

PETERS AND SUPPENKASPER ARE SUPER TO WIN FINAL FREESTYLE OF 2020 AGDF



Capturing the gold medal in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO3 presented by Stillpoint Farm during AGDF 10 was Steffen Peters and Suppenkasper. ©SusanStickle.com*

Steffen Peters (USA) conjured yet another winning performance from his blossoming partner, Suppenkasper, to claim the gold in the Nations Cup™ FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm. This takes his tally of wins to 11 from 11 starts in the 2020 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. The pair scored 81.535%, their second plus-80% freestyle score of the year.

Right behind Peters, personal bests abounded on the podium. The Dominican Republic's Yvonne Losos de Muñiz smashed her previous best by 2% to land an emphatic 78.91% and the silver medal on her 15-year-old mare Aquamarijn, by United. Brittany Fraser-Beaulieu (CAN) also pulled off a career high, riding All In, a 15-year-old gelding by Tango to 78.72% and the bronze. The top five riders in this class all received at least one score of 80% from the panel of five judges.

Peters, who rode Four Winds Farm's 18.2hh powerhouse Suppenkasper, by Spielberg, said: "My perception is that we had a hell of a season here preparing, and we are looking forward to future World Cups. 'Mopsie' is young, and he proved himself here 11 times with 11 wins. Tonight we had a small mistake in the beginning in the two tempis, but the rest of the test was really good and it excites me so much that this horse actually walks, relaxed in a freestyle, and stands still. It shouldn't be a big deal, but for him it's huge as he wouldn't stand still for a long time. He's really starting to trust me, and I'm really proud of him. He's an amazing horse and what a lucky guy I am to get to ride a horse like him."

In the individual FEI Grand Prix CDI3*, presented by Premier Equestrian on Wednesday, the in-form Sabine Schut-Kery (USA) rode 14-year-old Sanceo to victory. Alice Womble's elegant San Remo stallion, which Schut-Kery has been riding since he was three, posted 71.804%, with all five judges placing the pair first..

In a mammoth FEI Grand Prix CDI3*, presented by Peacock Ridge, that lasted nearly five hours on Thursday, it was the USA's Ashley Holzer who came out on top. She rode Diane Fellows' Wynton gelding Mango Eastwood to 71.282% and led the class from their mid-way draw. This is the budding pair's fourth win from their five international starts at the level.

At small tour, Cesar Parra (USA) claimed victory from the 12 starters in the FEI Prix St. Georges CDI3*, presented by The Dutta Corp. He rode GK Don Cesar, a 10-year-old by Desperados, to 71.274%, a new personal best at the level. This was their second win of the 2020 AGDF.

There may have only been one contender in the FEI Intermediate I Freestyle CDIO3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm on Friday, but it was a high quality one nonetheless, and merited the gold medal. Danish rider Carina Nevermann Torup, who works for Helgstrand Dressage, steered Jessica Howington's nine-year-old Quarterback gelding Quinto to 72.75%. This was the pair's third plus-70% win of the week at their first CDI show together.

In the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI3*, presented by Premier Equestrian, Sabine Schut-Kery (USA) extended her winning form, posting an unassailable 76.415% on Sanceo. It was their second win of the 2020 season after only competing at one show in 2019. Riding Alice Womble's 14-year-old stallion by San Remo, Schut-Kery was the unanimous winner from all five judges — two of whom awarded over 77%.

At small tour, Jami Kment (USA) topped the podium riding Gatino Van Hof Olympia in the FEI Intermediate I CDI3*, presented by the Dutta Corp,

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U.S. DRESSAGE TEAM CLAIMS NATIONS CUP GOLD



The United States brought home the gold medal in the FEI Nations Cup CDIO3 presented by Stillpoint Farm, while Canada took silver and bronze went to Denmark. ©SusanStickle.com*

On the second day of competition for the FEI Nations Cup™ CDIO3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm, on Thursday, March 12, at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), the team from the USA took the gold medal with 439.992 points. The Canadian team took silver with 436.034 points, and Denmark was awarded the bronze with 424.501 points.

