



# AGDF TIMES

Issue 1, January 8-12, 2020

2020 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival | Editor: Jennifer Wood

## COMPETITION SEASON DECLARED OPEN DURING WELCOME PRESS CONFERENCE

for 2020 Winter Equestrian Festival and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival



Christopher Payne, Beezie Madden, Sarah Lockman, Alex Granato, and Michael Stone at the opening press conference for the 2020 Winter Equestrian Festival and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. © Lindsay Brock/Jennifer Wood Media

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

## WELCOME TO THE 2020 ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL



©White Fence Photography

Welcome to the 2020 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival!

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) at Equestrian Village in Wellington, Florida. As one of the world's best and richest in prize money circuits, AGDF has become a standout in the world of dressage. By offering opportunities for every level of rider and horse and setting the standard for international CDI competition in North America, we are proud of what AGDF has become over the past eight years.

Once again, AGDF will host seven weeks of CDI competition and two CPEDI competitions this year over the course of 12 weeks. Paralympic competitors will ride for qualifying scores for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games and have their freestyles under the lights on Saturday night of AGDF 1 and 3.

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 Sollak, and Kimberly van Kampen.

Please turn to page 7



## LÖVSTA JOINS 2020 AGDF WITH MAJOR SPONSORSHIP AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG HORSES



Johanna DueBoje on Mazy Klövenhøj won the Lövsta Future Challenge Dressage for young horses at the Sweden International Horse Show. She is pictured with Isobell Wessels, Tinne Vilhelmson Silfvén and Antonia Ax:son Johnson. © Roland Thunholm

The Adequan® Global Dressage Festival welcomes Lövsta as a major sponsor for the 2020 circuit. Lövsta is not only the sponsor of the FEI Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W during AGDF 1, but have created new opportunities for young horses at this year's circuit with the \$15,000 Lövsta Future Challenge/Young Horse Grand Prix series.

With the aid of dressage journalist and owner Ken Braddick, AGDF launched the Young Horse Series in 2019 and classes are dramatically expanded for 2020. Passionate businesswoman and horse entrepreneur Antonia Ax:son Johnson is the owner of Lövsta Stuteri, one of the leading Swedish show stables and stud farms, and founder of the Lövsta Future Challenge. The Lövsta Future Challenge/Young Horse Grand Prix series at AGDF was organized with the help of seven-time Olympian Tinne Vilhelmson Silfvén, who is the professional rider and trainer for Lövsta Stuteri.

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 arena and the conditions to advance towards 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, 6, 7, 8, 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 final. If a horse/rider combination who is already qualified wins more than once, 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.

"The series will give them the routine and hopefully the confidence to take the last step towards the highest grand prix level," said Vilhelmson Silfvén. "We at Lövsta also believe a series like this with a goal of becoming an overall winner will boost both riders and horses and the teams behind them. We believe that one of the most important parts to reach success and growth is to set up goals."

AGDF looks forward to hosting the best and brightest young dressage horses in the world at the 2020 circuit and wishes all competitors the best of luck. Join us to cheer for your favorite horse and rider in the first "Friday Night Stars"

freestyle of the season, presented by Lövsta, on Friday, January 10, at 7 p.m.

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## PBIEC WEEK 1&2 UPCOMING EVENTS

### SHOW+ Q&A EVENT

A special Q&A about the new Show+ service offered this year at PBIEC will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, from 12-1:30 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 riders as they perform freestyles 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. and competition begins at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$10 per car, and valet is available for \$20.

### \$75,000 BATTLE OF THE SEXES, PRESENTED BY WELLINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Watch the men compete against the women in the first "Saturday Night Lights" event of the circuit on Saturday, January 11, at 7 p.m. The women won the first eight years in a row, but the men captured their first standalone win in 2018. The women returned to the winner's circle in 2019, but can the men triumph again in 2020? Wear pink or blue to show your support for your team of choice! In addition to show jumping, there will be live entertainment from the Derek Mac Band. Gates open at 6 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$20 per car, and valet is available for \$30.

### THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES - AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT!

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are first available on Saturday, January 11, and on select Saturday Night Lights events throughout WEF. 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. 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.

