



ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

# AGDF TIMES

WEEK 11 • MARCH 19, 2026

KEVIN  
KOHMANN  
PUNCHES TICKET TO FEI  
WORLD CUP FINALS

IN SPOTLIGHT:  
DIAMANTE  
FARMS

FREDERIC  
WANDRES  
LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT





# 3 GRACES DRESSAGE

Reflects on a Season of Growth, Gratitude & Generosity



It is hard to imagine a season more exciting than 2026 for the 3 Graces Dressage team. In the Fall of 2025, Carol Cohen-Hodess approached the team at Wellington International with her idea of the Dressage Infusion Master Class with Kyra Kyrklund, Cathrine Lauderup-Dufour and Jan Brink at the Global Dressage Festival. The collaboration came to its fruition, and on January 21—the week of the CDI15\* presented by 3 Graces Dressage—the inaugural Dressage Infusion Master Class captivated a sold-out stadium. The event delivered on every level and embraced the very essence of 3 Graces Dressage's creed: Growth, Gratitude and Generosity.

Meanwhile, Rebecca Cohen embraced her own journey with incredible growth and gratitude, preparing and showing several horses while advancing her own skills and talent under the watchful eye of her coach, Jan Brink. Standouts were her up and coming young horse, Dalton de Prepinson developing into

a talented and reliable small tour horse- culminating with the pair winning the FEI Prix St Georges on Week 10 with 69.412%- showing just where this super star is headed. Rebecca continued her successful foray in the Grand Prix arena with Eclips, Chris von Martels Olympic partner, who she is leasing while developing her own Grand Prix future star, Prince of Hope.

And no doubt this week, Rebecca is still reveling in gratitude for her CDI success with Fidell. The pair won the CDI 1\* FEI Intermediate I and showed the unflappable consistency that will continue to carry them to future successes. This week, they will cap off the CDI season with the Buffalo Wild Wings Future Challenge Final.

On the home front this month, 3 Graces Dressage hosted musicians and guests from the Wiener Philharmoniker treating them to dressage, jumping and lunch and sharing the similarities between beautiful music and equestrian pursuits.

The season itself unfolded in

perfect harmony, and next up the 3 Graces US National Championships in May and travels to Sweden for training and of course, time over the summer to develop more even more ideas to foster the growth, gratitude and generosity that has become synonymous with 3 Graces Dressage.



# NOTHING ELSE COMPARES

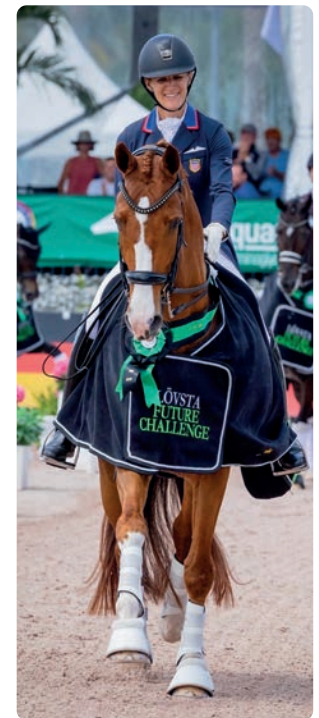
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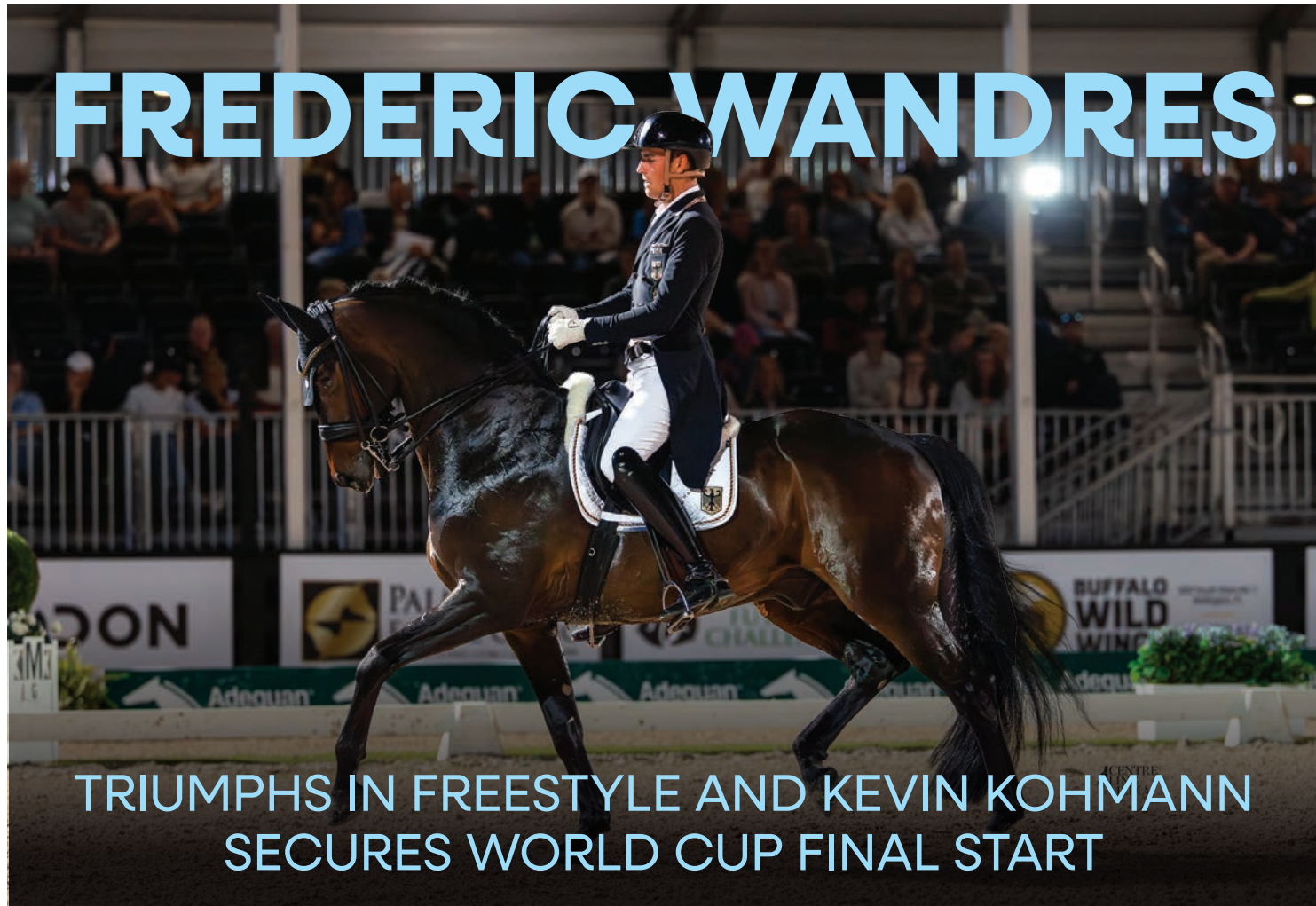
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# FREDERIC WANDRES



