Jorst Bags Future Challenge Final Ticket, Orlob Clinches Two



By Alice Collins for Wellington International

The third qualifiers in both the Lövsta Future Challenge Young Horse Grand Prix Series and the **Buffalo Wild Wings Future** Challenge Young Horse Prix St. Georges Series sent more combinations through to the Grand Final (which takes place in AGDF 11) from both divisions during AGDF 5. These classes aim to identify and nurture talented, up-andcoming young FEI horses.

In the Prix St. Georges, Charlotte Jorst (USA) and the nine-year-old mare Federle were given the unanimous nod from the three judges, and with it one of the two coveted slots for the final. The other ticket went to second-placed Marcus Orlob (USA), who rode the seven-year-old Glory Day - who is by Jorst's stallion Kastel's Grand Galaxy Win — to 69.264%. Orlob bolstered his Sunday with another ticket to the final, this time in the big tour series, riding Jeanette Continued on page 4

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Wins Keep Coming for Wandres and Bluetooth OLD

By Alice Collins for Wellington International

rederic Wandres (GER) and Bluetooth OLD lit up the capacity crowds on Florida evening for the 'Friday Night Lights' FEI World Cup™ Grand Prix Freestyle, presented by Havensafe Farm, during AGDF 5. The barnstorming duo captured the week's showcase class with over 80%.

Last to go of the 11 starters, Wandres and Hof Kasselmann's 13-year-old gelding (Bordeaux x Riccione) demonstrated a rhythmic, powerful and balanced test that was brimming with expression and elasticity. As a three-year-old in Germany, Bluetooth OLD sold for €1 million (\$1.3 million USD), and his quality, talent and consistency at Grand Prix justify that price tag. This result represents the pair's fourth straight victory at the 2023 AGDF and the audience began to cheer wildly before the final halt. Wandres finished on 80.565%, with a high score of 82.2%.

Two American ladies joined Wandres on the podium. Ashley Holzer rode her own 13-year-old Sir Donnerhall mare Valentine in just her fourth international Grand Prix Freestyle, filling second place with 77.4%. Just behind Holzer, with 77.27%, came Sarah Tubman on Summit Farm's stallion First Apple — another 13-year-old.

Wandres, who works for Kasselmann and is an AGDF regular, said, "It was the second Friday Night Lights this season for me and I really love the atmosphere — it's always so crowded and the people are cheering for everyone. I am very happy with Bluetooth; he gets more and more consistent and the important things are getting better and better. I am really looking forward for what's coming next."

Bluetooth OLD — who was bred by Paul Schockemöhle's Gestüt Lewitz — was formerly ridden at national Grand Prix by Ingrid Klimke, and Wandres took over the reins almost two years ago.

"In the beginning we needed time to come together as he's a very sensitive horse," added Wandres, who is eyeing the CDI5* show in Week 10 for Bluetooth OLD. "He needs routine and it took a little while to figure all that out. Now I know him and he knows me and we know what we can risk and what we can't that's the positive thing about a



Wandres and Bluetooth OLD continued from page 1

partnership. Coming down the centerline is what the spectators see, but behind that there is so much more to think about and do; it's a 24/7 passion for all of us and if it all comes together in the arena, then even better."

Judge at C Janet Foy said, "It's so amazing to sit there and see people you have watched really come along with their horses have these amazing successes in front of this huge crowd. This was just the most wonderful night."

Betsy Juliano of class sponsor Havensafe Farm reiterated the riders' appreciation of AGDF, saying, "We're so lucky to be here in Wellington. We have a fantastic opportunity to show the horses in different types of competitions, different star levels with excellent judges. It's



like no place else in the world. It makes a huge difference for our country and our sport.

"I love the process and I love watching these riders and

horses develop more and more. I'm so happy to see everybody's tests get better and better. That's what I absolutely love about this sport. If you are only

in it to go to the championship, you will be disappointed. If you are in it to watch the horses develop and grow, you will enjoy it every step of the way."

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Jorst Bags Future Challenge Final Ticket, **Orlob Clinches Two** continued from page 1

Pinard's nine-year-old gelding Spirit Of Joy, by Sir Calypso, to a 65.048% win.

Jorst has only been riding the Fürstenball daughter since November, but the two are forging a strong bond, even though Jorst has not traditionally ridden mares. Federle is a half-sister to the Hanoverian premium stallion Million, by Millennium.

