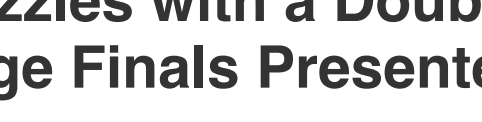




US Dressage Finals

presented by Adequan®

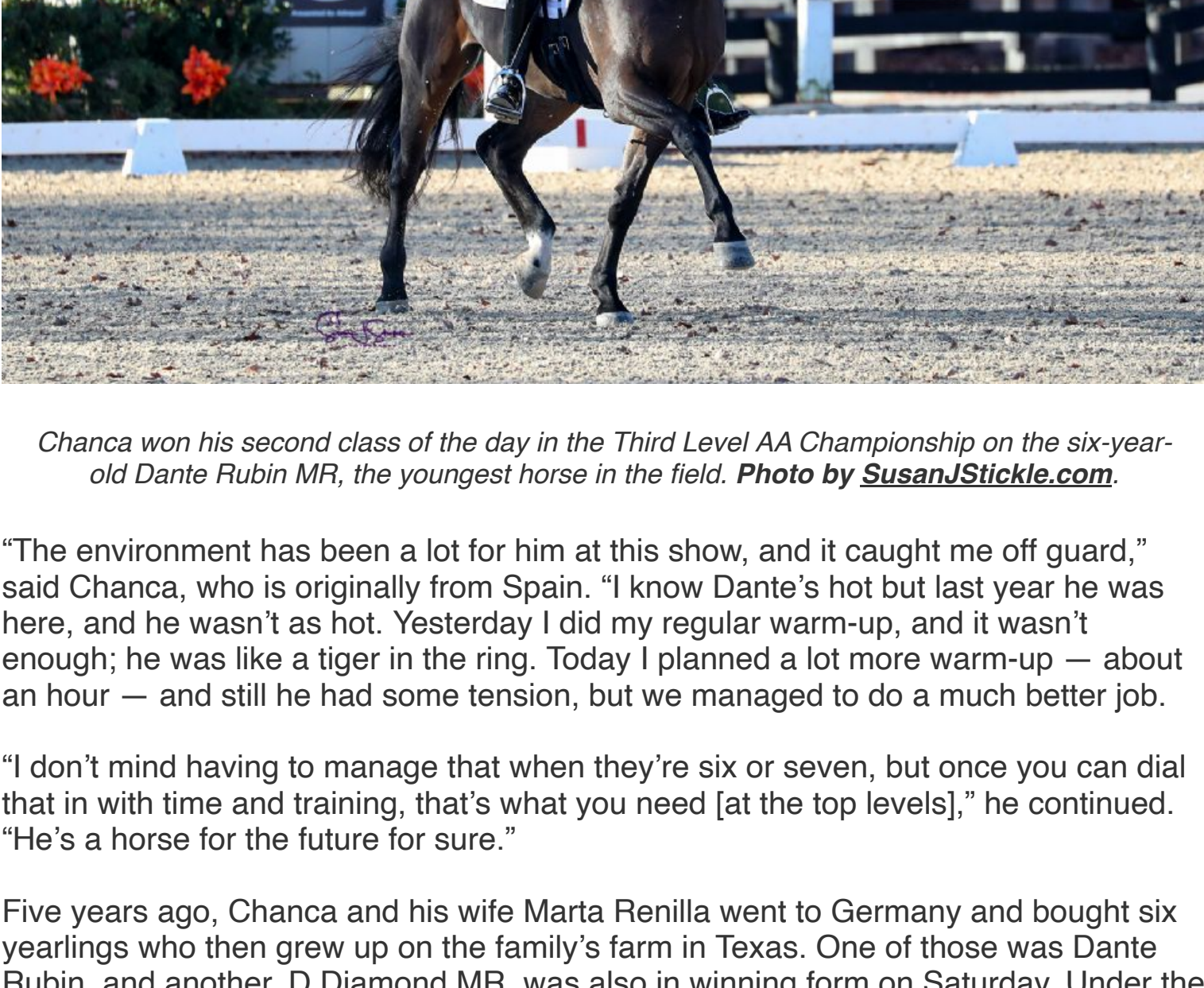


Anartz Chanca Dazzles with a Double on Day Three at 2023 US Dressage Finals Presented by Adequan®

November 11, 2023 – Lexington, KY – On Saturday, November 11, 2023, competition continued on the third day of the 10th anniversary edition of the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®. Previous champions shone and some new names came to the fore at the flagship national show, which continues through Sunday, November 12, and offers a wealth of championship titles and more than \$120,000 in prize money.