## TRIUMPHS IN FREESTYLE AND KEVIN KOHMANN SECURES WORLD CUP FINAL START

By Alice Collins for Wellington International

Although only one rider can occupy the highest step of the podium, there were effectively two winners from Friday night's Lövsta Stuteri World Cup™ Grand Prix Freestyle. The German

anthem played for Frederic Wandres' top score of 76.24% with Hof Kasselmann's Verrenberg, but it also felt like a victory for second-placed Kevin Kohmann (USA), whose result in the showcase class

of Week 10 at the 2026 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival secured him a start in April's FEI World Cup™ Final in Texas. Spain's Pablo Gomez rounded out the all-male podium and added another flag to the top trio.

Wandres gave much of the credit for his personal-best performance on Verrenberg—at 10, the youngest horse in the nine-horse starting lineup—to his fiancée, Lars Ligus. Ligus rode the Vilancio x Johnson gelding for several weeks while Wandres was in Germany, with Wandres only returning to Florida at the start of Week 10.

"He's a really promising

horse," said Wandres, who was on the German Olympic gold medal-winning team in Paris with Bluetooth OLD. "Of course, there's a lot to improve, and Verrenberg is a bit green here and there, but he has everything. He's very consistent in the arena to bring these good results already at this young age, which is not so normal.

"I was wondering whether we should do the three-star or the World Cup freestyle this week, but we so love the Friday nights under the lights, so the decision was made. It's so special for us here," continued Wandres, who rode to a freestyle soundtrack originally put together for Bluetooth. "This



is Verrenberg's fifth CDI and he becomes better and better—I think the future looks promising for him."

Kohmann was laser-focused on qualifying for his third straight FEI World Cup™ Final on Diamante Farms' 17-year-old Dancier x Davignon I gelding, Dünensee. Not only did he need to finish as the top North American rider in the class, he also needed to score more than 73.85%. Once his score of 75.715% was announced, he had an anxious wait to see if Ashley Holzer (USA) would top him.

A few mistakes crept into Holzer's test on Hawkins San Floriana, and they finished in fourth with 73.555%, gaining Holzer the Frank & Eileen Leading Lady Rider award for Week 10. Only then could Kohmann celebrate his remarkable achievement of becoming the second U.S. rider this century to qualify for three straight FEI World Cup™ Finals on the same horse—also achieved by Laura Graves and Verdades.

Kohmann joins his fellow U.S. athlete Christian Simonson



on Indian Rock and Canadian rider Brittany Fraser-Beaulieu on Jaccardo, taking the third and final automatic qualification spot on the FEI World Cup™ North American League.

