



OMAHA EQUESTRIAN FOUNDATION



#RidetoOmaha January Update

Join the #RidetoOmaha as we build up to the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023.

The world will be watching as the best of the best show jumping, dressage, and vaulting athletes descend on the CHI Health Center Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska, to compete for international glory.

For January's update, we spoke with McLain Ward about his win at the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2017. See what he had to say about the event, his star mount HH Azur, and what FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals winner he would have liked to swing a leg over. Then, catch up on all the news as preparations for this star-studded event continue and riders work toward Finals qualification. Finally, stroll down Memory Lane for some FEI Jumping World Cup™ blasts from the past as anticipation for the event grows.

Read on for all the January excitement. There's only a little more than TWO months until this prestigious competition gets underway!

FROM THE TOP OF THE PODIUM

We caught up with McLain Ward to talk about his incredible win at the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2017.

You've won a lot of important classes, but what was particularly memorable about winning the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Omaha in 2017?

I think the victory in Omaha was special for us and the sport in the United States for many reasons. It was obviously a goal I had for almost two decades. I had competed in a large number of FEI World Cup™ Finals with some great finishes and some very close calls that I should have won. To be able to not only finally get that victory, but on my home soil in an incredibly produced event, was something that I think as part of the American sport we can be very proud of. In that moment with Azur, everything was going in the right direction and it all came together.

