



AGDF TIMES

Issue 6, March 17-21, 2021

2021 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival | Editor: Jennifer Wood

LAGOY-WELTZ AND RASSING'S LONNOIR CLOSE OUT AGDF 8 WITH NEW PERSONAL BEST



Olivia LaGoy-Weltz and Rassing's Lonoir set a new personal best to win the Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Wellington Agricultural Services. © SusanJStickle.com

Week eight of the 2021 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) concluded on Sunday, March 7, with another win for USA's Olivia LaGoy-Weltz and Rassing's Lonoir in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Wellington Agricultural Services.

LaGoy-Weltz had her sights set on the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final in Gothenburg, Sweden. The ride on Sunday secured her ticket for the North American League after earning another personal best, 83.570%, but unfortunately the Final has been cancelled.

"I think there was relief when we came down that final centerline," admitted LaGoy-Weltz. "There was a small fear that since this was the last World Cup qualifier, something would go wrong, and you really just hope you make it to the end of the test."

Though the pair was just on the cusp of 90% for their artistic marks, LaGoy-Weltz noted that she wasn't sure how it went until the pair left the arena and she got feedback from her team.

"I don't always know how it went," she said. "I'll come out like, 'Was it good?' and everyone's like, 'It was amazing!' I think we are all such perfectionists, and we are always finding things here and there that could be better. He's quite

extravagant so I don't always know what his legs are doing under me. When you come out and everyone is excited, there is relief. He's such a special horse, and though he is getting older, it just seems like we are just getting better, and I feel very lucky that it's going that way."

LaGoy-Weltz didn't alter her freestyle since the last time she rode it in the International Stadium, and explained her reasoning on keeping it the same, though she and the 2004 Danish Warmblood gelding by de Noir owned Mary Anne McPhail and LaGoy-Weltz do have other variations of it.

"It's still the same pattern and the same music," she commented. "Marlene Whitaker made it for us and it's really still the first draft, but I feel like she got it quite good, and I like familiarity. We have versions with small tweaks, but I feel like I know this one well, and it works, so why change it? It's quite a challenging pattern. There's a lot in it, and it takes a lot of focus to ride, on his part and mine, but I like it a lot and I think Marlene did a fantastic job with all of it."

She continued, "I don't think I will change it at all for World Cup Finals. I'll probably keep it the same. It is the maximum degree of difficulty, so if I do anything more difficult. I don't get rewarded. I think this seems to

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TRUNNELL TRIUMPHS AFTER EARNING WORLD RECORD-BREAKING SCORE AT PERRIGO CPEDI3*



Roxanne Trunnell and Dolton swept the Grade I division and broke the world record in the Individual Test at the Perrigo CPEDI3*, presented by Adequan® and Nutrena. © SusanJStickle.com

Perrigo CPEDI3* competition presented by Adequan® and Nutrena® concluded on Sunday, March 14, at week nine of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), with an impressive win for the U.S. team and a world record-breaking score of 83.334% for 2021 Whitney Stone Cup award winner Roxanne Trunnell (USA) in the FEI Para Individual Test Grade I.

Trunnell and Karin Flint's 2012 Hanoverian gelding, Dolton (Danone I), have been partnered together for over two years and are currently sitting atop the FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking list, as well as the FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking-Grade I, and the FEI Para Dressage Paralympic Individual Ranking list. Trunnell and Dalton also posted strong scores of 80.119% in the Team Test and 83.500% in the Freestyle Test.

Of her world record-breaking score, Trunnell said, "It feels great to break a world record. Dolton is a very nice horse, and I am proud of him."

Next up, the combination will head to the June CPEDI in Tryon, like many other North American para dressage riders hoping to make it onto teams for the Tokyo Paralympics. Trunnell noted, "I am looking forward to Tryon. Dolton really likes to compete there, and Tokyo will be fun if we get selected for the team."

The USA's Beatrice de Lavallette earned victories on Saturday and Sunday in the FEI Para Individual and Freestyle Grade II Perrigo CPEDI3*, presented by Adequan® and Nutrena, riding Elizabeth and Nicholas de Lavallette's 2007 KWPN gelding by Dreamcatcher, Clarc. The duo completed their week atop the Freestyle with a score of 75.645%. The winner of the FEI Para Team Test Grade II was Alanna Flax-Clark on El Paso.

