



## OLIVIA LAGOY-WELTZ SCOOPS DOUBLE VICTORY AT RECORD-BREAKING AGDF 10



Olivia LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir won the Grand Prix Freestyle CDI4\*, presented by Havensafe Farm, in AGDF 10. ©SusanJStickle.com

Olivia LaGoy-Weltz (USA) and Lonoir chalked up their fourth and fifth wins from six starts at the 2018 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) by taking the Grand Prix and Freestyle CDI4\* classes, presented by Havensafe Farm. Week 10's CDI which was the largest dressage show ever held out-side Western Europe.

Their resounding 76.6% was a personal best for the pair, whose previous high freestyle score was 74.425%, achieved in Aachen in July 2017.

"I was really happy with him, especially as he was epically airborne last time we were in this setting, so I'm thrilled we kept our feet on the ground," said LaGoy-Weltz of her own 14-year-old Danish warmblood gelding by Le Noir. "When he's waiting for me and on the same page, it's a pretty cool feeling and there's a lot available there – even more than we're showing now."

LaGoy-Weltz upgraded her music last year, adapting an existing small tour freestyle soundtrack.

"We hadn't used it a whole lot, so I asked Terri [Gallo] if we could grow it. I like the music – it's called 'Ain't Misbehaving', which is somewhat fitting. Though we are working on something new as he's a much 'bigger' horse now, it seemed to work for tonight, so we're not in a huge hurry," she add-ed. "This one is not overly complicated as it was designed as a starter one, so we'll have more challenging stuff in the next one. And we'll highlight the flow and power

that he's so good at."

Arlene 'Tuny' Page finished second in the freestyle on her own Woodstock (75%), with Spain's Juan Matute, 20, who filled third on his father's horse, Don Diego Ymas.

Judge Janet Foy, who was presiding from C, said: "Having judged these guys over the season, there has been so much improvement. It's really exciting to be able to sit there as judges and give eights and nines."

Freestyle Friday was extra emotional as Canada's long-time, much loved combination of Jacqueline Brooks and D Niro (AKA Goose) bowed out of competition at AGDF, taking their final salute at the venue, to a standing ovation.

In the four-star grand prix to qualify for the special, Canada Brittany Fraser came out on top riding her own All In, though the USA's Shelly Francis was just 0.1% behind on Patricia Stempel's Danilo. Francis emerged triumphant when the two clashed again, in the special, riding to a personal best score of 73.979%.

"When you're really riding and pushing a bit and trying to make everything perfect, you kind of feel it's not your best ride because you're sweating more than the horse," said the Loxahatchee-based rider. "But he did feel good; I just have to relax a little and trust him."

Francis has been riding Patricia Stempel's 14-year-old gelding since he was eight.

"He used to get nervous in the ring about being by himself, but now he's starting to enjoy it and he feels happier," added Francis, 59, who will take both Danilo and Doktor to Europe for the summer season.

The German-born Beatrice 'Trixi' Marienau, who rides for the USA, secured back-to-back wins, winning both the CDI3\* grand prix and freestyle classes, presented by The Dutta Corporation. She was riding her own 19-year-old Gribaldi gelding Stefano 8 to 72.1% in the freestyle – the only plus-70% of the class.

The 47-year-old was a showjumper, then a cowgirl, before finally turning to dressage.

"Fino is a firecracker, and I

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## TOP ENTRIES COMPETE AT AGDF 11 NATIONAL SHOW



David Marcus (CAN) and Dean Martin won the grand prix during the AGDF 11 National Show. © SusanJStickle.com

The 2018 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival continued with a national horse show on March 24-25 at Equestrian Village at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, and top entries competed for impressive scores.

Horses procured through Danish Olympian Andreas Helgstrand on opposite sides of the planet converged on the AGDF show grounds to showcase their burgeoning talent.

2012 London Olympic Games rider David Marcus of Canada won Saturday's grand prix with 69.348% on his own 10-year-old Dimaggio gelding, Dean Martin. This was the horse's third grand prix and he is undefeated to date.

"I purchased the horse this past summer at Helgstrand's in Denmark, so it's a fairly new partnership," said the Wellington-based rider. "He'd only been there a few days – he'd been trained and competed by a rider from Luxembourg – and I felt he was a really complete horse in general, with a very good work ethic and three really good gaits. He knew the grand prix work, but he wasn't really a confirmed grand prix horse yet."

