AGDF TIMES

Issue 7, March 27-31, 2019

2019 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival | Editor: Jennifer Wood

FRANCIS AND DANILO, IRWIN AND LAURENCIO
SHINE IN FEI CDIO3* FREESTYLES AT WEEK 10 OF AGDF

Capturing the gold medal in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO3 presented by Stillpoint Farm during AGDF 10 was Shelly Francis and Danilo. ©SusanJStickle.com*

The tenth week of the AGDF featured CDIO/3*/1* competition from March 13-17 with freestyles for the CDIO3* in both Intermediare-1 and Grand Prix. The second part of the "Friday Night Stars" competition featured the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO3* presented by Stillpoint Farm.

Shelly Francis (USA) and Danilo broke eighty-one percent with a score of 81.840% to receive the gold medal in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO3* presented by Stillpoint Farm. "I've been making personal best the last three or four shows in a row. I'm kind of excited," said Francis of her season with the 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding by DeNiro x Annabella owned by Patricia Stempel.

Francis's music especially draws in the crowd at her last centerline. She commented, "I think at that point he's already ready to make that piaffe and passage up the center line at the end. When the crowd starts clapping and cheering he starts doing a little more. I just sit there and try to turn real careful in that pirouette, because he's already so active and going. It feels awesome, and in that last bit of passage he feels on fire with feather-like control. The crowd picks him up a little and they pick me up. He likes this freestyle."

The silver medal went to Yvonne Losos De Muniz (DOM) and her partner Aquamarijn, a 14-year-old KWPN mare by United Dam, with a score of 75.240%. "I'm still in shock from the last one [freestyle] I did. She doesn't usually at all go like that," commented De Muniz on her mare's strong performance. "She's just really come around and I have control. It's kind of a neat thing to have with her because I'm usually hanging on for dear life. It's kind of nice to have the control now, and I have to learn how to really take advantage of it."

Charlotte Jorst (USA) and Kastel's Nintendo secured the bronze medal with a score of 75.200%. "This was a brand-new freestyle for me, and I've never ridden it before, even in training. It was super fun to be out there and try it with Nintendo," said Jorst of her freestyle test with the 16-year-old KWPN gelding by Negro owned by Kastel Denmark. "I executed to my own surprise the pirouette into the piaffe, and that was fantastic for me. Once I get it really dialed in, I think it's going to be such a fun freestyle. I can't wait to do it again."

Tuny Page of Stillpoint Farm shared, "Stillpoint Farm locked into the Nations Cup [week] years ago [as sponsor] when it was the last show to get drawn. I was really glad for it, because I think it's a great concept. I love that Stillpoint, which is a very team-oriented farm, can be associated with it [the Nations Cup™]. I'm really proud to be associated with it, and I can't thank enough the team that all works together to make this great."

Judge at C, Janet Lee Foy, commented, "Thank you to all the sponsors and to Thomas [Baur] for putting on such a wonderful show. I have to say the degree of difficulty is always fun to use because something new always happens. When the kids [U25 riders] came out and rode such marvelous freestyles, my comment to my scribe was 'I don't know, these old people better step up to the plate because these kids are just riding like crazy tonight.' A few tonight didn't follow the degree of difficulty and then it's always confusing for us, but Shelly was like 'bang, bang.' It was so much fun. We were throwing out eights and nines and then more nines. The top three were so much fun to judge, and the quality is just amazing."

Allyn Mann of Adequan® noted, "We have been doing this alongside Tuny and enjoying this most amazing journey. Every year it's different, and every year we have wonderful riders, and beautiful horses, and judges that come alongside and make it a special evening. We are thrilled to be a part of it. Next year we will be here, and it will again be different, but it will be just as fun. These riders bring a level of exciting competition, and it is a blessing to be a part of this whole dressage world and have our small contribution to it."

"We had a strong week with the CDIO U25 and CDIO3*, but there is still some room for improvement. I was very happy to have Mexico and Colombia here, and a team from Germany in their first time back in quite a while. But, still we can have more nations. I hope it will grow in the future," concluded Thomas Baur, Director of Sport at AGDF.

The FEI Intermediate I Freestyle CDIO3* presented by Stillpoint Farm took place earlier in the day. Tina Irwin (CAN) and Laurencio took the gold medal in the FEI Intermediate I Freestyle CDIO3* presented by Stillpoint Farm. The pair rode to a score of 74.460%. "He felt amazing all week in the warm-up," said Irwin of her 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Laurentio. "We just have to channel a little bit of that energy in the changes. Overall, he's pretty steady and consistent. I'm thrilled with the week I've had with him."

The silver medal went to Jennifer Baumert (USA) and Handsome with a score of 74.300%. "I actually was so happy with yesterday that I tried to keep my warm-up the same," said Baumert of the 14-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Hochadel. "To keep him sharp and make sure he was feeling good about himself. "It's totally thrilling, and it's a total honor to be sitting here with these two incredible riders," continued Baumert. "I'm thankful to the [U.S. team] sponsor Tim Dutta and also thankful to my wonderful owner Betsy Juliano."

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THE UNITED STATES TEAM WINS GOLD IN FEI NATIONS CUP CDIO3*
PRESENTED BY STILLPOINT FARM

The United States brought home the gold medal in the FEI Nations Cup CDIO3 presented by Stillpoint Farm.© SusanJStickle.com*

The tenth week of the AGDF hosted the FEI Nations Cup CDIO3* presented by Stillpoint Farm. The USA, Canada, Germany, Colombia, and Mexico had teams competing. Competition began on Wednesday with two classes, the FEI Prix St. Georges and the FEI Grand Prix.

