



US Dressage Finals

presented by Adequan®



Heather Mason Successfully Defends Grand Prix Title on Friday Night at 2023 US Dressage Finals Presented by Adequan®

November 11, 2023 – Lexington, KY – Day two of the 10th anniversary edition of the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® on Friday, November 10, 2023, held the show's first gala evening in the atmospheric Alltech Arena. The national show, which runs through Sunday, November 12, 2023, offers a wealth of championship titles and more than \$120,000 in prize money.

Just as in 2022, Heather Mason and RTF Lincoln led the charge in Friday evening's showcase class, the Grand Prix Open Championship. This year they topped the field with a harmonious and very well-presented test in which Mason made full use of the corners to balance and prepare the 18-year-old for each movement. As in previous years, Mason rode him in a snaffle with a simple Cavesson noseband.



Heather Mason and RTF Lincoln won their third straight Grand Prix Open Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com.

Their 69.203% left them 0.8% ahead of the reserve champions Shelley Van Den Neste and Eyecatcher. Nora Batchelder and Faro SQF rounded out the podium with 68.007%.

This is the third consecutive year that Lincoln has won this class at Finals, and Mason has decided that he will bow out of top-level competition on a high. This is their final show together.

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Heather Mason and RTF Lincoln in their winning presentation joined by Stephan Hienzsch, Charlotte Bredahl, Lisa Gorretta, Heather Petersen, Anne Gribbons, and George Williams. Photo by SusanJStickle.com.

"If I Could Clone Him, I Would"

It was the very last combination down the center line in the Intermediate I Open class who snatched victory, with Taylor Lindsten on Susan Skripac's striking Wallace G being the only combination to crack 70%. The nine-year-old pinto is a Georgian Grande stallion, being half Friesian half Saddlebred.

"This is only our second time breaking 70% in the FEI levels," enthused the 30-year-old, who recorded her first ever Finals win. "He showed up because he knew it was important. I was watching the first three-quarters of my class, but once I'm on my horse that all goes out of my head. I'm just thinking about his strengths and how to showcase them and to enjoy the feeling he gives me out there because he's a showman."



Taylor Lindsten and the striking Wallace G were the only combination to crack 70% to win the Intermediate I Open Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com.

Lindsten did not know anything about the breed until Wallace G's breeder George Geter placed the son of Sas Van Thorrehof with her.

"His breeder sent him to me as a five-year-old, and I developed him from Training Level," she said. "He's about to make his Grand Prix debut in the spring of 2024, so we are very excited about him."

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Valor Puts On A Brave Face

Jennifer Roth finished more than 2% clear of her rivals to claim the Training Level Open Championship on board her own and client Chris Harvey's seven-year-old Valor with 72.867%.

"This was his second test today, so he was a little bit on the tired side," said Roth, who is from Columbus, OH. "He handled the atmosphere very bravely. He's never been to the Horse Park before, or any venue like this, so I was thrilled with him. The test felt pretty darn good, but it wasn't flawless by any stretch of the imagination."



Jennifer Roth claimed the Training Level Open Championship on board the seven-year-old Valor. Photo by SusanJStickle.com.

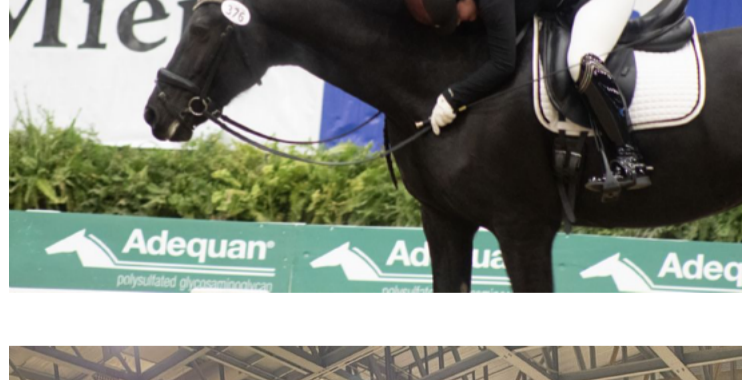
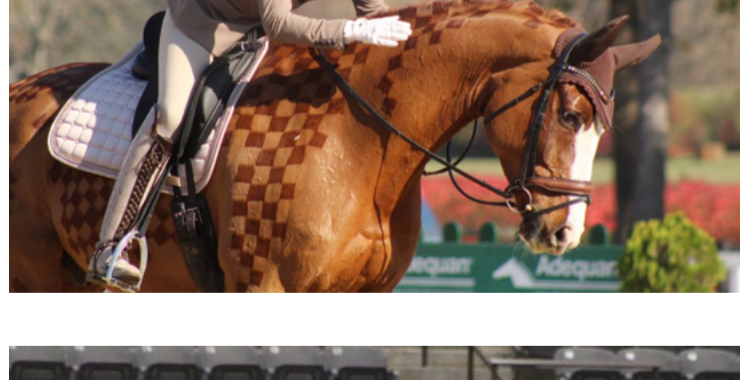
Roth bought the horse in Kansas while on a shopping trip with a client, who was looking at a different horse. The owners pulled out Valor, put him on the lunge line, and Roth immediately decided to buy him.

"I was interested in his quality of movement. He seemed like a level headed dude, and I'm a sucker for a bay," explained Roth, who has trained with Sharon Ridge since she was 13. "We bought him without ever having sat on him."

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Scenes From The 2023 US Dressage Finals Presented by Adequan®

Photos by Katie Lewis



Competition continues on Saturday, November 11, with 13 championship titles up for grabs from First Level to the evening's Open Grand Prix Freestyle. Follow the action via the [USDF Facebook page](#) and the [US Dressage Finals website](#), plus live online streaming on the [USEF Network](#). To learn more about the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®, view results and start lists, and read daily news releases, visit the official [US Dressage Finals event website](#).

By Alice Collins for Jump Media/US Dressage Finals

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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, email usdressage@usdf.org, or call 859-971-2277.

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