Anartz Chanca and Dazzle did just what his horse's name promises in the Grand Prix Freestyle Adult Amateur (AA) class, logging 70.925% and taking the title in their debut in this class at Finals. Chanca had a busy morning as he also topped the Third Level AA Championship on his own Dante Rubin MR by Dante Weltino, who at six years old was the youngest horse in the field of 18 starters.

Dante Rubin contested the Fourth Level AA Championship the previous day, and Chanca was taken aback by the horse's energy level, which translated into moments of tension and a score below their best.



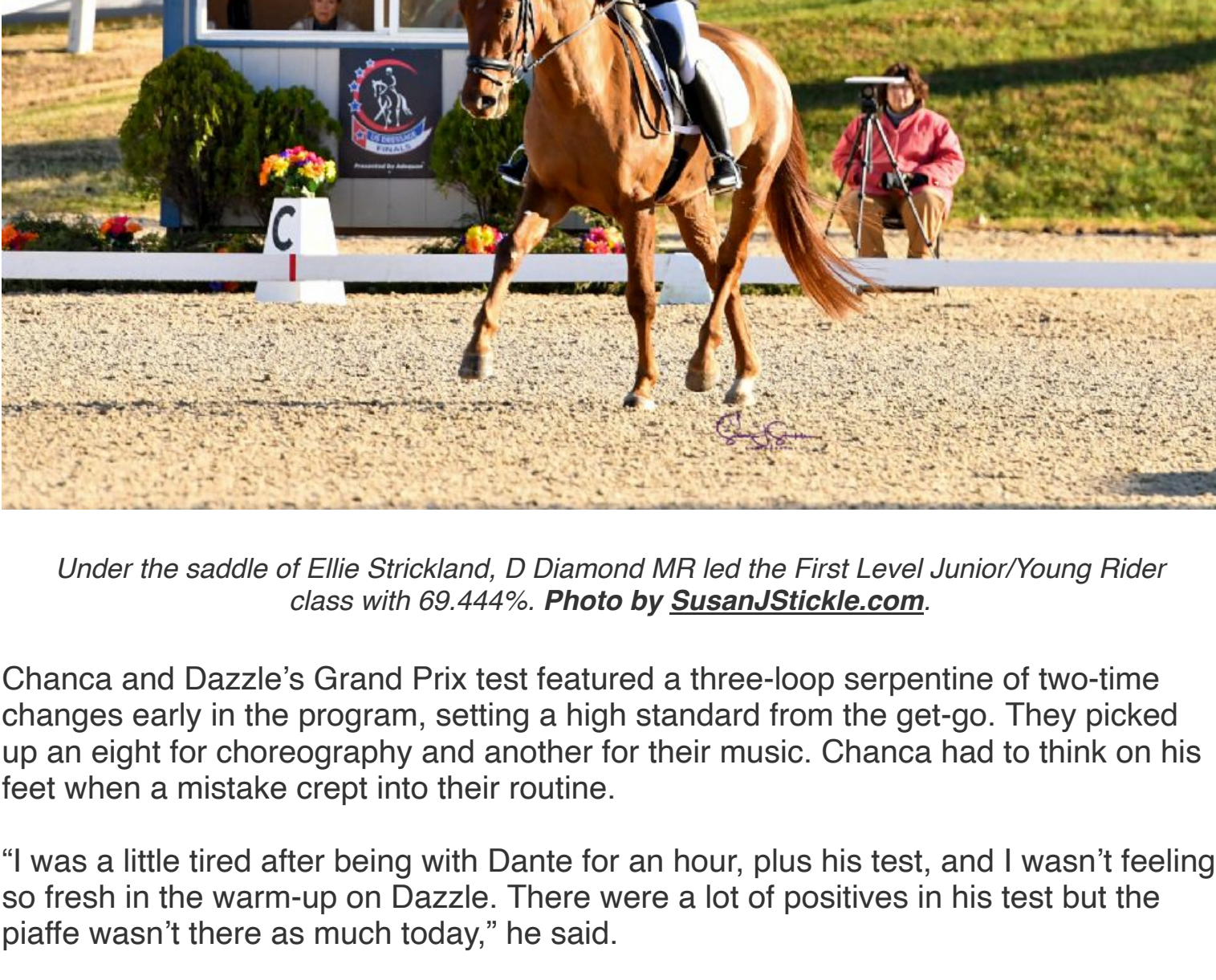
Chanca won his second class of the day in the Third Level AA Championship on the six-year-old Dante Rubin MR, the youngest horse in the field. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