### Lunch & Learn Series

On Thursday, January 16, the Lunch & Learn Series begins for the 2020 season. Held every Thursday starting at WEF 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club, this informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The Week 2 Lunch & Learn, "Help Our Wounded (HOW) Foundation and Equine Hyperbarics of South Florida Partner to Help Both Horse and Rider with Their Injuries and Athletic Recovery," is sponsored by Equine Hyperbaric Center and The HOW Foundation of South Florida. Contact Miranda Tiona at 561-784-1137 or mtiona@equestriansport.com for more information.

### Friends of Orphans 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 19, at 12 p.m. The 15th annual Equestrian Fundraising Luncheon has been a fundraiser that made it possible for Chateaublond rider Darlene Milord to represent and win a gold medal for NPH and Haiti at the Special Olympics World Olympics in Abu Dhabi in 2019. Individual tickets are available for \$80 and a table of six for \$450. Contact Romy Tschudi for information and ticket purchase at 954-643-8678.

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The 2020 Lunch & Learn  
weekly educational series will take  
place each Thursday during WEF  
from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

WEF 2 January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Help Our Wounded (HOW) Foundation and Equine Hyperbarics of South Florida Partner to Help Both Horse and Rider With Their Injuries and Athletic Recovery. Sponsored by Equine Hyperbaric Center & The HOW Foundation of South Florida.
WEF 3 January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sponsored by American Regent Animal Health, makers of Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan).
WEF 4 January 30 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
WEF 5 February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Latest Technology Trends in the Horse Industry and Juliana Chapman, founder of The Tech Equestrian. Sponsored by HorseLinc.
WEF 6 February 13 <sup>th</sup>	When Natural Disasters Strike: Who responds? Are You & Your Trainer Prepared? How You Can Effectively Help in Times of Need? Sponsored by The Foundation for the Horse and Havensafe Farm.
WEF 7 February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Brooke USA: Supporting the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals. Sponsored by Brooke USA.
WEF 8 February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Footing Facts. Sponsored by Premier Equestrian.
WEF 9 March 5 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
WEF 10 March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Modern medicine for the competitive sport horse: How to gain and maintain a healthy and sound show horse. The renowned doctors of Palm Beach Equine Clinic, official veterinarians of the Winter Equestrian Festival and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, explain how you can help your competitive sport horse achieve and maintain optimal health through advanced technology, innovative approaches, and specialty therapies. Sponsored by Palm Beach Equine Clinic
WEF 11 March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Managing Your Farm With The Wellington Agricultural App. Sponsored by Wellington Agricultural Services.
WEF 12 March 26 <sup>th</sup>	TBD

The Lunch and Learn Grand Prize: TBD

Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. For more information please contact Miranda Tiona Lunch and Learn Coordinator at 561-784-1137 or mtiona@equestriansport.com

**2020 SPONSORS:**  
Adequan®, Brooke USA, Equine Hyperbaric Center, The Foundation for the Horse, HorseLinc, The HOW Foundation of South Florida, Havensafe Farm, Palm Beach Equine Clinic, Premier Equestrian, Wellington Agricultural Services

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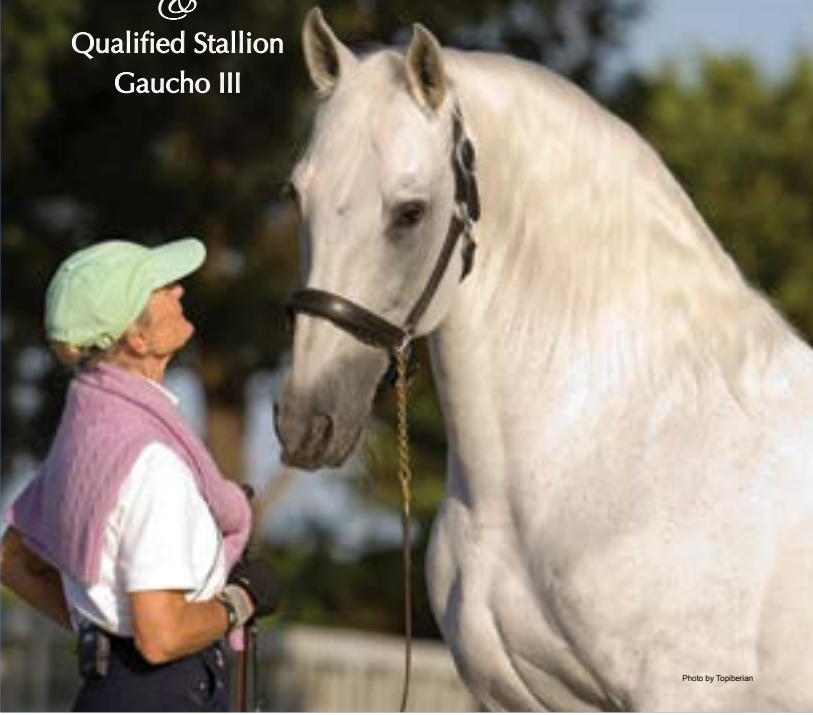