Marcus has spent the summer gelling with the chestnut gelding and consolidating the grand prix work, with help from his husband Nicholas Fyffe and local trainer Oded Shimoni.

"Dean is very green still and needs to build strength, but I was really happy with how hard he tried this weekend," added Marcus. "Seeing

as I've had him for such a short time, he was the best he could be for this stage of his training. This was only his second show, and he's handled both competitions perfectly and feels the same at competitions as he does at home."

Another Helgstrand horse – this one bought out of Helgstrand's new sales barn in Wellington – breezed to victory in Saturday's 17-strong prix st georges class. Australian rider Kelly Layne piloted John McGinty's gigantic Blue Hors Romanov gelding Brizard to a clear 73.235% win.

"We had been searching for a horse for John for a long time," said Layne. "He's 6'4", so it was hard to find a horse big enough but good enough to be competitive, and Brizard is 18 hands at a minimum, but so light and sensitive to the aids. I worried that the eight-meter circles might be a problem for him, but he's so supple everywhere that they were easy for him."

Layne is accustomed to big horses, having competed the tall Udon P.

"Brizard is very experienced in the small tour in Europe, but I took him out for his debut here in Wellington so I can help John better by understanding what the horse is like in competition," said Layne, whose barn is so close to AGDF that she hacked to and from the venue. "He was wonderful; [he was] on the aids and powerful, but waiting for me the whole time. He absolutely did the job exactly as you'd want, and we were thrilled with him. In fact, if

➔ Continued on page 7



When you walk around any horse show riders talk about their teacher or trainer. "Who is your trainer?" But at Vinceremos horses are the trainers, they are the teachers. The Vinceremos horses have been teaching riders new skills for 36 years. These riders have physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities and they learn equestrian, social and life skills during their time at Vinceremos. But seriously, how are horses teachers?

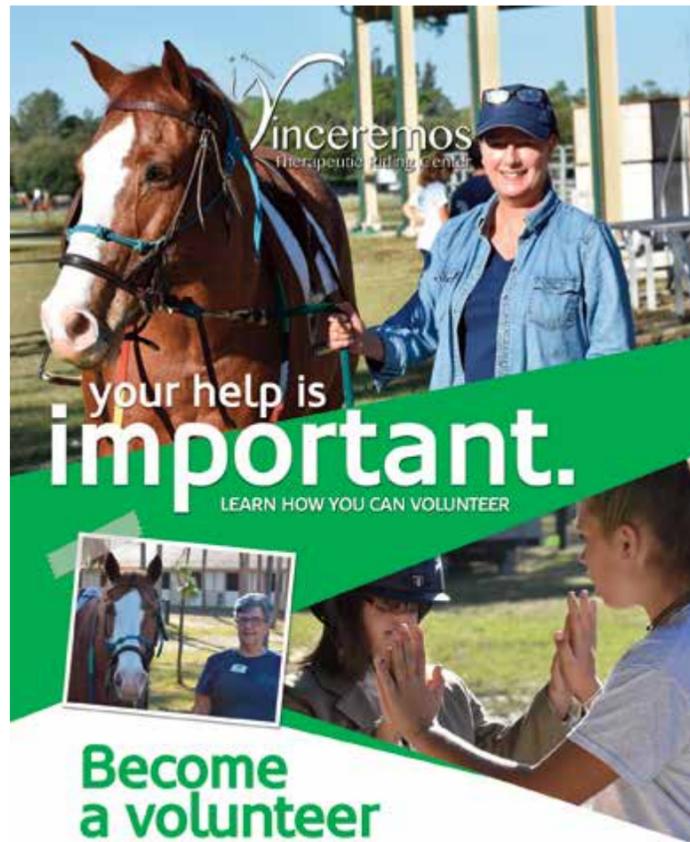
A group of children with intellectual challenges arrives at the center every Tuesday. Most of them have never seen a real horse. Maybe they have seen one on TV, but they have never been toe to hoof or felt the warm breath of a horse on their neck. Their first visit is intimidating, these are some big animals! But the horses are gentle, patient and curious. Soon the students start to reach out and touch the nose of the neck of their equine teacher. They are learning trust. In no time they are brushing the horse and moving more freely around their equine partner, they are learning confidence. These horses are great teachers.

