



AGDF TIMES

Issue 7, March 30-April 2, 2016

2016 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival

Editor: Jennifer Wood

Irons, Hendricks, Matute, Jr., and Molina Earn Divisional Honors at Florida International Youth Dressage Championships



Juan Matute, Jr. and Dhannie Ymas were the overall high score winners of the Florida International Youth Dressage Championships. © SusanJStickle.com

Four talented individual riders collected championship accolades on Sunday at AGDF for their performances in the Florida International Youth Dressage Championships presented by Kim Boyer, the Davis family, the Kane family, and Dressage4Kids, highlighting international dressage riders under the age of 25.

Hannah Irons, 16, of Queenstown, MD, rode Bohdjan to capture top honors in the FEI Pony division, while Felicitas Hendricks, 15, of Hagen, Germany, and Faible AS won the FEI Junior division. Juan Matute, Jr., 18, of Madrid, Spain, and Dhannie Ymas were recognized for their top performances in the FEI Young Rider division, while Pablo Gomez Molina, 21, of Valencia,

Spain, and Tarpan Ymas earned the Under 25 championship.

Six different nations were represented in championships, while riders from around North America traveled to partake in one of the main CDI championships hosted for the next generation of dressage riders.

Juan Matute, Jr. competes in a number of divisions on a typical CDI week at AGDF, but has found a new sense of consistency in his rides and brings a positive energy to the ring with each test. Earning the FEI Young Rider championship, Matute, Jr. discussed his approach to the week.

"I'm very lucky to be able to ride

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Graves and Verdades Hit Season High Mark in AGDF 10 FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 4*



Laura Graves and Verdades wowed the crowds again for another FEI Grand Prix Freestyle win at the CDI 4*, presented by Havensafe Farm. Photo © SusanJStickle.com

Laura Graves (USA) and Verdades performed one of their best FEI Grand Prix Freestyle tests so far this season at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), earning a 79.475% to take a commanding win in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 4*, presented by Havensafe Farm.

Kasey Perry-Glass (USA) and Goerklintgaards Dublet followed Graves to the winner's circle, finishing in second place in their first FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test together with a score of 75.750%. Juan Matute, Jr. (ESP) and Don Diego Ymas captured a well-deserved third place finish, receiving a 73.225%.

Graves and Verdades entered the Global International Arena at The Stadium with new freestyle choreography and music, but the same consistency and fluidity for which they're now known. Graves has worked hard to find the right gear for "Diddy" this season, and it seems the pair is right on the mark moving into an important part of this year's season.

"You know, with as much experience as this horse has now globally, he's recently become very sensitive to the atmosphere. We do

for him what we can in relaxation, but like I was saying after the Grand Prix on Wednesday, his confidence has to come from me," explained Graves. "I have to give him the cues, and he needs to be certain of what I'm asking him. For tonight, I thought it was a big accomplishment personally, riding through that tension and having him step up to the plate."

Perry-Glass exited the ring in tears after completing her first FEI Grand Prix Freestyle aboard Goerklintgaards Dublet, a 2003 Danish Warmblood gelding (Diamond Hit x La Costa), that she has campaigned to the top of the Large Tour leaderboards all season long.

"I came out crying," she acknowledged. "He's just so awesome, and I'm so lucky to have him. We're growing up together and respecting each other more and more. We're learning from each other, and I couldn't ask for any more."

The young Juan Matute, Jr. performed a brilliant and nearly mistake-free test about Don Diego Ymas, a 2003 Hanoverian gelding owned by Matute's father, Juan Matute. In their best freestyle test to date this season, Matute was very

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Stillpoint Farm Presents FEI Nations' Cup CDIO 3* to Conclude Adequan® Global Dressage Festival Circuit

Approaching the conclusion of the most successful season in the history of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), the Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations' Cup CDIO 3* will draw the 2016 circuit at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) to a close, marking an exceptional year for dressage in Wellington.