"I was standing on the side very nervous because when you have a rider like Ashley at the end, she could easily have beaten me," admitted the Wellington-based Kohmann. "We got lucky

today. 'Dunee' felt amazing. For the mistake in the two-tempsis, I put the blame on the rider, but in the rest, he gave me everything.

"This guy still feels like he's eight years old," he added. "This horse has such a big heart. He made my career; he changed everything. If you'd told me four years ago that we'd make it to the World Cup™ Finals three times in a row, I'd have told you you were crazy. This is incredible and I'm stunned."

Gómez Molina was also riding an experienced horse, the 16-year-old Ulises De Ymas. He was bred by Yeguada De Ymas and Gomez Molina has been riding him for 11 years, producing him up through the competitive ranks.

"My night wasn't as eventful as Kevin and Frederic's, but it's always fun to show him

here, we love riding under the lights," said Gómez Molina, whose result elevated him to second place on the Stillpoint Farm Leading International Freestyle Rider leaderboard.

President of the ground jury, C judge Thomas Keßler, also noted that the 'Friday Night Stars' gala evening is a treat for everyone involved.

"It's a special atmosphere with the stadium full of spectators," he said. "You can't find this all over the world, it's only like this at a few shows. Tonight, the sun was setting over the first four horses and the light was amazing."





# DISCOVER THE EXCELLENCE OF DIAMANTE FARMS

## AT THE ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

As the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival marches on in Wellington, Fla., equestrian enthusiasts from around the world gather to celebrate the artistry and athleticism of dressage. Among the participants is the Diamante Farms dressage team. Led by the dynamic duo of Kevin Kohmann and Devon Kane, this family-run operation embodies the perfect blend of tradition, expertise, and passion for the sport.

Kevin Kohmann and Devon

Kane are not only accomplished professional athletes but also skilled trainers who have gained priceless experience throughout the years. Both have had remarkable success at the Grand Prix level, with consistent placings in prestigious events like the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival and Dressage at Devon.

Devon Kane has developed multiple horses to the upper levels, showcasing her ability to nurture talent from young

prospects to seasoned competitors. Kevin Kohmann, her husband and partner in this venture, brings a wealth of experience from his European roots and American achievements, including top finishes in many international events. Together, they form a husband-and-wife team that competes at the elite level while fostering a supportive environment for riders and horses alike.

At Diamante Farms, training goes beyond the arena.

Kevin and Devon offer a comprehensive program tailored to riders of all levels, from aspiring juniors and amateurs to professionals. Their approach emphasizes harmony between horse and rider, creating confidence, strength, and precision. Whether guiding a student through their first flying change or refining the Grand Prix movements, they prioritize the well-being of every horse, ensuring each lesson is productive and enjoyable.

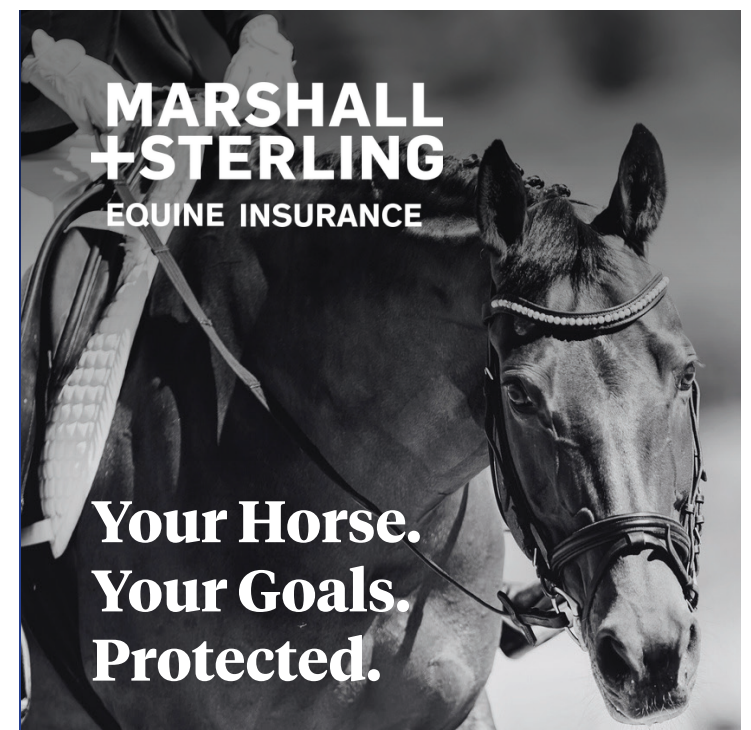
In addition to their training services, Kevin and Devon are known for their expertise in horse sales. Diamante Farms curates a selection of top-quality dressage horses, meticulously matched to buyers' needs and goals. From promising young talent to proven Grand Prix, their sales program has helped countless riders find their ideal partners. Prospective buyers can expect honest assessments and ongoing support to make informed decisions that lead to lasting success.