All four of the victorious U.S. team members rode in the big tour division, with Steffen Peters clocking the highest score of 76.085% to top the FEI Grand Prix Special CDIO3*. He was joined by Adrienne Lyle, who scored 72.553% on Duval Partners LLC's Harmony's Duval. Katherine Bateson Chandler rode Alcazar to 69.723%, with Anna Marek posting 67.936%, which was the drop score.

Peters, who rode Four Winds Farm's 18.2hh Suppenkasper, said: "It was very close overnight with Canada, just 0.1%, so Debbie [McDonald] and I talked quite a bit and I believed that going in the ring we should take the intensity from the training in the warm-up into the show arena, not an ounce more, but certainly not an ounce less.

"That was the tactic today and it worked out beautifully. 'Mopsie' did a very clean test, even more relaxed than any of the other tests he's done so far. This season was extremely therapeutic for both of us, and we're looking forward to the freestyle tomorrow," added Peters, who has been in Wellington for most of the season and will now return to his California base.

Lyle had an improved performance with Harmony's Duval. She noted, "When you're riding for the team,

you always want to put your best test in and this is an exciting format having it over the two days," she said. "The first day we had some uncharacteristic communication errors, so I really wanted to come out today and put down a strong test for the team and I was happy with his effort."

Bateson Chandler also improved her score from day one, which was the team's drop score, on her long-time partner, Jane Forbes Clark's Alcazar.

"I haven't had a test with as many mistakes as yesterday in quite a while, so it took me a bit by surprise," she explained. "But it was good, because for today it put me back in a high gear again and realize that I had to push on a bit more."

Marek was grateful for the experience of riding on a team, something she had never done before. "I wanted to go out and have a clean ride," she said. "I was very thankful to be on the team and to get some Nations Cup team experience with awesome teammates. Today I kicked it up a notch and the whole experience has been wonderful."

Canada's all-female foursome also all rode in the big tour, with their top scorer, Brittany Fraser-Beaulieu, finishing with the third-highest score of 73.489% on All In. She was flanked by Megan Lane, Lindsay Kellock, and Naima Moreira Laliberte, who this time last year was riding on her nation's under-25 Nations Cup team.

Denmark (made up of Signe Kirk Kristiansen, Agnete Kirk Thinggaard, Rikke Poulsen, and

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NATIONS CUP (continued from Page 1)

Carina Nevermann Torup) took the bronze medal despite their small tour combination of Rikke Poulsen and Furstentanz having to withdraw, leaving them with no drop score.

Israel fielded its first ever team of dressage riders in any competition to finish in fourth with 395.585. Team Japan was plagued by injury on the second day of action, losing two of their combinations and dropping them out of contention as they could not muster three counting scores.

Alice Collins



Brittany Fraser-Beaulieu and All In led the Canadian team to the silver medal.
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AGDF 10 CANDIDS

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The Oxy-Gen DHJ Peak Performance Award went to Mr. Bumble Bee, shown by Cesar Parra.



The Horse of Course High Score Award from AGDF 8 was presented by Natalia Bacariza on Romantico Ymas, with her mother Cristina Danguillecourt and Cora Causemann of AGDF. Courtesy of AGDF.



The Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award winner at AGDF 10 was Harmony's Diablo, shown by Michael Klimke.



The AGDF 10 N2 Sport Horse of the Week was Sanceo, shown by Sabine Schut-Kery.



The Vita Flex Victory Pass award went to Tara Stegen, who rode Nexolia Saadan Que for their victory in the FIE Intermediate II with 69.559%.

FREESTYLE Continued from Page 1

with 70.971%. This was her and her own nine-year-old Apache gelding's first ever international win, having been knocking at the door this season.

It was Canadian rider Pia Fortmuller's day in the 20-strong FEI Prix St. Georges CDI1* class. She rode her own nine-year-old Fürstenball mare Frieda to a 73.578% victory — the mare's first international win outside young horse classes. The top five in the hotly-contested class all scored over 71%.

Mango Eastwood bounced his way to victory under Ashley Holzer (USA) in the FEI Grand Prix Special CDI3*, presented by Peacock Ridge, in week 10. The 11-year-old gelding began his CDI grand prix career just a month earlier and has won five of his six starts under the four-time Olympian for Canada, who now rides for the USA. The pair scored 72.596%, which would have been even higher if not for a big stumble coming from extended trot to passage, which took them a few strides to recover from as Mango found his feet again.