Entry numbers and participation reached an all-time high throughout the duration of the season, while founding sponsors, who have believed in the success and potential of dressage in South Florida from the very beginning, have seen their dreams for the sport come to fruition and turn into reality.

"My hopes for this facility have already come true. We were optimistic that the managers of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), back when this conversation of AGDF started, would take dressage seriously and believe in this sport enough to create the right infrastructure, facility, and staff," said Tuny Page, owner and manager of title sponsor Stillpoint Farm, located just minutes down the road from the AGDF facility.

"The numbers from this year have been huge. It's just fantastic. I think for the first three years we needed to prove to the international dressage community that those of us in Wellington who wanted to make this happen, ultimately put our money where our mouths were," she laughed.

For Page, who will be representing the United States in the Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations' Cup CDIO 3* aboard her own Woodstock, a 2003 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Havel x Mirania), there is still a sense of excitement and possibility when asked about the future expansion of dressage at AGDF, but also in North America and around the world.

"I think it's incredible that when you ride in a CDI here, it has become such a quality competition that you're working and aiming towards just making it into the top five, which is a massive step in terms of the growth and depth of this sport," she continued. "In a large part, my hopes and dreams for this facility and the sport have already come true."

The foundation of Nations' Cup competition is rooted in the efficiency and importance of teamwork, a concept engrained in the tradition and daily routine at Stillpoint Farm, which Page believes is an essential piece of their sponsorship of the event each year.

"Stillpoint has always been very much based in the spirit of teamwork. It is not a private barn, and it was

never built to be one," explained Page. "I feel very strongly that if you have aspirations to succeed in this industry, whether that be training, riding as an amateur, or riding for top sport, we want you to become the best of what your talents and circumstances allow."

"It's a team thing here at Stillpoint, and we have a group of people based at the same facility working with the same mentality day in and day out. I truly believe that it always influences the outcome," she continued. "It impacts the success of each involved individual's goal, and that has always been a driving motivator for me."

Through the support of generous sponsors, AGDF has blossomed into an event that many never expected or anticipated, but Page is confident looking towards the future, as the world's dressage community also now turns to Wellington during the winter months.

"There's a serious element of truth when people say it takes a village. It was a very natural fit for Stillpoint to be the title sponsor of the Nations' Cup here, and I think that it that will continue to grow and mold with the expansions we will see here," elaborated Page. "When you're riding on a Nations' Cup team, it's four riders working individually to their absolute best ability to create a strong supportive team and I feel like that is the message we continue to promote and live by at Stillpoint."

Stillpoint Farm is the winter home base for some of the world's best riders, providing a base in training and teamwork for competitors from around the world. This year, a globally-renowned group of riders and horses called Stillpoint Farm home through the winter months including Laura Tomlinson (GBR), Lara Griffith (GBR), Belinda Trussell (CAN), Susan Dutta (USA), Beatrice "Trixie" Marienau (USA) along with David Marcus (CAN) and Nicholas Fyffe (AUS).

"The atmosphere at Stillpoint Farm is a reflection of teamwork and a constant drive for success. It was a special moment when Belinda [Trussell], myself, and Laura [Tomlinson] were in the top three together because it was Team Stillpoint and I felt that was just a very cool moment representative of our team's hard work and dedication," said Page.

If the 2016 season has proved to be an indication of what can be expected in the coming years for the sport of dressage, it is clear that a developing strength in interest, expansion, participation, and support will reach a pinnacle point from January to April

each year at AGDF.