The veterans arrive later for their equine activities. These men and women have gone to war, fought for our freedom and are now tormented by those experiences. After a few lessons they are less anxious and apprehensive. One gentleman grabs the grooming bucket and heads towards the big bay in the back stall. "Where are you going," we ask? "I'm going to see my yogi, Joey, he is teaching me to relax." Joey stands quietly, breathing deeply, he is self regulating and his relaxed manner teaches our soldier how to do the same, both at the farm and at home. The other riders have tacked

up their horses and are headed down to the arena for their lesson. They are leading their horses through an alley lined with straw bales. Atop each bale are carrots and apples. As the first horse heads down the alley, he pulls his leader to the apples and then drags him to the carrots. The second team begins their walk with the same result he has, each temptation is stronger than the other. These horses are teaching their students the importance of avoiding temptations and making healthy choices on where they spend their time. These horses are great teachers.

A mother stands at the rail watching her son ride his favorite pony. She knows this is her son's favorite pony because his smile is ear to ear. The horse moves along with rhythmic cadence, the child is rocking back and forth. The rocking motion builds core strength and balance. This horse is teaching this pupil to walk! The movement our pelvis makes when we sit on a horse is the same movement that we make with our legs when we are walking. The child who experiences this movement will soon have the confidence and coordination to try his first steps. But this horse is also teaching the mother to see the potential in her son.

Horses have all of the attributes of a great teacher or trainer. They are patient and support you when you practice the same skill day after day. Like your favorite teacher, horses impact our lives for a long time. They inspire us to try harder and do our best. Vinceremos horses are great teachers in their own way. So see your horses as a teacher and show your thanks with the favorite gift of all teachers; a perfect red apple!



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## PBIEC WEEK 11 UPCOMING EVENTS

### LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, March 29, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Wellington Club. The presentation is titled "Feeding to Perform: Prevent the Slow Leak with Dr. Ken Kopp DCM" and is sponsored by Triple Crown Nutrition and Kemin, Inc. Dr. Kopp will present new research and nutritional approaches toward improved health and performance. If your horses have had any of the following: drop in performance, chronic ulcers, allergies, insulin resistance, poor appetite, poor hair coat, cranky behavior, come and learn about a common condition linking these together. Best of all, you will learn of novel nutritional technology now available to help you help your horse. The program will include a short introduction by Rob Daugherty, Owner & Founder of Triple Crown Nutrition. 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.

### \$132,000 EQUINIMITY WEF CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 12

The \$132,000 Equinimity WEF Challenge Cup Round 12 will be featured in the International Arena on Thursday, March 29. General admission and parking are free.

### "FRIDAY NIGHT STARS" – VINCEREMOS THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER FEI NATIONS CUP™ CDI03\* AT AGDF

The final week of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival at Equestrian Village will feature some of the best competition of the season as riders

represent their countries in the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center FEI Nations Cup™ CDI03\*. Who will stand on the podium for the final "Friday Night Stars" FEI Grand Prix Freestyle, presented by Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center, on Friday, March 30? Come watch the finest dressage competition in North America to find out! General admission is free the whole week, parking is \$10/car on Friday night.

### "SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" – \$500,000 ROLEX GRAND PRIX CSI5\*

The \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI5\* will be the featured class during "Saturday Night Lights" in the International Arena on Saturday, March 31, at 7:45 p.m. The peak event of the season will feature some of the world's top horse and riders competing over the biggest jumps after having competed all circuit to qualify. 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 31. 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.

### JUMP FOR HOMESAFE

At the 8th Annual Jump For HomeSafe party, enjoy premier, air-conditioned, ringside seating for the final competition of the WEF Saturday Night Lights Series – The \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5\*. The party takes place on Saturday, March 31, at 7 p.m. and includes a cocktail hour, buffet dinner, open bar and silent auction. Join party chairman and local rider Emma Heise for a great night of fun all to help HomeSafe – a local agency providing hope and healing for victims of child abuse and domestic violence. Tickets are \$125 for adults, \$25 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets, visit HelpHomeSafe.org/Jump.

### \$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 on Saturday, March 31, and the top 25 move on to compete in the second round on the Derby Field at Equestrian Village on Sunday, April 1, 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 one of the final events of the 2018 WEF! General admission and parking are free.

### \$50,000 WANDERERS CLUB GRAND PRIX CSI2\*

The \$50,000 Wanderers Club Grand Prix CSI 2\* is the jumper feature on Sunday, April 1. It will be followed by the \$50,000 CP National Grand Prix at 1 p.m. General admission and parking are free.