"The environment has been a lot for him at this show, and it caught me off guard," said Chanca, who is originally from Spain. "I know Dante's hot but last year he was here, and he wasn't as hot. Yesterday I did my regular warm-up, and it wasn't enough; he was like a tiger in the ring. Today I managed a lot more warm-up — about an hour — and still he had some tension, but we managed to do a much better job.

"I don't mind having to manage that when they're six or seven, but once you can dial that in with time and training, that's what you need [at the top levels]," he continued. "He's a horse for the future for sure."

Five years ago, Chanca and his wife Marta Renilla went to Germany and bought six yearlings who then grew up on the family's farm in Texas. One of those was Dante Rubin, and another, D Diamond MR, was also in winning form on Saturday. Under the saddle of Ellie Strickland, the 16-hand Oldenburg son of D'Egalite led the First Level Junior/Young Rider class with 69.444%.

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Under the saddle of Ellie Strickland, D Diamond MR led the First Level Junior/Young Rider class with 69.444%. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

Chanca and Dazzle's Grand Prix test featured a three-loop serpentine of two-time changes early in the program, setting a high standard from the get-go. They picked up an eight for choreography and another for their music. Chanca had to tick on his feet when a mistake crept into their routine.

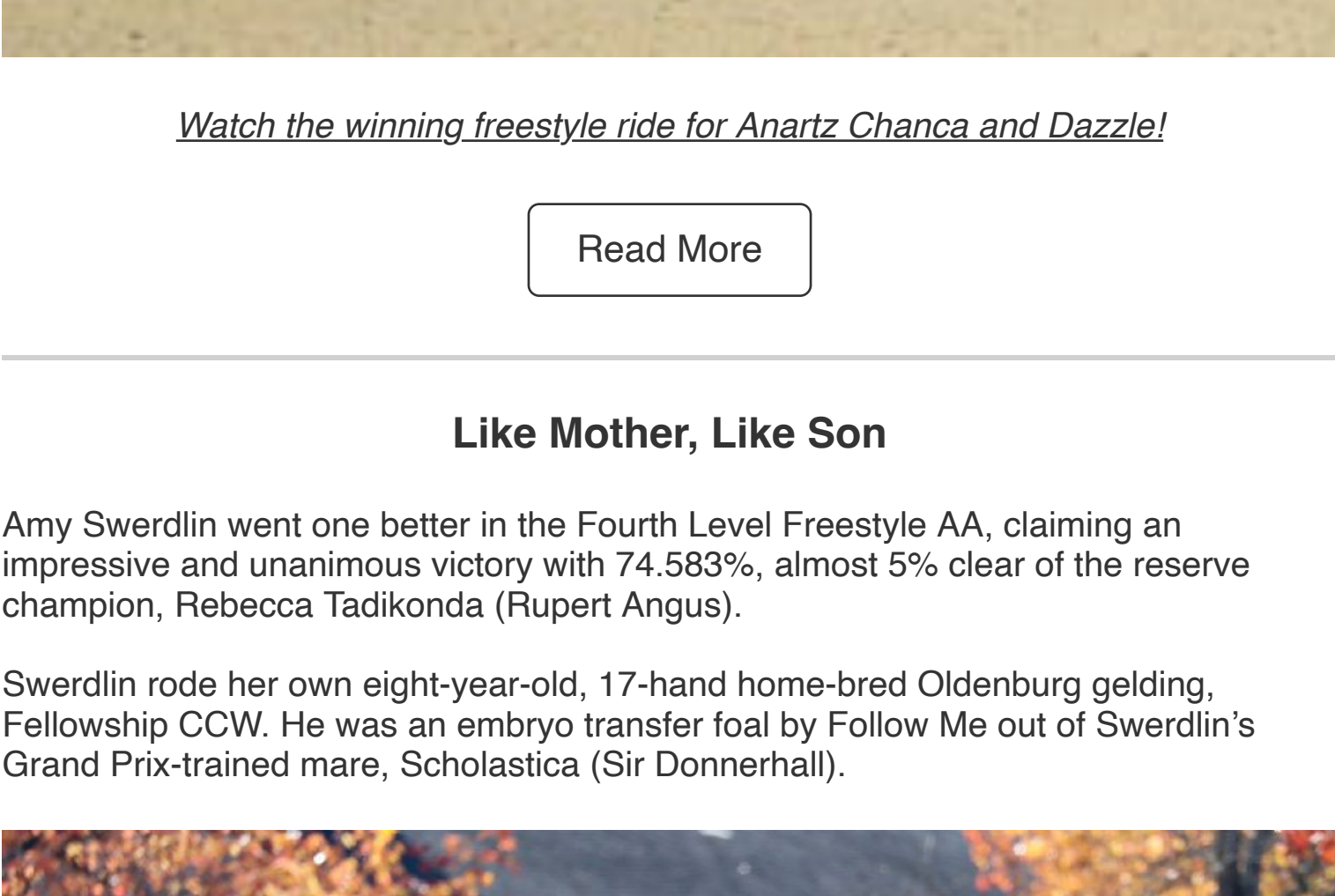
"I was a little tired after being with Dante for an hour, plus his test, and I wasn't feeling so fresh in the warm-up on Dazzle. There were a lot of positives in his test but the piaffe wasn't there as much today," he said.



Anartz Chanca and Dazzle did just that in the Grand Prix Freestyle Adult Amateur Championship for victory. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

Chanca added, "We had a mistake in the one-tempis but I had a reserve line. I don't typically do this, but I knew I had to risk it, so I went one-handed. I wanted to take the risk to compensate for the mistake to bring up the score for the one-tempis."

His strategy paid off, with one judge commenting "courageous riding." It was enough to squeak past the reserve champion, Amy Swerdlin, who rode her home-bred Quileute CCW to 70.775%.