"There was a lot of risk that went into creating this place, and as local people who are sponsoring this show, we readily, willingly, and happily look forward to being a part of the process of improving and developing AGDF to the next level," said Page. "I have to thank the Equestrian Sport Productions team

for believing that it could work, and I look forward to seeing the expansion that will make this the best show in the world to set an industry and global standard." ■

Belinda Trussell, Tuny Page, and Laura Tomlinson celebrate their top three finish for Team Stillpoint at AGDF.
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PBIEC Week 10 Upcoming Events:

AGDF STILLPOINT FARM FEI NATIONS CUP

The final week of competition for the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival is on March 30-April 2 at The Stadium at PBIEC. See some of the best competition of the season as riders represent their countries in the Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup CDIO 3*. Will the United States retain their winning streak? Who will stand on the podium for the final "Friday Night Stars" FEI Grand Prix Freestyle on Friday, April 1? Come watch the finest dressage competition in North America to find out!

Wednesday, March 30:

9 a.m. - FEI Prix St. Georges CDI 1*, presented by YellowBird Farm
2:15 p.m. - FEI Prix St. Georges CDIO 3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm
5 p.m. - FEI Grand Prix CDIO 3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm

Thursday, March 31:

8:30 a.m. - FEI Grand Prix CDI 3*, presented by Harmony Sporthorses
2:15 p.m. - FEI Intermediaire 1 CDIO 3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm
5 p.m. - FEI Grand Prix Special CDIO 3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm

Friday, April 1:

8:30 a.m. - FEI Intermediaire 1 CDI 1*, presented by YellowBird Farm
3:30 p.m. - FEI Intermediaire 1 Freestyle CDIO 3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm
7 p.m. - "Friday Night Stars" FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDIO 3*, presented by Stillpoint Farm

Saturday, April 2:

8:30 a.m. - FEI Intermediaire 1 Freestyle CDI 1*, presented by YellowBird Farm
1 p.m. - FEI Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Harmony Sporthorses
4:15 p.m. - FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by Harmony Sporthorses

PBIEC WEEK 12 UPCOMING EVENTS

WEF OPEN MEETING

An open meeting for riders, trainers, owners, and interested parties will be held on Thursday, March 31, at 3 pm in The Gallery at Palm Beach

International Equestrian Center to discuss the Winter Equestrian Festival and future plans for the facility in 2017 and beyond. Equestrian Sport Productions CEO Mark Bellissimo and Wellington Equestrian Partners Representative Hunter Harrison will be in attendance and lead the meeting to discuss current issues and what plans are for the showgrounds in future years. Everyone is invited to the meeting to gain input from the stakeholders.

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, March 31, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held 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, while all others are \$25. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The season finale dooxr prize includes a custom trunk provided by Clever Jumps & Trunks and TheraPlate. The subject for WEF 12 is "Equine Melanoma: Advanced Therapies" with Nicole Leibman, DVM, MS, DACVIM, (Oncology) sponsored by Animal Medical Center. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1130 or laura@equestriansport.com for more information.

\$130,000 SUNCAST 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER CLASSIC FINAL AND \$500,000 ROLEX GRAND PRIX CSI 5*

Two events, one night. The final "Saturday Night Lights" event of the season is on Saturday, April 2, starting at 6:30 p.m. with the \$130,000 Suncastr 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Final and followed by an 8 p.m. start time for the \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5*. The best horses and riders in the biggest class of the season - don't miss this exciting finale!

\$50,000 USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

One of the most exciting hunter classes of the season is the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby. The first round is in the Eugene R. Mische Grand Hunter Ring on Saturday, April 2, and the top 25 move on to compete in the second round on the Derby Field at The Stadium at PBIEC on Sunday, April 3, at 1 p.m. They will compete over natural obstacles like the table bank and show off their style galloping around the beautiful grass field. Don't miss the final event of the 2016 WEF! ■



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Harmony Sporthorses Brings Talented Group of Horses and Riders to Compete at 2016 AGDF Circuit

Harmony Sporthorses, based in Kiowa, CO, and seasonally located in Wellington, FL, found tremendous success this season at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), culminating with top performances by Michael Klimke of Germany, Suzan Pape of Great Britain, as well as Scott and Susanne Hassler, of Hassler Dressage, who are longstanding partners with Harmony Sporthorses.

