Teenage Newcomer Wows Judges to Close Out 2026 US Dressage Finals

November 1, 2026 - Wilmington, OH – The final day of competition at the 2026 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® on Sunday, November 1, crowned the final champions in the Developing Horse and Equestrian Festival (WEG) in Wilmington, OH, where 37 champions were crowned.

Full Results

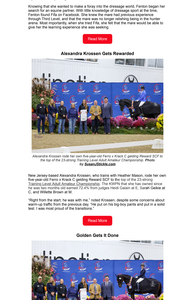
In her first year of competing in USDF shows, Raigan B rider Kenley Fenton, 16, is already making a splash in the dressage competition ring. Kenley and her 11-year-old Oldenburg mare Lavish Lace topped the Second Level Open Championship. They were also Lavish Lace topped the Second Level Open Championship. They were also crowned Reserve Champions in the Second Level Adult Amateur Championship. Their scores were 69.211 and 68.684, respectively, and Lavish Lace is owned by Kenley's mother, Heidi Fenton.

"Kenley has been riding Lavish Lace since she was 2 years old," said Heidi Fenton. "We've come a long way," said Fenton of Medina, NY. "I didn't expect this result at all. If you told me a year ago that I would even be here, I'd be like WHAT?!"

Knowing that she wanted to make a living in the dressage world, Fenton began her search for a horse for Kenley to ride. She found Lavish Lace in Florida, and Fenton flew there to vet Facebook. She knew the mare had some good connections through Third Level, and that the mare was no longer rebelling being in the hunter ring. Fenton purchased Lavish Lace in 2024. "I felt like that the mare would be able to give me the learning experience she was lacking.

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Alexandra Krussen Gets Rewarded



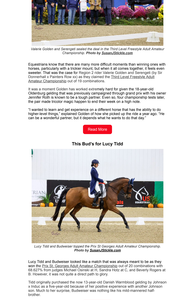
Alexandra Krussen rode her own line-award Fenix x Grand Calgetting Reward KCF to the top of the 23-strong Training Level Adult Amateur Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

New Jersey-based Alexandra Krussen, who trains with Heather Mason, rode her own line-award Fenix x Grand Calgetting Reward KCF to win the 23-strong Training Level Adult Amateur Championship. The KWPN-bay stallion was owned by Krussen, he was two months old earned 72.4% from judges Heidi Gaspin at E, Sarah Oatley at C, and Wibke Brauer at B.

"Right from the start, he was with me," noted Krussen, despite some concerns about the mare's size. "He's a big boy, but he's got to be big to be big-pants and put in a rental test. I was more proud of the transitions."

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Golden Gets It Done



Valera Golden and Serengeti sealed the deal in the Third Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

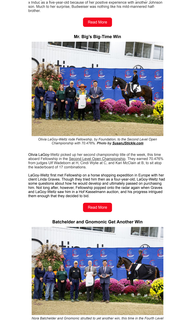
Equestrians know that there are many unlikely moments that winning ones will be made of. Valera Golden, 18, of Ohio, knows that all too well. Golden and her 16-hh BESTFA Trail Legend Horse mare Serengeti, by Santa Vita 46 and Beverly Rogers at Serengeti Farm, topped the Third Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship out of 19 combinations.

It was a moment Golden has worked extremely hard for given the 18-year-old Oldenburg gelding that was previously campaigned through grand prix with his owner Beverly Rogers, but he had a habit of spooking at the judge's booth and bolting. Now, the pair made history! Huge congrats to them and their entire support group!

"I wanted to learn and get experience on a different horse that has the ability to do Third Level and Fourth Level and maybe Prix St. George," said Golden after the win. "He can be a wonderful partner, but it depends what he wants to do that day."

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This Bud's for Lucy Tidd



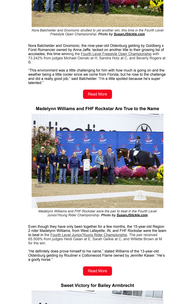
Lucy Tidd and Budweiser topped the Prix St Georges Adult Amateur Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

Lucy Tidd and Budweiser bolted the x-match that was always meant to be as they topped the Prix St Georges Adult Amateur Championship. The 16-hh Hanoverian gelding (68.837% from judges Hannah Hall at C, Sandra Wall at E, and Beverly Rogers at B) is owned by Tidd's mother, Jennifer Tidd.