Tina Irwin (CAN) had the highest score of 74.912% in the FEI Prix St. Georges CDIO3* presented by Stillpoint Farm, riding Laurencio, her own 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Laurentio. Shelly Francis (USA) scored 73.543% to lead the FEI Grand Prix CDIO3* presented by Stillpoint Farm on Patricia Stempel's Danilo, a 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding by De Niro.

At the halfway point of the Nations Cup, the team from USA led with a score of 220.917, with Canada in the silver medal position with 216.693, and Germany in bronze with 204.570.

On the second day of competition, the U.S. riders secured their victory after strong performances in the FEI Intermediate 1* CDIO3* and FEI Grand Prix Special CDIO3* both presented by Stillpoint Farm.

The United States team captured the gold with 437.693 points. The Canadian team took silver with 433.685 points, and team Germany took the bronze with 402.724 points. The teams were honored in a medal ceremony during the "Friday Night Stars" competition on Friday evening, March 15.

Francis and Danilo took the top spot again in FEI Grand Prix Special CDIO3* with a score of 71.447% after an error in her test. Francis commented, "I was really excited with Danilo with this whole show so far because he's getting more consistent. He feels awesome, and he feels more honest. I feel like it was a great show."

Francis spoke to the team aspect of the Nations Cup, "When I went off course I was like 'Oh my god, everybody is going to be mad. That's it, I just ruined the whole thing.' I was trying to make it pretty perfect and sometimes that happens. It is really fun to do a team competition."

Charlotte Jorst (USA) and Kastel's Nintendo took the second spot in the Special with a score of 71.064%. "I thought it was a tremendous experience to be here in Wellington," commented Jorst on the Nations Cup. "I was weak in the knees when I saw my teammates go in. You're more nervous for them than you would ever be for yourself, and I think it's such a fantastic opportunity for us. We're so thankful to The Dutta Corp. and to everybody for putting this together for us."

Ashley Holzer (USA) and Valentine, her nine-year-old Oldenburg mare by Sir Donnerhall, took the third highest score in the FEI Intermediate 1* CDIO3*. The pair rode to a 71.265%. "I'm very honored to be on the American team with these The opening day of competition at the10thweek of the 2019 AGDF featured the Nations Cup CDIO-U25 presented by Diamante Farms. This is the third year that AGDF hosted CDIO-U25 competition, offering a great stepping-stone of international competition for young riders.

The USA team, consisting of Lauren Asher on West Side, Natalie Pai on Unlimited, and Kerrigan Gluch riding Bolero CXLVIII, took gold with a total team score of 138.559. Canada 1 team was silver, and the Canada 2 team took bronze.

All riders rode the FEI Intermediate II 16-25 test to determine the team medals.

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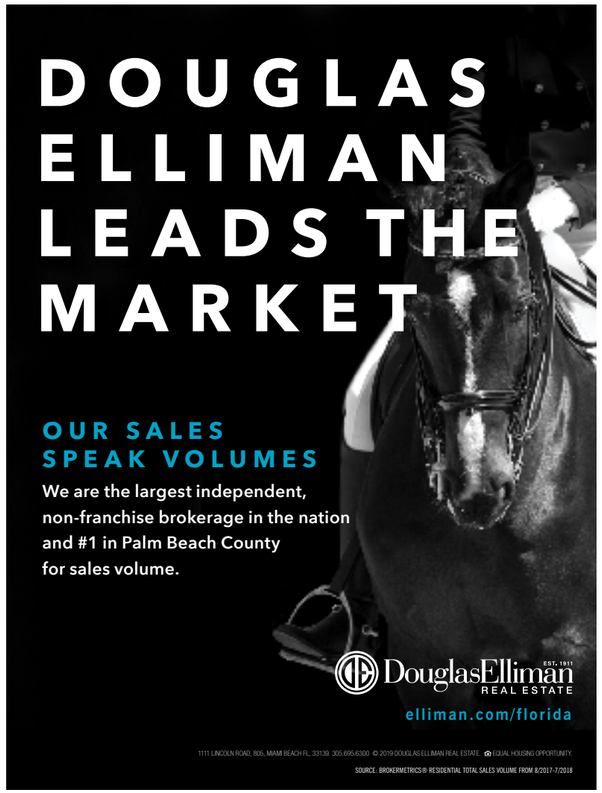

PBIEC WEEK 12 UPCOMING EVENTS

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, March 28, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Wellington Club. The presentation is titled "EquiMix 'Pearls' of Wisdom: Feeding for Immunity, Performance, and Behavior." Join International Equine Veterinarian Hall of Fame Inductee, Dr. Robert Boswell DVM, and Triple Crown Nutrition's CEO and visionary, Rob Daugherty, for an informative discussion on the most advanced feed additives and how they can help boost your horse's immune system while enhancing their ability to perform at the highest levels. And be on hand when Triple Crown presents the commemorative golf cart to this year's Triple Crown People's Choice Equestrian of the Season! Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The Lunch and Learn Grand Prize will be a Prestige Renaissance Saddle, expertly fitted to both horse and rider. Prestige creates exceptional saddles for both horse and rider. We know that "A perfect fit is a thing of beauty," and our saddles can be fully customized. Prestige is the Official Saddle of the USEF.

Contact Kailey Blasius at 561-784-1137 or kblasius@equestriansport.com for more information.

$134,000 EQUINIMITY WEF CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 12 CSI 5*

The $134,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Cup Round 12 CSI 5* will be featured in the International Arena on Thursday, March 28. General admission and parking are free.

