



[LEFT] Annelise Klepper and Happy Texas Moonlight rode to the gold medal in the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) North American Dressage Junior Freestyle Championship. **[RIGHT]** Callie Jones and Don Philippo took home the gold in the USDF North American Dressage Young Rider Freestyle Championship.

Jones and Klepper Capture Freestyle Gold

At Adequan FEI North American Youth Championships

JUNIOR AND YOUNG RIDER

competitors performed their freestyle tests to music on the final day of the Adequan FEI North American Youth Championships presented by Gotham North (NAYC) at Old Salem Farm in North Salem, NY. In the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) North American Dressage Young Rider Freestyle Championship, Callie Jones and Don Philippo captured the gold medal. Annelise Klepper rode Happy Texas Moonlight to the gold medal in the USDF North American Dressage Junior Freestyle Championship.

Twenty-one-year-old Jones of Henderson, KY, and USDF Region 2, is a member of the Discover Dressage United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)/USDF Emerging Athlete Program. She and Don Philippo, her 11-year-old Hanoverian gelding, also took the gold medal in the USDF North American Young Rider Individual Championship. In the Freestyle, they scored 74.710% for the gold, marking a highly successful career at the North American Youth Championships.

"It's truly just a bittersweet moment because I'm aging out and that's the last time I'm going to do that freestyle," said Jones, who choreographed and worked on the music with Cynthia Thomas.

While they won the bronze medal in the Freestyle in 2018, Jones chose not to adjust her choreography, instead focusing on improving each movement. "I just always strive to do better. The

choreography is not the most difficult, but I know if I can nail each move, then I'm going to be rewarded for it. I always have so much fun riding it and love the music."

The silver medal in the Young Rider Freestyle went to 19-year-old Kayla Kadlubek, of Fairfax Station, VA, and member of the Discover Dressage USEF/USDF Emerging Athlete Program, on Perfect Step, her 18-year-old Hanoverian gelding. They received a score of 73.505%. The pair also won the bronze medal in the Individual Championship this week and helped USDF Region 1 to the team gold medal.

"I was extremely happy with my test today," said Kadlubek, who designed the choreography and picked the music herself. "I went in there with the mindset of, 'I'm just going to have fun and go for it.' This freestyle means so much to me. I made it myself and it's from *The Greatest Showman*. The lyrics mean so much to me. I love riding it. He was just on fire today. I couldn't be happier with him."

Adding a bronze along with her two previous silver medals to her medal haul, 19-year-old Vanessa Creech-Terauds from Caistor Centre, Ontario, rode Fleur de Lis, Louise Leatherdale's 10-year-old mare to the podium with a 73.490%. "Up until this year, I've actually taken a different horse to the championships every year," said Creech-Terauds, who was competing at her fifth NAYC. "This is my first time taking the same horse. This championship is always one of the best

weeks of the year, so I just really look forward to it. This year, having taken Fleur for the second time, this time in the Young Riders, I was extremely motivated. I'm so proud and happy to say that she exceeded my expectations."

Fourteen-year-old Klepper from McCutchenville, OH, collected her second gold medal at the 2019 NAYC by winning the USDF North American Junior Rider Dressage Freestyle Championship. She and Happy Texas Moonlight rose to the top of the podium with a 73.250%, her best Freestyle score to date. Klepper concluded her NAYC debut with three medals, previously winning silver with USDF Region 2 in the USDF North American Junior Dressage Team Championship on Wednesday and gold in the USDF North American Junior Individual Test. Seventeen-year-old Jori Dupel of Wilsonville, OR, represented USDF Region 6 aboard Fiderprinz, earning silver with a score of 71.625%, and 16-year-old Dennessy Rogers, from Thousand Oaks, CA, represented USDF Region 7 with Chanel, claiming bronze with a 71.250%.

Klepper performed a borrowed freestyle from fellow barn mate Patty Keene, who coached her on the test leading up to the NAYC. This was the first time Klepper performed this freestyle, and she made it count with the 12-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Shannon Klepper. "I'm really proud of my horse and how well he was with me today. He saved me a couple of times, especially on the changes," said Klepper, who is the first junior NAYC competitor to win double individual gold since Jenna Upchurch (USDF Region 4) did so in at the 2016 NAYC. "I'm happy with my test today and thankful to Patty and everyone who has helped me with this freestyle to polish and nail it down." 📧