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## INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB HAPPENINGS

The final of the USPA Gold Cup® is this Sunday at IPC, coinciding with our Easter celebration. The teams will be determined after Wednesday's semifinals. Join us at 2pm for the exciting kid's Easter Egg Hunt on Field 1 before the 3pm match. The Hunt is open to the public, with a \$10 general admission charge for those over 12 years old.

Last Sunday, the next USPA Gold Cup® match occurred between Colorado and Audi. It was a very close game until the last chukker, when MVP Tomas Garcia del Rio scored the winning goal. The final score was 11-10 in favor of Colorado.

If you visit IPC this Sunday be sure to stop by the exclusive shopping vendors! Visit Michelle Farmer Collaborative for some fun and sophisticated beach and Polo outfits. Or stop by the IPC Retail Shop to pick out your favorite IPC memorabilia. All vendors are located behind the grand stand.

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 will feature a special Easter Sunday dessert spread. Tickets for the Pavilion can be purchased online at [www.internationalpoloclub.com](http://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](http://internationalpoloclub.com).

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

*All the best for the 2018 season!*

## WEEK 11 NATIONAL WRAP UP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

anything, he was more sensitive in there than in training, which means I can be very light with my riding."

Since the sale of Udon P and her other grand prix horse, Layne is relishing the opportunity of having a quality small tour horse, though she will shortly hand over the competitive reins to McGinty.

It was an emotional win for Krystal Shingler (CAN) in Sunday's grand prix, as this was her first show since the death of her mother less than a month earlier.

Her horse, the 10-year-old Fidelio by Fidertanz, is the first she has trained up to grand prix herself and this was their fourth ever grand prix. They won with 70.543% – the only plus-70% of the class.

"I got him in Germany as a coming five-year-old and he was a bit of a wild child," recalled Shingler, who is originally from Toronto but is now a Wellington resident. "My trainer Kevin [Kohmann, of Diamante Farms] and I brought him up to the grand prix – though there were times that we nearly got rid of him because he was very difficult and liked to bolt. We soon realized that he's a worker bee and needs to be busy. He said, 'No thank you' to most of the lower level stuff but, as it's got harder, he feels more and more like it's where he should be."

Shingler, who works for the equestrian boutique Show Chic and fits riding and competing around her job, added: "My whole weekend was emotional and I got in my own head a bit because it was my first show without my mum. But I could feel that she was with me on my shoulder the whole time; it felt incredible. I'm just so glad that she got to see our first grand prix in February before she passed away."

Fidelio – just like David Marcus's Dean Martin – will now continue his training over the summer with the aim being in the CDI ring at AGDF next winter season.

The 2018 AGDF season wraps up with the final week of competition on March 27-31 with the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center FEI Nations Cup CDI03\* competition and a week full of CDI classes.

 Alice Collins

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# Young Riders Awarded at Florida International Youth Dressage Championships



Natalia Bacariza rode Dhannie Ymas to the Junior and Overall wins at the 2018 Florida International Youth Dressage Championships. © SusanJStickle.com

The sixth annual Florida International Youth Dressage Championships (FIYDC) were the highlight of competition on the final day of AGDF week 10. Sponsored by Terri Kane, Hampton Green Farm, Sarah Davis, USEF Owners' Dressage Task Force and Dressage 4Kids – the five youth divisions featured competition for riders in the Under-25, Young Rider, Junior, Children and Pony divisions. It offers aspiring young dressage talent the chance to showcase their talent at one of the world's most high-profile shows.

The overall trophy, for the highest average score, was awarded to 16-year-old Natalia Bacariza from Spain. She beat six other Junior riders, winning all three of her classes with over 71% on the Yeguada de Ymas's 11-year-old Don Crusador gelding, Dhannie Ymas – former ride of her trainer Juan Matute Guimon and his kūr gold medal-winning 2015 Junior European Championships partner.

"I am super happy about winning; I've wanted this for a very long time and I'm really happy that we finally did it," said Bacariza, who is from Madrid and is the daughter of Cristina Danguillecourt and Javier Bacariza, owners of the Yeguada de Ymas. "I've been riding Dhannie for three months. He was ridden by Juan before, so he already knows his job, but you still have to ride him and not make any mistakes. Our best test was the individual [71.716%] and I'm very excited about our journey together."

"Our highlights were probably the changes and the trot work. We're finished with the Wellington season now and then we're going to be competing in Europe – first in Spain then Germany and maybe France," added the teenager, who has big career aspirations. "I hope to improve my riding and continue my career in dressage and hopefully become another big champion."