What sets Diamante Farms apart is their commitment to sharing knowledge beyond their home base. Kevin and Devon frequently travel across the country and internationally to teach clinics, offering invaluable insights to dressage communities everywhere. These sessions cover everything from foundational skills to advanced movements. Participants praise their

friendly demeanor, clear communication, and ability to make complex concepts simple, creating an inclusive atmosphere that inspires growth.

Owned by Terri Kane, Devon's mother, Diamante Farms represents a lifelong family dream. Nestled in the heart of Wellington's equestrian scene, the farm features spacious stalls, premium arenas, and cutting-edge amenities designed to optimize performance and health.

As you explore the Adequan Global Dressage Festival, be sure to visit the Diamante Farms team. Watch Kevin and Devon in action aboard standout mounts like Dünensee or Vamos, and discover how their expertise can elevate your own dressage journey. Whether you are seeking training, a new horse, or inspiration from a clinic, Diamante Farms welcomes you with open arms. Join us in celebrating the beauty of dressage. For more information, visit [diamantefarms.com](http://diamantefarms.com) or follow them on social media to stay connected with their latest achievements and opportunities.



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# ERIN NICHOLS

## SNAFFLES SECOND WIN FOR A CLEAN SWEEP AT ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

By Alice Collins for Wellington International

The 22-year-old Erin Nichols (USA) and her 17-year-old Elian Royale rounded off a glorious clean sweep with a 70.617% victory in the Adequan® CDI3\* Grand Prix Special after also winning the qualifying class. Riding the Glock's Johnson x Amidou gelding owned by Premiere Sport Horses, Nichols clinched her second win in Week 10 of the 2026 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival under the strong Florida sun in Wellington. The youngest rider in the class of 13 starters by some margin, Nichols displayed a harmonious, uphill, and technically correct test, once again opting to use a snaffle bridle.

In a reversal of the qualifier's all-American top three result, Jordan LaPlaca climbed to second place, riding his own and Nancy Hutson's Gold Play (Grey Flanell x Sir Donnerhall II). The 11-year-old Oldenburg—the youngest

horse in the class—was contesting his third CDI Special and was awarded 69.894%. Two judges had the duo as winners of the class with over 70% despite errors in the one-time changes on the diagonal, thanks to the quality of the piaffe/passage.

Endel Ots and Zen Elite's Bohemian (Bordeaux x Samarant) slotted into third with 68.596% after breaking to



canter in the trot work but exhibiting uphill and consistent canter work. The duo, who were traveling reserves for the U.S. team at the Paris 2024 Olympics, recently returned to the competition ring after an 18-month absence.

Although Nichols is still eligible for U25, she and her coach Christoph Koschel opted to make the step up to senior ranks with Elian Royale to give her more ring mileage, and the decision is paying off in spades.

"It was surreal out there; you could hear the entire crowd get quiet and I was so in the moment on the last centerline," said Nichols, who is originally from California

but now bases herself in Wellington for winters and Durham, N.C., in the summer.

"I was so proud of Elian," continued Nichols, whose groom Max Anker was awarded The Horse of Course-sponsored grooms award and \$500 prize. "This is our first CDI of 2026, so we weren't sure what to expect. We were just going to see what Elian would give us, and I'm a little speechless about the amazing result.

"These grand prix tests really suit him, and today he seemed to enjoy himself, which makes me so happy. This was a special weekend, that's for sure. Now that he's 17, I'm making the most of every ride with him. We've

become such great partners. It's amazing to think of where we started and where we are now," added Nichols, referring to the fact that Elian Royale was 13 and she a teenager when they began their journey at Young Riders, and climbed the ranks together.

"I hadn't shown a Special in almost a year because we were doing freestyles all last summer, so I had to remember how to ride it," she continued. "But I know that if I forget, Elian will know. Today—when I got on him—he was in a good mood, and that always gives me confidence."

Koschel added, "What we wanted to show today was a

very good example of harmonious, classical riding. Elian has a lot of power but can also be shy in the ring and a little spooky. Today, Erin gave him the confidence to perform in the test like he does in the training, and that gets rewarded."

