US EQUESTRIAN OPEN DRESSAGE

US EQUESTRIAN OPEN

DRESSAGE FINAL

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2026



DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK | THERMAL, CA



Welcome to the US Equestrian Open Dressage Final!

There is something truly special about returning to Desert International Horse Park as we gather in Thermal, Calif., for the US Equestrian Open Dressage Final.

Just one year ago, we celebrated a historic milestone as the inaugural US Equestrian Open Dressage Final crowned its first champion, the incredible Bellena ridden by Ben Ebeling, and established a new championship tradition for dressage in the United States. That unforgettable moment marked an important step in the growth of the US Equestrian Open, and over the past year, the series has continued to build momentum across the country by showcasing world-class competition, engaging new audiences, and strengthening connections throughout the equestrian community. From coast to coast, athletes and horses have battled throughout the season for the opportunity to compete on this stage.

Now, we return to Thermal with even greater excitement, anticipation, and pride. The vision behind the US Equestrian Open remains clear: growing and fostering a deeper connection to equestrian sport by delivering a premier, unified championship series that engages a broader fanbase through top-level competition, compelling storytelling, and a dynamic, entertaining experience. In just a short time, that vision has come to life in remarkable ways, and this year's Final represents another important chapter in that journey.

This week, top dressage combinations will come together to compete at the highest level for $200,000 prize money and the title of US Equestrian Open Dressage Final Champion. But beyond the competition, this event represents something even greater. It reflects our collective commitment to elevating the sport of dressage, celebrating excellence, and creating meaningful opportunities for fans to connect with the incredible horses and athletes who make our sport so special.

We are grateful to the team at Desert International Horse Park for once again hosting the US Equestrian Open Dressage Final and providing a welcoming home for this event. Their partnership, commitment to the sport, and efforts throughout the week help create an outstanding experience for athletes, owners, fans, and officials alike as we celebrate the culmination of another exciting season.

Whether you are joining us in person or following the action from afar, thank you for being part of the continued growth and success of the US Equestrian Open. I am honored to share this special week with all of you and look forward to an incredible US Equestrian Open Dressage Final.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Mara
President
US Equestrian

★ ★ ★ WITH GRATITUDE

THANK YOU, SPONSORS

Desert Dressage is made possible by the generous support of our partners.

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Liz Keadle

★ ★ ★ NOVEMBER 12–15, 2026

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

All day	National & FEI competition	Hunter Rings & Grand Prix Stadium
5:00 PM	**CDI5* Grand Prix** US Equestrian Open Final, Round 1	Grand Prix Stadium

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

All day	National & FEI competition	Hunter Rings & Grand Prix Stadium
2:00 PM	**Becky Moody Masterclass** — free to attend, followed by a meet & greet and autograph signing sponsored by Pair My Mare and JAAW Equine	Grand Prix Stadium & Roadrunners Plaza
5:20 PM	**CDI5* Grand Prix Freestyle** US Equestrian Open Dressage 2026 Final & awards	Grand Prix Stadium

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

All day	National & FEI competition	Hunter Rings & Grand Prix Stadium

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA

VIEW THE FULL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Every ring, every class, plus live results all week.

ADMISSION

General admission is free all week, including the masterclass.

VIP PALM CLUB

Stadium views and chef-driven dining. Reserve your seats today at deserthorsepark.com.

WATCH LIVE

USEF Network on ClipMyHorse.TV, free with a USEF Fan Membership.



For **spectator parking**, turn right once inside the main entrance. For a shuttle, call **(760)-984-3191**.

Food options & DIHP Swag Shop located along Vendor Row, with additional shopping at **Roadrunners Plaza**.

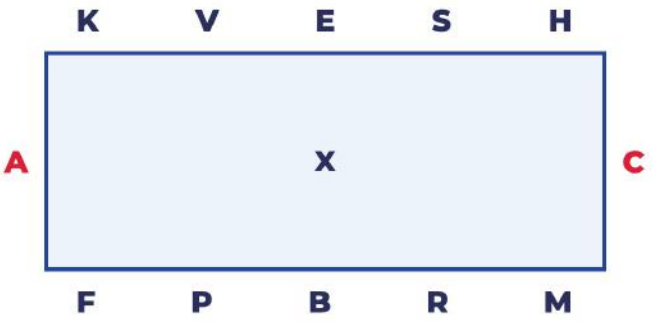
VIP Palm Club overlooks the Grand Prix Stadium for the best seats in the house.

