

ASHLEY HOLZER IS UNTOUCHABLE ON HAVANNA 145 IN AGDF 7 WORLD CUP CLASSES



Ashley Holzer and Havanna 145 scored a personal best to win the Grand Prix Freestyle CDIW, presented by NetJets, at AGDF 7. ©SusanJStickle.com

Ashley Holzer who, as of a year ago, represents the USA instead of her native Canada, made a clean sweep of the two FEI World Cup classes, presented by NetJets, in AGDF week seven, topping both the Grand Prix and the Freestyle on Diane Fellows' talented 11-year-old mare Havanna 145.

Their 78.2% final score was boosted by two international judges – Britain's Stephen Clarke and the judge from Luxembourg, Christoph Umbach – awarding the pair over 79%. Both their grand prix score (72.826%) and their freestyle mark represented personal bests for the duo in those tests.

Holzer's student, Canada's Brittany Fraser, climbed a place from the grand prix to finish as runner-up, and local rider Shelly Francis was third on Doktor under the rainy Wellington skies.

Although Havanna, by Hochadel, is only 11, Holzer kept some elements of her freestyle floorplan fairly simple, but still produced 19 one-time changes on a straight line, a half pirouette into extended canter, and finished with a flourishing passage zig-zag.

"People always told me that when you get a mare that's amazing, they're really amazing. I've had a few mares who weren't so amazing, so I didn't really believe them, but she has changed my mind. She's a huge trier; every day I get on and have a great ride," said Holzer, 54, who has been riding the mare for just under a year. "We're so lucky to have horses who work so hard for us even when the weather conditions are bad. Luckily the footing here is so good, you can still give it gas, no matter how wet it is."

Holzer, who found her music simply by googling "emotional uplifting music" which Tamara Williamson then crafted to fit the floorplan, continued: "The best thing about tonight was that Havanna came out after a strong performance last night and she again tried her hardest. Thomas [Baur, AGDF director of sport] saw her a year ago and told me she'd do it — and he was right. She's a good egg and she tries her hardest; every time I ask her to try harder, she says, 'OK'. It's testament to her incredible upbringing and character.

"I've been in this game long enough to be so grateful every time I win," she added. "We all know you can win one day, and then maybe not the next day. I'm just so excited to be on this mare in such great company."

Fraser rode her own and her husband Marc-Andre Beaulieu's 13-yearold All In to 75.85% – their highest ever score at the level. Fraser has had the Tango gelding since he was five, climbing the ranks together, and they have been competing at grand prix for three years.

"He's a sensitive horse so you'd think the rain would bother him, but he does not care," said Fraser, 29, who was riding to music by Joost Peters. "I had a little mistake in the twos, but each time I ride the freestyle, I get a higher score so I'm really happy about that. He's finally saying, 'OK, I know my job and I know what to do'. He's trying harder and harder."

Holzer was quick to praise her pupil's riding, saying: "That horse has huge gaits and it's taken a few years to be able to control them. The fact that she can make the collected movements so closed and then go huge in the extensions is really testament to her great riding."

Shelly Francis had to settle for third after a mistake in the changes. The Loxahatchee-based rider, who was riding to a Marlene Whitaker soundtrack and floorplan, said: "Doktor felt like he warmed up well and started off good but he doesn't like the rain; he's wimpy about that. He's a fireball and we had a little accident of miscommunication in the twos, but

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ISSUE 5

AGDF 7 FEATURES FUTURE STARS OF SPORT



Olivia LaGoy-Weltz proved unbeatable in both the Grand Prix CDI3* and Special, presented by Chesapeake Dressage Institute, with Lonoir. © SusanJStickle.com

Virginia native Olivia LaGoy-Weltz proved unbeatable in both the Grand Prix CDI3* and Special, presented by Chesapeake Dressage Institute. She po-sted a personal best of 73.319% in the latter on her own Lonoir in week seven of the 2018 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, Florida.

