

Molina Makes Stunning Debut in Buffalo Wild Wings Prix St. George Futures Qualifier



By Summer Grace
for Wellington International

The future was looking bright during AGDF 5 in the Buffalo Wild Wings Prix St. George Futures Qualifier. Twenty-nine-year-old Pablo Gomez Molina (SPN) and Farinel di Fonteabeti broke the 70% mark to win the class on a 70.735% final score.

"This was his first time doing this and he went in there and handled everything incredibly well," Molina explained of the performance that clinched a spot in the \$10,000 final at the end of the 2024 AGDF season. "He was focused on me and going with me, and we didn't have any big errors which I thought was great for the first time!"

Molina has produced the eight-year-old gelding (Grand Galaxy Win T) since he was a three-year-old and he finds that these classes are crucial to the development of young horses.

"We wanted to use this class, which I think is really good for the young horses, to give him an opportunity to look at everything," he

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ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL



AGDF Times

LINDSAY BROCK
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Anna Marek and Fayvel Smash Freestyle Personal Best and Are World Cup Bound

By Alice Collins
for Wellington International

Anna Marek and Fayvel had the crowd on their feet and clapping to the beat of their winning performance in the 'Friday Night Stars' FEI World Cup™ Grand Prix Freestyle,

sponsored by The Dutta Corp, during AGDF 5. This is the second of three World Cup™ legs hosted this year by the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) circuit in Wellington, Florida.

From last draw, Marek

rode the 14-year-old Zizi Top x Houston gelding Fayvel to 78.457%, eclipsing their previous best of 77.715%, set during AGDF 1. The British five-star judge Stephen Clarke awarded the pair's high score of 81.1%. Their win handed them 20 FEI ranking points, enough to secure a starting berth at the FEI World Cup™ Final in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (April 16-20).

Just as in Thursday's qualifying Grand Prix class, Kevin Kohmann slotted into second behind Marek, chalking up 75.89% on Diamante Farms' 15-year-old Hanoverian gelding Dünensee (Dancier x Davignon). Susan Dutta piloted her own and her husband Tim's 14-year-old Don Design DC (Der Designer x Sir Donnerhall) to third with 73.31%, rounding out the all-American podium.

To strains of Kygo's 'At Least We Stole The Show' and remixes of 'Let's Dance' put together by Karen Robinson, Marek came out all guns blazing, pulling off a technically challenging test with power and risk. Spectators started whooping when she rode a half-20m circle of two-time changes which melted seamlessly into a diagonal of one-time changes. Marek's groom Kate Esterline was awarded the \$500 grooms prize, sponsored by Massa Horses.



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Anna Marek
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"Today it was really a fun ride," enthused Marek, who took over Fayvel's competitive reins from owner Cynthia Davila full time only in the fall of 2023. "I was so happy with how willing he was even in such a big atmosphere; he can walk on a long rein next to all those cheering people."

"I've known him and ridden him for a long time, but not in CDIs or trying to qualify for a championship. The last couple of shows I've been thrilled with him and we're getting better together so fast — it's really great," added Marek, who is based near Ocala, FL, and trains with Ann Gribbons.

Judge at C William Warren said, "Each of the rides had its own qualities, but when Anna started I had to really not blink. I didn't want to miss anything. She actually made me tingle a little bit. There was so much power in that ride, she took such risk and she pulled it off."

Kohmann also used strong beats and lyrics to emphasize Dünensee's highlights. Quiet riding, a loose curb rein and a harmonious partnership produced a powerful and light-footed performance, which included a delightful canter to piaffe transition.

"Today was quite a bit better than last time here," said Kohmann, who took over the ride on Dünensee from his trainer Christoph Koschel a year ago. "Last time he was very nervous, this time he was just nervous. I honestly felt so comfortable this time, riding at night, and I felt like it was my best freestyle. I actually could enjoy riding the test. This is a difficult ring to show in, but I literally just thought this time, 'I'm going to pat him a little bit



more,' and it worked. I just had fun tonight."

Susan Dutta was riding in 'Friday Night Stars' for the very first time with her long-time partner Don Design. He, like Dünensee, was sourced

through Christoph Koschel, and was a firecracker of a young horse.

"I'm enjoying how well he's handling the environment and how grown up he's gotten," she said. "We bought him

as a five-year-old from Hof Kasselmann and we've been on a nine-year journey. He was quite a handful as a young horse, and I needed a lot of help. He's gotten so many

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Molina Debut with Farinel di Fonteabeti
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stated. "He was perfect, so we will probably compete in the next CDI. I would tell people to come do this class because I think for the young horses it's really good and you don't have the pressure of doing a CDI with all the experienced horses."