"It's very exciting to be a part of something that has grown in such a short period of time with such an incredible atmosphere," said Scott Hassler of Hassler Dressage, serving as a representative for Harmony Sporthorses, which is owned by Leslie and John Malone. "The sport of dressage has really taken off now, and it's important to be a part of a competition like this."

Harmony Sporthorses continues support the aspirations and goals of their established team members, which led to strong performances by Klimke and Pape this season. Klimke rode Harmony's Depardieu, a 2006 Hanoverian gelding (Don Frederico x Wiesnoes) in CDI competition, while Pape guided Harmony's Don Noblesse, a 2007 Hanoverian stallion (Danicer x Descana) and Harmony's Fiorano, a 2005 Hanoverian gelding (Rousseau x Rawina) in Large Tour CDI classes.

"On a personal note, we're riders and competitors ourselves, and it has been very important for Harmony Sporthorses to support our international team members," explained Hassler. "This season has been very fun because Harmony [Sporthorses] brought horses over from Europe for the first time and it gave us three months to all train together, which is time we typically don't have together as a full team."

"Last year, we started working with

Michael and this year, we added Suzan Pape to the mix, which really created a team atmosphere in the barn," continued Hassler. "This season served as a great opportunity for Harmony Sporthorses to showcase the stallions that have been in Europe for the past few seasons. We all had the chance to train together and have fun. You really can't beat that."

Harmony Sporthorses traveled with more than 25 horses to Wellington this season to compete and train during the AGDF circuit. Hassler expressed his sincere happiness and excitement with the performances of each horse and rider combination, noting that the AGDF circuit has propelled the sport to new heights, not just in North America, but around the world.

"It's a great opportunity for North American riders to feel that international flavor, more like the shows you would see in Europe," elaborated Hassler. "To see the quality of riding we have here, it just continues to raise the bar. It's good for everyone because you're able to measure yourself as a rider and get inspired. The more quality we're around, the better everyone continues to do, and I think it's fantastic."

The atmosphere at AGDF is unparalleled to other circuits around the world and offers horse and rider combinations an opportunity to gain invaluable experience in the competition arena, while setting a true quality standard for the sport, according to Hassler.

"We showed almost every week this season with a bunch of different groups. What is going down here is working, and we're very happy to be a part of it. It's creating a buzz, and it's tremendous for dressage."

To learn more about Harmony Sporthorses, please visit www.harmonysporthorses.net. ■



Scott Hassler on Diamo
©RBH Photography.



*Elizabeth Guarisco
and
YellowBird Farm
congratulate
Adequan Global Dressage Festival
on their success

All the best for the 2016 season!*



Susanne Hassler on Harmony's Boitana. © SusanJStickle.com.

Performers From Opera Fusion Offer a New Approach to A Traditional Art Form



Opera hits, musical theater classics, and American standards will be the entertainment at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) during the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle events on March 5, March 18, and April 1 when singers from Opera Fusion take the stage.

The talented South Florida vocalists' selections will range from the serene "Flower Duet" (well known from the British Airways commercial) from "Lakme" to the rousing "Libiamo" drinking song from "La Traviata" to the love song "Nessun Dorma" from "Turandot."

The more contemporary songs Opera Fusion will showcase at the AGDF will include "The Prayer," "All I Ask of You," "Granada," "Be My Love," "Stranger in Paradise" and "Some Enchanted Evening."

The fledging company, which is in its second season, has made it its mission to cultivate a new audience for opera in South Florida, offer educational outreach, and provide opportunities to local talent. The bottom line is making "the voice" accessible and affordable to a wider segment of the community, and combating perceptions that opera is stuffy and elitist.

The Opera Fusion singers coming to the AGDF include sopranos Robyn Marie Lamp, Kyaunnee Richardson and Birgit Fioravante; mezzo-soprano Christina Overton; tenor Lievens Castillo; and baritones Xavier Garcia and John Whittlesey. They will be accompanied by pianists Sergio Puig and Gordon Roberts. All live and work in South Florida.

