clear round in 40.61 seconds to snatch victory, leaving Fuchs in second and Epaillard in third.

Reflecting on his triumph, Bucci praised the incredible atmosphere and credited his late starting position, which allowed him to study Fuchs' round and execute a tighter turn that suited Hantano perfectly. Although disappointed to narrowly miss out, runner-up Fuchs lauded Bucci's superior performance, whilst Epaillard remained delighted with his horse's brilliance ahead of future challenges.

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