Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) cut the ribbon on the 2020 season at an opening press conference held Tuesday, January 7, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), and welcomed media, athletes, and spectators alike to the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) and the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF).

Panel speakers represented both WEF, which will offer $13 million in prize money throughout 12 consecutive weeks of top hunter and jumper competition, and AGDF, where top national and international dressage riders will return for competition unlike any other in North America. Both circuits run from January 8 through March 29.

Featured speakers at the opening press conference included ESP President Michael Stone, 2019 Pan American Games Show Jumping team bronze medalist Alex Granato, 2019 Pan American Games Dressage individual gold and team silver medalist Sarah Lockman, two-time Olympic Show Jumping team gold medalist Beezie Madden, and top hunter rider and trainer Christopher Payne.

“We are very excited and looking forward to this season and I think what we have produced for this season is a game changer in our sport,” said Stone, whose team at ESP invested in upgrading footing at PBIEC as well as raising prize money to a record-breaking level. “Our big focus this year was on footing, and all of our resources really were poured into that.

“Most importantly, it’s high performance while at the same time kind to the horses,” continued Stone of the new surface in both the International Arena and warm-up ring. “As far as sport goes, we are proud that we have been able to make this event accessible and open to local spectators. The public here knows who these top riders are and comes to cheer them on.”

While unable to attend the press conference, ESP CEO and Wellington Equestrian Partners Managing Partner Mark Bellissimo commented on the continuing expansion of the sport in Palm Beach County and what makes Palm Beach International Equestrian Center integral to the sport’s success.

“We are entering our 13th season as managers of the Winter Equestrian Festival,” he said. “We created the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in 2012 and brought the International Polo Club Palm Beach into the fold in 2016. With these three incredible venues, we strive to provide a quality experience not only for the exhibitors competing, but for spectators, sponsors, and our local community. We are proud to be a part of the equestrian community and help set the tone for top horse sport not only in the United States, but for the world. We look forward to another amazing winter season and can’t wait to see what it brings.”

For grand prix riders and their equine athletes, the 2020 WEF season will offer 11 weeks of FEI competition, featuring four CSI 5* grand prix events during weeks 5, 7, 9, and 12. The 12th and final week will shine a spotlight on major events that you don’t want to miss include the CDI 5* during AGDF 7, the Palm Beach Dressage Derby CDI 4* during AGDF 8, and the CDIO 3* during AGDF 10, the only leg of the FEI Nations Cup™ series hosted in North America. The final week at AGDF 12 will be the last chance for World Cup qualifying for those who aim to compete in the FEI Dressage World Cup Final in Las Vegas this April.

We are honored to host all of the amazing competitors at AGDF and to help grow equestrian sport not only in Wellington and South Florida, but in the United States. From the “Friday Night Stars” freestyles to the pony competitors and beginning amateur riders, all are welcomed and celebrated at AGDF.

We would not be able to keep AGDF at the top level without the dedication, support, and vision of our sponsors. AGDF grows and improves in many ways every year, and we aim to keep our goals high and produce the best dressage circuit in the world. We recognize the beauty, strength, precision, and passion in the sport of dressage and hope to foster and continue that as the years pass. We wish the athletes, sponsors, partners, and spectators the very best for a successful and safe show season.

Sincerely,
Mark Bellissimo and the Wellington Equestrian Partners: Georgina Bloomberg, David Burton, Jr. and Julie Burton, Marsha Dammerman, Howard Dvorkin and Gwen Dvorkin, S. Craig Lindner and Frances Lindner, Lisa Lourie, Caroline Moran, Justin Sadrian and Lee Kellogg Sadrian, Ludwig Sollak and Carol Solak, and Kimberly van Kampen.
**LÖVSTA JOINS 2020 AGDF**

**WITH MAJOR SPONSORSHIP AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG HORSES**

The original Lövsta Future Challenge was conceived by Vilhelmson Silfvén and Louise Nathorst in its home country of Sweden as a talent development program in both dressage and show jumping for young grand prix horses and under 25 riders, giving them the skills and the conditions to advance to the top level of international sport.

“We not only promote the horses and riders but also the teams behind them, including grooms, trainers, breeders, horse owners, and sponsors,” said Vilhelmson Silfvén. “All are incredibly important for developing talent. Lövsta Future Challenge also strives to create forums where riders and equestrian professionals can exchange knowledge and work together towards a sport where the environment and horsemanship are central themes. Our goal is that this series will be successful so we can take it to an international level in the future.”

The Lövsta Future Challenge series will hold qualifiers for horses age eight to ten years old at AGDF 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 10, with the final held during AGDF 12 for $15,000 in prize money. The best horse/rider combination of each qualifying week will qualify for the final, plus two wild cards will be determined for the next placed horse/rider combination of that week will go forward to the final. The test used in the qualifiers is the FEI Intermediate II.