Canada's Pia Fortmuller remained unbeaten on Frieda at small tour at AGDF 10. From 16 starters, she won the FEI Intermediate I CDI1* on her own nine-year-old Fürstenball mare, adding to their previous day's victory. Their scores are trending upwards; Frieda topped this class with 75.147%, widening the gap between her and the second-placed combination.

The experienced Betsy Steiner (USA) rounded out the very final class of the 2020 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) season. She and Whitney Bailey's Swiss W won the FEI Intermediate I Freestyle CDI3*, presented by The Dutta Corporation with a commanding 75.592%. All but one of the 11 starters broke the 70% barrier and US riders filled the top five slots in this class.

Michael Klimke (GER) and Harmony's Diablo topped an uncontested FEI Intermediate II CDI3* but they did so in convincing style, and were rewarded with 70.353%. Harmony Sporthorses' 10-year-old Desperados gelding is no stranger to the main ring at AGDF, having competed here more than a dozen times since his debut in 2018. This is the horse's first season at big tour and they earned a nine for the final halt from the judge at H, Luxembourg's Christof Umbach.

Alice Collins



Ashley Holzer and Mango Eastwood won the FEI Grand Prix CDI3*, presented by Peacock Ridge at AGDF 10. © SusanStickle.com



Sabine Schut-Kery and Sanceo were victorious in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI3*, presented by Premier Equestrian. © SusanStickle.com

Future Challenge Sees Last Set of Qualifiers Before 2021 Finals

Action continued in the big and small Future Challenge qualifier classes at AGDF 10, although the final has been postponed from the cancelled week 12 of the 2020 AGDF to the first week of the 2021 AGDF (January 6-10).

The USA's Sarah Lockman headed the Summit Farm Prix St. Georges Future Challenge class of eight starters with 68.456%, but as she is already qualified with Balia from week six, the ticket passed down to second place Justin Ridgewell (CAN) and Jolene. The nine-year-old daughter of Jazz scored 68.088%. The second ticket to the finals went to the third placed combination of Stewart Underhill riding Deimos 4, a nine-year-old gelding by Demirel, who scored 67.132%.

Wild cards for this class went to Gloria Schriever (CAN) on Hilton OC for their 70.368% third-place finish in week three and to Sweden's Karin Persson, who finished third in week six riding Giuliano B to 70.294%.

In the Lövsta FEI Intermediate II Future Challenge, Ashley Holzer (USA) bagged the single qualifying ticket, riding Valentine to 74.044%. Her own 10-year-old Sir Donnerhall mare has been a prolific winner at AGDF, winning 11 of her 14 CDI starts there in the 2019 season alone.

Wild cards for the big tour final went to Canada's Pia Fortmuller and Nancy Smith (USA). Fortmuller rode Kartsevo Goldfinch to second place and 68.162% in week five, while Smith's ticket came from her runner-up finish in week eight, Palm Beach Dressage Derby week, riding Damon's Design HW to 66.102%.