It was another win for Spain in the Under-25 division, with Rodrigo Encinas Fuentes and Dr. Cesar Parra's 16-year-old Obelisk gelding Van The Man leading the field of 10 entrants.

"I was very happy with the horse; I felt he was truly with me and gave 100%," said the 22-year-old Madrid native, who was competing at AGDF

for the first time. "There are of course still some things I could improve, as always, but I'm truly happy with his attitude and he's getting better test after test. This result means a lot. Just to compete at this level is great, but to win is better! I work really hard to get the opportunities to accomplish my goals and I'm really far from home."

Canada's Beatrice Boucher came out on top of the 17 competitors in the Young Rider division. Riding Gilles Bergeron's 15-year-old Del Piero gelding Delfiano, she averaged 69.415% across the three tests.

"I've only been riding him for a year but he's such a puppy dog and always in your pocket – he's so nice to be around. He's never negative, he's always your team mate and gives his best all the time," said the 20-year-old from Quebec.

The youngest division winner came in the form of 13-year-old Tori Belles from Pennsylvania riding PJ Rizvi's pony Prince Z to an average score of 67.498%.

"I've been riding him for a month," she said. "He's been to the European Championships and it's a privilege from PJ Rizvi to show and compete him. He gives you the best feeling ever and supports you – even if you have a little mistake."

The final winner was another to hail from Canada. Lily-Rose Lemaire, 14, rode the former broodmare World Lady, 18, to the Children's title.

"My horse was with me and I think it's my best ride with her," said Lemaire, who only took up riding three years ago and began the partnership with World Lady six months ago. "This was my first CDI in Wellington as I had only done national shows before."

Sponsor Terri Kane of Diamante Farms, who sponsors the under-25 division throughout AGDF and supports FIYDC, said: "This is the future of dressage and if these kids aren't out there competing, then our sport will die. It's very important for people in the dressage community to show that we support them and that we care."

Alice Collins



Lily-Rose Lemaire (CAN) and World Lady won the Children's division.

# Florida International Youth Dressage Championships Photos



Tori Belles (USA) and Prince Z won a strong Pony division at FIYDC.



The Young Rider division win over 16 other competitors went to Beatrice Boucher of Canada riding Delfiano.



The victory in the Under 25 division went to Spain's Rodrigo Encinas Fuentes and Van the Man.

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# Sponsor Awards at ADGF 10



Adrienne Lyle and Horizon were the winners of the Custom Saddlery Most Valuable Rider Award.



The Vita Flex Victory Pass winner was Jennifer Benoit and Dorada.



The Triple Crown Nutrition Award winner Rodrigo Encinas Fuentes and Van the Man.



Scott Hassler and Harmony's Gold were the winners of the Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award.



The Horse of Course High Score Award presented by Beth Haist to the winner Leida Collins-Strijk who rode Douglas.



The Transformer Sport Horse of the Week went to Janne Rumbough and Armas Zumbel.



Laurie Diamond and Starlight were the winners of the GK Elite Sport Adult Amateur Award.



The Vetrolin Grooming Award winner Devon Kane and Sir Galanto.



Molly Paris and Countess win the Trilogy Best Seat Award presented by Deborah L. Witty.

## TRISTAN TUCKER EXHIBITION AT "Friday Night Stars"



Tristan was born in Cornwall, England, and soon after emigrated to Australia with his parents in the pursuit of a better lifestyle and greater opportunities. He grew up with horses from the influence of his mother and grandfather. He was always by his mum's side at the racing stables where she worked. He came up through the pony club as a novelty, jumping and eventing rider, and moved on to track work with racehorses and driving trotting horses in the sulky.

### IMPORTANCE OF HORSEMANSHIP

He first travelled to Europe in the end of 1999 where he met his long-time trainer Morten Thomsen, who inspired him further in his way of thinking and approach to teaching horses. Morten had introduced him to both the classical ways of training and riding but also to the mysterious way of the circus trainers.

On his return home he finished his University education with an Arts degree and then began his own business training horses. He wanted to learn from whoever he could that could do something good with horses. While working with horsemanship gurus from the Australian horse culture, he started to realize the importance of horsemanship and really understanding a horse.

At his own stable near Melbourne, Australia, he was starting up to 100 horses a year from all different breeds and disciplines. It was a time period to which he credits a lot of his knowledge from. As much of a cliché it may be, the horses were his biggest mentors.

### MOVING TO EUROPE

In 2009, he moved back to Europe to work for Morten Thomsen in search of further inspiration and to put more focus on his goal as a dressage rider. In the meantime, the demand for training horses, teaching and giving clinics across Europe and the USA grew quickly.

