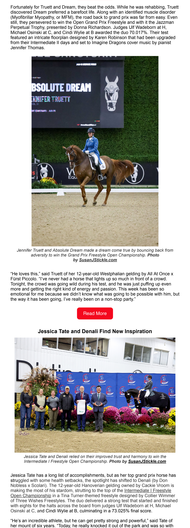
# Jennifer Truett and Absolute Dream Top Open Grand Prix Freestyle at US Dressage Finals

November 1, 2026 – Wilmington, OH – Saturday evening's Grand Prix Freestyle Open Championship on October 31 closed out the 2026 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® with a dramatic finish in style. Jennifer Truett was aboard Absolute Dream, a 2009 Hanoverian mare by 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, and in 2024 and 2025 they were Reserve Champions in the Developing Freestyle, 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 mare with the fact that she was also 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 with the challenges, Truett and Dream made their Grand Prix debut in the Adequan® Perpetual Trophy, presented by Donna Richardson. Judges Ulf Wadstrom of Ft. Michael Osinski at C, and Cindi Wylie at B awarded the duo 70.017%. Their test included a mistake in the one-tempi changes, but Truett and Dream bounced back from their intermediate II stars and set to Imagine Dragons cover music by pianist Jennifer Thomas.

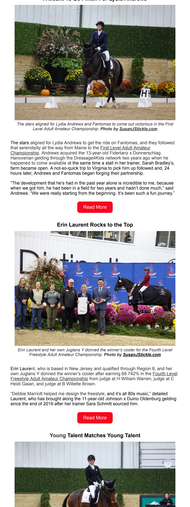


*Jennifer Truett and Absolute Dream make a dream come true by bouncing back from adversity to win the Grand Prix Freestyle Open Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com*

"He loves this," said Truett of her 12-year-old Westphalian gelding by All At Once x Floret Piccolo. "I've never had a horse that lights up as much in front of a crowd. Tonight, the crowd was going wild during his test, and he was just puffing up even more and loving it. He's a very special horse and a big personality. It's been an 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 teamway 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 Principe x Rubin Royal D). The 2013 Hanoverian gelding owned by Tate's parents is making the most of his season, strutting to the top of the Intermediate I Freestyle Open Championship in a Tina Turner-themed freestyle designed by Esther Wimmer of Think Horse Dressage. The duo delivered a strong test to earn a final score of 74.696 with eights for the halts across the board from judges Ulf Wadstrom at H, Michael Osinski at C, and Cindi Wylie at B, culminating in a 71.022% final score.

"He's an incredible athlete, but he can get pretty strong and powerful," said Tate of Denali. "I've had to learn how to ride him differently, and I think he's learned how to trust 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 at the 2026 US Dressage Finals. The 2009 Hanoverian gelding Pennoverian gelding through the DressageAbility network two years ago when he happened to come available at the same time a stall in her trainer, Sarah Bradley's, barn opened up. Andrews and Fantomas have been a team ever since, and they've now been named the Adequan® Perpetual Trophy winning pair.

"The development that he's had in the past year and a half has been 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



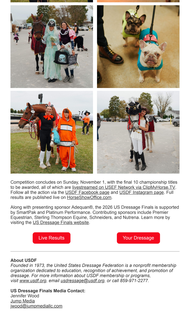
*Erin Laurent and her own Judgens V donned the winner's colder for the Fourth Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com*

Erin Laurent, who is based in New Jersey and qualified through Region 8, and her own Judgens V donned the winner's colder for the Fourth Level Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship from judge at A William Haines, judge at C Heidi Gaver, and judge at B Violette Brown.

"Debbie Marriott helped me design the freestyle, and it's all 80s music," detailed Laurent, who has brought along the 11-year-old Judgens x Dario 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 OG Seven owned by Eleonora Frey, were the only combination of 13 starters to turn in the 70% barrier in the Third Level Junior/Young Rider Championship, finishing on 70.250% from judges Kari McCleah 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," Vavrick said. "He's a very big mover, and I've been working with Jessica Phoenix at 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, I knew that he was ready to perform, and I knew that I was ready and able 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 kicked from New Hampshire after qualifying through Region 1 to win the Third Level Adult Amateur Championship. 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'Arte x Blue Hors Zack from Denmark with help from Balsa Nedinarik-Clarke and Martha Thomas.

With a more solidified partnership, the pair went results to tackle the Third Level Adult Amateur Championship. They did so in great style, finishing atop the leaderboard of a whopping 20 combinations with a final score of 66.762%, from judge at E Sandra Hicks, judge at C Teresa Stewart, and judge at B Penny Rogers.

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

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## Half-Arabian, All Star-Power



*Lucy Dawson and her Half-Arabian mare Donna Bella C3 led the lap of honor for the Third Level Junior/Young Rider Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com*

The 13-year-old Lucy Dawson, from Indiana in Region 2, and Donna Bella C3 have been partnered together for almost three years, but they spent the first two years learning to communicate with one another. They've made huge strides in the last year, and their time at the level. Their 69.63% test finished on a high note with 7.0s and eights from judges Brian MacMahon at H, Heidi Gaver 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 15-year-old half-Arabian mare by Don de Marco. "I've taught her a few tricks, like how to give flat bumps, hugs, and kisses, and we're working on bowing."

## Out and About

*Photos by Amanda Moore, Kevin Raring, 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 OddPotPlay TV. Follow all the action via the USDF Facebook page and USDF Instagram page. Full results are published live on HorseShowOffice.com.

Along with presenting sponsor Adequan®, the 2026 US Dressage Finals is supported by Platinum sponsor Dover Saddlery. Contributing sponsors include Premier Equestrian, Stackhouse Equine Supply, Schneiders, and Nutrena. Learn more by visiting the US Dressage Finals website.

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**About USDF**
*Founded in 1973, the United States Dressage Federation is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to education, recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. For more information about USDF membership or programs, visit www.usdf.org or email usdfmembership@usdf.org or call 859-971-7277.*

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