"It's been an incredible weekend," she said. "Federle was a little 'up' when I came in, but she really buckled down and did her job. She's a super hard worker, sporty

and a blast to ride.

"I'm going to start working her towards the Grand Prix probably, but right now we're just trying to get her established in the Prix St. Georges and I-1. We'll slowly but surely get her balance a bit better and see if we can get the one-time changes and the piaffe and passage. I didn't know that mares could be so fun. I absolutely love riding here at Global."

The next qualifiers for the Future Challenge at both big tour and small tour levels will be held this week during AGDF 7.





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CORRECTION: In the last issue of the AGDF Times,

Iollegardens Fashion was listed under the wrong owner in the Performance Farms

Mollegardens Fashion, the 2022 US Sixear-Old National Champion, trained and ridden by Dr. Cesar Parra is owned by Gina Raful and Dr. Parra's wife, Marcela Ortiz.

FEBRUARY 22-26, 2023

Barbançon and Helgstrand are Untouchable during AGDF 5

By Alice Collins for Wellington International

rance's Morgan Barbancon and Habana Libre A claimed the winner's blanket in the headlining CDI3* Grand Prix Special, sponsored by MTICA Farm, during AGDF 5.

Barbançon's 71.66% on her own 11-year-old gelding — by Zizi Top out of a United dam — is their second highest score ever in this test. Of the 15 starters. the trio of riders on the podium remained unchanged from Friday's qualifying Grand Prix, but the 22-year-old German sensation Felicitas Hendricks climbed a place to net second. She rode her own 12-year-old gelding Drombusch 2 (Destano x Dimaggio) to 70.362% in the pair's debut senior international show at the level. Her compatriot Anna-Christina Abbelen, 26, piloted her 16-year-old Samarant gelding Sam Donnerhall to 69.723% and third place.

"I'm extremely happy and it was great to win," enthused the 30-year-old Barbançon, who

is spending her first season in Wellington. "Habana was a wee bit tired today but still tried. The whole passage/trot part was nice, and I was really happy with the walk. The piaffes were a little bit less [powerful] than two weeks ago, but it was cooler then and really warm today.

"I don't normally get affected by the heat, but yesterday I already had to use a new frack [tailcoat] because it was drenched. This is the second one going to the dry cleaners. But I prefer that to the frostbite I get at home."

Barbançon, who is based in Switzerland, has ridden and produced Habana since he was a youngster, bringing him up through the levels from young horse classes. He is one of three Grand Prix horses she has brought to AGDF.

"Havana is a big baby that tries so hard," she continued. "It's all about not making mistakes because when he does he gets so stressed. That's why I don't push him in there for the moment. I want him to figure out that it's



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cool and a good experience. He was maybe too cool in there. and in those piaffes I could have maybe kicked a bit more and woken him up. He was really peace and love today - next time I can push a notch more."

She concluded, "It's just so nice to be here, as it's not so many kilometers for the [horses to get to the] shows and Habana can get experience. It's all about making him confident. He's still a big baby, but he tries so hard for me."

Andreas Helgstrand's 19-yearold son Alexander Yde Helgstrand and Belantis — formerly ridden by Isabell Werth — made it two wins from two starts in AGDF 5, topping the hotly contested Intermediate I CDI1*, presented by Centerline Stables. They also won Thursday's Prix St. Georges class. Helgstrand was also competing his mother's horse Super Mario in the under-25s, and two wins in that division - at Intermediate II and Grand Prix - brought his tally of CDI blue ribbons for the week to four.

Charlotte Jorst (USA) ensured that the Intermediate I which had 23 starters — was an extremely close contest. Helgstrand rode the 14-year-old gelding Belantis, by Benetton Dream, to 73.677%, a huge new personal best at the pair's second attempt at the level. Jorst piloted her 10-year-old Glock's Zonik gelding Zhaplin Langholt — a horse she bought to another new career high of 73.578%. Kristina Harrison-Antell rounded out the podium, laying down 69.902% on I Felix, by Fidertanz.

"Today the high points were the two-tempis and the extended trot and canter," said Helgstrand, who is another rider spending his first season in Wellington. "Belantis is super talented and I really love working with him. He had some more power and energy today, but it was still controlled.