In 2011 he began to travel to The Netherlands for training on his Grand Prix horse at that time, Gronskovlunds Marquis. In 2012, he moved permanently to The Netherlands to be more central in Europe. He now owns his own stable in Langenboom (Noord-Brabant) in The Netherlands.

### TRT METHOD

At his stable, he trains horses from the beginning to Grand Prix, teaches students who are competing at international level, and gives demonstrations and clinics all over the world about his own developed TRT method. Due to the overwhelming demand for training and clinics worldwide, he launched the online program TRT method in September 2015. This way, he can teach ambitious riders from all over the world the TRT method so that they can enjoy equestrian sport more and that their horses can feel more confident and relaxed. [www.trtmethod.com](http://www.trtmethod.com)

## AGDF 10 WRAP UP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

appreciate every day I have with him," said Ma-rienu, who bought the horse in 2012 and pinpoints help from Lilo Fore as pivotal in their progression. "I feel his age sometimes, so in the training we really work a lot on the suppleness so he can come through with the beautiful exercises that he knows how to do."

In the freestyle, James Koford (USA) was second on Sherry Koella's striking 11-year-old home-bred colored Friesian sport horse mare, Adiah HP (69.555%), with Canada's Jill Irving finishing third on her own Jazz gelding Arthur (69.12%).

In the small tour division, American rider Jennifer Baumert rounded out a superb season on Elizabeth 'Betsy' Juliano's 13-year-old Hochadel gelding Handsome, sealing their third win in three starts in week 10. They have won a staggering eight classes at AGDF in total this season.

"He's awesome," grinned Baumert, who scored 75.2% in the intermediate I freestyle. "I was pumped in there because Debbie [McDonald] psyched me up to get him really in front of me and taking every opportunity between movements to push him up in front and come into every movement with a lot of power. And we did that! I'm one of those people that wants everything to be really pretty and harmonious and nice, and she pushes me to shake it up and come out of my comfort zone."

Alice Collins



Shelly Francis and Danilo won the Grand Prix Special CDI 4\*, presented by Mission Control. Photo © SusanJStickle.com

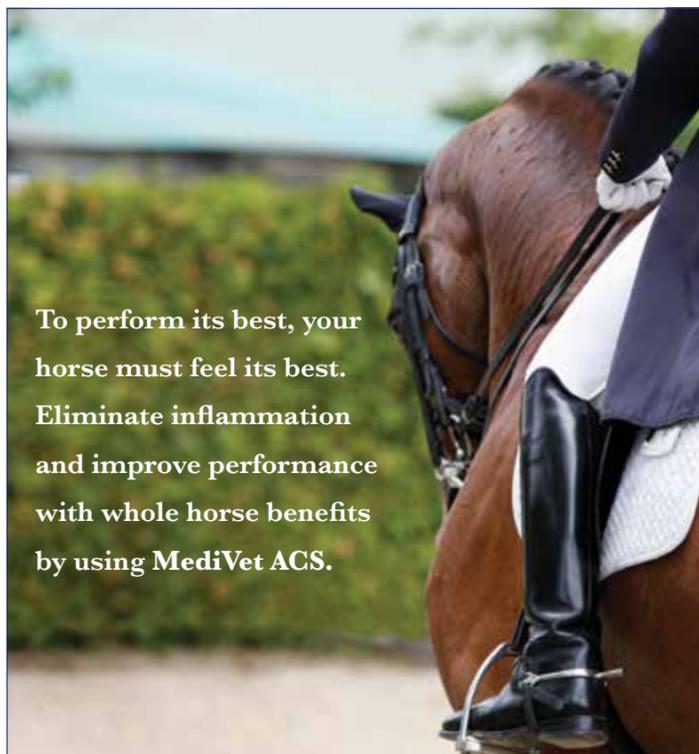
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# FACES OF AGDF: *Beatrice Marienau*

The German-born American landed a double win in week 10 of the AGDF, topping both the three-star grand prix and the freestyle at the level with her much-loved 19-year-old partner Stefano 8 (AKA Fino). Marienau had an unorthodox route to dressage, and has already accomplished her two biggest competitive goals - despite being tricked into one of them - embarrassing language barriers, and having to resort to meditation to stave off competition nerves.



six years of packing up and moving every six months, we also invested in a secondary home here in Wellington for the winter season, seeing as it is the place to be when you have international show ambitions.