85-555 AIRPORT BLVD., THERMAL, CA 92274

★★★ A SPECTATOR'S GUIDE

WHAT IS DRESSAGE?

Dressage comes from the French word for "training." Horse and rider perform a memorized pattern of movements, called a test, judged on precision, rhythm, suppleness and harmony. The goal is a horse so well prepared that the rider's aids are almost invisible. Think of it as ballet or figure skating, performed by a 1,300-pound athlete.



THE ARENA

A 20 × 60 meter arena ringed by lettered markers. Riders enter at A and salute the judges at C. Each movement must begin and end precisely at its letter.

At CDI5* level, five judges sit around the arena (at C, E, B, H and M), each seeing the test from a different angle.

GRAND PRIX

The highest level of the sport. Every rider performs the same set test, so horses are compared movement by movement.

GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE

Riders design their own choreography set to music, showing the required movements with artistry and creativity.

MOVEMENTS TO WATCH FOR

Piaffe — a cadenced trot in place, as if dancing on the spot.

Canter Pirouette — a full circle at canter, pivoting around the hind legs.

Half-Pass — moving forward and sideways at once on a diagonal.

Passage — a slow, lofty trot with a long moment of suspension.

Tempi Changes — lead changes every stride or two; it looks like skipping.

Extended Trot — maximum stride length and reach across the diagonal.

★ ★ ★ A SPECTATOR'S GUIDE

READING THE SCOREBOARD

Each judge scores every movement from 0 to 10, along with overall marks for the horse's paces and the rider's effectiveness. The judges' marks are combined into a final percentage.

In the Freestyle, half the score rewards technical execution and half rewards artistry: choreography, degree of difficulty and how well the music fits the horse.

60%+	Solid
70%+	Excellent
80%+	World-class

HOW THE FINAL WORKS

The top combinations from the season-long US Equestrian Open of Dressage Series are invited to Thermal. On Friday, they ride the CDI5* Grand Prix; those scoring 60% or higher advance to Saturday evening's Grand Prix Freestyle, where the Final is decided.

RINGSIDE ETIQUETTE

Hold applause until the rider's final salute; a quiet arena helps horse and rider focus.

Keep movement low-key near the arena rail: no waving flags, umbrellas or sudden noise.

Ask before petting any horse, and keep fingers away from mouths.

Silence your phone and turn off the flash when taking photos.

Horses have the right of way on paths and roads throughout the park.

Dogs on short leashes, kept well clear of horses and the warm-up rings.

CAN'T STAY? Watch live on the USEF Network via ClipMyHorse.TV

Free with a USEF Fan Membership

★ ★ ★ THE FINAL · NOVEMBER 13–14

ENTRIES ARE IN

10 Head to the Dressage Final

10	25	24	6	$200K
FINALISTS	QUALIFYING FREESTYLES	EVENTS	STATES	PURSE

THE FIELD Six of the ten have represented their country at a championship or Nations Cup.

USA Devon Kane
VAMOS
Won Nations Cup team silver at Wellington in 2025.

USA Geñay Vaughn
GINO
Rode at the 2025 FEI World Cup Final in Basel.

USA James Koford
FIRE FLY
Fire Fly won 2023 Pan Ams team gold under Anna Marek. Koford won three straight U.S. Dressage Finals GP Freestyle titles on Adiah HP, 2017–19.

USA Cyndi Jackson
FLORISSON
Won the CDI3* Freestyle at Del Mar Dressage Affaire in March on Florisson, the horse she produced from Training Level.

USA Ali Potasky
INXS
Set a personal best of 76.325% at Dressage at Devon 2026.

USA Kristina Harrison-Antell
FINLEY
Rode for the U.S. at the 2003 Pan American Games.

GER Michael Klimke
HARMONY'S DANTE'S PEAK
Finished second at the 1990 World Cup Final.

USA Charlotte Jorst
NIQUEL CAP
Competed at the 2016 World Cup Final in Gothenburg.

USA Nadine Schwartsman
ROYAL FLASH R
Won the CDI3* Grand Prix and Freestyle at the Del Mar National Horse Show in April, a personal best for horse and rider.