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**Black Brushed boots with Patent Top**  
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**SP Rhodes Nations Cup Dressage Vest**  
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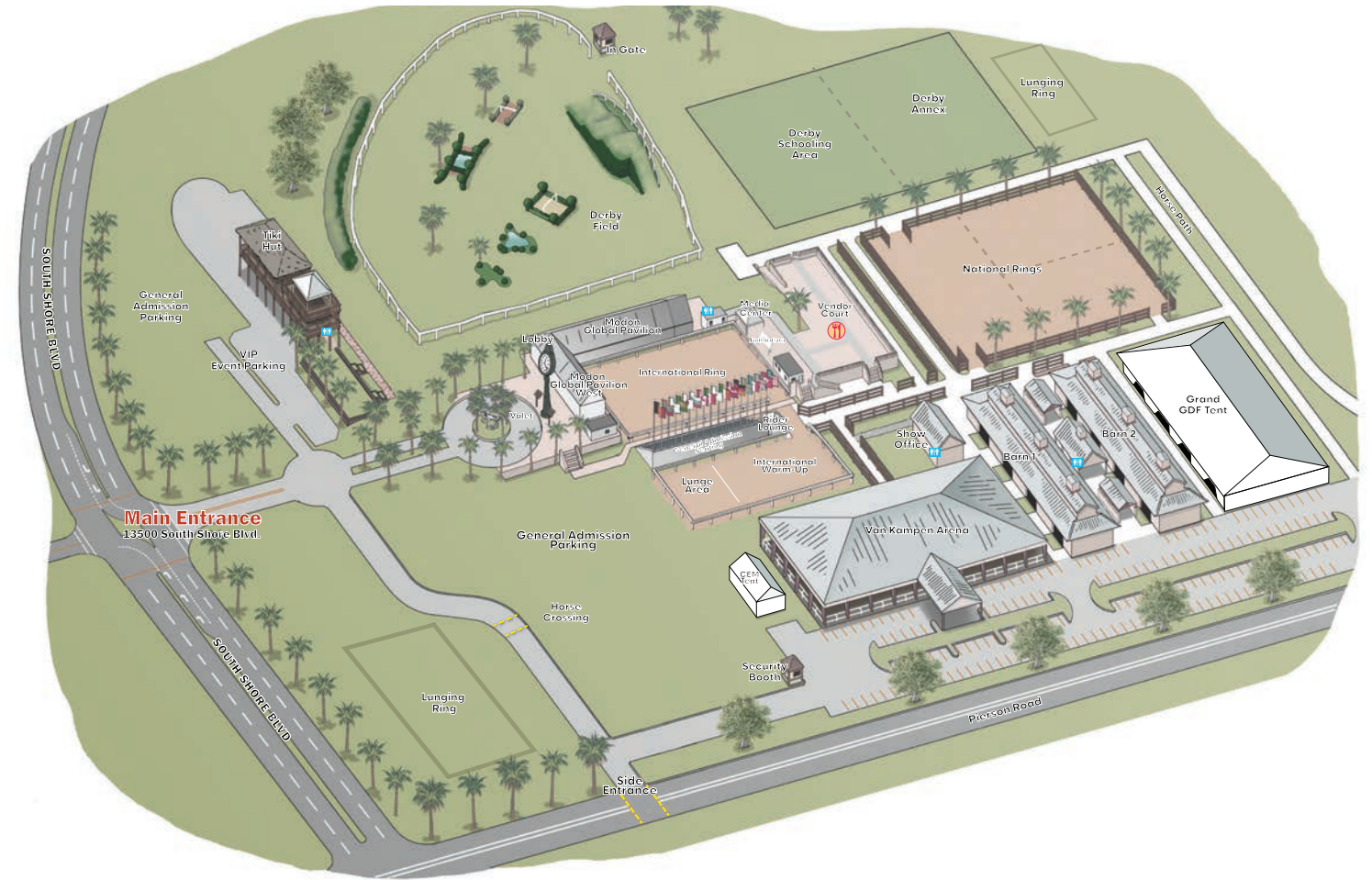


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Centerline Custom Designs (GDF 7, 8, 10 & 11)

### THE PATHWAY

Daily Dose Equine (GDF 7)  
Hulesbos Saddles (GDF 3 & 5)



# SPECIAL AWARDS



Carol Cohen-Hodess presented the **3 Graces Achievement Award** to **Kevin Kohmann** for his winning weekend and qualifying **Dünensee** to represent the U.S. in the pair's third FEI World Cup™ Final.



The **3 Graces Achievement Award** also was awarded to **Benjamin Ebeling** winner of the CDI1\* Prix St. Georges on **King of Dale** with a 69.147%. L to R: Carol Cohen-Hodess presenting the award, groom Olivia Colella, Benjamin Ebeling, David Bryan and owner Alexandra Bryan.



**Hemp Bedding.Org's- "Auboise Top Pick Award"** went to **Kat Fuqua** who won the Intermediate-I on **Bon Ami** with a 68.824%.



**Hemp Bedding.Org's- "Auboise Top Pick Award"** was also awarded to **Ashley Holzer** and **Hawtin San Floriana**, who finished fourth in Friday Night's CDI-W Musical Freestyle with a 73.715%.



The **N2 Saddlery Peak Performance Award** was awarded to **Ava Dingley** on **Le Bon Coeur** RS who finished second in the Second Level Test 1 with a 65.428%. Trainer Jennifer Williams and owner Heidi Flood joined Ava for the presentation.



# SPECIAL AWARDS



The **N2 Saddlery Peak Performance Award** was also presented to **Brook Mancusi** on **Van Vincent** who won the Fourth Level Test 1 with a score of 68.026%.