"FRIDAY NIGHT STARS" – FEI GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE CDI4* PRESENTED BY DOUGLAS ELLIMAN AT AGDF

AGDF's "Friday Night Stars" Series showcases some of the world's best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The final week of competition at AGDF will feature grand prix musical freestyle competition sponsored by Douglas Elliman on Friday, March 29. Held at Equestrian Village (13500 South Shore Blvd.) in the Global International Arena, gates open at 6 p.m. and competition begins at 7 p.m. General admission is free, and parking is $10/car.

GLADIATOR POLO™

Gladiator Polo™ has returned to Wellington! This fast-paced and exciting arena polo event features four teams comprised of three players each who battle it out against the boards in the U.S. Polo Assn. Coliseum at the International Polo Club Palm Beach. Matches are set to take place on Friday, March 29, Saturday April 6, and concluding with the Gladiator Polo™ Championship on April 13. All games begin at 8:00 p.m. and gates open at 7:00 p.m. FREE General Admission and FREE Parking. VIP Asado tickets can be purchased at www.gladiatorpolo.com.

"SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" $500,000 ROLEX GRAND PRIX CSI 5*

The $500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* will be the featured class during "Saturday Night Lights" in the International Arena on Saturday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. The peak event of the season will feature some of the world's top horse and riders competing over the biggest jumps after having competed all circuit to qualify. Admission is free and parking is $20/car with $30 valet available.

THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES Available Saturday Night

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are available on Saturday, March 30. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family or even a corporate get-together. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@equestriansport.com today.

NEED A RESERVED SEAT FOR THE $500,000 ROLEX GRAND PRIX CSI 5*?

THE WELLINGTON CLUB - SPECIAL RESERVED SEATING LOCATION AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT

Prime viewing for the $500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* is available on Saturday, March 30, in the climate-controlled, glass-enclosed, ringside venue. Cash Bar is available. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before seats fill up! Contact Cateringsales@equestriansport.com or 561-784-1136 to book your seat or table today.

$50,000 USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

One of the most exciting hunter classes of the season is the $50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby. The first round is on Saturday, March 30, at noon, and the top 25 move on to compete in the second round on the Derby Field at Equestrian Village on Sunday, March 31, at 1 p.m. They will compete over natural obstacles like the table bank and show off their style galloping around the beautiful grass field. Don't miss one of the final events of the 2019 WEF! General admission and parking are free.

$50,000 GRAND PRIX CSI 2*

Riders competing in the two-star division during WEF 12 will compete for top honors in the $50,000 Grand Prix CSI 2* on Sunday, March 31, in the WEF International Arena following the opening class of the day.

PARADE OF CIRCUIT CHAMPIONS

The Parade of Circuit Champions for the 2019 WEF Season will be held in the International Arena at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 30. General admission and parking are free.

SILO RIDGE FIELD CLUB PRESENTED BY MARIA MENDELSOHN LEADLINE CLASS

The Silo Ridge Field Club presented by Maria Mendelsohn Leadline class will be held in the WEF International Arena on Sunday, March 31, following the $50,000 Grand Prix CSI 2*. Don't miss the cutest riders of WEF in their final competition!

$50,000 CAPTIVEONE ADVISORS GRAND PRIX (NATIONAL)

The $50,000 CaptiveOne Advisors Grand Prix (national) is the jumper feature on Sunday, March 31, at 1 p.m. in the WEF International Arena. General admission and parking are free.

SAVE THE DATE

LEADLINE DURING ESP SPRING SERIES

The 2019 ESP Spring 1, 2 and 3 shows will each host a Kelk Phillips Leadline Division, held prior to the start of the Sunday Grand Prix, in the International Arena. Special prizes will be awarded to all participants.

Lunch AND LEARN

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INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB HAPPENINGS

The 2019 Captive One U.S. Open Polo Championship® kicks off this week at the International Polo Club Palm Beach. Check out the full game schedule below and come watch a match on the beautiful fields!

Wednesday, March 27
10 a.m.: Coca Cola vs. La Indiana

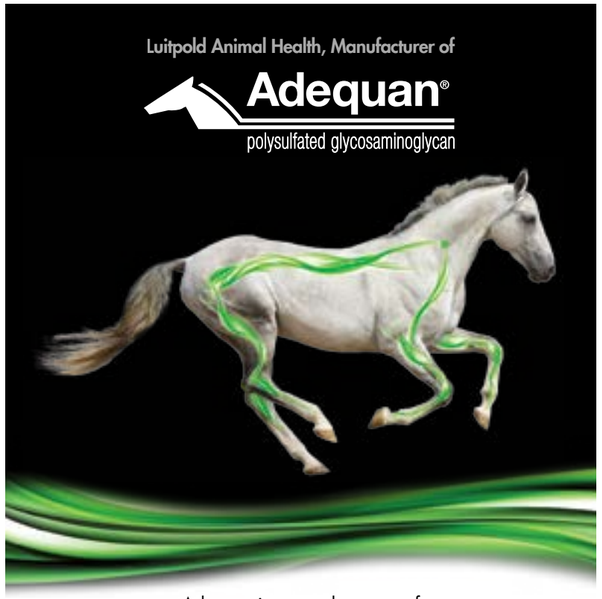
Thursday, March 28
10 a.m.: Postage Stamp Farm vs. Tonkawa
4 p.m.: SD Farms vs. Santa Clara

Friday, March 29
10 a.m.: Iconica vs. Equuleus
4 p.m.: Old Hickory Bourbon vs. Park Place

Saturday, March 30
10 a.m.: Stable Door vs. Pilot

Sunday, March 31
10 a.m.: Las Monjitas vs. Daily Racing Form
3 p.m.: Cessna vs. Aspen

Join us on Sunday for a fun day of polo, sunshine, and brunch at IPC on the U.S. Polo Assn. Field 1! Enjoy a delicious brunch in the Pavilion, experience VIP style in the Celebrity Cruises® Polo Lounge, or watch the game from the stadium seats or tailgate spots. All ticket options for Sunday matches can be purchased online at www.internationalpoloclub.com.