Tidd congrats and thanks her trainer Leanne Carroll. Warmblood gelding by Johnson x Unico, as a five-year-old he was purchased for his positive experience with children. Much to her surprise, Budweiser was nothing like his mild-mannered half-brother.

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Mr. Big's Big-Time Win



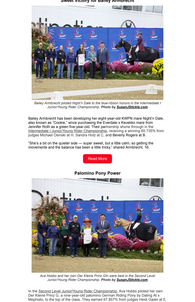
Olivia LaGoy-Weitz rode Fahrenheit, by Fayaddeus, to the Second Level Open Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

Olivia LaGoy-Weitz picked up her second championship title of the week, this time aboard Fahrenheit in the Second Level Open Championship. They earned 70.417% from judges Heidi Gaspin at C, Sandra Wall at E, and Beverly Rogers at B to win the inaugural championship.

LaGoy-Weitz first met Fahrenheit on a horse shopping expedition in Europe with her trainer Lauren Sprague. The 16-hh Dutch Warmblood gelding by Fabergé was one of seven Fahrenheit's prospective owners had already looked at, and he was purchased from him. Not long after, however, Fahrenheit popped onto the radar again when Graves Farm, where he was boarding, had a new prospective student, and his progress intrigued them enough that they decided to buy.

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Batchelder and Gnomonic Get Another Win



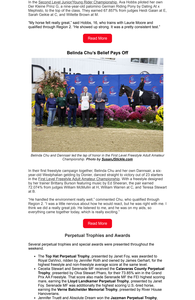
Nora Batchelder and Gnomonic strutted to yet another win, this time in the Fourth Level Freestyle Open Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

Nora Batchelder and Gnomonic, the nine-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Goldberg x Florid Romanzee owned by Batchelder's mother, Jennifer Batchelder, picked up a lot of accolades, this time winning the Fourth Level Freestyle Open Championship with 73.167% from judges Mary Hunnicutt at E, Allison Brewer at C, and Teresa Stewart at B.

"This environment was a little challenging for him with how much is going on and the footing," said Batchelder. "He's a sensitive boy, so I'm very proud of how he stayed focused and did a really good job," said Batchelder. This is the fastest Musical Ride's spirit talented.

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Madelynn Williams and FHF Rockstar Are True to the Name



Madelynn Williams and FHF Rockstar rose the pair to lead to the Fourth Level Junior/Young Rider Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

Even though they have only been together for a few months, the 15-year-old Raigan Z rider Madelynn Williams, from West Lafayette, IN, and FHF Rockstar were the team to beat in the Fourth Level Junior/Young Rider Championship. The pair received 70.833% from judges Heidi Gaspin at C, Sandra Wall at E, and Beverly Rogers at B to win.

"He dominates every move he's given to him," stated Williams of the 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding by Rockstar x Cottonwood Flame owned by Jennifer Kuiken. "He's a goofy horse."

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Sweet Victory for Bailey Armbrecht



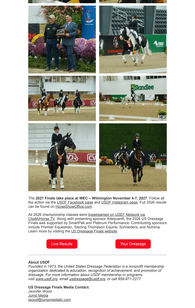
Bailey Armbrecht posted Night's Dark to the Gold Medal Freestyle in the Intermediate I Junior/Young Rider Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

Bailey Armbrecht has been developing her eight-year-old KWPN mare Night's Dark, by Sir Donnerhall I x Jazz, since she was a baby. The pair have been a team for Jennifer Roth as a green horse and youth. Their partnership culminated in the Intermediate I Junior/Young Rider Championship on Saturday, October 31, when they topped the class with 72.500% from judges Mary Hunnicutt at E and Beverly Rogers at B.

"She's a kid on the quieter side — super sweet, but a little calm, so getting the movements and the balance has been a little tricky," shared Armbrecht, 15.

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Palomino Pony Power



Ava Hobbs and her own Ole Maine Pony Girl were back in the Second Level Junior/Young Rider Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

In their first freestyle campaign together, Belinda Chu and her own German- a six-year-old Westphalian gelding by Sunset- earned enough to victory out of 22 entries in the Third Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship. With a freestyle designed by Kelly Hamilton, they received 73.417% from judges Mary Hunnicutt at E, Allison Brewer at C, and Teresa Stewart at B. William Sunset x Lord Sunset.