"I came here for a week last year but this year I decided to come for the season as I finished school last summer. I brought my two own horses here and I am riding some sales horses [at Helgstrand USA, in Wellington], too," added Helgstrand.



AGDF 7

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2023 AGDF 5 SPONSOR AWARDS







N2 Sport Horse of the Week winner: Kailiben shown by trainer Andrea Woodward. (L to R): Andrea Woodward with Sue Newell.



Donato Farms Team Achievement Award winners (L to R): Team Irwin Dressage's Jaimey Irwin & Tina Irwin mounted on Espartacus with Tessa Santarpia, Susan M. Santarpia & Jessica Friedrich of Donato Farms.



Zen Elite Award winner: Shannon Dueck mounted on Jolene. Presenting (L to R): Kati Dagge & Endel Ots.



C U at X Tack X-Factor Award winner: Jennifer Hoffmann on Mani's Endeavor presented by Sarah Hoog.



Performance Farms Adult Amateur Achievement Award winner: Penelope Sachs riding Frisbee 55, presented by Dr. Cesar with Toby Sachs.



Morgan Barbancon with Bolero was chosen by her peers to receive The Illustrated Properties People's Choice Award for exemplary horsemanship, sportsmanship & performance. Presented by Trae Meder, Realtor of Illustrated Properties.



Baden Spa BEST Award winner: Ashley Holzer riding Valentine. Pictured (L to R): Martina von Butlar, Debbie McDonald, Katherine Bateson Chandler, Rusty Holzer, & Ashley Holzer.

AGDF 7











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Each of the estate's homes reflect special details, functional living spaces with modern finishes, and abundant water views and 80-foot elevations. An elegant, well-appointed 1930s Georgian Manor House sits majestically on a landscape overlooking manicured rolling lawn and pastoral farmland with plenty of room for additional barns, arenas and fenced pastures. Additional structures on site include a Nantucket-style beach house and two traditional farmhouses, as well as a country chic, renovated barn and tasting room, stables, and functional office space. Screened porches, balconies, patios, and verandas bring the outside in, creating unique private outdoor gathering spaces throughout the grounds. The majestic landscape and water-access options provide access to Chesapeake Bay living at its best.

Mike Oldaker mcoldaker@gmail.com



Zen Elite Equestrian Center Untouchable during AGDF 5 Enjoying the Ride with an Eye Toward the Future

Ten Elite Equestrian Center, Located in Southwest Ranches. Florida is everything the name suggests and much more. The state-of-the-art facility hosts a spacious covered arena, two huge outdoor arenas and a full rehab/ spa for equines. From the cascading waterfalls in the rider's lounge, to its peaceful statues and inviting gardens, Zen Elite Equestrian Center envelops visitors in a spalike relaxed atmosphere.

But, Zen Elite is more than just soothing to the soul. The facility is unique in its scope, hosting grassroots dressage and jumping lesson programs in the same arenas where international trainers are preparing for national and world competitions.

Providing horses and riders with a place to build a connection in a serene, nurturing environment seems as good for the soul as for the sport. Zen Elite Equestrian Center made their foray into the national spotlight last summer when King's Pleasure, piloted by trainer Endel Ots, won the Markel/USEF Seven-Year-Old Dressage US National Championship. Already in 2023, Zen Elite's jet-black KWPN son of Dark Pleasure is proving his mettle, winning his first ever Prix St George and first ever Intermediate-I class at AGDF 5.

Meanwhile, another member of the Zen Elite home team also laid down resounding performances at AGDF 5. Starstruck, just six weeks after arriving in Florida, lived up to his name and the high hopes of owner and trainer Kati Dagge with a Prix St George score of nearly 74%.

And, developing in the wings is another Zen Elite dressage prospect, Top Gun (Totilas/ Belissimo), aka Maverick, who



is training with Olympic veteran Adrienne Lyle.

The Zen Elite pipeline is bursting with talented horses and riders, but these exciting combinations only reveal a portion of what puts the 'zen' in Zen Elite Equestrian Center.

Participation is matched by both joining in and giving back for Zen Elite. Inspired by the inaugural national championship-winning performance in 2022, Zen Elite Equestrian Center has since aligned itself as an Official Partner of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF).

To contribute to the commitment to the next generations of US dressage talent, Zen Elite Equestrian Center's USEF partnership

included sponsoring the Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic, January 5-8, at Global Dressage, featuring coaches Katherine Bateson-Chandler, Ali Brock, Katie Duerrhammer, Shelly Francis and Olivia LaGoy-Weltz.