ISR Micah Deligdish
CARPE DIEM DE MASSA
Represented Israel at the World Championships in Aachen this year.

TITLE UP FOR GRABS

Last year's champions, Ben Ebeling & Bellena, are not entered. Four finalists rode in the 2025 Final: Harrison-Antell (4th), Vaughn (6th), Jorst (7th) and Schwartsman (9th).

IN THEIR BACKYARD

DIHP has hosted FEI dressage since 2020. The West Coast held five of the Series' 24 qualifiers, and five of the 10 finalists are based in the West.

★★★ 2026 SERIES CHAMPION

HOW KEVIN KOHMANN WON

the 2026 US Equestrian Open of Dressage Series

Kevin Kohmann is the 2026 US Equestrian Open of Dressage Series Champion. He made four Series starts this season on three different horses, Dünensee, Famous and Sonata MF, and every one of them added to his final total.



9th → 1st
His place in the standings going into and coming out of Dressage at Devon

40 → 65
Series points, after 25 from his win at Devon

77.105%
His CDI-W freestyle win on Sonata MF, by 0.590 in a class of 13

4 starts · 3 horses
Every start counted toward the title

THE MARE

The horse who secured his 2026 title was Sonata MF, an 11-year-old American-bred mare who had never done an international freestyle. Their first FEI start together was at TerraNova in May. Five months later, at Devon, they scored 77.105% and won the CDI-W by 0.590 over Brittany Fraser-Beaulieu & Jaccardo, with 13 in the class.

The freestyle was brand new, too. His wife, Devon Kane, chose the music with her mother to celebrate a mare made in the USA, and Kohmann had it for just a week before Devon.

> *"This was our second time going through our freestyle, we only got the music a week ago.*
>
> **KEVIN KOHMANN**

THE VERDICT

The 25 points from Devon put Kohmann on top of the standings for good, and the panel left little room for argument. All five judges had Kohmann and Sonata MF in their top three. Hans Voser at H and Cesar Torrente at C both had them first, and Torrente's 79.150% was the highest individual score in the class.

★ ★ ★ RIDERS TO WATCH · 1 OF 4

DEVON KANE

& Vamos

Wellington, Fla. · World Rank No. 108



THE HORSE
14-year-old Westphalian gelding

BREEDING
Exquis Vivaldi x Insterburg (dam Imperia)

OWNER
Diamante Farms

FINAL EXPERIENCE
First US Equestrian Open Final

FORM GUIDE · rank among the 10 finalists

13%	53%	73.901	75.505	15·2·6
WIN CHANCE	PODIUM CHANCE	12-MONTH AVG.	PERSONAL BEST	STARTS·WINS·PODIUMS
3rd	2nd	2nd	4th	Freestyle

THE STORY

Kane learned to ride in South Texas and came up through the hunter/jumpers before a riding accident turned her toward dressage, where a dressage barn helped her rebuild her confidence. When Vamos arrived, he wasn't ready for top-level work, and her husband, Kevin Kohmann, doubted he'd make it and wanted to sell him. Kane refused, and Kohmann has since admitted she was right.

THE FORM

No pair in the Final has ridden more freestyles together. Their Latin-pop freestyle had a rocky 2025 debut in Hagen, when Kane added difficulty and left out a required element, a mistake she quickly fixed. Since then the scores have climbed in steady steps. Kane won TerraNova I in April and TerraNova II in October, her first CDI freestyle wins, setting her 75.505 personal best at TerraNova II. Her last three freestyles average 75.050.

WHAT TO WATCH

Close calls. Kane owns four of 2026's 19 tightest placing gaps, including a 0.005-point loss to Ali Potasky at AGDF 11, and Potasky has beaten her both times they've met this season. Kane's recent form sits within half a point of her best, so a win will likely take a new personal best.

Adapted from "Four to Follow 2026" by Marissa Isgreen, US Equestrian Open.