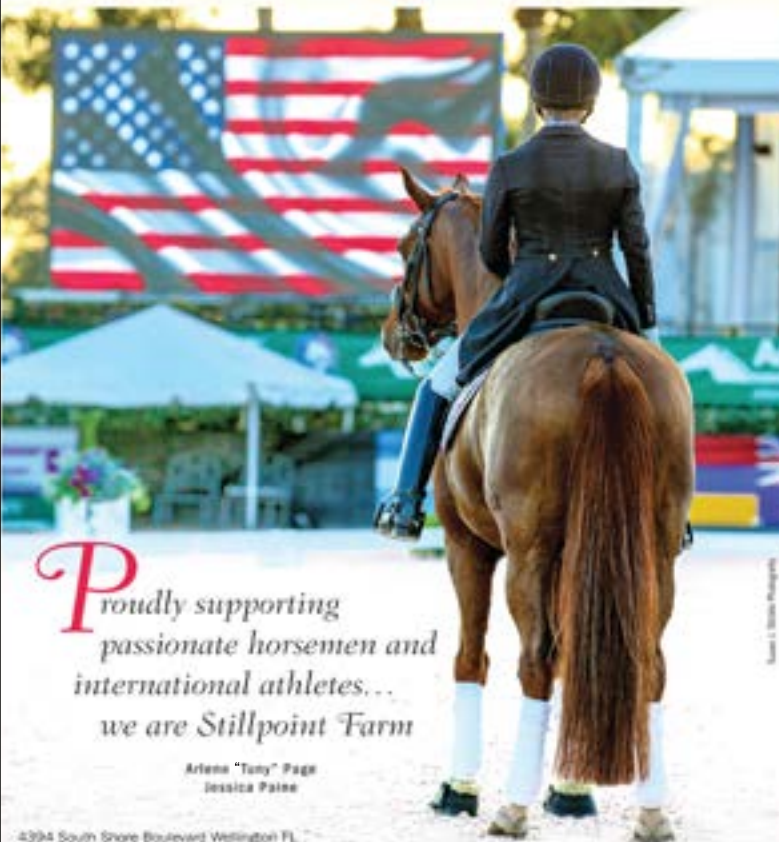
"The first two days were a bit tricky for us," admitted de Lavallette. "Clarc was nervous in the ring, but today I was able to work through it with him in the warmup, and it really paid off in the show ring."

The pair rode to a musical freestyle composed of music from the "Aquaman" soundtrack, which de Lavallette chose after watching the movie. "I am a big fan of the DC Universe," she said, "and I was watching the Aquaman movie and thought it would be the perfect music for a freestyle. It works well with my horse, along with our floorplan."

The FEI Grade III Level of the Perrigo CPEDI3*, presented by Adequan® and Nutrena, was dominated by Canada's Lauren Barwick, who earned blue ribbons in the Team, Individual, and Freestyle classes throughout the weekend,

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EXCITING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AT PBIEC FOR WEEK 10

PBIEC EDUCATIONAL SERIES, PRESENTED BY ADEQUAN®

The PBIEC Educational Series, presented by Adequan®, is hosted weekly during the annual Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). The series provides an educational platform for horse enthusiasts to expand their knowledge on a variety of equine- and rider-related topics. Admission is free, and pre-registration is required. Participants will automatically be entered to win a luxury item from Karina Brez Jewelry as the grand prize giveaway. The tenth session, hosted on Zoom, will be Thursday, March 18, from 6-7 p.m. EST. The topic of "Blue Ribbon Wound Care, a new way to manage infection and speed wound healing," is sponsored by VetBlue.

WEF 10 HIGHLIGHTS

WEF 10, which runs on March 17-21, is sponsored by Horseware Ireland and features the \$37,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate 1.45m Jumpers CSI3* on Thursday; the classics for the Spy Coast Farm Developing Jumper series for Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Olds and the \$37,000 Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup CSI3* on Friday; the \$37,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Classic CSI3* on Saturday; and the \$50,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series Final and \$137,000 Horseware Ireland Grand Prix CSI3* on Sunday. Attention Grooms! Don't miss the Hygain Feeds Groom's Class on Friday, March 19.

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL 10

Competition returns on March 17-21 for AGDF 10, featuring the Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup CDIO3*, FEI Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI3*, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center, FEI Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI3*, presented by Iron Spring Farm, Small Tour CDI3*, presented by Horseware Ireland, and the CDIO U25, presented by Diamante Farms, as well as national competition.