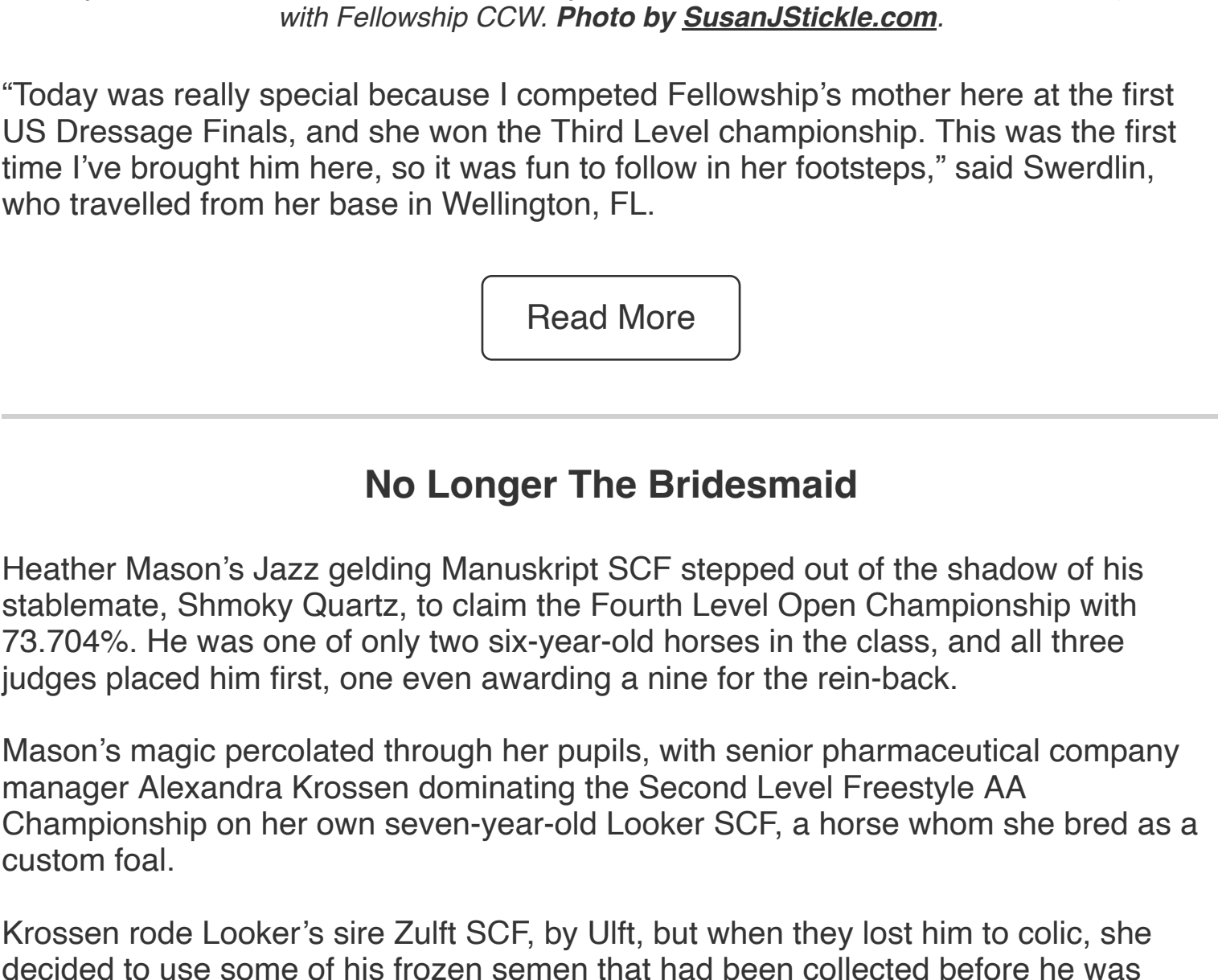
[Watch the winning freestyle ride for Anartz Chanca and Dazzle!](#)

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Like Mother, Like Son

Amy Swerdlin went one better in the Fourth Level Freestyle AA, claiming an impressive and unanimous victory with 74.583%, almost 5% clear of the reserve champion, Rebecca Tadikonda (Rupert Angus).

Swerdlin rode her own eight-year-old, 17-hand home-bred Oldenburg gelding, Fellowship CCW. He was an embryo transfer foal by Follow Me out of Swerdlin's Grand Prix-trained mare, Scholastica (Sir Donnerhall).



Amy Swerdlin won the Fourth Level Freestyle AA, almost 5% clear of the reserve champion, with Fellowship CCW. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

"Today was really special because I competed Fellowship's mother here at the first US Dressage Finals, and she won the Third Level championship. This was the first time I've brought him here, so it was fun to follow in her footsteps," said Swerdlin, who travelled from her base in Wellington, FL.