The **Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award** went to **Kevin** ridden by **Jaimee Davies** in the Third Level Test 1 to win with a 69.054%. Natalie Regel and King Santacruz of Santacruz Dressage joined in the presentation photo.



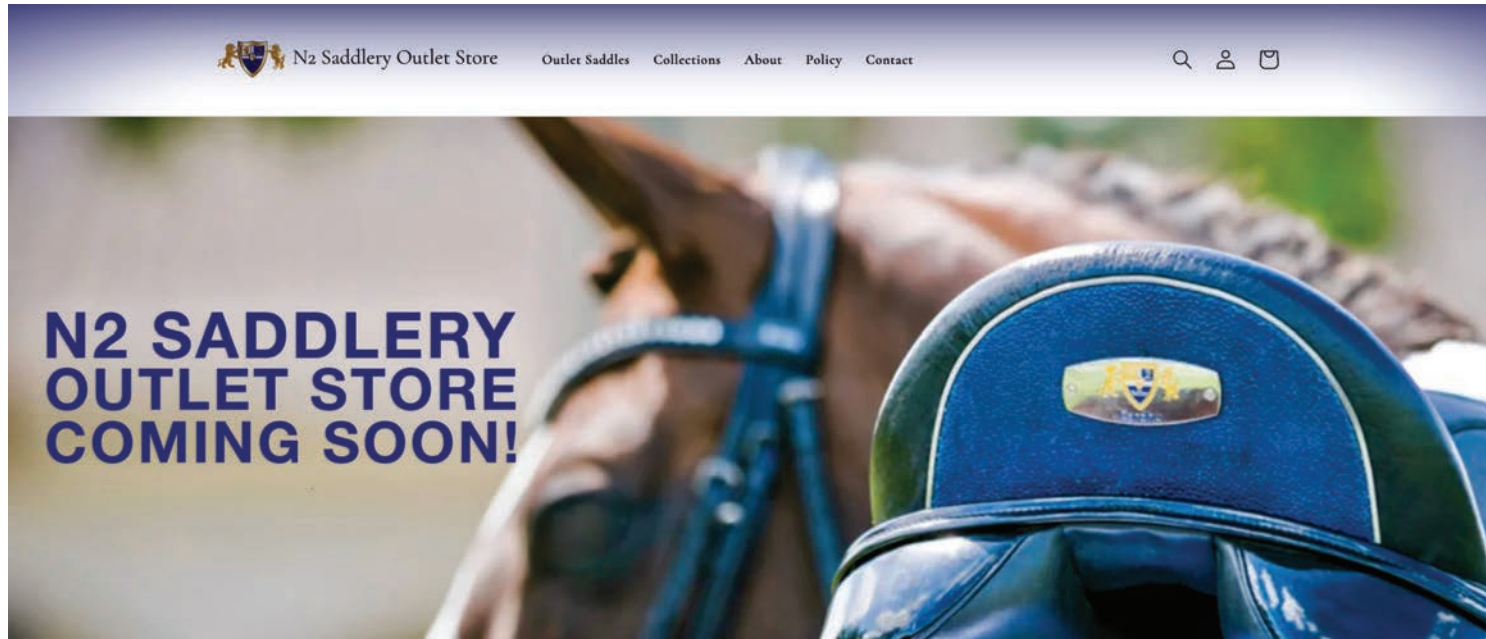
The **Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award** was also presented to **Golden Legacy** owned and ridden by **Hope Greenfield** to finish second in the AA Prix St Georges.



The **Hemp Bedding.Org's- "Auboise Top Pick Award"** from AGDF 8 winner was **Diane Amendolara** riding her **Fire King**. Pictured Left to Right: trainer, Julie Channel, Diane's Mom, Christine Firmin Didot, Diane Amendolara (mounted) and Fifi Balwin and Roman Gonzalez—it takes a village.

## STILLPOINT FARM LEADING INTERNATIONAL FREESTYLE RIDER STANDINGS

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	<b>PABLO GÓMEZ MOLINA ESP</b>	<b>15PTS</b>
3	<b>SUSAN PAPE GBR</b>	<b>14PTS</b>
	<b>FREDERIC WANDRES GER</b>	<b>14PTS</b>
5	<b>SUSAN DUTTA USA</b>	<b>13PTS</b>



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N2 Saddlery is well known for its superbly designed saddles that have been the choice of Olympians, top trainers and competitive adult amateurs. N2 Saddles were the U.S. official Team Saddle for four years, and for good reason. N2 Saddles are truly designed to meet the needs of the horse and the needs of the rider, allowing the rider to sit correctly and effectively communicate with the horse, while freeing the horse's shoulder and topline for comfort and optimum performance.

N2 Saddlery was founded by Sue Newell, a Certified Master Saddle Fitter, amateur Grand Prix dressage rider and USDF Gold Medalist. The attention to detail comes from a dedicated rider with a

hands-on understanding. Never content to rest on their laurels, N2 Saddlery can be relied on for ongoing evolution and innovation in saddle form and function.

