Jennifer Truett and Absolute Dream Top Open Grand Prix Freestyle at US Dressage Finals

November 1, 2026 – Wilmington, OH – Saturday evening's Grand Prix Freestyle Open Championship on October 31 closed out the third day of competition at the 2026 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® in style, as Jennifer Truett was victorious with Absolute Dream. Taking place at World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH, the show runs from October 29 to November 1, with 37 championship awards and more than $100,000 in prize money.

What started as love at first sight for Truett and the then-two-and-a-half-year-old "Dream" turned into exciting young horse development. The pair enjoyed success all the way up the levels to grand prix. Two years ago, however, heartbreak struck as Dream suffered a repeated colic episode that required two surgeries only seven days apart. It was a difficult situation for Truett as she balanced the dire condition of her horse with her responsibilities as a trainer and coach. As if that was not enough, Dream then contracted an infection in his incision, impacting the thickness of his abdominal wall even today.

Full Results

Fortunately for Truett and Dream, they beat the odds. While he was rehabbing, Truett discovered Dream preferred a barefoot life. Along with an identified muscle disorder (Myofibrillar Myopathy, or MFM), the road back to grand prix was far from easy. Even still, they persevered to win the Open Grand Prix Freestyle and with it the Jazzman Perpetual Trophy, presented by Donna Richardson. Judges Ulf Wadeborn at H, Michael Osinski at C, and Cindi Wylie at B awarded the duo 70.017%. Their test featured an intricate floorplan designed by Karen Robinson that had been upgraded from their Intermediate II days and set to Imagine Dragons cover music by pianist Jennifer Thomas.

Jennifer Truett and Absolute Dream made a dream come true by bouncing back from adversity to win the Grand Prix Freestyle Open Championship. ***Photo by SusanJStickle.com***

"He loves this," said Truett of her 12-year-old Westphalian gelding by All At Once x Fürst Piccolo. "I've never had a horse that lights up so much in front of a crowd. Tonight, the crowd was going wild during his test, and he was just puffing up even more and getting the right kind of energy and passion. This week has been so emotional for me because we didn't know what was going to be possible with him, but the way it has been going, I've really been on a non-stop party."

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Jessica Tate and Denali Find New Inspiration

Jessica Tate and Denali relied on their improved trust and harmony to win the Intermediate I Freestyle Open Championship. ***Photo by SusanJStickle.com***

Jessica Tate has a long list of accomplishments, but as her top grand prix horse has struggled with some health setbacks, the spotlight has shifted to Denali (by Don Nobless x Scolari). The 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding owned by Cackie Vroom is making the most of his stardom, strutting to the top of the Intermediate I Freestyle Open Championship in a Tina Turner-themed freestyle designed by Collier Wimmer of Three Wishes Freestyles. The duo delivered a strong test that started and finished with eights for the halts across the board from judges Ulf Wadeborn at H, Michael Osinski at C, and Cindi Wylie at B, culminating in a 73.025% final score.

"He's an incredible athlete, but he can get pretty strong and powerful," said Tate of her mount of six years. "Today, he really knocked it out of the park and was so with me and so powerful. He just lit up. It was a real testament to our newfound trust in each other."

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A Meant-To-Be Finish For Lydia Andrews

The stars aligned for Lydia Andrews and Fantomas to come out victorious in the First Level Adult Amateur Championship. ***Photo by SusanJStickle.com***

The stars aligned for Lydia Andrews to get the ride on Fantomas, and they followed that serendipity all the way from Maine to the First Level Adult Amateur Championship. Andrews acquired the 13-year-old Fidertanz x Donnerschlag Hanoverian gelding through the Dressage4Kids network two years ago when he happened to come available at the same time a stall in her trainer, Sarah Bradley's, farm became open. A not-so-quick trip to Virginia to pick him up followed and, 24 hours later, Andrews and Fantomas began forging their partnership.

"The development that he's had in the past year alone is incredible to me, because when we got him, he had been in a field for two years and hadn't done much," said Andrews. "We were really starting from the beginning. It's been such a fun journey."