Watch the men compete against the women in the first “Saturday Night Lights” event of the circuit on Saturday, January 11, at 6 p.m. Riders from Grades I-IV will perform in a semi-private suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family of competitors. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people. 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.

PARA-DRESSAGE CPEDI FREESTYLE UNDER THE LIGHTS

Para-dressage riders will be featured in the Global International Arena on Saturday, January 11, at 6 p.m. Riders from Grades I-IV will perform their freestyle tests to work toward qualifying scores for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games and have special awards ceremonies. Come and cheer on the top para-dressage riders in their CPEDI competition presented by Mission Control, Fair Sky Farm, Adequan®, and Nutrena. General admission and parking are free.

$75,000 ROSENBAUM PLLC GRAND PRIX

Watch some of show jumping’s best horses and riders compete in the first grand prix of the 2020 WEF circuit. Competition begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 12, in the International Arena at PBIEC.

COMING UP IN WEEK 2!

Watch some of show jumping’s best horses and riders compete in the first grand prix of the 2020 WEF circuit. Competition begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 12, in the International Arena at PBIEC.

**LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE**

A special Q&A about the new Show + service offered this year at PBIEC will be held on Wednesday, January 8, at 12:30 p.m. at The Wellington Club. The Show + Q&A Session will be held with Wayne Jenkins of CaptiveOne Advisors and his team to educate attendees on this new insurance service. Lunch will be provided, and the Q&A is free to riders, trainers, and owners.

**ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL “FRIDAY NIGHT STARS”**

AGDF’s “Friday Night Stars” Series returns in 2020, showcasing some of the world’s best dressage horses and riders at the top level of competition. The first week of CDI-W competition will feature FEI World Cup qualifying grand prix musical freestyle competition presented by Lövsta on Friday, January 10. Held at Equestrian Village at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, gates open at 6 p.m. General admission is free, parking is $10 per car, and valet is available for $20.

**THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES – AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT!**

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are first available on Saturday, January 10, and on select Saturday Night Lights events throughout WEF. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and wines will be available on Saturday, January 11, and on select Saturday Night Lights events of the circuit on Saturday, January 11, at 7 p.m.

**Friends of Orphaned Luncheon**

Join riders from the Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti for a luncheon and silent auction to benefit Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Haiti therapy program, which is dedicated to children with special needs, on Sunday, January 12. Tickets are available online or onsite. All proceeds will go to the Special Olympics World Olympics in Abu Dhabi in 2019. Individual tickets are available for $75 and table sponsorship is available for $500. Contact Romy Tschudi for information and ticket purchase at 954-643-8678.
Tickets starting at $20 | $5 Parking

Choose from Stadium Seating, Tailgates & Brunch in The Pavilion

Gates open at 12 p.m.

Match begins at 3 p.m.

Visit internationalpoloclub.com/SundayTickets to learn more

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Janne Rumbough &

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Photo by Topiberian

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#1 IN PALM BEACH COUNTY FOR SALES VOLUME from 8/2017-1/2020

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AGDF WEEKLY SCHEDULE

January 8-12: AGDF 1
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Lövsta
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3* presented by MTICA Farm
Small Tour CDI 3* presented by Triple Crown Nutrition
Small Tour CDI 1*
CPEDI3* presented by Adequan®, Mission Control, Fair Sky Farm, and Nutrena
Schedule includes National Show

January 22-26: AGDF 3
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by U.S. P.R.E. Association
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Blue Hors
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Horseware Ireland
Small Tour CDI 1*
CPEDI3* presented by Adequan®, Mission Control, Fair Sky Farm, and Nutrena
Schedule includes National Show

February 5-9: AGDF 5
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Helgstrand Dressage
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3* presented by Fair Sky Farm
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center
Small Tour CDI 1*
Schedule includes National Show

February 14-16: AGDF 6
National Show

February 26-March 1: AGDF 8
Palm Beach Dressage Derby
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 4*, presented by Havensafe Farm
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 4*, presented by Mission Control
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by The Brooke USA
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Summit Farm
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Harmony Sporthorses
Small Tour CDI 1*
2020 Florida International Youth Dressage Championships
Palm Beach Dressage Derby Knockout Exhibition, presented by Summit Farm
Schedule includes National Show

March 6-8: AGDF 9
National Show

March 10-15: AGDF 10
Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup CDIO 3*
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by Premier Equestrian
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3* presented by Peacock Ridge
Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by The Dutta Corp.
Small Tour CDI 1*, CDIO U25, presented by Diamante Farms
Schedule includes National Show

March 20-22: AGDF 11
National Show

March 25-29: AGDF 12
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Douglas Elliman Real Estate
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Horseware Ireland
Small Tour CDI 3* presented by ProElite
Small Tour CDI 1* presented by Nutrena
Schedule includes National Show

**Tentative schedule, subject to change.