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Natalie Pai and Fritz San Tino
Ride to Personal Best Score at Week 11

Natalie Pai (USA) and Fritz San Tino won the Junior/Young Rider section of the FEI Intermediate I presented by Peacock Ridge. ©SusanJStickle.com*

The eleventh week of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) featured national competition from March 22-24.

On Saturday, March 23, Natalie Pai (USA) and Fritz San Tino won the Junior/Young Rider section of the FEI Intermediate I* presented by Peacock Ridge, with a score of 73.676%. "I'm really excited. It's the highest score I've ever gotten on him," said Pai of her winning test on her 17-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Falkenstern II. "I think he had a lot more energy and better through-ness [than yesterday]. I'm really happy with him.

"His extended canters are always really good, and the changes were also excellent today," continued Pai. "I'm really happy with the walk tour. It's something that we've been working on a lot. It was very calm and rhythmic. He just tries really hard, and I really like that about him. He's very sweet."

he 21-year-old discussed what she plans to work on moving forward with her partner of four and a half years. "I want to work on the canter pirouettes a little bit more [and] to work on the rideability in the ring itself, and just keep the power and the energy but still keeping him relaxed and rideable," said Pai.

Pai is thankful to her parents and to her coach Adrienne Lyle for supporting her. "This was my last show of the Wellington season, so I'm happy that we went out with a bang," concluded Pai.

In the Open FEI Grand Prix* presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty, Krystalann Shingler (CAN) and Fidelio, her 11-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Fidertantz, rode to a win with a score of 73.696%.

Kerrigan Gluch (USA) and Vaquero, a 16-year-old P.R.E. stallion owned by Hampton Green Farm, captured the win in the FEI Intermediate II 'Brentina Cup' presented by Diamante Farms with a strong score of 73.088%.

Competition continued on Sunday, March 24, with the USEF Developing Prix St. Georges presented by Vita Flex. Michael Bragdell (USA) and Sternlicht Hilltop, a nine-year-old Hanoverian stallion by Rascalino owned by Hilltop Farm Inc., won the class with a score of 72.375%.

International competition at AGDF will resume for Week 12 from March 27-31, and features CDI4* dressage competition.

Deirdre Sullivan

SPONSOR AWARDS
Photo Gallery

Frank Tobias awarded the Custom Saddlery Most Valuable Rider Award to Tom Dvorak.

Walter Nef presented the Horse of Course High Score Award to Jessica Howington on Quinto, with Melanie Howington.

CANDIDS

©SusanStickle.com

USA Team Takes Victory at Third Annual Nations Cup CDIO-U25 PRESENTED BY DIAMANTE FARMS AT AGDF 10

The team from the United States won the gold medal, while Canada 1 was silver and Canada 2 was bronze in the Nations Cup CDIO-U25 presented by Diamante Farms. © SusanJStickle.com

The opening day of competition at the 10th week of the 2019 AGDF featured the Nations Cup CDIO-U25 presented by Diamante Farms. This is the third year that AGDF hosted CDIO-U25 competition, offering a great stepping-stone of international competition for young riders.

The USA team, consisting of Lauren Asher on West Side, Natalie Pai on Unlimited, and Kerrigan Gluch riding Bolero CXLVIII, took gold with a total team score of 138.559. Canada 1 team was silver, and the Canada 2 team took bronze.

All riders rode the FEI Intermediate II 16-25 test to determine the team medals. Asher (22) originally hails from Denver, CO, and she rode the 16-year-old KWPN gelding by Florett AS owned by Select Equine International to a personal best score of 70.471%, which was also the second-highest score in the class.

"I just had a good feeling going into the competition all week," said Asher. "Then to have my horse be there for me, especially on a big day like this, it was just great. To have a good feeling continually throughout the test is just exciting. I'm really happy.

For Pai and Unlimited, an 18-year-old KWPN gelding by Jazz owned by Melanie Pai, it was a personal best for their I-2 test, which was needed as she had to score above 67.142% as the anchor rider. Her score of 68.088% gave USA the win. Pai (21, originally from Middleburg, VA) and Unlimited finished in third place in the class overall.

This is Pai's second time competing at the CDIO-U25 at AGDF. "It's always super fun being able to be on a team and be a part of something. As always, thank you to the [team at] the United States Equestrian Federation and everyone for making this possible and having everything run smoothly for us."

Gluch, who is 22 and is originally from Mount Pleasant, MI, has had a long and successful partnership with Bolero CXLVIII, who is owned by Hampton Green Farm. "I thought actually today was the best test I've had on him in the show ring," she said of the 15-year-old P.R.E. stallion by Utrerano VII that she has ridden for almost three years. "Every moment, he was with me. He's a very honest guy, but today, he was even a little extra, which is something that's really awesome to feel. I thought our changes were super today. He gets a little excited in them, and today, he relaxed and settled down and had some nice changes."

Gluch and Bolero placed fourth in the class with a solid performance of 66.853%.

Finishing just off the pace for the silver medal was the Canada 1 team, who had a total of 137.882. The team consisted of Naima Moreira Laliberte (22, Montreal, Quebec), Laurence Blais Tetreault (22, Montreal, Quebec), and Tanya Strasser-Shostak (23, Sainte-Adèle. Quebec).