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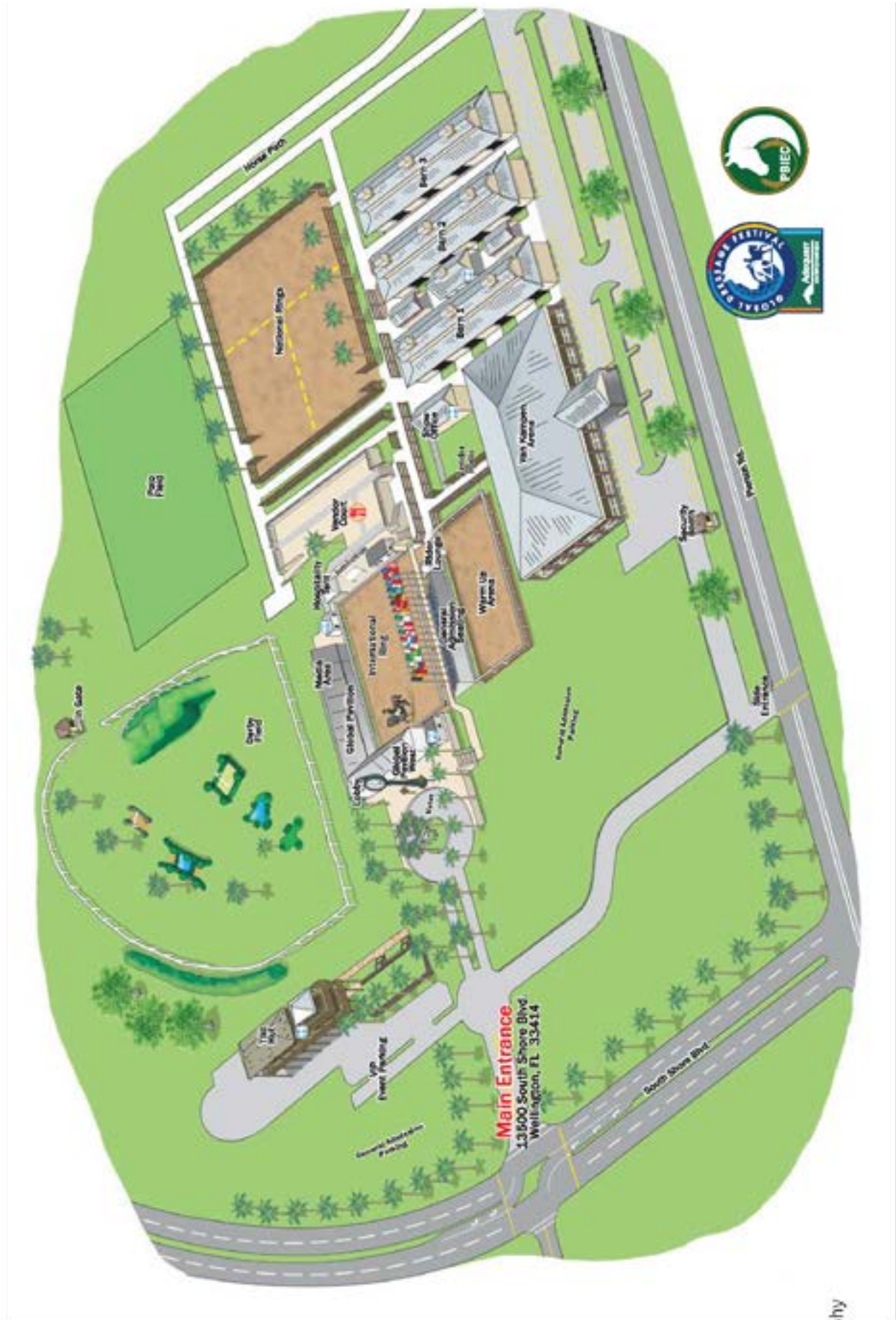
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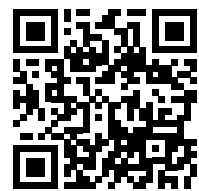
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## PRESS CONFERENCE Continued from Page 1

the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI5\*.

