



Mares Make Their Mark on Day Two of the US Dressage Finals at WEC – Wilmington

October 31, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – Mares won four of the five earlier daytime classes on day two of the 2025 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® at World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH. The five classes were a clean sweep for female riders, including a double for Christine Morin-Graham. A second release covering the remaining four classes from day two will follow. The show runs from October 30 to November 2, 2025, with 37 championship titles on offer and a prize pot of \$125,000.



Christina Morin-Graham captured the Adult Amateur Grand Prix Championship on the Damon Hill mare DSP Dauphin (pictured) and finished runner-up on Mondlicht. Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](https://www.susanjstickle.com)

Go First, Finish First

Leading from the front is becoming somewhat of a tradition for Christina Morin-Graham at the 2025 Finals. On Thursday, she topped the Adult Amateur (AA) Intermediate II on Mondlicht from first draw, and on Friday she repeated the feat, heading up the [AA Grand Prix](#) as first to go on her other big tour horse, the 16-year-old Damon Hill daughter, DSP Dauphin. She scored 68.696% for the win and also slotted in as runner-up on Mondlicht with 66.92% — an echo of the two mares' results at the Region 8 Championships.

A couple of hours later, Morin-Graham nabbed her third winner's blanket of the show when she rode her own 12-year-old Jazz mare, Ici De La Vigne, to the top of the leaderboard in the [Intermediate I AA Championship](#) with 66.912%.

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Rhapsody In Blue

In a very competitive class in which the top six all scored over 70%, Cody Armstrong Pierce emerged victorious from the 17 entries in the [Open Training Level Championship](#). She rode Rhapsodfloria, Sandie Gaines-Beddard's five-year-old Floriscourt x De Niro mare, to 71.4% — boosted by a 74% score from the judge at C.



Cody Armstrong Pierce and Rhapsodfloria, by Floriscourt, laid down the morning's highest Finals score of 71.4% to take the Open Training Level Championship. Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](https://www.susanjstickle.com)

"There were a lot of wonderful professionals with great young horses, so I felt this class was probably going to be about which young horse could be the most relaxed in this environment, and I got lucky," said Armstrong Pierce.

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A Magnifique Performance

Courage and belief in her horse led grandmother Amelia Hellman to the winner's circle in the [Fourth Level AA Championship](#). She produced a 70.833% performance from the eight-year-old mare Magnifique, by Indian Rock. She bought the horse two years ago as a green problem child from a sales barn in Holland, although she was not the horse she had gone there to see.



Magnifique lived up to her name in the Fourth Level AA Championship, delivering a winning 70.833% under Amelia Hellman. Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](https://www.susanjstickle.com)

"I asked if they had anything a little spicier and they showed 'Maggie' to me. Jenny Wetterau rode her first and said I'd be OK, then I got on and we clicked," said Hellman, who has trained two horses up to grand prix level. "They were totally open about the fact that she was a rearer, so we have done a lot of groundwork.

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\$15 Horse Triumphs

The only gelding to break through the mighty mares in the morning classes was Christine Calao's Freshman SHS — a nine-year-old gelding she bought for \$15 as a weanling. The pair from Texas headed the [Open Intermediate I Championship](#) with 68.676%, despite the Fürstenball x Sandro Hit son having had his fair share of setbacks.



Christine Calao's Intermediate I Open winner Freshman SHS has overcome blindness in one eye and a trailer accident to claim victory with 68.676%. Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](https://www.susanjstickle.com)