Riding I Do Kiss, a 13-year-old Swedish Warmblood stallion owned by KML S.A.R.L., Moreira Laliberte had the highest score of the class with a 71.706%. "This was a personal best today, actually the best he's ever felt for me, so it's nice to see some results from the work put into it," she said of her partner of two years. "It's really rewarding."

Blais Tetreault had a fifth-place finish in the class on a score of 66.176% on Utah, an 18-year-old KWPN gelding by Jazz owned by her sister, Mathilde Blais Tetreault. She was very happy with her team experience.

"I've been with those two girls doing juniors, young riders, and now U25, so that's just awesome," she said. "We know each other really well, and we know we work well on a team, so that's the cherry on top for the experience. And the horse was good too, so I'm happy with it."

Strasser-Shostak and Déjà vu Tyme, a 12-year-old Hannoverian gelding by Dauphin owned by Erika Murphy, was very happy with her horse of two-and-a-half years. "When we first got him, he was really green with everything, with show experience and just generally in his levels," she said. "I'm really pleased with how he's progressed within the time that we've had him."

Canada 2 team finished on a total of 118.441 for the bronze medal. Vanessa Creech-Terauds (19) of Caistor Centre, Ontario, had a solid test for a 64.059% on Hallmark 3, a 15-year-old Hannoverian gelding by His Highness owned by Leatherdale Farms.

While Creech-Terauds is the youngest competing in the CDIO-U25, her previous team experience helped her with nerves in the competition.

"I've been very lucky to be on a couple teams through young riders and juniors, so I have had quite a few experiences," she said. "You know a little bit the routine, which helps you relax, and you're able to focus more on your ride and your strategy and being able to get the highest score that you can. I really enjoy the team experiences. You're able to bond with your teammates and cheer them on. It's a really great learning opportunity."

For Megan Shea (24, Toronto, Ontario), a "tricky" test led to a score of 54.382% with K 2, a 15-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Kaiser Franz owned by Stephen Shea. But Shea was looking on the bright side for her experience. "I'm really happy with how my canter tour went. I was able to kind of scrounge for whatever I could after a bit of an interesting trot tour," she explained. "I was happy to see that even though it didn't start out very well, I was able to pull it back together, and my horse and I were able to work together to get what we could get done in the second half of [the test]."

Deirdre Sullivan

AGDF 10 Continued from Page 1

Ashley Holzer (USA) and Valentine rode to a score of 73.635% with their new freestyle and captured the bronze medal. "I love the new music, but the trot tour is tricky to be right on the music, right on the money, all the time," said Holzer of her new test with her nine-year-old Oldenburg mare by Sir Donnerhall. "My focus really was on getting the trot tour and nailing the trot tour, but maybe my focus should've been more on nailing the canter tour."

AGDF 10 Highlights - Wednesday Through Sunday

The tenth week of the AGDF started on Wednesday with a win for Katherine Bateson Chandler (USA) and Alcazar, a 14-year-old KWPN gelding by Cantango owned by Jane Forbes Clark, in the FEI Grand Prix CDI 3* (for the Freestyle) presented by Harmony Sporthorses. The pair rode to a score of 69.522%.

The winner of the FEI Grand Prix CDI 3* (for the Special) presented by Horseware Ireland was Jill Irving (CAN) and Degas 12, her 17-year-old Hanoverian gelding by De Niro. They had a score of 72.565%.

Thursday competition started with the FEI Prix St Georges CDI1* presented by The Dutta Corp. Endel Ots (USA) and Lucky Strike, a nine-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Lord Laurie owned by Max Ots, won the class with a score of 72.941%.

Friday started with the FEI Intermediate I CDI3* presented by Yellow Bird Firm. Anna Marek (USA) and Einstein JP, her 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding by Democraat, rode to a win with a score of 70.706%.

Katherine Bateson Chandler (USA) and Alcazar, a 14-year-old KWPN gelding by Cantango owned by Jane Forbes Clark, rode to a score of 74.695% to win the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI3* presented by Harmony Sporthorses.

Competition continued on Saturday with the FEI Intermediate I CDI1*. Katie Johnson and Paxton, an eight-year-old Westphalian gelding by Dante Weltino owned by Kylee Lourie, rode to a score of 73.647% to win the class.

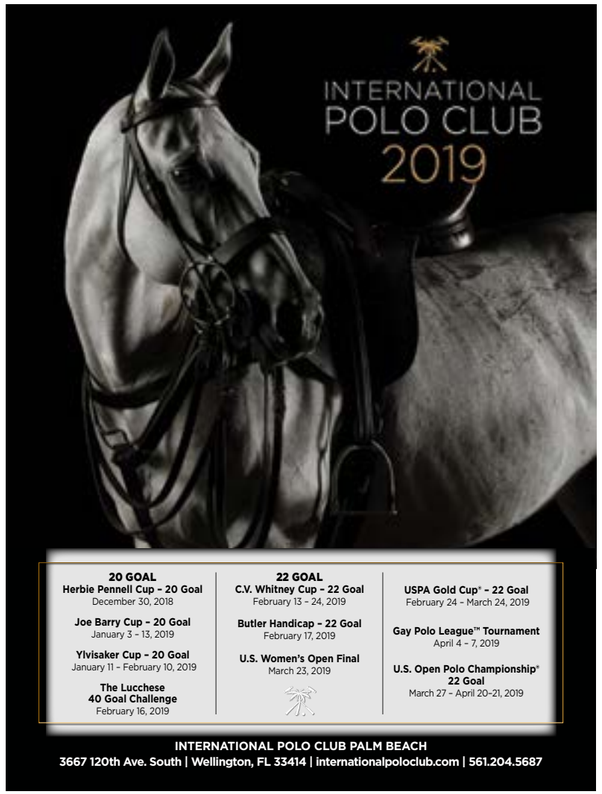
Adrienne Lyle (USA) and Harmony's Duval had the last ride of the day and rode to a new personal best score of 75.851% in the Grand Prix Special and secured their win. Harmony's Duval made his big tour debut just five weeks ago at AGDF.