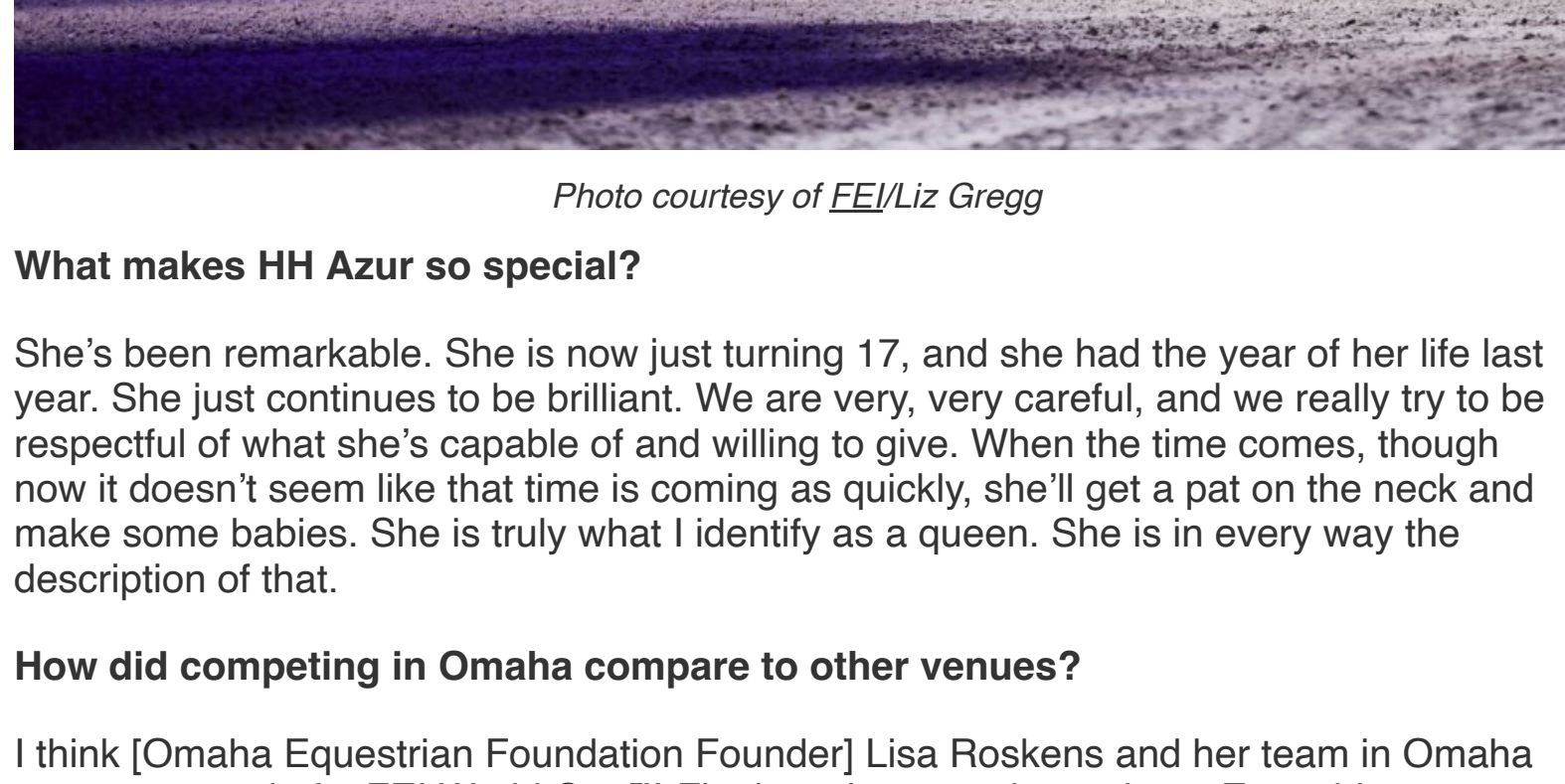


Photo courtesy of FEI/Liz Gregg

What makes HH Azur so special?

She's been remarkable. She is now just turning 17, and she had the year of her life last year. She just continues to be brilliant. We are very, very careful, and we really try to be respectful of what she's capable of and willing to give. When the time comes, though now it doesn't seem like that time is coming as quickly, she'll get a pat on the neck and make some babies. She is truly what I identify as a queen. She is in every way the description of that.

How did competing in Omaha compare to other venues?

I think [Omaha Equestrian Foundation Founder] Lisa Roskens and her team in Omaha put on as good of a FEI World Cup™ Finals as has ever been done. Everything was first-rate. It was a great venue. A city connected with agriculture is always beneficial to our sport, and it brings in a crowd. I thought it was a world-class event, and while it was special for me personally to win the Final, more importantly, as a sport, it was a great reflection to the world.



Photo courtesy of Omaha Equestrian Foundation

If you could ride any previous FEI World Cup™ Finals winner, who would it be and why?

There are many brilliant horses for sure, whether it be [Rodrigo Pessoa's three-time winner] Baloubet du Rouet or [Meredith Michaels-Berberbaum's three-time winner] Shutterfly, or horses like that. [Hugo Simon's two-time winner] E.T. is another one. But I have to say [John Whitaker's two-time winner] Milton. During COVID, when we had a little bit of time on our hands, we had a bit of a tradition of going back and looking at a bunch of old videos, and Milton was significantly ahead of his time. To ride that horse, with my style of riding and mentality, I think I would have really enjoyed that.

IN THE NEWS

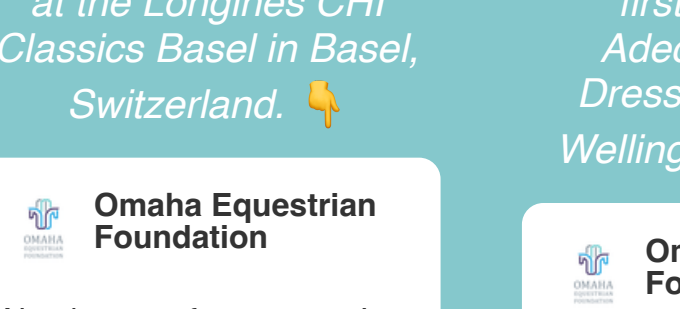
There's a lot going on in the lead up to the world-class event in Omaha. From venue happenings to competition qualifiers around the globe, here's the latest straight from the horse's mouth.