★ ★ ★ RIDERS TO WATCH · 2 OF 4

GEÑAY VAUGHN

& Gino

Elk Grove, Calif. · World Rank No. 50



THE HORSE
15-year-old KWPN gelding

BREEDING
Bretton Woods x Haarlem (dam Lugienna)

OWNER
Michele Vaughn

2025 FINAL
6th, with a 74.890 freestyle

FORM GUIDE · rank among the 10 finalists

43%	85%	75.763	76.415	11·7·8
WIN CHANCE	PODIUM CHANCE	12-MONTH AVG.	PERSONAL BEST	STARTS·WINS·PODIUMS
1st	1st	1st	1st	Freestyle

THE STORY

Geñay's mother, Michele, found Gino in Europe in 2017 as a green six-year-old. "She knew right away," Geñay says. Geñay is his only FEI rider and handles nearly all of his care herself, for a horse she calls "particular and quirky," one who bonds with one person.

> *My world revolves around him. It's his world. I'm just living in it.*

THE FORM

Vaughn came to the 2025 Final unbeaten in the Western qualifiers but finished sixth. This year she leads the field on every line of the form guide. Her 76.415 personal best came right here at Desert Dressage III in December 2025, and her freestyles since January have landed in a tight band between 75.790 and 75.955, including second of seven at the opening Adequan Global Dressage Festival show in Wellington.

WHAT TO WATCH

Time away. Their last freestyle was February 28, about eight and a half months before the Final, the biggest question mark for the favorite.

Adapted from "Four to Follow 2026" by Marissa Isgreen, US Equestrian Open.

★ ★ ★ RIDERS TO WATCH · 3 OF 4

ALI POTASKY

& INXS

Versailles, Ky. · World Rank No. 130



THE HORSE
13-year-old KWPN gelding

BREEDING
Everdale x Harmony's Rousseau (dam Whinca)

OWNERS
Ali Potasky & Kathy Priest

FINAL EXPERIENCE
First US Equestrian Open Final

FORM GUIDE · rank among the 10 finalists

14%	46%	73.625	76.325	4·1·2
WIN CHANCE	PODIUM CHANCE	12-MONTH AVG.	PERSONAL BEST	STARTS·WINS·PODIUMS
2nd	3rd	3rd	2nd	Freestyle

THE STORY

INXS came from Europe as a six-year-old. Potasky is his only FEI rider, and he is the first horse she has trained to Grand Prix. He's a sensitive horse who has historically been afraid of other horses, which made his calmer ride at Devon all the more notable.

THE FORM

Since debuting their freestyle at Tryon in October 2025, the pair has improved every time out. From MADFest (72.425) to Dressage at Devon (76.325) they gained 3.900 points, mostly on artistic marks, which rose from 76.800 to 82.200. The double-value movements (canter pirouettes, piaffe and passage) all scored higher at Devon too. Potasky has finished ahead of Devon Kane both times they've met this season.

WHAT TO WATCH

Experience. This is Potasky's first Final, with just four career freestyles against her rivals' 11 to 15. Her scores have ranged from 71.2 to 76.1, and the calmer INXS seen at Devon is encouraging but not yet proven.

Adapted from "Four to Follow 2026" by Marissa Isgreen, US Equestrian Open.

★ ★ ★ RIDERS TO WATCH · 4 OF 4

KRISTINA HARRISON-ANTELL

& Finley

Los Angeles, Calif. · World Rank No. 172



THE HORSE
16-year-old KWPN gelding

BREEDING
Don Jovi x Rubels (dam Vashera van 't Trinchelhof)

OWNER
Kristina Harrison-Antell

2025 FINAL
4th, with a 75.470 freestyle

FORM GUIDE · rank among the 10 finalists

13%	36%	72.701	75.770	11·2·6
WIN CHANCE	PODIUM CHANCE	12-MONTH AVG.	PERSONAL BEST	STARTS·WINS·PODIUMS
4th	5th	5th	3rd	Freestyle

THE STORY

Harrison-Antell bought Finley sight unseen in 2013 from Dutch dealer Bert Rutten, after the young gray she had filmed there sold elsewhere. She started him herself at three and has been his only FEI rider. At 13 years, theirs is the longest partnership in the Series. Finley was once terrified of other horses; time, repetition and a 2022 winter in Wellington helped him settle.

> *I am so fortunate to own this incredible once-in-a-lifetime horse. He is my heart and soul.*
>
> KRISTINA HARRISON-ANTELL, 2020

THE FORM

Last year they came in projected seventh and finished fourth, with a then-best 75.470 freestyle and a career-best Grand Prix. This season they set a 75.770 personal best at the Ginny Rattner Memorial in May. DIHP suits them: their four freestyles here average 73.521, about 3.4 points higher than their 2026 rides at Del Mar.