Lövsta Future Challenge Young Horse Grand Prix Series Qualifiers

AGDF 1: Pablo Gomez Molina (ESP) and Ulises De Ymas - 68.383%

AGDF 3: Michael Klimke (GER) and Harmony's Diablo - 73.456%

AGDF 5: Susan Dutta (USA) and Don Design DC - 69.411%

AGDF 6: Jan Ebeling (USA) and Status Royal OLD - 72.353%

AGDF 7: Diane Creech (CAN) and Dublin L - 69.118%

AGDF 8: Michelle Gibson (USA) and Barland I.M. - 66.618%

AGDF 9: Alice Tarjan (USA) and Donatella M - 74.022%

AGDF 10: Ashley Holzer (USA) and Valentine - 74.044%

Wild Card: Pia Fortmuller (CAN) and Kartsevo Goldfinch - 68.162%

Wild Card: Nancy Smith (USA) and Damon's Design HW - 66.102%

Summit Farm Future Challenge Young Horse Prix St. Georges Series Qualifiers

AGDF 1: Karen Pavicic (CRO) and Totem - 69.927%

Rikke Poulsen (DEN) and Furstentanz - 69.927%

AGDF 3: Shannon Dueck (CAN) and As You Wish - 73.456%

Kelly Layne (AUS) and Fernando - 73.015%

AGDF 5: Stephanie Collomb (USA) and Stormy River - 70%

Pia Fortmuller (CAN) and Frieda - 69.633%

AGDF 6: Sarah Lockman (USA) and Balia - 73.603%

Heather Blitz (USA) and Limei de Lys - 73.015%

AGDF 7: Signe Kirk Kristiansen (DEN) and Bonderman - 71.25%

Christopher Hickey (USA) and Stenagers Wyatt Earp - 70.074%

AGDF 8: Jodie Kelly-Baxley (USA) and Grayton Beach - 73.162%

Kelly Layne (AUS) and Rockpool - 70.148%

AGDF 9: Sarah Lockman (USA) and Dehavilland - 70.074%

Stephanie Collomb (USA) and FoI Amour - 68.015%

AGDF 10: Justin Ridgewell (CAN) and Jolene - 68.088%.

Stewart Underhill (USA) and Deimos 4 - 67.132%

Wild Card: Gloria Schriever (CAN) and Hilton OC - 70.368%

Wild Card: Karin Persson (SWE) and Giuliano B - 70.294%

Alice Collins



Sarah Lockman and Balia scored another win in the Summit Farm Future Challenge Young Horse Prix St. Georges Series at AGDF 10. © SusanStickle.com

Ashley Holzer (USA) with class sponsor Lövsta's Tinne Vilhelmson Silfven after her plus-74% FEI Intermediate II win in the Future Challenge qualifier with Valentine. ©SusanStickle.



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“STARS AND STRIPES” TAKE TOP PODIUM IN NATIONS CUP CDIO-U25

The opening day of competition at the 10th week of the 2020 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) on Wednesday, March 11, featured the Nations Cup CDIO-U25 presented by Diamante Farms with victory for one of the USA's two teams of talented youth riders. Team USA “Stars and Stripes” edged out Team USA “Star Spangled,” with Canada taking bronze.

For the fourth year, AGDF hosted CDIO-U25 competition, offering a valuable stepping-stone in international competition for young riders. Team USA “Stars and Stripes” consisted of Benjamin Ebeling on Illuster Van De Kampert, Emma Asher with Elegance N, and Rosemary Julian-Simoes riding Rankrado. The team finished on 139.559 in the FEI Intermediate II 16-25 test, which determined the team medals. Team USA “Star Spangled” finished on 137.911, with Canada on 134.

Ebeling, 20, rode the Nuvolari Holdings LLC's 12-year old gelding by Spielberg — the same sire as Steffen Peters' Suppenkasper, who was also in action and on sparkling form at AGDF today. Ebeling and Illuster Van De Kampert scored 70%, which was the second-highest score in the class which was led by Natalie Pai (70.676%) from Team USA “Star Spangled.”

In the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 CDIO-U25,

presented by Diamante Farms, Benjamin Ebeling (USA) and Illuster Van De Kampert, Nuvolari Holdings LLC's 12-year-old Spielberg gelding, led the class with 71.179%, claiming his second gold medal after helping

his team, Team USA “Stars and Stripes,” to victory the previous day. Fellow American Emma Asher scooped the silver on Elegance N, an 11-year-old by Jazz. Canada's Camille Carier Bergeron claimed the bronze medal riding Acoeur.

Ebeling fist-pumped the air at the final halt of the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIQU25, presented by Diamante Farms on Friday. He was right to celebrate: his energetic ride on Illuster Van De Kampert, which he'd finished with a piaffe fan in both directions, was rewarded with 75.13%. It was their best ever score at the level and earned the gold medal — their third of the week.

Freestyle silver went to Canada's Camille Carier Bergeron, who moved up a place from the previous day, riding Gilles Bergeron's 13-year-old Acordelli gelding, Acoeur. Natalie Pai (USA) scooped bronze, adding to her team silver from the opening day of week 10. All three podium finishers rode to music put together by Karen Robinson.