LaGoy-Weltz's closest challenger was fellow American Arlene 'Tuny' Page, who rode Woodstock to 70.298% despite the discomfort of a fractured heel. The Dominican Republic's Yvonne Losos de Muñiz filled third on Aquamarijn, a 13-year-old mare by United – further bolstering her successful season.

"I was happy, though it still wasn't perfectly clean," said Lagoy-Weltz, refer-ring to a mistake at the beginning of the two-tempis in the special, which re-sulted in fours and fives from the seven judges. "It's awesome that we're still climbing up the scores despite that. It's all in there; it's a question of me learning how to put it together and us finding the right recipe of power and containment. We're at a point where I need to show; I can get the changes at home, but I need to keep riding it better in tests and he needs to under-stand the difference between the two tests and find his relaxation and stay on the aids."

LaGoy-Weltz found Lonoir, a 14-year-old Danish warmblood gelding by De Noir, when he was a seven-year-old at Danish Olympian

March 1-4, 2018

Andreas Helgstrand's barn in Denmark while on a trip predominantly looking for sales horses with her

mark while on a trip predominantly looking for sales horses with her former boss, Kathy Priest. "We were also looking for some-

thing for me to bring on and I didn't have a big budget," said LaGoy-Weltz, who now trains with Debbie McDonald and is based in Wellington for the season. "Kathy helped me buy him as he was more than I could afford. We got him home and he's always been a kind horse, but he's very sensitive to pressure and can get claustrophobic. He just needed to chill. Andreas and I have exchanged emails laughing about how far 'Lono' has come when nobody really expected that; it's wonderful."

The rider from Virginia praised the AGDF circuit, adding: "It's fabulous. In Europe they have the indoor circuit, and things keep going year-round. For us, this is our circuit and gives us the opportunity to keep going in week after week. And it can be a challenging arena – like Aachen or Rotterdam – it's not just a quiet arena that we go to week after week and think we're really going great and then go to these huge venues and get a shock. There are so many shows here and it's a fantastic opportunity for us."

LaGoy-Weltz hopes to make it onto the list of eight American riders who will be invited to Europe for the summer to campaign for a place on the FEI World Equestrian Games team. Her next show with Lonoir will be the CDI4*, taking place at PBIEC on March 15-18.

Heather Blitz (USA) and Diane Creech (CAN) split the spoils in the three small tour CDI3* classes, with Blitz claiming the prix st georges and intermediaire I straight classes, and Creech leading the freestyle after twice finishing runner-up. Melissa Taylor (Ansgar) rose from 10th in the PSG to third in the inter I, and second in the freestyle. Jennifer Baumert (USA) finished third in the freestyle on Elizabeth 'Betsy' Juliano's horse Handsome.

Creech, who rode Louise Leatherdale's 15-year-old by Rubin Royal to a compilation by Karen Robinson, said: "He was so great in the freestyle; he enjoys the music so much. Robbie has the best character – he talks in his sleep – and he thinks every

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PBIEC WEEK 8 UPCOMING EVENTS

MASTER CLASS WITH CARL HESTER, MBE

One of the most decorated dressage Olympians of all time, Carl Hester, MBE will give a Master Class at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (13500 South Shore Blvd.) on Wednesday, February 28, from 5-8 p.m. Observe the master skill as Carl works with three different groups of riders throughout the evening's event. Enhance your experience with VIP seating, which includes buffet dinner, open bar, and valet parking for \$300. Purchase tickets online at www.GlobalDressageFestival.com. General admission is \$30 per person and parking is \$10 on a first come first served basis

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, March 1, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club. The topic is "Feeding Quality Forage to the Performance Horse and Replacing Electrolytes and Amino Acids, What and How, with Donald Kapper" and presented by Gold Coast Feed. This informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses and businesses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. Contact Kailey Blasius at 561-784-1137 or kblasius@ equestriansport.com for more information.