LOOKING AHEAD – WEEK 11

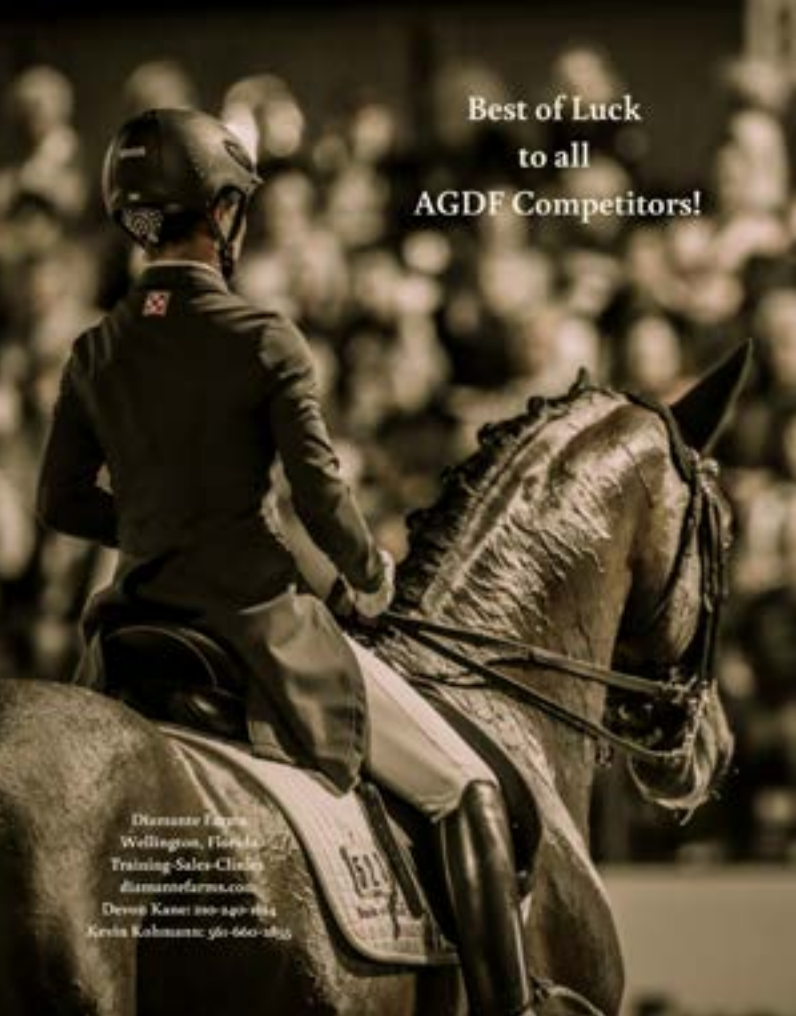
The biggest show jumping event of the season will be held at WEF 11. The \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI5* will see the best horse and rider combinations in the world battling it out for top honors on the grass Derby Field on Saturday, March 27, at 1 p.m. All FEI jumper classes will be at Equestrian Village for the week, with CSI5* competition on the grass and CSI2* competition in the sand Equestrian Village International Arena. Equitation riders will also go head-to-head in the WEF Excellence in Equitation class on Friday, March 26, at 5 p.m. AGDF will host national competition on March 26-28.




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Best of Luck to all AGDF Competitors!

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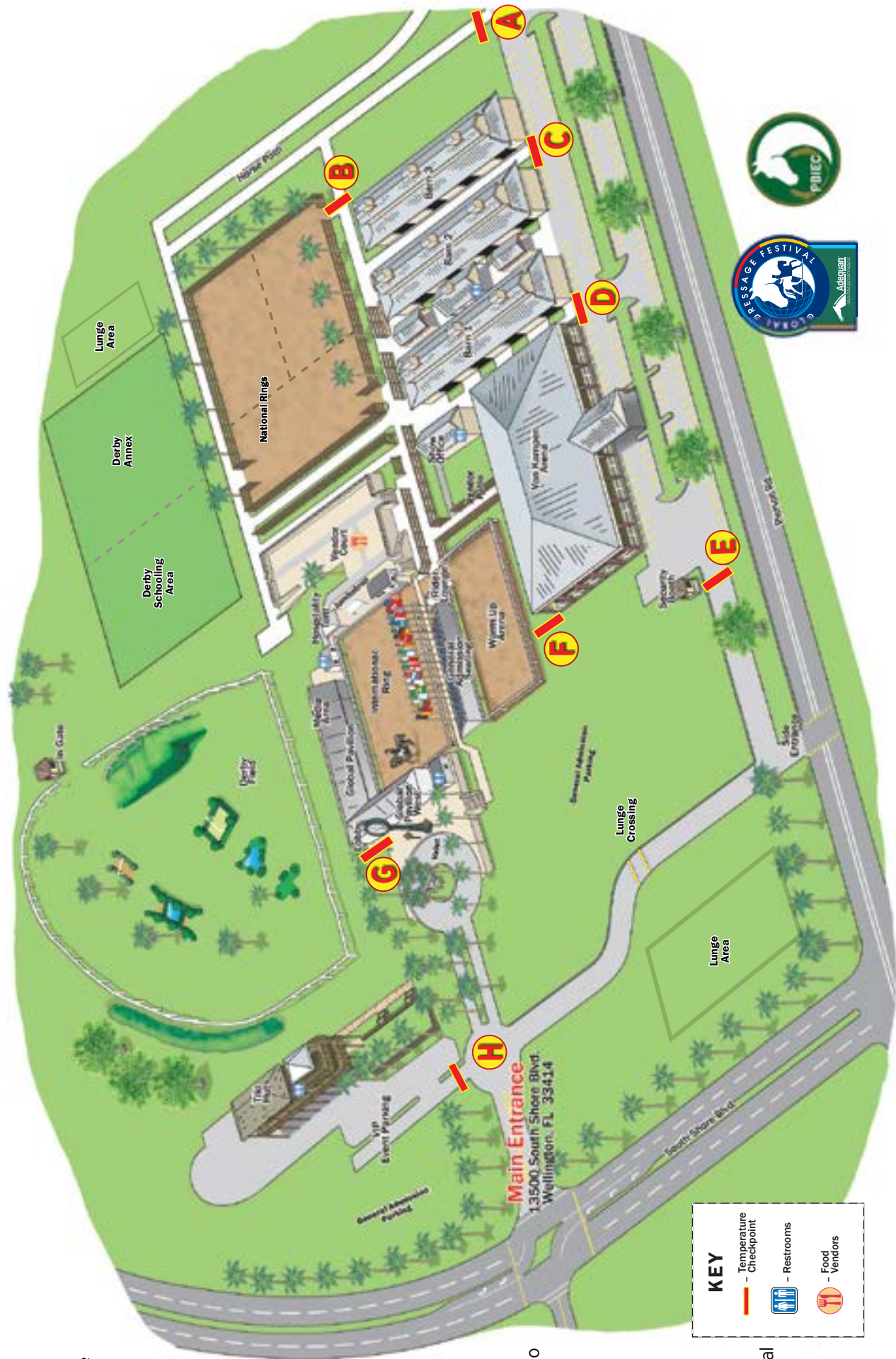
COVID-19 protocols will be implemented for the 2021 season.