Alice Collins



Benjamin Ebeling and Illuster van de Kampert won three gold medals during the CDIO-U25 week. ©SusanStickle.com



The “Stars and Stripes” team from the United States won the gold medal, while the “Star Spangled” team from the U.S. took silver and Canada won bronze in the Nations Cup CDIO-U25 presented by Diamante Farms. ©SusanStickle.com

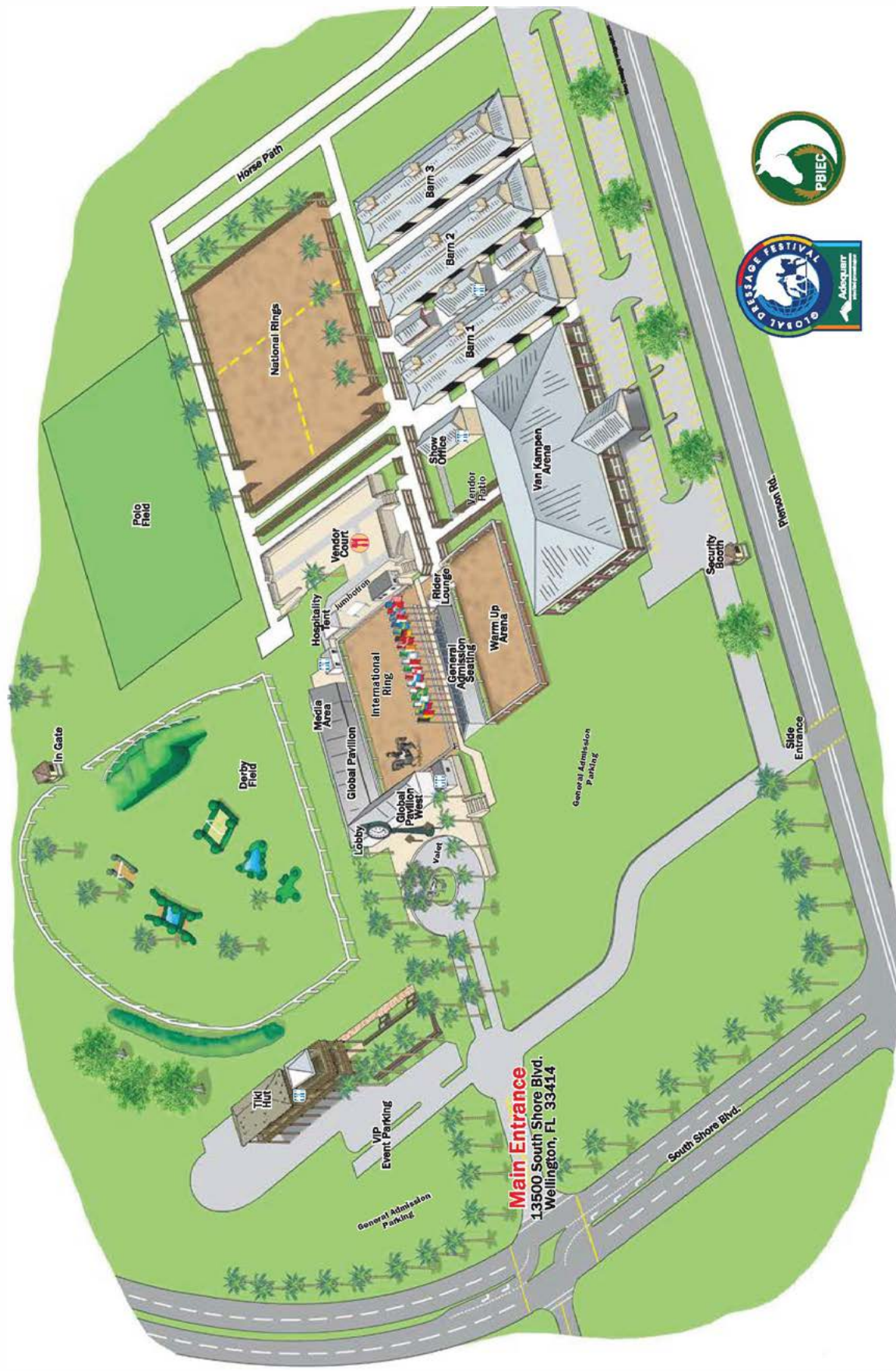
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