Field trip sign ups officially opened, giving teachers the opportunity to sign their students up for a memorable up-close and horsey learning experience. 🐾

Premier Equestrian, Inc. was named the Official Footing Product Provider, ensuring a premium riding surface for the benefit of the competing equine and human athletes. 🐾

Omaha Equestrian Foundation

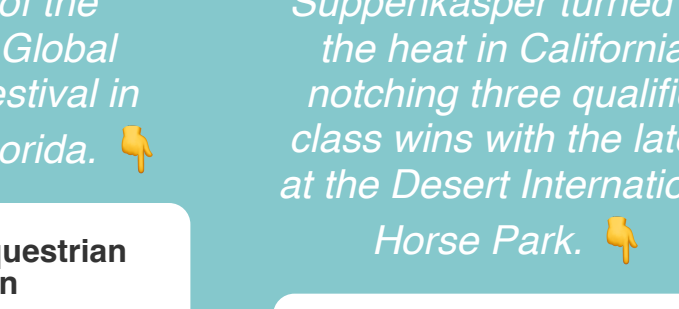
! Field trip sign ups are now open !
Students will have the opportunity to visit the CHI Health Center Omaha with free transportation and parking for your school from April 4-7 for various f... See More



FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Omaha Equestrian Foundation

🏠 Premier Equestrian, Inc. has been named the Official Footing Product Provider of the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023! In addition to providing footing for numerous top venues across th... See More... See More



VENUE INFORMATION

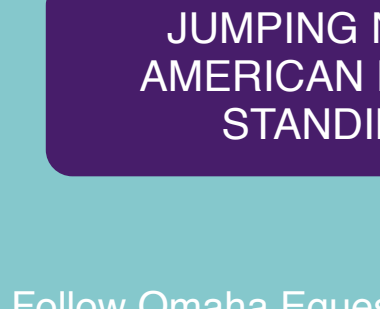
World-ranked number one Henrik von Eckermann and the incredible King Edward came out on top at the Longines CHI Classics Basel in Basel, Switzerland. 🐾

The dynamic duo of U.S. Olympian Adrienne Lyle and superstar Salvino led the lap of honor during the first week of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival in Wellington, Florida. 🐾

Omaha veteran and 2009 FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final Champion Steffen Peters with Suppenkasper turned up the heat in California, notching three qualifier class wins with the latest at the Desert International Horse Park. 🐾

Omaha Equestrian Foundation

Number one for a reason!
👉👉👉
@henrikvoneckermann_@longines @fei_global
#worldnumberone
#TimeToBeat
#RidetoOmaha
#FEIWorldCupFinal
#FEIJumpingWorldCup
#Repost @eqnews with @use.repost... See More



JUMPING NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS

Omaha Equestrian Foundation

Who wants to see this pair in Omaha? 🐾🐾
#RidetoOmaha #FEI
#Longines #FEIWorldCup
#FEIDressage
#FEIDressageWorldCup
#Salvino
@longines @fei_global
@fei_dressage_@adrienne.lyle ... See More



Omaha Equestrian Foundation

2009 FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final Champion Steffen Peters SPeters Dressage dazzled dressage fans in Omaha at the FEI World Cup Finals™ in 2017, and this season he and Suppenkasper have be... See More... See More



DRESSAGE NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS

Follow Omaha Equestrian Foundation to stay updated on all things FEI World Cup™ Finals.



VICTORIES ON MEMORY LANE

Get ready to watch this year's FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Champion emerge with the awe-inspiring performances from legends of the sport. Take a walk down Memory Lane as we relive a couple of the greatest moments in show jumping history.