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AGDF 8 AND 9 YOUNG HORSE SERIES QUALIFIERS



Alice Tarjan (USA) and Serenade MF, her own 2013 Hanoverian mare by Sir Donnerhall, won the Lövsta Future Challenge/Young Horse Grand Prix Series qualifier at AGDF 9, presented by Tinne Vilhelmson Silfvén. © SusanJStickle.com



The Lövsta Future Challenge/Young Horse Grand Prix Series welcomed a win for Kelly Layne (AUS) on Fernando, Ellen Trouille's 2012 Hanoverian gelding by Foundation, earning a 71.764% at AGDF 8. © SusanJStickle.com



Karen Lipp (USA) topped the leaderboard with Infinity, her own 2013 KWPN gelding by Dream Boy N.O.P. in the Future Challenge/Young Horse Prix St. Georges Series at AGDF 9. © SusanJStickle.com

The Lövsta Future Challenge/Young Horse Grand Prix Series Qualifiers

AGDF 3: Christoph Koschel (GER) and Delmonte 7, a 2011 Oldenburg stallion by Destano owned by Koschel Dressage GmbH

AGDF 5: Pia Fortmuller (CAN) and Frieda, a 2011 Hanoverian mare by Furstenball owned by Busch, Lars, and Pia Fortmuller

AGDF 7: Alice Tarjan (USA) and Harvest, her own 2012 KWPN stallion by Connaisseur

AGDF 8: Kelly Layne (AUS) and Fernando, Ellen Trouille's 2012 Hanoverian gelding by Foundation

AGDF 9: Alice Tarjan (USA) and Serenade MF, her own 2013 Hanoverian mare by Sir Donnerhall

In the Future Challenge/Young Horse Prix St. Georges Series at AGDF 8, Ashley Holzer (USA) topped the leaderboard with Bliss, Holzer and Diane Fellows' 2012 Oldenburg mare by Bordeaux, with a 73.014%. Second place went to Jan Ebeling on Zitat, Sarah Pierce's 2013 Swedish Warmblood gelding by Zaladin MI, riding to 70.514%. At AGDF 9, Karen Lipp (USA) topped the leaderboard with Infinity, her own 2013 KWPN gelding by Dream Boy N.O.P., with a 69.484%. Second place went to Lindsay Kellock (CAN) and Tu Le Merite, Lisa Apa's 2012 Hanoverian gelding by Totilas, riding to 68.896%. Kelly Layne (AUS) claimed third with Que Jolie, Anne Barrett's 2012 Hanoverian by Quarterback, on 68.676%.

AGDF 8 SPONSOR AWARDS

Courtesy of JRPR Equine News Room



The Donato Team Award winner, presented by Endel Ots and Fressica Friedrich, went to Don John with Nick Wagman and Jose Alaniz.



Don John was awarded the N2 Saddlery Sport Horse of the Week with rider/trainer Nick Wagman and Sue Newell of N2 Saddlery.



The Omega Alpha Healthy Horse award went to Ariane Martinelli riding Du Vin, shown with Jaime Kellock and Lindsay Kellock.



Jessica Kozel and Flashdance TN, owned by Peretti Farms, with Cindy Peretti were awarded the Vita Flex Victory Pass award.



The winner of the C U at X Tack X-Factor award was Camille Carier Bergeron riding Acoeur, presented by Sarah Hoog from CU at X Tack.

CPEDI SHOW COVERAGE Continued from Page 1

ending with a score of 77.656% in the Freestyle on Sunday.

“It’s been a longtime since I’ve gone three for three,” began Barwick. “Rebecca Hart (USA) is such a phenomenal competitor and has such great horses. She makes you work for everything in the arena. Her horse is just so competitive that it makes me want to be a better rider, and I know that I have to work for everything in there.”

Barwick piloted Lee Garrod’s 2012 Westphalian by Spirit of Westfalia, Sandrino, throughout the weekend, and has only been partnered with the gelding for just over a year. “We are still getting to know each other and trust each other,” she explained. “My plan moving forward is the event in Tryon and then hopefully Tokyo. This horse was acquired by Lee, my sponsor, for the main purpose of competing in Tokyo for Team Canada. So, we will go to Tryon and hopefully be selected for our country’s team.”