\$35.000 EOUINIMITY WEF CHALLENGE CUP **ROUND 8**

The \$35,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Cup Round 8 will highlight action in the International Arena on Thursday morning, March 1, in the International Arena. General admission and parking are free.

WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION

Each year the WEF Sport Horse Auction offers an exclusive opportunity for individuals to acquire the next generation of top champions from VDL Stud. Riders, owners, and trainers have the ability to purchase their next star in an exciting live auction atmosphere. The 2018 edition of the WEF Sport Horse Auction is set to take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, at Equestrian Village at PBIEC (Home of the Adequan Global Dressage Festival - 13500 South Shore Blvd.). General admission is free. For more information on the WEF Sport Horse



TUESDAY, MARCH 6 2-4:30 PM

VAN KAMPEN COVERED ARENA AT AGDF SHOW GROUNDS \$100 per rider per clinic. **AUDITING IS FREE.**

inichols@equestriansport.com

Auction please visit www.WefSportHorseAuction. com or www.facebook.com/WEFSportHorseAuction

ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL "FRIDAY NIGHT STARS"

AGDF's "Friday Night Stars" Series showcases some of the world's best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The fourth week of CDI-W competition of the season will feature grand prix musical freestyle competition, sponsored by U.S. Trust & Bank of America Merrill Lynch on Friday, March 2. Held at Equestrian Village (13500 South Shore Blvd.) in the Global International Arena, gates open at 6 p.m. and competition begins at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$10/car.

\$35,000 HERMÈS UNDER 25 SEMI-FINAL **GRAND PRIX**

The popular Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series will hold its \$35,000 Semi-Final Grand Prix on Friday, March 2. at 7 p.m. in the WEF International Arena. Watch some of the best young talent in the world go head to head. General admission and parking are

"MEET A MENTOR" WITH KAREN POLLE FOR GIVE BACK FOR SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS

Give Back for Special Equestrians and Give Back Young Ambassadors invite you to their first "Meet a Mentor," featuring a discussion with international show jumper Karen Polle. Held at the Special Events Pavilion on March 3 from 3-5 p.m., tickets are \$20 at the door and all proceeds to benefit Give Back. All proceeds raised will help to provide therapeutic riding scholarships to children and veterans with physical, developmental, or emotional disabilities. For more information, visit www.giveabuckeg.org or contact Heather Kuhl at 305-989-0497 or heather@ giveabuckeq.org.

"SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" - \$150,000 FEI NATIONS' CUP CSIO 4* PRESENTED BY U.S. **TRUST & BANK OF AMERICA MERRILL LYNCH** Which country will you be cheering for? The

\$150,000 FEI Nations' Cup CSIO 4* presented by U.S. Trust & Bank of

America Merrill Lynch will be the featured class during "Saturday Night Lights" in the International Arena on Saturday, March 3, at 7 p.m. This alwaysexciting team competition features national pride as spectators cheer on their favorite country to win. Admission is free and parking is \$20/car with \$30 valet available.

THE VEUVE CLICQUOT SUITES – AVAILABLE SATURDAY NIGHT

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are available on Saturday, March 3. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family or even a corporate get-together. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@equestriansport.com today.

\$205,000 GRAND PRIX CSIO 4* PRESENTED **BY LUGANO DIAMONDS**

The \$205.000 Grand Prix CSIO 4* presented by Lugano Diamonds will take place as the jumper feature on Sunday, March 4. It will be held at 1 p.m. in the International Arena with the best riders challenging epic courses for top prize money. General admission and parking are free.

RIDE & LEARN WITH KEN SMITH

Looking ahead to WEF 9! The Ride & Learn Series will take place six times during WEF in 2018. Each week will feature a mounted riding clinic instructed by highly esteemed industry professionals. Week 9 features equitation with Ken Smith at the Van Kampen Covered Arena at Equestrian Village at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds - 13500 South Shore Blvd.) on Tuesday, March 6, at 2 p.m. Participation to ride in the clinic is \$100 per horse/rider per clinic, so sign up today! Auditing is Free. For more information or to sign up for a clinic, please contact Jessica Nichols at 561-784-4275 or inichols@ equestriansport.com.

INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB H A P P E N I N G S

at IPC. The C.V. Whitney Cup begins Goldmund and the IPC Gift Shop. on Wednesday and continues with matches on Thursday and culminates on Sunday. The Iglehart Cup also begins this week on Wednesday and continues into March, with the final being held on Wednesday, March 14. The C.V. Whitney Tournament will see four total teams in the first 26-goal series of the season, and the Iglehart Cup is set with a total of six teams.

Last Sunday at IPC, guests enjoyed an exciting contest during halftime. During which four lucky winners received gift certificates from the Four Seasons resort Palm Beach. In the pavilion, guests were able to enter an exclusive ticket giveaway for the Veuve Clicquot Carnaval event which will take place in Miami. FL on March 10.

If you visit IPC this Sudnay be sure to check out all the new shopping vendors available to guests. Socapri and Michelle Farmer Collaborative will be open throughout the day

This week starts a new tournament behind the grand stand as well as

Brunch will be served in the Veuve Clicquot Pavilion and at The Coco Polo Lounge sponsored by Seminole Casino Coconut Creek Both locations have a delicious variety of food and cocktails. Guests in the Lounge will also receive exclusive swag bags from specialty retailers. Tickets for the Pavilion can be purchased online at www. internationalpoloclub.com.

General admission seating is available and can be reserved online or purchased upon arrival on Sunday. With general admission, visitors can access several food trucks, cash bars, and multiple seating options. Parking at IPC is \$5.

The Polo season at IPC, which began on December 31, continues through Sunday, April 22, and will once again be home to the U.S. Open Championship Finals, North America's most prestigious polo tournament.

To purchase tickets to Sunday polo and brunch at The Pavilion. visit internationalpoloclub com



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Included in your ticket is a full buffet and open bar for \$150.00 per person for a regular show and \$200.00 per person for a 5 * show Specialty Bottle Pricing Available for Veuve Clicquot. The Suites are available for the following Saturday Night Lights Events:

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For more information and booking please e-mail suites@equestriansport.com

WEEK 7 WRAP UP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

human he interacts with is a nice human. He lives in his own little happy bubble because nothing bad has ever happened to him. He's so laid-back yet so consistent and really loves his job. Grand-mothers could go out hacking on him. We call him Perfect Robbie; he's so much fun to have."

Canada's Brittany Fraser added to her ribbon and blanket count with her second small tour win of the week on Jill Irving's Soccer City in the Interme-diate I CDI1*. The pair was the unanimous winners, finishing on 70.971% - the only plus-70% score in the 11-strong class.

Irving, who bought the chestnut gelding by Sir Donnerhall x Weltmeyer at the 2010 PSI Auction in Germany for a hammer price of 250,000 (around \$300,000 USD), has handed the ride to her friend and compatriot while she concentrates on her two actively-competing grand prix horses, Degas 12 and Arthur.

Alice Collins



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Fourth Annual Palm Beach Dressage Derby Exhibition on Friday Night



Last year's Palm Beach Dressage Derby Exhibition Class winner Christoph Koschel riding Wrazzmatazz. © SusanJStickle.com

Week eight of the Adeguan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) runs March 1-4 and features the Palm Beach Dressage Derby CDI-W at Equestrian Village at the Palm Beach

International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL. The Palm Beach Dressage Derby exhibition, presented by Yeguada de Ymas, features riders competing at Small Tour level with unfamiliar horses to see who can ride to the best score.