"We really want this to be a company that supports the local artists," said Garcia, a West Palm

Beach veterinarian and president of the board, "because the local artists will support us."

The non-profit artist-driven company is based in West Palm Beach and mounts shows throughout South Florida. It opened its second season in December with its "Viva La Zarzuela" master classes and a finalists' concert at Florida International University in Miami.

In June, the company will premiere "Not In My Town," a musical drama by a Fort Lauderdale composer about the events surrounding the story of Matthew Shepard, a gay Wyoming college student murdered in a 1998 hate crime.

In its first season, Opera Fusion successfully put on two musical revues, "The Sopranos: An Opera You Can't Refuse" and "Duelling Divas," as well as two operas, the company's debut with "Bluebeard's Castle" and later "Cosi Fan Tutte/ Die Fledermaus" in a summer "bootcamp" workshop.

Birgit Fioravante is executive director of Opera Fusion, Dean Peterson is artistic director, Robyn Lamp is company manager and Dr. Sally Brown is director of education.

The board of directors comprises West Palm Beach veterinarian and baritone Dr. Xavier Garcia, president; Lake Worth Playhouse board president Michael McKeich, treasurer; attorney Joseph R. Fields Jr., secretary; and members Renee Greenberg, Peter Ludescher, Elizabeth Giles, Emily Pantelides, Richard Gaff and Carol Carnevale.

For more about Opera Fusion and its leadership, visit OperaFusion.org.

Special Olympics Area Games Gallery © Meg Banks







many different kinds of horses that give you different feelings. Thank you to Yeguada Ymas, my sponsor, for allowing me to have these opportunities," said Matute, Jr. "I think our goal this week was to reach high scores, which are always the goal, but also to experience new feelings, like softer aids and a lighter contact, but it's also about enjoying the championship. We're all young and we're supposed to have fun, which is our priority here."

Hendricks and Faible AS have been very competitive on the AGDF tour since last season, which was their first time ever competing in the United States. Hendricks, who rides with the Christoph Koschel, has formed a strong bond with Faible AS, consistently performing relaxed and fluid tests.

"I've been riding him for a little bit over a year now, and he can be very special. This is great experience for him here in this international ring," said Hendricks. "Last year when we came, that was my first international show. This is my second year doing them, and I hope that we will be able to come back next year as well."

Irons and Bohdjan competed together for the first time at the Florida International Youth Dressage Championships this week and the experience is something that Irons feels was very beneficial for the duo.

"Bohdjan was graciously donated to Dressage4Kids by Bebe Davis and the Davis family, so he has a lot of experience in the FEI Pony division. I started competing him last summer, so he has taught me a lot already," said Irons. "This was our first CDI together, and it was a fun experience getting to know riders from all over the world and competing at such a big facility. It was a whole new level for me, and it was a great experience."

"I'm very thankful to everyone that has given me the opportunity to be here, Dressage4Kids, who own Bobo, and my parents and friends for all of their support," she added.

Gomez Molina and Tarpan Ymas, owned by Yeguada Ymas, are a relatively new pair, as Gomez only took over the ride on the stunning chestnut gelding earlier this season. Their performances in the Under 25 division at the Florida International Youth Dressage Championships served as their second CDI competition together and their first championship event at AGDF.

"Yeguada de Ymas gave me a really good horse to ride in the Under 25. We had some mistakes today, but I'm happy because he was good too," said Gomez Molina. "We are very happy with our tests this week. We are just beginning together now." ■ Carly Weilminster



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pleased with their ride and felt the progress they have made this season has been defining in their career together.

"Little by little we've been building the confidence in the Grand Prix together and this is our second season at this level. It was a very exciting start to the season, but I think tonight is really the highlight so far," commented Matute. "I'm very happy, and I'm very excited."