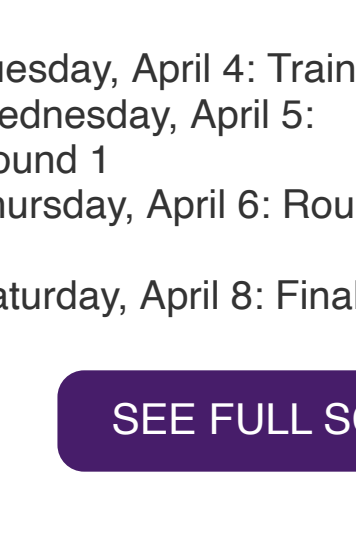


In 1979, the first-ever FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final win went to Austria's Hugo Simon aboard Gladstone. Originally, the competition featured two grand prix classes with a rest day in between. After both rounds, Simon was tied with the USA's Katie Monahan, who rode The Jones Boy, necessitating a jump-off. When Monahan and The Jones Boy dropped a rail at the penultimate fence and Simon stayed clear, he was crowned the inaugural FEI Jumping World Cup™ Champion. Photo courtesy of FEI



"Captain Canada" Ian Millar was the first rider ever to successfully defend the FEI Jumping World Cup™ championship title when he repeated his 1988 Gothenburg, Sweden, victory the following year in Tampa, Florida. Millar led from start to finish aboard the amazing Big Ben, dropping just a single rail throughout the competition and finishing with a commanding double-clear performance on the final day to take the victory. Photo courtesy of FEI

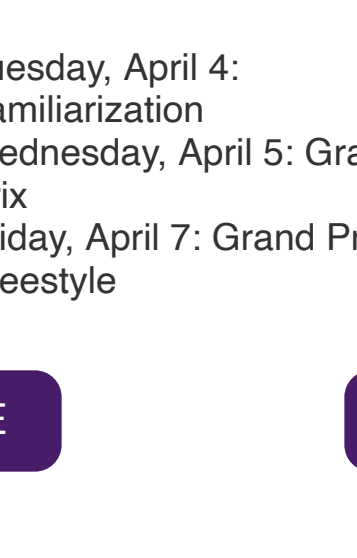
MAKE YOUR PLANS



JUMPING

Tuesday, April 4: Training
Wednesday, April 5: Round 1
Thursday, April 6: Round 2
Saturday, April 8: Final

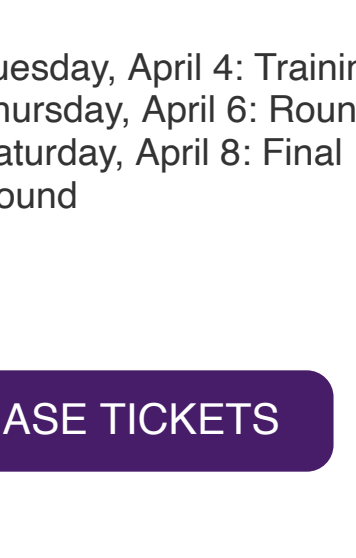
[SEE FULL SCHEDULE](#)



DRESSAGE

Tuesday, April 4: Familiarization
Wednesday, April 5: Grand Prix
Friday, April 7: Grand Prix Freestyle

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



VAULTING

Tuesday, April 4: Training
Thursday, April 6: Round 1
Saturday, April 8: Final Round

Lodging during the 2023 FEI World Cup™ Finals is still available. Book now for discounted pricing until March 12, 2023.

[RESERVE NOW](#)

Don't forget, reservations for vendor booths are open. Sign up before January 31, 2023, to guarantee a spot in the official FEI World Cup™ Finals program. Tiered pricing options allow you to pick the package best suited to your budget and goals. More than 52,000 ticket buyers from 38 countries and all 50 states attended the FEI World Cup™ Finals in 2017, and this year's event promises to be even bigger. Register now to be part of the biggest equestrian sporting event of the year.

[BECOME A VENDOR](#)

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About the Omaha Equestrian Foundation

The Omaha Equestrian Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that strives to bring equestrian sport into the mainstream by changing the way it is presented and to develop Omaha into a hub of the sport horse industry, attracting and developing championship competitions as both educational and economic development opportunities for the community.

LONGINES

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