"We look forward to hosting the Palm Beach Dressage Derby class at AGDF again this year," said Thomas Baur, AGDF Director of Sport. "It's a unique way to show the fantastic skills of these international-level riders, and spectators will enjoy seeing them figure out how to ride a new horse in the show ring."

The fourth annual Palm Beach Dressage Derby Exhibition Class, presented by Yequada de Ymas, will start on Thursday with a Prix St. Georges class, where derby horses will compete with their regular riders for familiarization. The horses include Ghandi, ridden by Soeren Wind; Lyra, with Lauren Chumley; and Fausto, ridden by Karen Pavicic.

The semi-final classes will be held on Friday afternoon, while the final round of competition Georges test before a panel of three judges. will take place during the intermission of the Friday evening FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by U.S. Trust & Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The 2018 competitors include defending champion Christoph Koschel (GER), Juan Matute Guimon (ESP), Olivia LaGoy-Weltz (USA), and Brittany Fraser (CAN).

Past winners of the Palm Beach Dressage Derby Exhibition Class include:

2015 – ADRIENNE LYLE

2016 – CHRIS VON MARTELS

2017 – CHRISTOPH KOSCHEL

Riders will draw to see who competes against whom and will also draw for the mounts on which they will compete. The Derby is an educational yet entertaining way to test riders' skills on a larger scale, but also in an engaging and competitive atmosphere.

Last year, Koschel and Mikala Munter (DEN) went head-to-head in the final round of competition riding Wrazzmatazz, but Koschel ultimately came out on top. Each rider is given a five-minute familiarization period with each of their rides, prior to riding an FEI Prix St.

WORLD CUP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he was really trying. He's a good little horse and we've had a long road together.

Both American riders are hoping to be on the eight-strong squad making the trip over to Europe to pit themselves against the world's best riders ahead of selection for the FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon, North Carolina, in September of this year.

Allyn Mann of circuit title sponsor Adequan® was one of many to praise the AGDF venue, saying: "It's exciting to be part of this and on the journey. The whole team here does the most wonderful job so that we can all turn up when the conditions are less than ideal and still see some wonderful dressage."



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Sponsor Awards Week 7



The Horse of Course High Score Award went to All Polasky and Flash Dance.



Shelly Van Den Neste and The Governor SRF, winners of the Vita Flex Victory Pass Award during Week 7.



GK Elite Sport Horse Award Winner Amanda Lopez.



Brittany Fraser and Soccer City received the Triple Crown Excellence Award during Week 7.





Oliva LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir, winners of the Vetrolin Grooming Award during week 7.



Genay Vaughn and Donarweiss GGF receive the Transformer Sporthorse of the Week Award during week 7.



Laura Graves and Verdades, Winners of the Horse of Course High Score Award during Week 5.



Nicho Meredith, Winner of the Premier Equestrian Award during Week 7.





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FACES OF AGDF: Juan Matute

At just 20 years old and already with a place on the FEI rider rankings' top 100, Spain's emerging superstar is in the enviable and unusual position of being able to choose between gunning for a place on junior teams or for the Spanish senior team for the FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon in September. The self-confessed perfectionist — who is following in the hallowed footsteps of his father Juan Matute Guimon Senior, a three-time dressage Olympian for Spain — splits his time between Spain and Wellington with his team of talented horses.

WHERE IS HOME FOR YOU AND WHAT IS IT LIKE?

Home will always be Madrid, but Wellington also feels like home now. We spend half of the year in the U.S., and the other half in Europe. WHEN DID YOU LAST FALL OFF?

way CAREER

I've had the privilege of having multiple memorable riding experiences throughout my career so far. However, one of my HORSES? If I were not involved with equestrian sport, I would focus favorites is last year in the under-25 Lövsta Future Challenge in Gothenburg, Śweden, during the senior European Cham-pionships. Quantico Ymas and I won both days and scored a entirely on the entrepreneurial side of the business world. **DO YOU TRAIN MANY PEOPLE?** personal best of 78% in the under-25 Grand Prix Freestyle. At the moment I'm only focusing on my studies and on my own development as a rider. However, in the coming years, WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER

RECEIVED? Be patient, passionate, and stay true to your values.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO RIDING?