Kate Shoemaker (USA) and Kate, Craig, and Deena Shoemaker’s 2007 Hanoverian gelding by Sandro Hit, Solitaer 40, had a successful weekend of their own, earning top scores in the FEI Para Team, Individual, and Freestyle Grade IV Perrigo CPEDI3*, presented by Adequan® and Nutrena.

Finishing the week with a score of 77.442% in the Freestyle, Shoemaker revealed that she was pleased with the weekend as a whole and noted that the pair’s hard work paid off in the ring.

“It’s been a really breakthrough week for my horse and I,” she said. “We’ve been working on finding the next level within the gaits at home, and this is the first time that we’ve really seen that reflected in the show arena, so I was really excited that he was able to give that to me. The feeling was just incredible throughout the weekend. To finish on the freestyle with such a top score was really rewarding, and I’m just really happy with it all overall!”

The pair will now work their way to the next CPEDI in Tryon, North Carolina, this summer, with the hope to make it onto the USA Paralympic dressage team. “Tryon is our next step for sure,” continued Shoemaker. “It’s a mandatory outing for team selections, so that is next up. We are really hoping that we can continue this positive trend and show the judges and the selectors that we are on track for a position for Tokyo, not just for the team but to be at the top of the sport. That’s my goal.”

Grade V saw victories across the board for the USA’s Cynthia Screnci, who concluded her weekend with her own Eragon VF, a 2009 KWPN gelding by Don Romantic, by earning a 66.742% in the FEI Para Freestyle Grade V Perrigo CPEDI3*, presented by Adequan® and Nutrena.

“Our weekend started a bit rough,” explained Screnci, “but we were able to correct that on Saturday, and our rides were very solid for the rest of the weekend. We are very excited about it. We’ve continued to increase our education, and we’re really excited that we have a good chunk of time between now and June (Tryon Team Event) to really hone in on our skills and fine tune the things that need to be fine-tuned. Overall, we’re happy with the progress!”

Screnci is currently training with 2019 Pan American Games silver medalist Jennifer Baumert and is looking forward to continuing her education with her mount. “We started training with Jennifer Baumert about three weeks ago,” she said, “and she’s been an incredible teacher so far. What a difference already in our performance, and we are eager to continue that relationship and grow.”

Kim Beaudoin



Meet Para Dressage Rider MEGHAN BENGE



Meghan Benge and Zoey competing at the Perrigo CPEDI3*, presented by Adequan® and Nutrena, at AGDF 9. © KTB Creative Group

Meghan Benge began her international para dressage career in 2017, but the Grade III para-equestrian was involved in international horse sport long before that. The Aiken, South Carolina, resident also represented the United States at two FEI World Driving Championships and won individual gold and team silver in 2008 in Germany. We sat down with Benge at last week’s CPEDI3* to learn more about her introduction into para-dressage and her current 14-year-old Welsh pony, Zoey.

Q: Who has been the most influential person in your equestrian career, and why?

A: I started out riding when I was really young and then had to have major back surgery. My mom had started driving and so I started too. I actually went to the World Championships for Para Driving.

Q: How did you end up with your current FEI Para Dressage mount?

A: I got Zoey for the purpose of driving and competed her up to the FEI level in able-body driving events. I started riding her to help with training for the driving. She was really good and that led me to consider riding more, and then showing, and then the rest is history.

Q: Can you tell us a little about her?

A: She’s done a bit of everything, and I’ve had her since she was three and she’s 14 now. She’s a pony, so she’s different than the horses when it comes to the way we approach things. She developed some bad under saddle habits because of the driving, so we had to re-learn a lot together. She just keeps getting better and tries so hard to do her best. She’s come a long way; she’s starting to really go with me in there and seems a lot more content. Our first year competing at AGDF she was so spooky in the International Arena, so she’s really come a long way.

Q: What are your goals moving forward?

A: We are just going to see how far we can go together at this level. She obviously doesn’t have the same gaits as the horses, but we’ll go as far as she wants to and let her decide. I also have another pony coming along too, so we’ll see where it goes.

Q: What is your favorite part about competing at AGDF?

A: It’s nice to be able to come down here, experience the community atmosphere, and enjoy the warm weather!

GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE

Continued from Page 1

be working. That would be more risk without reward. It’s just about getting it a little more polished and better. He’s quite capable of doing the pattern, so it’s just about honing it in a little more.”

Judge Jane Weatherwax also applauded LaGoy-Weltz’s freestyle, stating, “The thing that I really appreciate about Olivia and her horse is the harmony that we get from them and the nice self-carriage. The risks that were taken, and there was a great deal of difficulty in that freestyle, it all paid off. They were very calculated. I never worried about her getting it done, and the music was fantastic. Today they were right on it together. When something goes so well, and as a judge you aren’t worried about anything, it makes it very enjoyable to watch.”

José Gomez of CDI-W sponsor Wellington Agricultural Services concluded by saying, “It’s a pleasure to sponsor, and we are looking forward to being a permanent fixture here for a long time. We are a local service company that caters to the equestrian community, and our goal is to keep Wellington the number one-horse capital of the world.”