Betsy Juliano of Havensafe Farm, title sponsor for AGDF 10, is a successful businesswoman and horse enthusiast and has played an integral role in the growth of AGDF through the years. Drawing a strong parallel between the expansion of AGDF and the affirmation of a successful business, Juliano spoke to the successes the competition has seen this season and the promising future for the sport.

"I think that growing a business is really about evolution and that is what I see here at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, but also very importantly with all three riders here. I've had the privilege of watching them evolve and get better each year," said Juliano. "That, to me, is my favorite part of being here in the winters, and I think that what Mark Bellissimo and his team have done to provide this opportunity for the riders and people like me to participate has been fantastic, and we appreciate it."

Keeping with tradition this season, Adequan® sponsored several owner awards during the evening, recognizing and appreciating the individuals who continue to help grow the sport through their support of riders. Makenzie Rath, owner of Sholitaire ridden by Melissa Fladland, was presented with the AGDF 8 National Show High Score Award, for Sholitaire and Fladland's score of 79.773%. Kylee Laurie was awarded with the AGDF 9 National High Score Award, for the performance of Harmony's Duvall and Adrienne Lyle, who scored a 82.500%. Michael Collins, owner of Don Tignanello, ridden by Leida Collins-Strijk, was presented with the Prix St. Georges Owner Award for Collins-Strijk's score of 72.289%. Laura Graves earned the Owner Award for the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle, recognizing her performance aboard Verdades. Graves, who also serves as her own groom, was presented with the Groom's Initiative Award on behalf of Mark Bellissimo, CEO of Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC.

AGDF 10 HIGHLIGHTS – WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

Victory in the FEI Grand Prix CDI 4* presented by Havensafe Farm at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) went to Laura Graves (USA) and her own Verdades with a score of 76.28%, adding another excellent performance to their growing collection of top finishes so far this season. In a top three sweep for riders representing the United States, Allison Brock (USA) and her long time partner Rosevelt earned second place with a 74.080%, while Kasey Perry-Glass (USA) and Goerklintgaards Dublet finished in third place receiving a 72.660%.

Leida Collins-Strijk (NED) and her own Don Tignanello, a 2005 Hanoverian gelding (Don Vino x Atlantica), have been

nearly unbeatable in Small Tour classes this season at AGDF and capped Wednesday with another victory in the FEI Prix St. Georges CDI 1*, presented by Mike & Roz Collins, receiving a 72.982%. Collins-Strijk piloted her second mount, Zantros, to second place with a score of 71.623%. Kevin Kohmann (GER) and Fritz San Tino, owned by Melanie Pai, earned their first top three finish in CDI competition this season with a 70.833%.

Shelly Francis (USA) and Doktor, who have been campaigning at AGDF circuit all season, collected a win on Thursday afternoon in the FEI Grand Prix CDI 3*, presented by The Dutta Corporation.

Francis and Doktor won with a score of 70.180%. Olivia LaGoy-Weltz (USA) and Rassing's Lonoir, in their second FEI Grand Prix start together, earned second place with a 69.940%, while Laura Tomlinson (GBR) and Unique took third place with a 69.100%.

Leida Collins-Strijk (NED) and Don Tignanello maintained their winning ways moving into the second day of CDI 1* competition on Thursday. The duo won the FEI Intermediaire I CDI 1*, presented by Mike & Roz Collins, with a score of 72.289%. Tina Irwin and her own Laurencio claimed second place with a 70.368%, while Lisa Wilcox (USA) and Gallant Reflection HU, owned by Horses Unlimited, captured third place with a 68.658%.

Katherine Bateson-Chandler (USA) and Alcazar, a 2005 Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Jane Forbes Clark, found themselves atop the leaderboard in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by The Dutta Corporation, with a score of 72.425% on Friday. Bateson-Chandler and Alcazar have been hard at work this season training with Debbie McDonald to improve their presence in the arena before heading back to England to compete in Europe this summer.

P.J. Rizvi (USA) and Breaking Dawn followed in second place with a 70.600%, while Anna Marek (USA) and Unico G collected third place honors with a 67.275%.