"Today's highlight for me was the trot," Molina continued. "He was really connected and through; he was super expressive and I was also able to have him long in the neck with a good connection and I think the judges really liked that."

The podium was truly international as Caleb Scroggins (USA) and Veneziano's Rhapsody took the runner up title with a score of 68.500% to also secure a berth in the season-

end final. Denmark's Signe Kirk Kristiansen put forth a performance worthy of 67.265% aboard her own nine-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Sezuan 2 x Desperados), Suarez, for third.



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The world collides at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival this week as teams representing Canada, Germany, Sweden and the USA on home soil put forth their best talent – on both two legs and four – in the Stillpoint Farm CDIO3* Nations Cup during this week's 'Friday Night Stars.'

Meet the countries and decide who you're rooting for!



USA

Jan Ebeling riding Jubi's Tenacity
Kevin Kohman riding Dunensee
Jennifer Williams riding Joppe K
Erin Nichols riding Elian Royale



CANADA

Denielle Gallagher riding Come Back de Massa
Rakeya Moussa riding Davidpff V.H. Trichelhof
Mathilde Blais Tetrault riding Fedor



GERMANY
(defending their 2023 title)

Frederic Wandres riding Total Recall
Michael Klimke riding Domino 957
Anna-Christina Abbelen riding Sam Donnerhall
Felicitas Hendricks riding Drombusch OLD



SWEDEN

Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfvén riding Devanto
Caroline Darcourt riding Lord Django
Christina Devine riding Slaebaekgaard's Santino

Anna Marek

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riders off, but luckily not me. And in the end he's turned out to be amazing. "I had one small mistake in the one-time changes, but overall, I'm thrilled with him. I'm really happy to be in the top three — that was my goal for the night and I accomplished it," she added.

Last year's AGDF 5 World Cup™ Grand Prix Freestyle winner Frederic Wandres (GER) was in action in Friday's CDI1* Prix St. Georges, sponsored by Centerline Stables. This time the German national anthem rang out for Wandres's 71.941% performance on Alessa Marie Maass' nine-year-old Fürstenball mare, Floricella.



Best Turned Out

Congratulations to a well-dressed trio of

Gabriel Martin Armando (left)

&

Meghan Riviello (right)

&

Giulia Cohen (not pictured)