WHAT TO WATCH

Time off. Their last freestyle was May 30, more than five months before the Final, and their scores swing widely (69.6 to 75.8). They have come back strong from layoffs before.

Adapted from "Four to Follow 2026" by Marissa Isgreen, US Equestrian Open.

★ ★ ★ SATURDAY, NOV. 14 · 2:00 PM · FREE

BECKY MOODY

Masterclass



Becky Moody and Jagerbomb celebrate their 2026 FEI Dressage World Cup Final win. Photo by Shannon Brinkman Photography

Learn from the reigning FEI Dressage World Cup champion. Becky Moody of Great Britain leads a free masterclass at Desert Dressage, followed by a meet & greet and autograph signing sponsored by Pair My Mare and JAAW Equine.

88.330%	Bronze	Silver
WORLD CUP-WINNING FREESTYLE, 2026	TEAM, PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS	2025 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

ABOUT BECKY

Becky grew up in a horse family in South Yorkshire, England, and was riding before she could walk. She left school at 16 to help build the family yard, where she and her sister Hannah now run Moody Dressage, producing horses and coaching riders. She rode for Great Britain at four young rider European Championships, winning two team bronze medals, and has trained with Carl Hester for much of the past decade.

Her partner at the top of the sport is Jagerbomb, or "Bomb," a gelding she bred herself and named for her grandfather's nickname. He was never the obvious star as a youngster, but together they won Olympic team bronze in Paris, finishing eighth individually, and European silver in 2025. This April in Fort Worth, they topped the Grand Prix and won the World Cup Final with a Beatles-themed freestyle, making Becky the third British rider ever to claim the title.

STAY FOR THE MEET & GREET

Bring your program for an autograph after the masterclass. Sponsored by Pair My Mare and JAAW Equine.

★★★ NEW THIS YEAR

PRO-AM TOURNAMENT

Presented by Four Winds Farm Dressage



This weekend, professionals and amateurs or juniors team up for a Battle of the Bands. Each team picks a band name and an anthem, and their rides in their regularly scheduled tests earn points, with standings updated daily as teams battle for the top of the leaderboard.

DIFFERENT RIDERS. SAME PASSION. A BIGGER STAGE.

HOW IT WORKS

Each band has **one professional and two amateur or junior riders**, open to all national and CDI riders. There's no separate Pro-Am class: riders compete in their regular national or FEI tests, and each horse can earn one set of points per day, using its highest score.

POINTS PER RIDE

60–64.999%	**5 pts.**
65–69.999%	**10 pts.**
70–79.999%	**20 pts.**
80% and above	**50 pts.**

DAILY WILD CARD POINTS · 20 bonus points each, awarded every competition day

- **Rising Star** · Highest-scoring under 25
- **Still Got It** · Highest-scoring rider over 60
- **Made in the USA** · Highest-scoring U.S.-bred horse
- **Biggest Comeback** · Largest % improvement
- **Barn Bragging Rights** · Top combined team score
- **Young Gun** · Highest-scoring young horse
- **Girl Power** · Highest-scoring mare
- **Golden Oldie** · Highest-scoring senior horse
- **Rockstar Rookie** · Top first-time competitor
- **Best Groupies** · Most enthusiastic cheering section

Spectators, this one's for you: the Best Groupies award goes to the loudest, proudest cheering section. Pick a band and make some noise (between rides, of course).

PRIZE MONEY	$5,000 1ST PLACE	$2,500 2ND PLACE	$1,000 3RD PLACE



★ ★ ★ DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK

WORLD-CLASS COMPETITION IN THE HEART OF THE DESERT

At Desert International Horse Park, horses come first. From late October through early April, top hunter, jumper and dressage athletes come to Thermal, California, and spectators are always welcome to join them.

COMING UP: DESERT HOLIDAY AND 12 WEEKS OF DESERT CIRCUIT

THE $750,000 COACHELLA CUP
Sat., Dec. 5, 2026

DESERT HOLIDAY
Dec. 9–13, 2026 · CSI2* / CSI5*

DESERT CIRCUIT
Jan. 13 – Apr. 4, 2027 · CSI2* to CSI5*

WORLD CUP WEEK
Desert Circuit 4 · Feb. 3–7, 2027 · CSI5*-W

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