My father's professional riding career and the many trips we took as a family to support him throughout Europe ignited a spark in me to follow in his footsteps.

Qoo

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Patty Scott

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jumping and then switched to cross-country. I did not start riding dressage until we moved to the U.S. in 2008.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

I enjoy traveling to new cities and learning about different cultures and their traditions. However, my favorite holiday destination is in Spain. My family has been going for vacation that I always put my right boot on first! to a small town in Alicante for a very long time and I love it

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PONY?

My sister and I shared our first pony. We competed in

Sunday March 18TH 2018 **American Equestrians Got Talent** Presents One Night Only Battle of the Finalists

6:00 PM- Cocktails 6:30 PM- Dinner 7:00 PM - Show

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DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

I start riding at 8:30 a.m. and usually finish by 2 p.m. I grab a bite and then begin schoolwork. Once I'm finished, I work out at the gym, eat dinner, and jump into bed.

DESCRIBE A MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Beans. They're a great source of protein.

WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO MOST IN THE DRESSAGE WORLD?

My father is a huge reference to me. However, I'm a big fan of Isabell Werth, Carl Hester, Patrik Kittel, Edward Gal, and Hans-Peter Minderhoud.

DO YOU HAVE A MANTRA?

In it to win it.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPERSTITIONS?

A few, but I try not to let them influence me. I must admit

HAVE YOU HAD ANY EMBARRASSING MOMENTS WHILE COMPETING?

Many... but you live and learn. I do not regret any of them, because they've proven to be valuable lessons

DO YOU HAVE ANY SECRET INDULGENCES? I enjoy celebrating my victories with my close family and friends. A little party never killed anybody ;)

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HORSE? IF SO, WHY?

WHEN DID YOU LAST FALL OFF? Don Diego Ymas is the horse with whom I've shared the greatest experiences. He has gifted me with the opportunity to advance and grow since I was very young. Together we've risen through the ranks in a short period of time, from junior level to representing Spain at the CHIO5* in Aachen.

WHAT CAREER WOULD YOU HAVE PURSUED IF NOT

my goal is to be engaged in the business side of the sport. Once I've completed my business degree, I'd like to combine my riding career with other business aspirations.

HOW MANY SHOWS DO YOU GO TO EVERY YEAR?

I don't keep exact track of how many shows I perform in every year, but I compete quite often. This year it's a bit different though, because my horses are older and more experienced, therefore, they don't need as much competition mileade.

WHO ORGANIZES YOUR HORSES' TRAVEL AROUND **THE WORLD?**

I am very fortunate to work with a great team of professionals. Lisa Trapitt, specifically, is in charge of the management of our team.

WHAT CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT? My family, friends, and horses









AGDF WEEKLY SCHEDULE

March 1-4: AGDF 8

Palm Beach Dressage Derby - Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by U.S. Trust & Bank of America Merrill Lynch Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Peacock Ridge | Small Tour CDI 3* | Small Tour CDI 1* Schedule includes National Show

March 10-11: AGDF 9 National Show

March 15-18: AGDF 10

Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 4*, presented by Havensafe Farm Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 4*, presented by Mission Control Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by The Dutta Corp Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3* | Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by CaptiveOne Advisors | Small Tour CDI 1*, presented by Horseware Ireland Schedule includes National Show and Florida International Dressage Youth Championships

> March 24-25: AGDF 11 National Show

March 28-31: AGDF 12

Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup CDIO 3* Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by Harmony Sporthorses | Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Grand Prix Services | Small Tour CDI 3*, presented by Yellow Bird Farm Small Tour CDI 1* | CDIO U25, presented by Diamante Farms | Schedule includes National Show

**Tentative schedule, subject to change. Dates are actual competition days.



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