winner of the AGDF 7 Best Turned Out Award



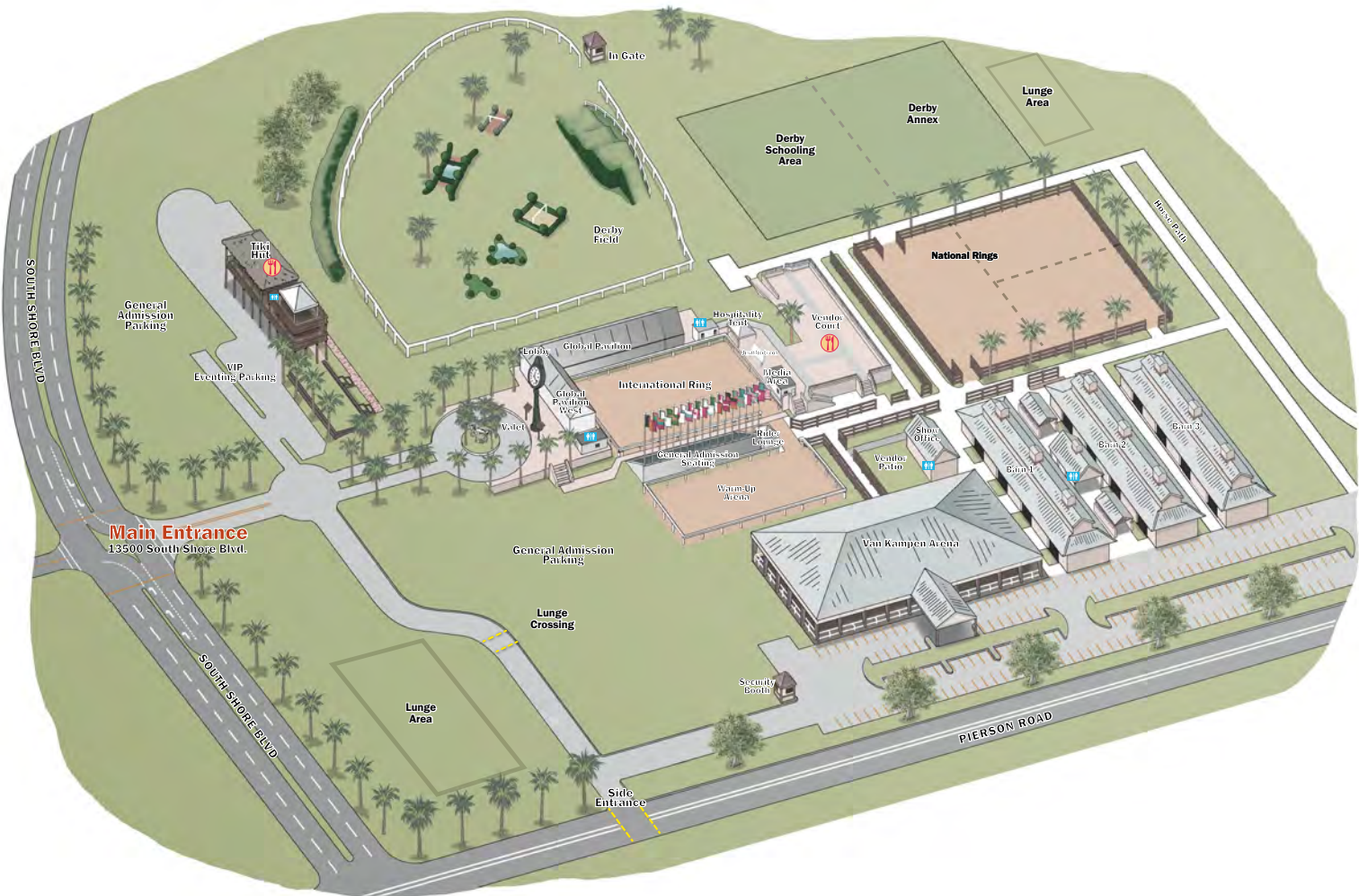
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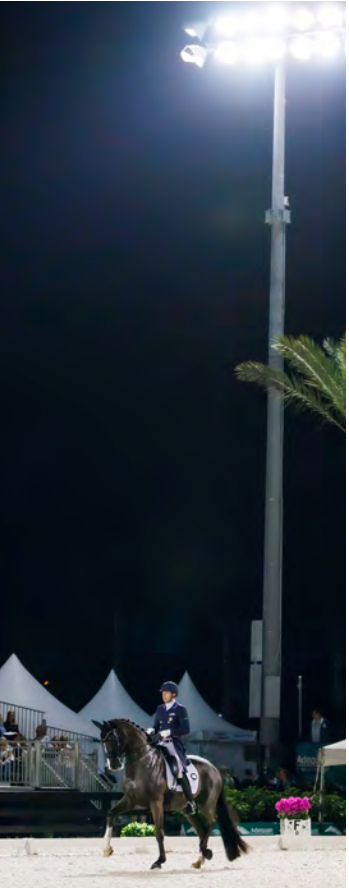
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SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

AGDF 5



CU at X Tack's X-Factor Award was presented by Sarah Hoog to **Mary Bahniuk Lauritsen** riding Impression.



Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfvén was chosen by her peers to receive The People's Choice Award for exemplary horsemanship, sportsmanship and performance. The award is sponsored by **Illustrated Properties** and was presented by Giovana Florentino.



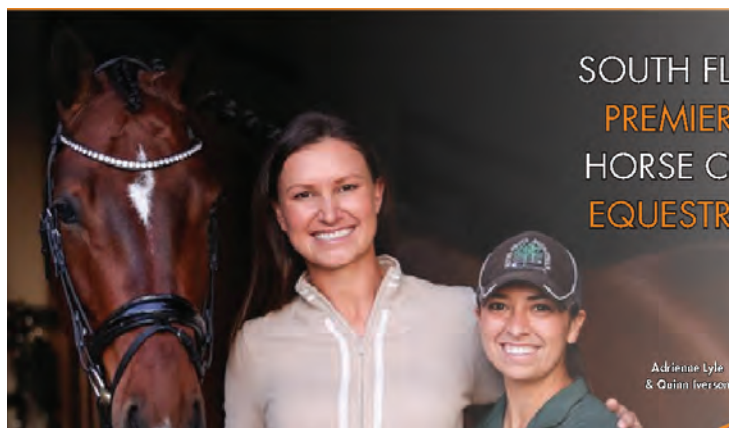
Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award winner was Briar, shown by **Madison Sumner** with coach Jennifer Baumert.



The winner of the **N2 Saddlery Peak Performance Award** was **Jackie Beasley** riding Liberty VE with coach Kathy Priest.



Winner of the **Vita Flex Victory Pass Award** was **Cynthia Screnci** riding For Memory 4 with coach Andrea Woodard.



Judge Stephen Clarke (GBR) is presented with the **Zen Elite Award**. This special honor is given to a positive person with passion, enthusiasm, great horsemanship, and someone who encourages other riders, supports teammates and competitors. In short, someone who is "Zen."

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Omega Alpha *continued from page 10*

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