Allison Brock (USA) and Rosevelt put on an impressive show with a first place finish in the FEI Grand Prix Special CDI 4*, presented by Havensafe Farm. They received a score of 74.225% in Saturday's class. Lara Griffith (GBR) and Rubin Al Asad collected second place honors, receiving a 71.059%, while Lisa Wilcox (USA) and Galant earned third place with a 69.510%.

Victory in the FEI Grand Prix Special for the CDI 3*, presented by The Dutta Corporation, went to Shelly Francis (USA) and Doktor, owned by Patricia Stempel, with a score of 70.569%. Canada's Megan Lane and her own Caravella finished in second with a 69.627%, while Kasey Perry-Glass (USA) and Trostruplund's Scarlet took home third place with a 69.078%.

Leida Collins-Strijk (NED) and Zantros finished with a win in the FEI Intermediaire I Freestyle CDI 1*, presented by Mike & Roz Collins, on the final day of competition on Sunday. They scored a 73.250%. Lindsay Kellock (CAN) and Royal Prinz followed in second place with a 72.250%, while Christer Egerstrom (CRC) and Bello Oriente collected third place earning a 70.750%. ■ Carly Weilmünster



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THE AMERICAN ADVANTAGE



- 1) The Perfect Conduct Award went to Juan Matute Jr. with Dhannie Ymas, presented by Walter Bagley.
- 2) Kasey Perry-Glass and Trostruplunds Scarlet with Barbara Biernat from Horse & Rider won the Best Horse Turnout Award.
- 3) Maria Aponte with Pretty Woman was presented the FarmVet Youth Sportsmanship Award from Walter Bagley.
- 4) The Gumbits Happy Horse Harmony Award went to Allison Brock with Rosevelt, presented by Walter Bagley.
- 5) Diana Porsche with Graham Newell from N2Saddlery won the Junior/Young Rider Award.
- 6) The Kastel Denmark Best Seat Award went to Lisa Wilcox riding Gallant Reflection HU, presented by Charlotte Jorst from Kastel Denmark.

AGDF 10 SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS PHOTO GALLERY



1. Patricia Koschel (left) wins the Piaffe Performance Adult Amateur Achievement Award, presented by Katie Riley (right) of Piaffe Performance Farms.

2. Carol Cohen Presents Betsy Juliano with Global Dressage Visionary Award.

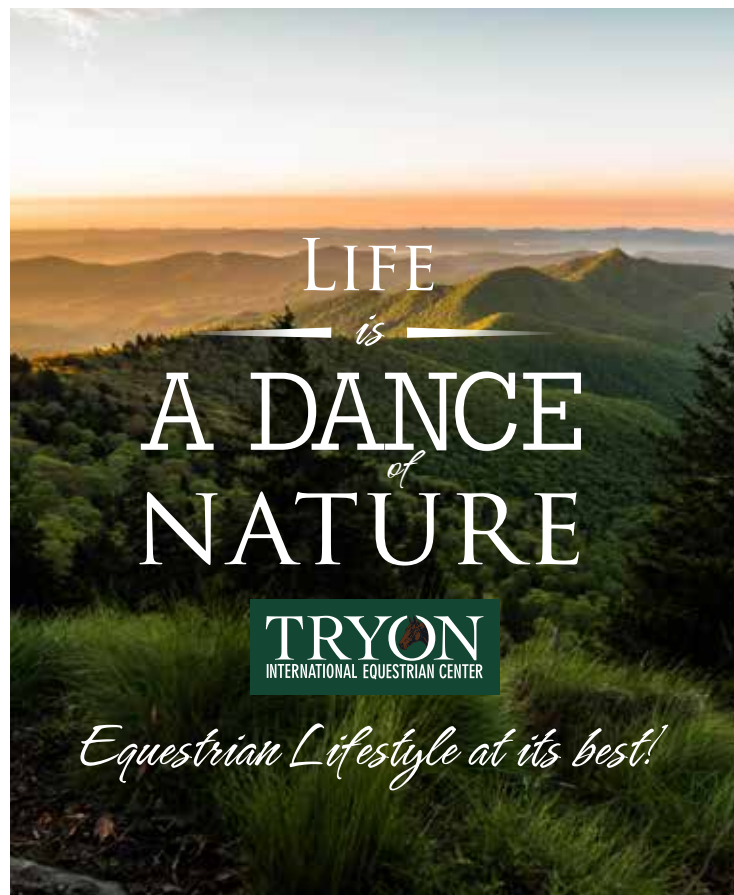
3. Evi Strasser and Rigaudon Tyme win the TheraPlate Peak Performance Award.