Sunday morning started with the FEI Young Horse Test for 7 Year Olds – Final CDI-YH. The format allowed for the two judges at B, Elisabeth Max-Theurer and Katrina Wuest, to immediately share feedback with the rider and spectators about their thoughts on the young horses' potential as competitive dressage mounts.

Karen Pavicic (CRO) and Totem, her seven-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Totilas, won the final with a score of 75.414%.

Anna Marek (USA) and Einstein JP had the final ride of the Week 10 on Sunday afternoon and won the FEI Intermediate I Freestyle CDI3* presented by Yellow Bird Farm. The pair rode to a score of 75.708%.

Deirdre Sullivan



FACES OF AGDF KATE SHOEMAKER

Kate Shoemaker and Solitaer 40

1.Tell us a little bit about you and your horse and what you've been competing in this season?
Soli [Solitaer 40] is my horse. He's a 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Sandro Hit. We've been together now for five years, and he's absolutely my best friend. His strong suits are that he's a really good traveler, but he has just the right amount of spark to be a good show horse when he goes somewhere new. He's got me wrapped around his hoof!
We've been doing the small tour in the weeks before the CPEDI. We've been doing that for a couple of reasons; one for fun and two to get more rideability. Putting him tests where stuff is coming up a lot faster has helped him think more in the Para tests.

2. How long have you been coming to AGDF for and what's your favorite part?
My first year at AGDF was 2013, and this is my fourth season here. My favorite part about AGDF is the opportunity to get in the stadium, and have it be a stadium that's really more intimidating than anywhere else we can ride. When we went to WEG it seemed quiet. I think the fact that they've put us in the stadium at AGDF for the last four years has been monumental in helping our team riders get their horses more exposed in major and national competitions.

3. What's the most memorable moment you've had in the show ring?
Our WEG freestyle when we took bronze. That ride was what dreams are made of, and you know that feeling when everything at home comes together in the show arena. It was amazing when they announced that we were still in the lead when there were just two rides left and we were definitely getting a medal. I was surrounded by my family, trainer, team coaches, and the whole team.

4. Now that AGDF is wrapping up for the 2019 season, what are your goals for the rest of the year?
Currently we're tentatively planning a European tour this summer with up to three shows, before returning for our National Championship awards at Tryon.

5. Where can we find you when you're not riding and competing?
I'm an equine veterinarian, so you can probably find me with a horse. I focus on sports medicine, and anything that affects our performance horses, so it's everything from scoping for ulcers to soundness exams and making sure that our partners can feel their absolute best.

JUMPER RIDER CYNTHIA SCRENCI
Embraces the Sport of Dressage After Being Faced With A New Disability

Cynthia Screnci started her equestrian career in the jumpers and competed with Vichy.

Cynthia Screnci of Boca Raton, FL, just made a big transition in her riding career from competing in the Adult Jumpers with her mare Vichy, to her international Para-Dressage debut at Week 9 of AGDF. In 2015 Screnci suffered a bad jumping accident at the Winter Equestrian Festival. She fell off in a jump-off and landed on her feet and twisted. The impact and speed snapped her ankle, resulting in a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula.

Screnci then came down with a bone infection and underwent a total of 23 surgeries and two external fixatives. She now has less than 5% flexion in her left ankle joint and has to wear a brace to walk. As an avid rider she was determined to get back to riding as soon as she could.

In August of 2018 Screnci acquired a new mount with Para-Dresage potential, Sally L. Screnci looked at the Para-Dressage program and saw that there were opportunities for herself and went through the certification process to become a Grade V rider. She sat in a dressage saddle for the first time ever in January 2019 and had to learn a whole new riding seat while also dealing with the complications from her injury.

"The training has been trying to adjust my seat from that jumper forward-leaning position, to something that felt completely unnatural. It felt like I was almost leaning backwards, when in actuality I was straight and vertical," commented Screnci. "I've done the jumper position for my entire life and coming to dressage and sitting on my seat-bones was a real challenge. That along with the fact that I don't really have a left leg [to use]."

It took a lot of work on Screnci's part, but she made the transition and rode Sally L in two national shows at AGDF before gearing towards the CPEDI3* at Week 9. Never having shown at an international dressage show before, Screnci had a lot of scrambling to do to prepare. The Para community helped her learn her test on the Tuesday before her Friday ride, and the administrative staff helped her fix her entry.

The night before the first day of CPEDI competition, Screnci was returning from Lion Country Safari where she had lent her golf cart to a Para family that needed it to help their riders with getting around the showgrounds. As she was leaving a young driver ran a red light and hit the driver's side door of Screnci's truck going 60 mph. "I just saw out of the corner of my eye this red blur," said Screnci of the accident. "The fire rescue said that if I weren't driving such a large truck I wouldn't have walked away from that. It's crazy, just crazy."

Screnci went to the hospital by ambulance that night, suffering from a bad strain in her left wrist, an injured lower back, and black and blue all over after being hit by both airbags. After all that she went through to get ready for the CPEDI, she was really frustrated when facing the possibility of not being able to show because of a car accident.