In 2024, N2 Saddlery introduced the Vincitore X design. The Vincitore X, a monoflap like the original Vincitore, was designed to provide an even deeper, more secure seat for the rider while allowing effective, balanced communication, and to offer the horse increased freedom at the base of the wither through an advanced tree design that encourages engagement through the back and unrestricted shoulder movement.

In 2025, inspired by the Paris Olympics, N2 Saddlery

introduced the Te Amo, monoflap dressage saddle, designed as the next evolution of the popular Cardhu saddle. Building on the Cardhu's proven fit and feel, the Te Amo offers increased leg freedom for the rider through a slightly contoured, shorter knee roll, while providing the horse with enhanced shoulder clearance and comfort through an expanded panel design. This saddle is fast becoming a favorite.

In April of 2026, N2 Saddlery is launching their game-changing website, the N2 Saddlery Outlet Store site under the motto, 'while tough times never last, great saddles do.'

On the N2 Saddlery Outlet website, N2 Saddlery will

offer a selection of close-out saddles and discontinued models. These N2 saddles will become available at outlet prices that will put the finest dressage saddles in everyone's price range.

"We took a page out of Nordstrom's playbook and decided to offer our outlet inventory online," explains Sue Newell. "It's exciting and while the buying and fitting process is different than purchasing an N2 Saddle made to a rider's exact individual specifications, it opens up new opportunities for horses and riders who want the advantages of an N2 Saddle."

Watch for the N2 Saddlery Outlet site in April. Learn more at [www.n2saddlery.com](http://www.n2saddlery.com).



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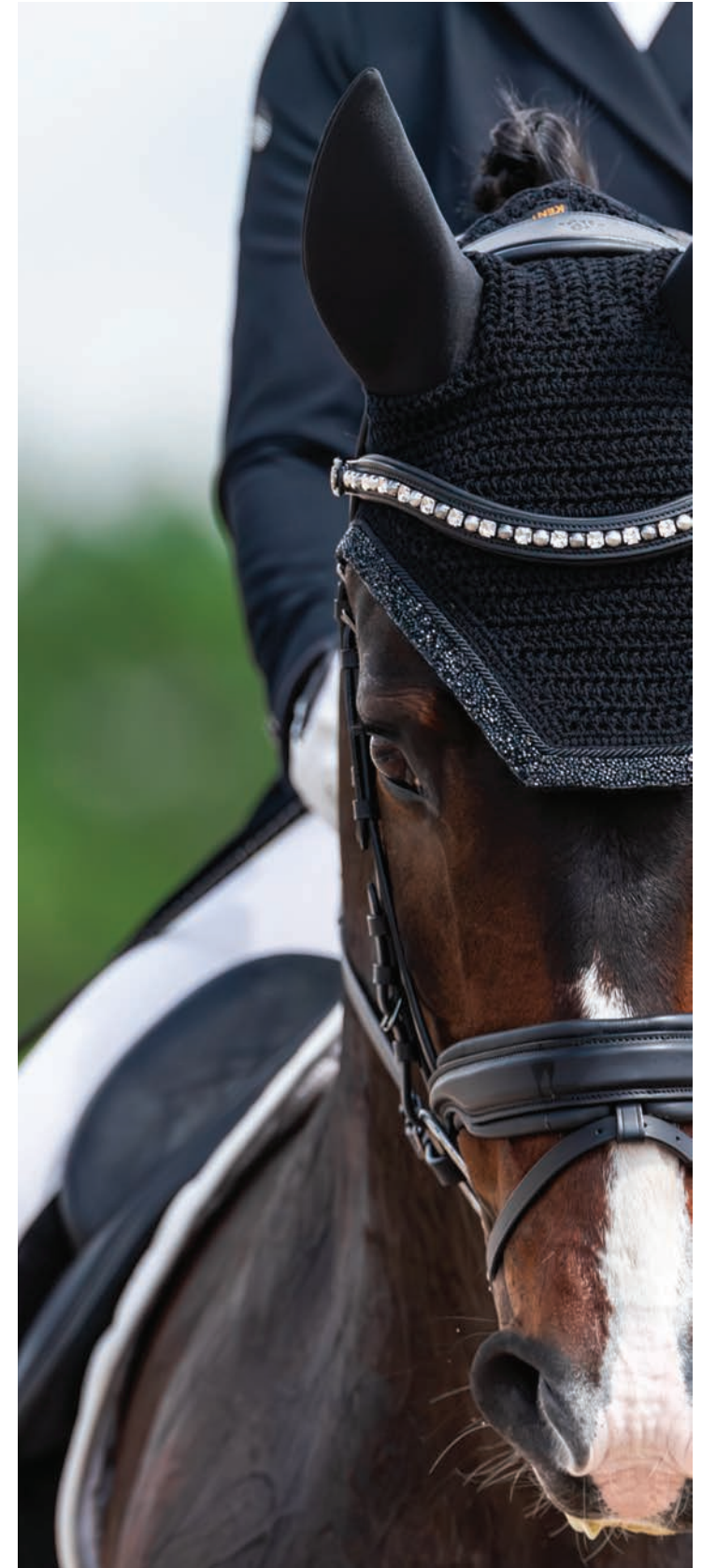
# AROUND THE GROUNDS