4. Chrissa Hoffman, riding Scrabble, wins the Everglades Dressage Rider Achievement Award.

5. Dodo Laugs and Lord D'Amour win the Vita Flex Victory Pass Award.

6. Tina Irwin Wins Neue Schule Best Hands Award.

7. Leida Collins-Strijk Wins World Equestrian Brands Tack Matters Award.



THE 2016



DRESSAGE SCHEDULE

APRIL 20-24

SPRING DRESSAGE 1 CDI 3*

JUNE 18-19

SUMMER DRESSAGE 1 LEVEL 3

AUGUST 13-14

SUMMER DRESSAGE 5 LEVEL 3

SEPTEMBER 7-11

FALL DRESSAGE 2 CDI 3*

Tryon International Equestrian Center and Tryon Resort offer spectators and competitors a wide variety of on-site lodging options, all located just steps away from facility stabling to ensure a convenient and stress-free stay. If interested in booking lodging for the 2016 Tryon Spring Series, please contact lodging@tryon.com for more information regarding weekly rates.



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Faces of AGDF: Q&A with Official Photographer Susan Stickle



Equine sports photographer Susan Stickle has been shooting professionally since 1994, covering local, regional, national, and international dressage shows and championships throughout the United States. Susan also covers dressage, eventing, and show jumping at international competitions including at the World Cup Finals, World Equestrian Games and Olympic Games. She regularly travels around the country on assignment for farm and editorial shoots.

Susan's work has been published in Dressage Today, Practical Horseman, EQUUS, USDF Connection, Equestrian Magazine, Today's Equestrian, The Chronicle of the Horse, as well as numerous other equestrian and mainstream publications, websites, and books.

Susan competed in dressage with her Thoroughbred mare, Bonnie. Some highlights of her riding career include a high-score championship at Training Level and competing through the lower levels. Her love of horses and knowledge of dressage have given her a wonderfully keen eye that is reflected in her work.

Susan and Jonna Koellhoffer have served as the official photographers of the AGDF since its inception in 2012.

Q. How long have you been photographing dressage?

A. I started shooting dressage in 1993 at ESDCTA Memorial Show at the USET in Gladstone, NJ. That was our first major show.

Q. What are your favorite movements to shoot?

A. I love shooting the half-pass and the extended trot and the pirouette. I really like

shooting all of the movements. I would say the most difficult part of shooting is the timing. Each horse travels differently, so you have to keep that in mind when you're out there.

Q. Why do you enjoy photographing at AGDF?

A. It's a beautiful facility, and it has some of the best horse and rider combinations in the world. There's nothing like shooting the top levels of competition, and that's what makes this job so fun.

Q. Where did you take your favorite photo?

A. The London Olympics was really one of my favorite places to shoot. It was an incredible atmosphere, and we got some pretty amazing shots.

Q. Why do you think the AGDF circuit is important to the sport?

A. What it offers to spectators and competitors is unmatched. It's like no other venue in the world in terms of the number of CDIs and quality of horses and rider combinations. You're not going to find a 12-week show series like this anywhere else in the world. It's been tremendous for the sport, and we're very proud and honored to be a part of it. ■