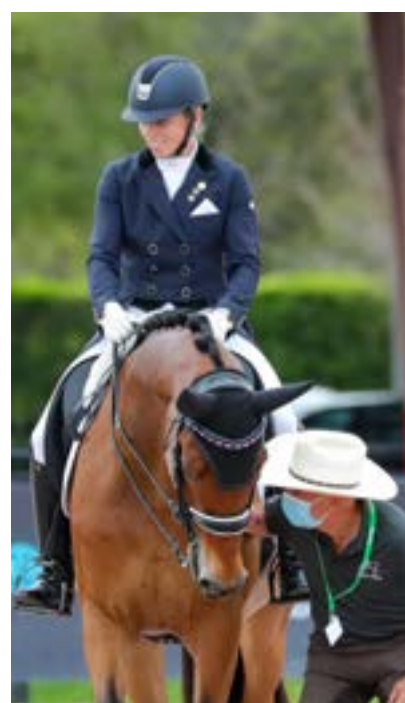
Second place in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Wellington Agricultural Services went to Canada’s Jill Irving on Arthur, Windhaven Farm’s 2005 KWPN gelding by Jazz, with 76.095%. Dongseon Kim (KOR) earned third place with DSK Belstaff, his own 2007 Hanoverian stallion by Brentano II, with 73.650%.

Kim Beaudoin



AGDF 8 Gallery

© SusanJStickle.com



AGDF 8 Winners

© SusanJStickle.com



Kevin Kohmann and Five Star in their awards presentation with judge Katrina Wüst and Caitlin Lane of AGDF for the FEI Prix St. Georges CDI3*. They also won the FEI Intermediaire I CDI3* and FEI Intermediaire-I Freestyle CDI3*.



Twenty-year-old Camille Carrier-Bergeron (CAN) and Sound of Silence 4 topped the entire FIYDC championship and won the Young Rider division.



Carrier-Bergeron also claimed champion honors in the CDIU25 16-25 division in the FIYDC with Acoeur.



Koschel rode Hilfiger 3 to a score of 71.801% and his fifth straight victory in the Palm Beach Dressage Derby Knock-Out class.



Maribeth Hebert and Florieux won the Junior division of the FIYDC.



Christine Landry and Santino in their awards ceremony for victory in the FEI Intermediaire-I CDI1*, with judge Kari McClain and Caitlin Lane of AGDF.



Christoph Koschel and Imposant in their awards ceremony with judge Peter Storr and Caitlin Lane of AGDF after winning the FEI Prix St. Georges CDI1*.

TOP SCORES AND PERFORMANCES AT AGDF 8 CDI COMPETITION

The 2021 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) resumed competition with AGDF 8 at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL, on Thursday, March 4, and welcomed a victory in the FEI Grand Prix for Special CDI3*, presented by The Dutta Corp. for the USA's Nick Wagman and Don John.

"He was really with me the whole time today," began Wagman. "Normally I get a few nerves in the Grand Prix because it's the first test of the show, but I didn't have any today. I even came out and said to Debbie [McDonald] that this is the first time I haven't had any nerves in a long time. DJ just felt solid, so I was able to actually think about my riding while I was in there and actually work on the details that I can sometimes gloss over because I'm just trying to get through it."

Earlier on Thursday, Kevin Kohmann (GER) and Equitas LLC's 2010 KWPN stallion by Amazing Star, Five Star, topped the FEI Prix St. Georges CDI3* with a score of 71.275%. In the FEI Prix St. Georges CDI1*, Germany earned the top two placings, first with Christoph Koschel on Imposant, a 2013 KWPN gelding by Chameur owned by Holga Finken and Koschel Dressage GmbH, with 73.039%. Second went to Fred-eric Wandres and Quizmaster, Hof Kasselmann's 2012 Hanoverian stallion by Quasar de Charry.

On Friday, USA's Olivia LaGoy-Weltz and Rassing's Lonoir took their first win of the week in the FEI Grand Prix CDI-W, presented by Wellington Agricultural Services. With their score of 75.739%, LaGoy-Weltz and Rassing's Lonoir, a 2004 Danish Warmblood gelding by de Noir 3 that she co-owns with Mary Anne McPhail, soared to the top of the leaderboard.

In the FEI Intermediaire I CDI3*, Kevin Kohmann (GER) and Equitas LLC's 2010 KWPN stallion by Amazing Star, Five Star, earned top honors with a score of 73.432%.

Wagman and Don John won their second class of the week in the FEI Grand Prix Special CDI3*, presented by The Dutta Corp. Wagman and Don John, Beverly Jean Gepfer's 2008 KWPN gelding by Johnson TN, claimed another personal best, this time a 77.319%, which brought tears of joy to the Californian's eyes after a week of winning performances.

"This one hasn't sunk in yet," revealed Wagman. "I think it's going to take a moment to process this! I was more concerned about the rain all day and then to go and pull off a ride like this is just WOW! A lot of credit goes to him; he really pulled it together, and we didn't let each other down... or I didn't let him down, that's a better way to put it."