From the Wellington International Photography Collective



# AROUND THE GROUNDS

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# GRAND PRIX RIDER LARS LIGUS TAKES ON THE ROLE OF GROOM

Contributed by Sarah Eakin/  
Paper Horse Media  
in collaboration with  
HorseGrooms

Describing Lars Ligus as a dressage groom is a definite understatement. The 29-year-old German was in that role for Friday Night Stars during Week 10 at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. He won the Lövsta Future Challenge-sponsored groom award of \$500 for his care and preparation of Verrenberg to win the FEI World Cup™ Grand Prix Freestyle with Frederic ‘aka’ “Freddie” Wandres. But there is so much more to this story.

“I’m like all in one,” said Ligus. “I’m Freddie’s trainer. I’m his fiancé. I’m a rider and his groom for the big shows.”

Ligus, 29, started with humble beginnings in the big picture of the horse world, learning

to ride, at the age of six at a local riding school in his native Germany. “My family was not horse related. It just was in me from day one,” he said.

Now Ligus is entrenched in the top echelons of the dressage world having left school at 15, completed a three-year apprenticeship in southern Germany, before joining the internationally renowned dressage organization under Hof Kasselmann, where he has been based for nine years.

“That’s when the serious dressage really happened,” said Ligus. “Where I could move up the levels to Grand Prix from young horse championships - and now

also internationally, being able to represent my country.”

Ligus has competed in—and won—two Nations Cups on the German team with Wandres as a teammate. In this instance, they help each other by switching roles on the spot. “I am his groom and trainer, and then we turn the tables and he will help me get the horse ready and train me,” Ligus explained.

Ligus and Wandres are working companions and by riding each other’s horses, they know their horses “inside out”, Ligus said. It is a trait that came in handy this season when Wandres was away from Wellington for two weeks, and Ligus was

© CENTRE LINE MEDIA



charged with prepping Verrenberg in his absence. “That’s a huge benefit that we can both ride each other’s horses whenever it is needed,” said Ligus. “We both have the same approach when it comes to riding and taking care of them.”

A precision schedule is applied in the build-up to show. “I always make a plan as soon as we have a start time [for the class],” said Ligus. “It goes down to the minute when I take the horse out of the stall, when I start brushing him, when I put the saddle on, when I put the double bridle on and when we actually leave for the warm-up.”

Watching Wandres compete, Ligus said, is far more nerve-racking than being on the

horse in the ring himself. “Once he goes in the ring, I can’t do anything,” he said. But Ligus still has a role to play while spectating as Wandres will look to Ligus to gauge his performance even before the scores are announced. “After the last halt, he immediately looks at me and he already knows in my face and my expression if it’s good enough or if we have to worry,” said Ligus.

Ligus ended by saying there’s one reason all the work is worth it. The horses. “I love every moment with the horses,” said Ligus. “Even just being here in Wellington and all the people we meet, and the experiences we have, we have to thank the horses for that.”

## About HorseGrooms

HorseGrooms is a global platform dedicated to supporting, educating, and connecting grooms across all disciplines of equestrian sport. Through educational resources, interviews, in-person events, and an international online community, HorseGrooms works to improve horse welfare while giving grooms the recognition, tools, and support they deserve.

HorseGrooms collaborates with events, brands, and professionals worldwide to share practical knowledge and real stories from the people who care for horses every day, from local barns to top-level competition venues.

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## THE ZEN ELITE LEADLINE CLASS

AGDF 11  
Sunday, March 22, 2026  
A Farewell to the Global Dressage Festival



# SAVE THE DATES

## 2027 Global Dressage Festival\*

- WEEK 1** Jan. 13-17 .....CDI-W, National & the Lloyd Landkamer Memorial
- WEEK 3** Jan. 27-31 .....CDI5\* , CPEDI3\* & National
- WEEK 5** Feb. 10-14 .....CDI-W & National
- WEEK 6** Feb. 19-21 .....National
- WEEK 7** Feb. 24-28 .....CDI4\* & National
- WEEK 8** Mar. 3-7 .....CDI-W, National, & Mary Anne McPhail Memorial
- WEEK 9** Mar. 11-14 .....CPEDI3\* & National
- WEEK 10** Mar. 17-21 .....CDIO3\* & National
- WEEK 11** Mar. 25-28 .....CDI4\* & National
- WEEK 12** Apr. 2-4 .....National

\*All dates subject to change pending USEF and FEI approval.

 Wellington International  
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Photo © Lily Forado



# 3 Graces Dressage



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