It felt like the right way to start 2023, explained owner Heidi Humphries, "It aligned with our goals to bring positive things to our sport. We were honored to sponsor this. It was incredible to see upcoming stars learning from the best. These bright faces are the future of this outstanding sport."

Zen Elite Equestrian also became a 2023 Adequan[®] Global Dressage Festival sponsor. As a part of that sponsorship, Zen Elite presents the Zen Elite Award

recognizing sportsmen and women who bring something positive and "Zen-like" to the sport.

"All our winners have been exceptional at embodying the 'zen' way as they consistently display great horsemanship, sportsmanship, and a positive attitude," says Heidi about this season's initial Zen Elite Award winners: Denielle Gallagher, Anna Merrick, and Shannon Dueck. "Our award recognizes these combined attributes, along with the ability to gracefully overcome the challenges that life, and our sport often present—and still carry on toward their goals. It is that level of positivity and perseverance our Zen Elite Award strives to recognize and reward."

Zen Elite balances dressage and hunter/jumper sponsorships as smoothly as balancing its own diverse lesson and training programs. Just up the road from Global Dressage at the Wellington International, Zen Elite's hunter jumper trainer, Jill Briggs is set up with a half a dozen competition jumpers and students who are successfully competing at the Winter Equestrian Festival. Zen Elite also supports the annual Equestrian Sport Productions Hunter Jumper Circuit. In December, the first \$50,000 Zen Elite Equestrian Center Grand Prix was hosted at the ESP Holiday & Horses Horse Show with Jad Dana and After Eight jumping to top honors.

A 'zen' peacefulness prevails at Zen Elite Equestrian Center around a nucleus of positive excitement, as owner and founder, Heidi Humphries molds the ideal environment to nurture her vision to contribute to the future of horse sport in the spalike serene atmosphere that is Zen Elite Equestrian Center.





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RIDER SPOTLIGHT: Caleb Scroggins

From the start, Caleb knew that horses were his passion and he did anything and everything he could to spend time in the saddle. After purchasing a farm in Wellington in 2015, Caleb and his husband have worked together to build it into the beautiful facility it is today and host Caleb's fabulous string of horses and clients that are ready to rock the season.

How did your Dressage journey begin?

I grew up in Texas and Arizona and did everything I could to get to ride, including polo, western, show jumping, and even breezing at the Houston race track. I took my first dressage lesson in my twenties to help with my jumper and I was hooked. Dressage became my focus from then on. I came to Wellington in 2012 for my first season and during that time met my (now) husband and my continuing coach and mentor, Shannon Dueck.

What are your goals for 2023?

My personal goals will involve getting qualified for the Festival of Champions in the young horse and Developing Prix St. Georges divisions and working toward the Open division Grand Prix with my

horses from me. Campbell met Norman (N'Oubliez Jamais) and the stars aligned that she ended up moving down here to stay in the program. She hadn't ridden dressage at all and is now working solidly at Prix St. Georges and touching on the Grand Prix at just 17. Zach matched with Bilodeau de l'Etincelle Z, who is basically a family member because my husband bred and delivered him, and we trained together. Zach is now consistently working toward Young Riders at only 16. My other super competitive client, Dominique Cassavettis, is working toward the Prix St.

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MARTHA W. JOLICOEUR



DouglasElliman Home is Where Your Horse Is

own mare, Villanelle. I have two superstar junior riders, Campbell Jones and Zach Drury who came to the team when they bought

Georges with another one of our sales graduates, Ingenieur A.

Where do you train and who do vou train with?

I train out of our own Small Spark Farm here in Wellington, which my husband and I bought in 2015 as a "from scratch" kind of project. I work a lot with Caroline Roffman, Allison Brock, and, of course, my long-standing mentor and 11-year-long coach, Shannon Dueck, who has shaped my riding so much. Recently I also gained some valuable training time with Petra Hoffman, who we are lucky to have here during the season.

What are you most excited about for the 2023 season? For 2023 I'm very excited for my students to succeed on their



wonderful horses that I'm so proud to have been able to have as my own as well. My own string is the most incredible group of horses: I don't think I can really believe I have them. I'm also really excited to continue the development of our farm, with a new barn in the works.

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