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Erin Laurent Rocks to the Top

Erin Laurent and her own Juglans Y donned the winner's cooler for the Fourth Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship. ***Photo by SusanJStickle.com***

Erin Laurent, who is based in New Jersey and qualified through Region 8, and her own Juglans Y donned the winner's cooler after earning 68.742% in the Fourth Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship from judge at H William Warren, judge at C Heidi Gaian, and judge at B Willette Brown.

"Debbie Marriott helped me design the freestyle, and it's all 80s music," detailed Laurent, who has brought along the 11-year-old Johnson x Duino Oldenburg gelding since the end of 2019 after her trainer Sara Schmitt sourced him.

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Young Talent Matches Young Talent

Autumn Vavrick and One de la Fazenda claimed the Third Level Junior/Young Rider Championship. ***Photo by SusanJStickle.com***

Autumn Vavrick and One de la Fazenda, a seven-year-old KWPN gelding by Valverde x OO Seven owned by Eleonora Frey, were the only combination of 13 starters to break the 70% barrier in the Third Level Junior/Young Rider Championship, finishing on 70.250% from judges Kari McClain at H, William McMullin at C, and Kristi Wysocki at B, for the win.

"Out of all the tests this season, this was the one in which I trusted him the most," shared Vavrick, 17, who majors in Business Administration at Oakland Community College in Michigan. "He's so young, and he's so talented and powerful. He's a bit of a late bloomer, but he's just grown in between each ride. When I got on him in the warm-up today, he was so forward and powerful that I wasn't sure how I was going to manage it in the arena. I just took a breath and focused on riding every stride with the horse that I had in the arena. I decided to give him a little extra trust, and it really paid off."

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The Beginnings of a Blossoming Partnership

Victoria Kahn-Sinclair and De la Vie Bang were best in the Third Level Adult Amateur Championship. ***Photo by SusanJStickle.com***

Victoria Kahn-Sinclair and De la Vie Bang trekked from New Hampshire after qualifying through Region 8 to make their US Dressage Finals debut. Together, they have spent a year and a half getting to know each other after Kahn-Sinclair imported the now seven-year-old Danish Warmblood mare by D'Avie x Blue Hors Zack from Denmark with help from Babsi Neidhardt-Clarke and Martha Thomas.

With a more solidified partnership, the pair were ready to tackle the Third Level Adult Amateur Championship. They did so in great style, finishing atop the leaderboard of a whopping 35 combinations with a final score of 68.792% from judge at E Sandra Hotz, judge at C Teresa Stewart, and judge at B Beverly Rogers.

"This week has been a thrill, and it's really beyond what I could have looked toward," enthused Kahn-Sinclair, who receives guidance from trainers Jacalyn Smith and Susanne Hamilton.

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Half-Arabian, All Star-Power

Lucy Dawson and her Half-Arabian mare Donna Bella CS led the lap of honor for the First Level Junior/Young Rider Championship. ***Photo by SusanJStickle.com***

The 13-year-old Lucy Dawson, from Indiana in Region 2, and Donna Bella CS have been partnered together for almost three years, but they spent the first two years showing on the Arabian circuit. Now, they are making their mark in the dressage arena with a win in the First Level Junior/Young Rider Championship to close out their time at the level. Their 69.63% test finished on a high note with 7.5s and eights from judges Brian MacMahon at H, Heidi Gaian at C, and Willette Brown at B to best 11 combinations.

"She's really smart, she loves treats and attention, and loves to be loved on — plus she's a quick learner," described Dawson of her 10-year-old half-Arabian mare by Don de Marco. "I've taught her a few tricks, like how to give fist bumps, hugs, and kisses, and we're working on bowing."

Out and About

Photos by Amanda Morse, Kevin Reinig, and the USDF team

Competition concludes on Sunday, November 1, with the final 10 championship titles to be awarded, all of which are livestreamed on USEF Network via ClipMyHorse.TV. Follow all the action via the USDF Facebook page and USDF Instagram page. Full results are published live on HorseShowOffice.com.

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