For Madden, WEF is where she will make her final bid for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, saying, "I'm lucky enough to already be on the short list [for Tokyo], so I can really pick and choose what I want to do here to hopefully peak my horses. I'd like to have them starting to peak by the end of the circuit here because our observation trials come up quickly after that. Being here is nice because we can pick and choose what weeks we want to compete, and obviously there's some good prize money to aim for. It's really a great start to the year for us."

WEF commences with a fan-favorite event in the \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center, during "Saturday Night Lights" on Saturday, January 11. The multi-phase event has provided a night of excitement and rivalry during opening weekend for many seasons. This year's event is promised to impress as the men's team tries to win back its 2018 title over the women's team which has scored all but one victory in the 11-year history of the event.

Also highlighting the season during Week 4 of WEF, the Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments® will return for its 11th season. The event groups amateur and professional riders into teams with elaborate costume themes and has repeatedly engaged a large crowd. The event has raised over \$13.5 million to date and benefited more than 230 well-deserving Palm Beach County charities over the last 10 years.

Another rider setting his sights on the grand prix spotlight at WEF is Granato. He has campaigned his top horse Carlichen W at WEF since the mount was a five-year-old, and together

they helped the U.S. bring home a team bronze medal at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru.

"WEF has been a really key part of my year, with not only him but with a lot of my young horses," said Granato. "It's a consistent showgrounds where you get to focus week after week on new courses and new course designers. They get a lot of experience in a short amount of time, which has been a really helpful part in my development with that horse."

With three USHJA International Hunter Derbies, three USHJA National Hunter Derbies, nine weeks of USHJA incentive programs for the 3'-3'9" Green Hunters, a pony hunter derby, and 12 weeks of Hunter Classics for the Small, Medium, and Large pony divisions, the circuit will also offer divisions for every level of hunter horse or pony.

"This show is great for developing young hunters," said Payne, one of the top hunter riders competing at WEF this season. "WEF offers everything [for me and my clients]. You get the nice rings and the great atmosphere. We spend the first few weeks gearing toward the WCHR (World Championship Hunter Rider) week and making sure that they're jumping well. Then they also get to do the derbies on the grass, which is really nice for the hunters. We don't have a lot of places that actually do that. You get so much mileage here."

Wellington dressage competition continues to thrive in 2020 with the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. The "Friday Night Stars" opens with the Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Lövsta, on Friday, January 10. Opening weekend continues under the lights on Saturday evening, January 11, with the Para-Dressage CPEDI3\*

Freestyle presented by Adequan®, Mission Control, Fair Sky Farm, and Nutrena.

Making her debut in Wellington this season, Lockman has traveled from her home base in California and is eager to leave her mark, saying, "I love the west coast. I'm very proud to be representing it, but I'm excited to have the opportunity to have my barn of horses here this year. What I've really noticed, coming from the west coast, is we don't have much of a connection with other disciplines, and it's really amazing to be able to compete and then come out the next day and watch the jumpers. It's incredible."

New this year to AGDF are events for young Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix horses, as well as the U.S. selection trials for the 2020 Olympic Games during Week 7.

"I brought with me my Pan Am ride, First Apple, and we are really excited to be debuting him in the grand prix this season," continued Lockman. "One of the great things about being here in Wellington as compared to California as a dressage rider, is there are so many options; there are multiple CDIs and national shows, so it really gives us a chance to pick what is best for the horse and not necessarily what is our only option. I also brought a string of young horses and developing horses, so I'm really excited to try to qualify them for our national championship for young horses."

The team at Equestrian Sport Productions looks forward to welcoming the best in equestrian sport to both the 2020 Winter Equestrian Festival and 2020 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival.

Lindsay Brock

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# 2020 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 19-23: AGDF 7

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 5\*, presented by CaptiveOne Advisors  
 Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 5\*, presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic  
 Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3\*, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty  
 Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3\* presented by Wellington Agricultural Services  
 Small Tour CDI 3\*, presented by Restylane  
 Small Tour CDI 1\*  
 Schedule includes 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.