Germany's Kevin Kohmann and Equitas LLC's 2010 KWPN stallion by Amazing Star, Five Star, dominated once more on Saturday, this time in the FEI Intermediaire-I CDI1* on her own Santino, a 2009 Hanoverian gelding by Scolari, with 67.510%.

 Kim Beaudoin



The winner of the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI3, presented by The Dutta Corp. was Nick Wagman (USA) riding Don John. © SusanJStickle.com*

Camille Carier-Bergeron Earns Victory in 2021 Florida International Youth Dressage Championships

The Florida International Youth Dressage Championships (FIYDC) took place throughout AGDF 8, welcoming young riders from around the globe into the International Stadium. Twenty-year-old Camille Carier-Bergeron (CAN) and Gilles Bergeron's 2008 Westphalian gelding by San Amour I, Sound of Silence 4, topped the entire championship as overall High Point combination, earning an overall score of 73.629%.

This was Carier-Bergeron's seventh year competing in the FIYDC, and she noted how proud she was to have started in the pony divisions and worked her way up. "It's my last young rider year, so it feels great to have achieved our personal best at the Youth Championship with 'SOS [Sound of Silence 4]."

Carier-Bergeron topped the CDI Young Rider Division with Sound of Silence 4, earning their personal best in their Young Rider Freestyle with a 78.145%. Second place went to Natalia Bacariza Danguillecourt (ESP) riding Dhannie Ymas, Yeguada de Ymas S.I.'s 2007 Hanoverian gelding by Don Crusador, with a score of 72.426%. Third place in the division went to Christian Simonson (USA) aboard Hemmingway, his own 2010 Hanoverian gelding by Hendrix, with 71.170%.

Carier-Bergeron continued, "I couldn't be prouder of my horses this week, Sound of Silence 4 in particular. I got him in 2017, and when I bought this horse, he was a bit shut down and I couldn't do much with him; we were barely able to canter. Looking back on that and seeing us today achieving our personal best in our freestyle, it makes me want to cry! He gave his heart to me in there."

Carier-Bergeron also claimed champion honors in the CDIU25 16-25 Division this time with Acoeur, Gilles Bergeron's 2007 Baden-Wurttemberg gelding by Acordelli, with 71.422% overall. She explained, "Acoeur has been with me since 2019, and he is such a steady horse. On Thursday he lost a shoe in the middle of the test, and he was sound and kept going. I tried my best to stay focused, and he did it all with three shoes and was such a good boy. This is a hard week; it's three days of difficult competition, and it can be exhausting for them, but these horses of mine just keep going and give it their all. I couldn't be happier with them."

She concluded, "I would like to thank Diamante Farms because they sponsor all of the youth classes show after show, and I think it is really great to have such a wonderful sponsor."

Hope Cooper (USA) came in second in the 16-25 freestyle riding Hot Chocolate W, Mary Mansfield's 2005 Hanoverian gelding by Hochadel, with 70.315%. Third place was rounded out by Codi Harrison (USA) and Katholt's Bossco, Harrison's own 2007 Danish Warmblood stallion by Blue Hors Don Schufro, riding to a 70.079% score overall.

In the CDI Junior Division, Maribeth Hebert (USA) took top honors with Florieux, her own 2002 Wephalian gelding by Furst Piccolo 2 with a score of 66.340%.

 Kim Beaudoin



Camille Carier Bergeron (CAN) won the overall award at the 2021 Florida International Youth Dressage Championships, presented by Lendon Gray of Dressage4Kids and Terri Kane of Diamante Farms. © SusanJStickle.com

Lehua Custer Welcomes Win in National Grand Prix at AGDF 9



Lehua Custer posted a win in the FEI Grand Prix with F.J. Ramzes in AGDF 9 national competition. © SusanJStickle.com

In national competition at AGDF 9, the USA's Lehua Custer posted a win in the FEI Grand Prix on Saturday, March 13. Custer rode F.J. Ramzes, Wendy Sasser's 2010 KWPN gelding by Juventus, to first place after earning a score of 69.456% from the judge at C.

"I felt like I focused on making him rideable throughout our test," said Custer, "so we didn't nail every movement the way that I wanted to. It's so important to school him and to make him the horse that I know I can do that with. I trust him so much and know every detail, so now it's just about finding that brilliance within the power without letting him take over."

Custer and Sasser picked the gelding out as a yearling, and the U.S. bred KWPN has come up the levels with the 42-year-old as his guide. "He was actually bred at Cornell University; his sire and his dam were both donated to the University by Iron Spring Farm," explained Custer. "They use the mares and stallions as a part of their veterinary program, and we picked him from a woman who had purchased him from the University."

She continued, "The intention was for his owner Wendy to eventually take over the ride, but she kept entering us in competitions even after I got the foundation under him. I feel really lucky to continue to ride him and compete. We've moved up the levels, and it's nice to be here now. We started schooling a bit of Grand Prix last spring, but then things got shifted around with COVID, so we decided to just take our time with things."