In the Second Level Junior/Young Rider Championship, Ava Hobbs piloted her own Dakota Pony G, a mare as well as Sandra Cervantes Gomez's Pony Girl, to victory in Maybelle, to the top of the class. They earned 67.857% from judges Heidi Gaspin at E, Sandra Wall at C, and Beverly Rogers at B.

"My horse felt really great," said Hobbs, 15, who trains with Laurie Moore and qualified through Raigan Z. "He showed up strong. It was a pretty consistent test."

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Belinda Chu's Belief Pays Off

Belinda Chu and German led the top of three in the Third Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

Belinda Chu and German led the top of three in the Third Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship. Photo by Susan Hitchins.com

"He handled the environment really well," continued Chu, who qualified through Raigan Z. "I was a little nervous about how he would react, but he was right with me. I think we did a really great job. He listened to me, and he was on my aids, so everything came together nicely. It's really exciting.

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Perpetual Trophies and Awards

Several perpetual trophies and special awards were presented throughout the championships.

- The **Top Pet Perpetual Trophy**, presented by Janet Fry, was awarded to Royal Dartboy, ridden by Jennifer Roth and owned by Janice Dennett, for the highest freestyle and non-freestyle average score at the same level.
- The **Reserve Top Pet Perpetual Trophy** was awarded to the **Reserve Top Perpetual Trophy** presented by Dina Stewart Rhyne in honor of Bill Mills was in the Second Pro-Am Freestyle. That score also made Serenade Bel Air the FEI highest scoring Pony Club member. Serenade Bel Air is owned by Jennifer Roth and ridden by Ava Fry. Serenade Bel Air received the highest score in the Pony Club Pro-Am Freestyle, and Ava Fry received the highest score in the Pony Club Pro-Am Freestyle.
- Ava Fry, Raigan Z and Adelaide Drawn won the **Jaymen Perpetual Trophy**, presented by Gloria Richardson.
- Kerry Karwagan and Johnny Cash were awarded the **George W. Wagner Jr. Perpetual Trophy** presented by the International Dressage Centre Horse Registry.
- Lavish and Laurie Moore were presented with the **Veronica Hall Perpetual Trophy** presented by Veronica Hall Moore.
- The **Alix Christiansen Perpetual Trophy**, presented by USDF Regional Director Alix Christiansen, was awarded to Kenley Fenton and Lavish Lace for Olivia LaGoy-Weitz.
- The **Ann Hall Perpetual Trophy** was presented with the **Jaime Westmoreland Malone Perpetual Trophy** as the Pro-Am Dressage All Champion.

Regions Cup

A staple of the US Dressage Finals, the annual Regions Cup competition features four Horseshoe teams. This year, the Region 3 team topped the standings, vying for the Regions Cup Perpetual Trophy and bragging rights for their region. Additionally, the past, competitors earned some amazing prizes from title sponsor, Eurostar.

CHAMPIONS
Region 3 - 1,000 Points
Kenlands Kristian and Reward SCF, 72.4%
Christina Morin-Graham and C'Thechino, 69.042%
Region 2 - 1,000 Points
Kerry Karwagen and Johnny Cash, 68.625%

RESERVE CHAMPIONS
Region 1 - 1,000 Points
Kerri Kuhlkken and Cadillac WVSAA, 67.4%
Barbara Kuyper and Dexter VZ, 67.143%
Region 4 - 1,000 Points, 68.958%
Jennifer Roth and Kumar's Excessive, 68.125%

THIRD PLACE
Region 1 - 1,000 Points
Janice Dennett and Our House Champagne, 69.861%
Kimberly Clark and Nash, 68.229%
Region 4 - 1,000 Points, 68.958%, 66.905%
Olivia Lagoy-Weitz and CS Ima WCS, 69.688%

Out and About

Photos by Jessica Nicole Weiss

The 2027 **Finals** take place at WEG – Wilmington November 4-7, 2027. Follow all the action at the Finals and WEG on the USDF Independent page. Full 2026 results can be found on HorseShowOffice.com.

All 2026 championship classes were livestreamed on USEF Network Live presented by Adequan®. Replays are available for purchase. Learn more about dressage media opportunities by emailing Adequan@usdf.org or call 859-971-2277.

About USDF
Founded in 1972, the United States Dressage Federation is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the education, support and growth of the sport of dressage. For more information about USDF membership, programs and services, visit www.usdf.org or call 859-971-2277.

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