### WHAT PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

Be patient. It took many years to learn that you can't rush or force proper training and the faster one learns to be patient, the faster success will come.

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

Lilo Fore, not just for being my trainer, mentor and coach, but also for having had an amazing riding career on self-trained horses all the way to the top league, for being an incredible horse woman who trains horses in their best interest, for training riders with passion and patience with great tools in the classic way, for becoming a successful five-star judge and for being highly recognized, respected, and loved in the national and international dressage world.

### HOW HAVE YOU OVERCOME COMPETITION NERVES?

When I started competing in FEI level I was working with a sport psychologist. Now I follow a specific routine during the show, one hour before test, getting in my bubble. I pull myself into the quiet of the tack stall, start with my prayer, then listen to some kind of meditation routine on my iPod. Once I am totally into myself, I go through the entire test, step by step, visualizing every muscle, bend, and movement. Then I get dressed while listening to uplifting, powerful music (mostly classical). Then I get on my horse and the only outside information that I will be aware of is the voice of my coach through my ear.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY SECRET INDULGENCES?

OK, they won't be secret any more, but here you go: I eat two Lindt truffle balls before bedtime - and maybe some gummy bears.

### DESCRIBE WHAT STEFANO 8 MEANS TO YOU

The world! He's my partner, teacher and soulmate.

### TELL US SOMETHING SURPRISING ABOUT HIM

He is extremely food aggressive, so if you get close to his stall when he is eating, he will pin his ears, flash his teeth, and kick and hop with his hind legs. Other than that, he is kind! On the show grounds he loves to sunbathe on his walks and he absolutely loves the attention from the audience: after the test, on a long rein, he will nod his head up and down towards people clapping.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SHOW?

So far, everywhere I went people did a great job, but the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival is by far my most favorite. Location, atmosphere, organization, and so many more reasons make it so special.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORST LANGUAGE 'FAIL'

Everyone's favorite story is the time when I was in a conversation with some guests at a vacation ranch, and one person asked me: "What religion are you?" I answered, "I am a prostitute." The guest looked at me very strangely and I tried to clarify, but saying, "But I don't practice it in church anymore, because in Germany you have to pay tax for it." The laughter was great, especially as I had no idea that I turned a protestant into a prostitute!

### HOW DID YOU COME TO LIVE IN AMERICAN AND RIDE FOR THE US?

My dad (who is German born) moved to the U.S. and became American when I was 18. I stayed in Germany but, 10 years later, in 1998, I wanted a life change and decided to move to the U.S.

### HOW AND WHERE DID YOU MEET YOUR HUSBAND?

When I decided to move here, the plan was to first take a vacation at a ranch in the middle of nowhere with no phones or computers. After picking ten ranches out of the 400 in Kilgore's Ranch Vacation book, I closed my eyes and pointed at one: Brush Creek Ranch in Wyoming. Well, my now husband Mike happened to work there as the activity manager and he picked me up after my arrival. It was literally love at first sight.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST PONY?

I learned to ride on horses, and my first pony was actually a horse. Gambit was a four-year-old Rheinlander, barely broken in, but with the most beautiful head and tail. My parents didn't know any better than to buy a young untrained horse for their 12-year-old daughter, and I was so in love. The first year I spent more time in the dirt and trying to get back on than actually in the saddle.

### HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN DRESSAGE FOR YOU?

No! I was a die-hard showjumper until I was 21. I thought dressage was a bad word. I did try the dressage thing for a year, but I didn't get really hooked. I exercised some random horses here and there during my studying years and even did some cowgirl-ing during my Wyoming years. I did have some dressage education for the German Medal System and the instructor license, but only because it was mandatory. My first true dressage interest and show was in 2005 on my husband's AQHA mare - in training level. My first dressage lesson for a dressage-oriented career was on a client's retired prix st georges horse in 2008.

### WHEN DID YOU RIDE YOUR FIRST GRAND PRIX?

It was in 2010 on Reve De Neige. I was actually entered in the inter II test, but my trainer at the time secretly changed it the night before. The day before the show he had me ride all these strange exercises (canter half-pass, zig-zag, etc.) and I thought that was a bit odd, but I had no idea. The evening before the class he gave me the test book and said, 'You better learn the grand prix; tomorrow is the big day'. Well I didn't sleep much, but I survived my first one and, to top it off, within three rides we had our USDF Gold Medal scores. Two big dreams came true, since the start of my dressage career: to ride a grand prix and, if possible, to achieve the USDF Gold Medal. I was over the moon.