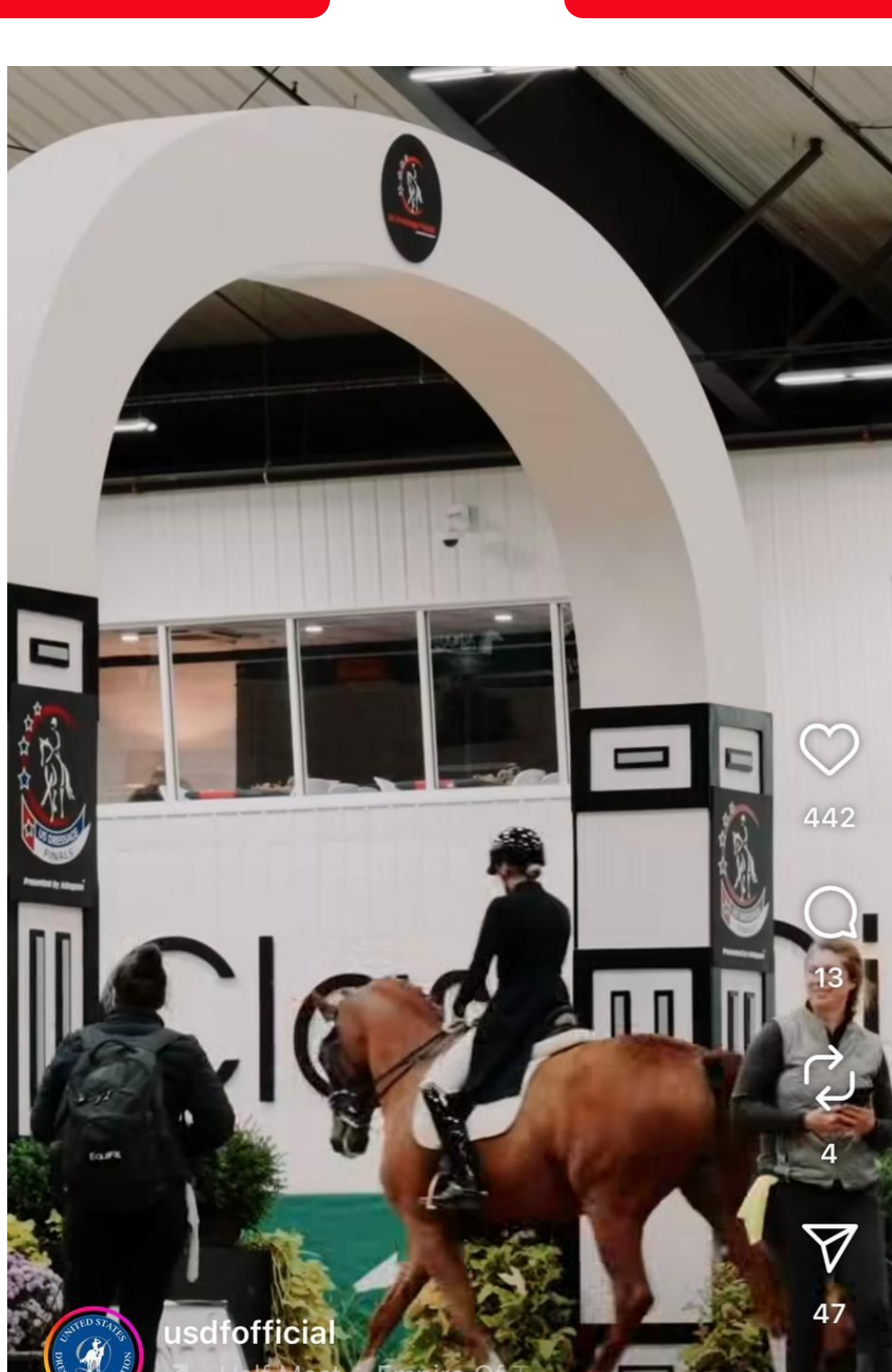
"It's a fluke that I ended up with him," explained Calao, who breeds a few horses herself each year and likes the temperament and paces Fürstenball brings to the table. "A breeder near me had him as a yearling and thought he was stallion quality, but he was blind in one eye with a detached retina, so she didn't think he was worth anything. I liked him and bought him for \$15."

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Competition resumes on Saturday November 1, with a whopping 14 championship titles to be decided across the day and evening sessions. The full digital show program is available [here](#). Follow the action via the [USDF Facebook page](#), [USDF Instagram page](#), and the [US Dressage Finals website](#), plus [live online streaming from the Sanctuary Arena on USEF Network](#) with expert commentary from Kathy Connelly.

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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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