Screnci pushed through her injuries and rode her mare to a score of 61.927% in the FEI Para Novice Test A Grade V and won their class. "It was an interesting first international show, but I felt like I had an obligation [to ride]. All of the riders from the U.S. Team were riding, and of course a lot of them are Grade 1 riders and they have a lot more going on than I do. I wasn't on the team [yet] that was riding, but I feel like I'm part of the overall general team and I'm really excited about that. That's a big deal; that means a lot to me. I didn't want to let down all the people [from the Para community] that were so encouraging and so helpful to me."

Screnci cannot thank the Para community enough for encouraging and supporting her in this journey. She describes them as truly a family. "I'm very proud to be a Para-rider, and I'm proud to be a part of this organization," she said. "I'm really hoping to show other people that it's really such a special, encouraging, wonderful group of people and riders. I'm happy to be part of this family. And that's what it is, it feels like a family."

Screnci also spoke to the true art of dressage, and how she isn't bored after being a self-described thrill seeking jumper rider who got her start in barrel racing and western pleasure at eight years old. "I'm absolutely loving it. There's so much more to it in the dressage [than in jumpers] when you learn and actually know. I'm thoroughly enjoying the intricacies of dressage. I know when my horse's haunches are out, or when she's crooked or not balanced. I didn't know any of that stuff before, and I've been riding for a long time," said Screnci.

Her determination paid off, and she was invited to ride on one of the Para Teams showing at International Omaha in April. Moving forward, Screnci hopes to break 70% with her mare [she rode to a 69.792% when having just been in a car accident], and has her sights set on the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. She also promises everyone that she won't have a near death experience before the next show.

Deirdre Sullivan

After an accident, Cynthia began competing in para-dressage with Sally L.©SusanStickle.com

NATIONS CUP CDIO3* Continued from Page 1

amazing riders and friends," said Holzer. "I think it's amazing to have more opportunities to ride on a team. There is a team pressure that comes on, no matter if it's a Nations Cup here in Wellington where you ride a lot."

Jennifer Baumert (USA) and Handsome, a 14-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Hochadel owned by Betsy Juliano LLC, captured the fourth-highest score in the FEI Intermediate 1* CDIO3*, a 70.941%. "I'm certainly very honored to have made the team," shared Baumert. "It feels amazing to have these three wonderful ladies here with me and to have won the gold."

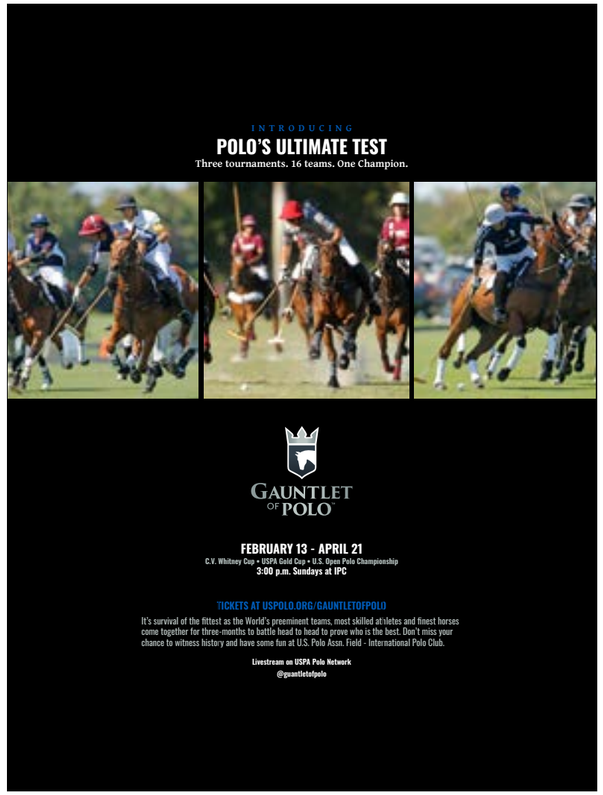
Tina Irwin (CAN) rode Laurencio, her 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding, to the leading score of 73.588% in the I-1 division, which helped Canada to the silver medal. She spoke to her experience this season leading up to the Nations Cup, "The season has been full of highs and lows for me. I started off back at small tour this year after doing grand prix last year. I was a little bit rusty, so getting my feet wet and getting back into it. Then I got kicked, and thought I broke my hand. Luckily, I did not. I had entered the show two weeks ago and thought, 'I can't ride, clearly,' so I gave my husband Jaimey the ride, and he did amazing."

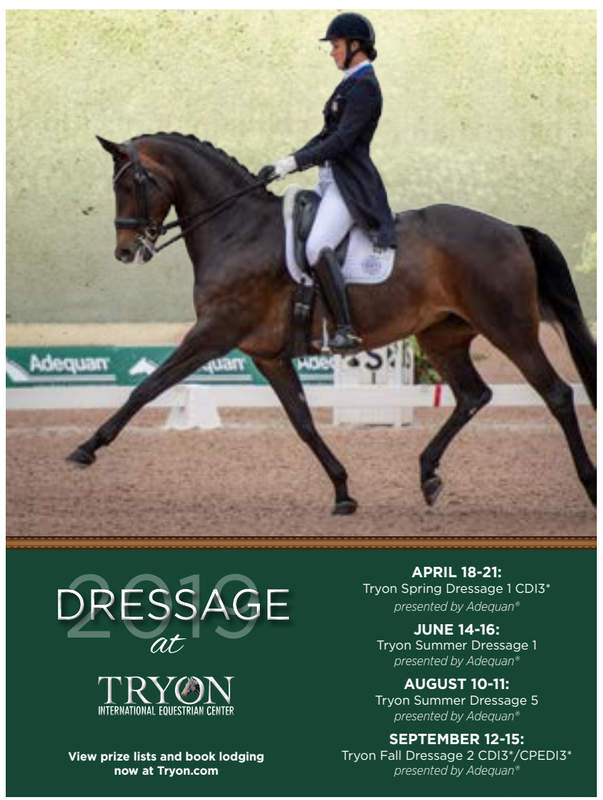
Irwin was able to recover in time for the Nations Cup. "Luckily I was able to get back into shape fairly quickly. I had to push through the pain a little bit, but I can't complain really. Laurencio is steady, he has temperament for a 10, he has quality, and he's so fun to ride. I feel really lucky to have a horse like him," concluded Irwin.