Custer does not have a set schedule for the gelding and concluded by explaining that she will let him decide if he is fit for the international ring when the time comes.

"We are just so thrilled that he's gone from a yearling to competing here at AGDF," she expressed. "It's huge for us. I moved here to Wellington from California so we could get him more experience. He's a very large horse, almost 18hh, and up until he was seven, he wasn't being trained for the big ring. He is quite rideable, and we are just taking our time with him. He's really willing and energetic, and so I just make sure he stays under control. We are going to let him tell us if he is capable of going into the international arena. He's got a lot of strengths that would carry us into that realm successfully, but we are going to go one step at a time."

Second place in the FEI Grand Prix went to Michael Bragdell (USA) and Faberge Blue, William Mitchelson's 2010 KWPN gelding by Contango with a 68.913%. Third went to Susanne Hamilton (USA) and her own Lesath, a 2009 Hanoverian gelding by Legat, scoring 68.478%.

Friday's FEI Prix St. Georges class awarded a victory to the USA's Sarah Daehnert and her own 2009 KWPN gelding by Vivaldi, Evander 3, after the pair earned a 74.411%. Second place was captured by Kelly Layne (AUS) aboard Anne Barrett's 2012 Hanoverian by Quarterback, Que Jolie, with 72.794%. Bianca Tota (USA) earned third riding Westerberg, her own 2008 Danish Warmblood gelding by Welsner, with 72.794%.

On Sunday, Chase Shipka (USA) was the champion in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 "Brentina Cup" USEF Qualifier, riding her own Gladstone Zee T, a 2011 KWPN gelding by Apache, to a 68.653%. Natalie Pai (USA) rode Melanie Pai's 2008 Selle Francais mare by Quite Easy I, Utopie D'Ouilly, to a score of 68.589% for second place. Spain's Paula Matute Guimon claimed third with Delagrange, Carolin Mallmann's 2008 Oldenburg by De Niro, finishing their ride on a 67.948%.

 Kim Beaudoin

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C U at X Tack Brings The X- Factor to Adequan® Global Dressage Festival

By JRPR Equine News Room



Four years ago, siblings and life-long equestrians, Sarah and Katie Hoog, launched a revolutionary new business called C U at X Tack that has become a favorite among riders.

The sisters started C U at X Tack as a conduit for European dressage tack and apparel because they personally discovered the need within the dressage community.

"We had shopped for tack and riding apparel in Europe our whole lives for tack, and that's where we had to go to get most of our gear because it becomes unaffordable once it's imported here and the price increases," explained Katie. "The whole purpose of the business is to offer riders the best and most affordable dressage tack and apparel."

Sarah agreed, "We both ride. We both know how expensive the sport is, and we do what we can to keep it affordable. We're very passionate about the products we sell because we use them."

Sarah also describes that their personal experience and their dedication to customer service is what separates them from all other tack stores. "We smile!" she said. "We know each product inside and out. Product knowledge is a huge part of this business. You have to know what you're selling to people in order to let them know what the features and benefits are."

Katie also feels that knowing the products and her customer is of utmost importance. "You have to know how the tack works on each horse," she described. "You have to know how all the products fit and suit the needs of the horse and the rider. I feel like our 25-plus years of having dressage horses really gives us a competitive edge."

The sisters have a lot of experience but also have an eye for what is new, trendy, and hip to the marketplace. "We stay connected with the riders and test the latest trends and styles," said Sarah. "Our clients want to take advantage of new designs and innovations that can help their horse's performance."

"We rely on hands-on testing by our team of X- Ambassadors and our own horses", she continued. "Only the best products that perform and endure will stay in stock at our store and be offered online. If the quality of a product's manufacturing diminishes, we drop it from our lineup. We are committed to only offering the best quality at the best prices, and the products simply have consistently deliver to line the shelves of C U at X."

For 2021, the C U at X Tack sisters also opted to step up and sponsor at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. "Being a vendor is great, but in uncertain times like these, we feel it is important to support the show. We also have the fun of recognizing riders with our X-Factor award here at Global," they noted.

Those who are on the show grounds are invited to stop by the C U at X Tack boutique to check out the new arrivals from JUDI, Anky, Petrie boots, Fager Bits, Cavallo, Montar, and a number of other unique European Brands. Shopping is available by appointment at their Wellington locations and online at www.cuatxtack.com or email info@cuatxtack.com.



2021 AGDF WEEKLY SCHEDULE

March 16-21: AGDF 10

Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup CDI03*,
Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI3*,
presented by Wellington Regional Medical
Center

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI3*,
presented by Iron Spring Farm

Small Tour CDI3*,
presented by Horsecare Ireland

Small Tour CDI1*

CDIO U25, presented by Diamante Farms
Schedule includes National Show

March 26-28: AGDF 11

National Show

March 31-April 4: AGDF 12

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI4*,
presented by Douglas Elliman Real Estate

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI4*,
presented by Adequan®

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI3*,
presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI3*,
presented by Peacock Ridge

Small Tour CDI 3*

Small Tour CDI 1*

Schedule includes National Show

**Tentative schedule, subject to change.

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