### WHERE IS HOME FOR YOU AND WHAT IS IT LIKE?

As everyone in this circuit knows, we go wherever the sport takes us. But we are residents of Colorado and own Hideaway Ranch near Oak Creek at 2,850 feet altitude. It was an equestrian training center until six years ago, when I had to put boarding and teaching on hold, because of my show-related travel schedule. Now it's a cattle ranch. However, after

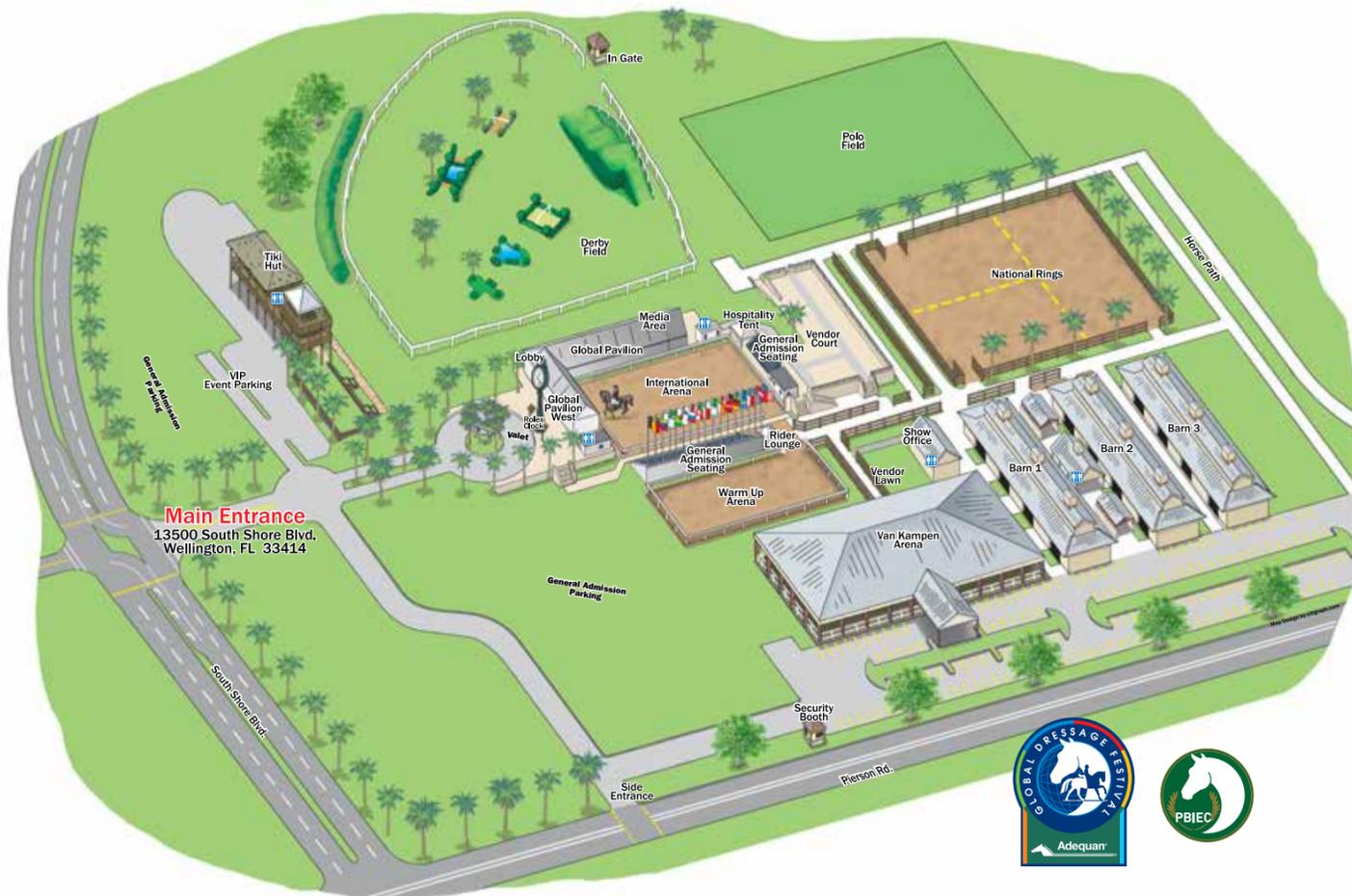
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*Kevin Kohmann*

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