Patricia Koschel (GER) spoke on behalf of the bronze German team. She and Leuchtfeuer DE scored 69.088% in the I-1 division. "For me it's a really big honor to sit here with such amazing athletes," she said. "It was also a great honor to be a part of this Nations Cup team, and it's great that we have the possibility here to have a mixture of Grand Prix and Prix St Georges [riders].

"Being part of a Nations Cup team is really special, and now we have a really nice German community here [in Wellington]," continued Koschel. "I think you could see it, there were a lot of people cheering. Today I was really, really happy, a little bit over the moon."

Deirdre Sullivan





EQUESTRIAN VILLAGE
at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center

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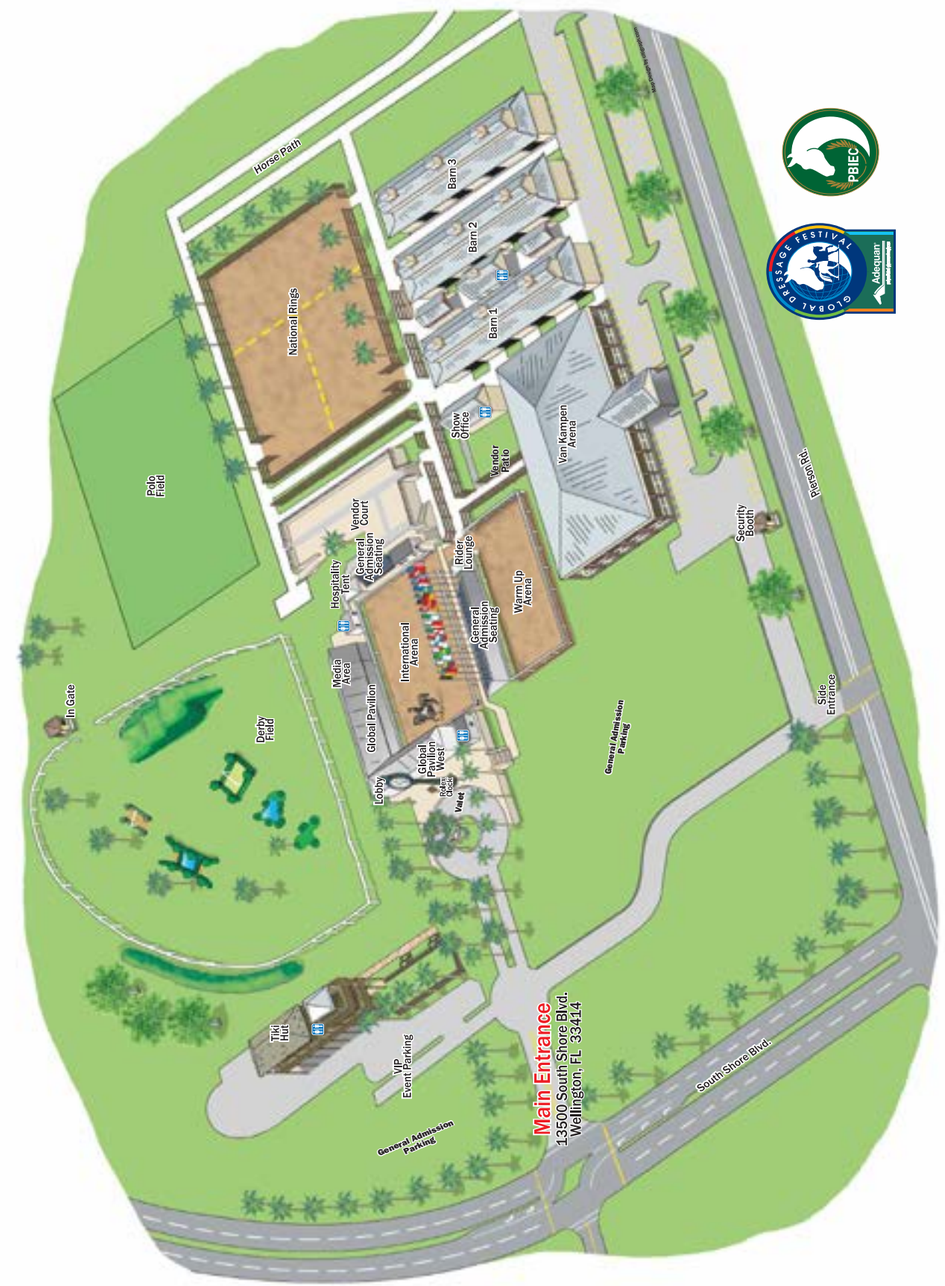

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2019 AGDF WEEKLY SCHEDULE

March 26-31: AGDF 12 – Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 4*, *presented by Douglas Elliman*
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 4*, *presented by Mission Control*
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, *presented by Adequan®*
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, *presented by the AMCI Group to benefit Brooke USA*
Small Tour CDI 3*, *presented by Vita Flex*
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

**Tentative schedule, subject to change.