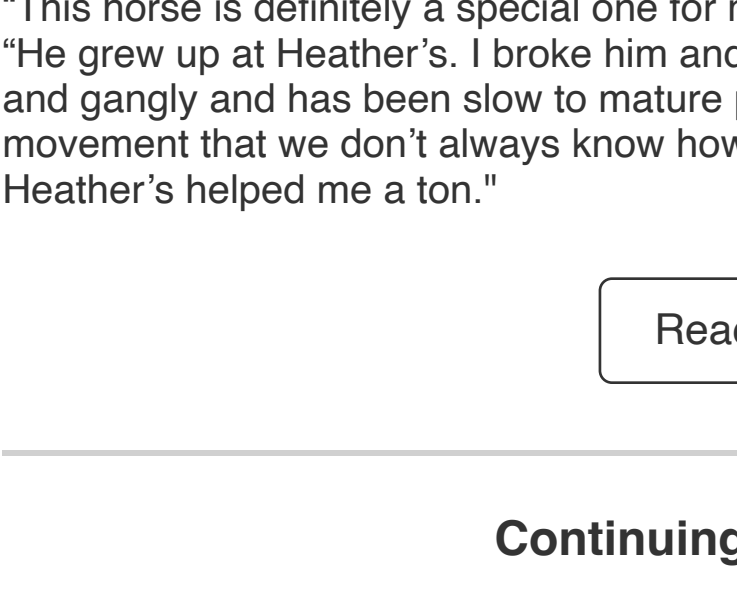
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No Longer The Bridesmaid

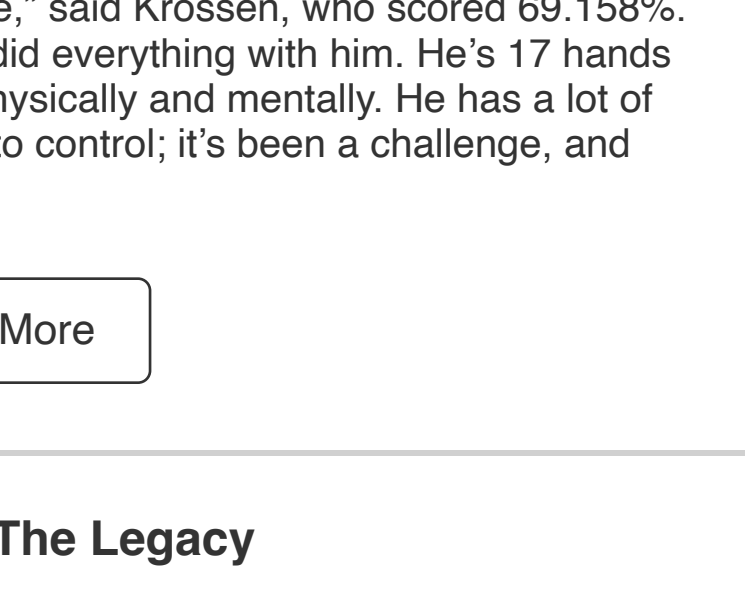
Heather Mason's Jazz gelding Manuscript SCF stepped out of the shadow of his stablemate, Shmoky Quartz, to claim the Fourth Level Open Championship with 73.704%. He was one of only two six-year-old horses in the class, and all three judges placed him first, one even awarding a nine for the rein-back.

Mason's magic percolated through her pupils, with senior pharmaceutical company manager Alexandra Krossen dominating the Second Level Freestyle AA Championship on her own seven-year-old Looker SCF, a horse whom she bred as a custom foal.

Krossen rode Looker's sire Zulfat SCF, by Ulft, but when they lost him to colic, she decided to use some of his frozen semen that had been collected before he was gelded. Looker, who is out of a Goodtimes mare, is the resulting foal.



Heather Mason's Manuscript SCF stepped out of the shadow of his stablemate and into the winner's circle in the Fourth Level Open Championship. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**



Alexandra Krossen dominated the Second Level Freestyle AA Championship on her own seven-year-old Looker SCF. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

"This horse is definitely a special one for me," said Krossen, who scored 69.158%. "He grew up at Heather's. I broke him and did everything with him. He's 17 hands and gangly and has been slow to mature physically and mentally. He has a lot of movement that we don't always know how to control; it's been a challenge, and Heather's helped me a ton."

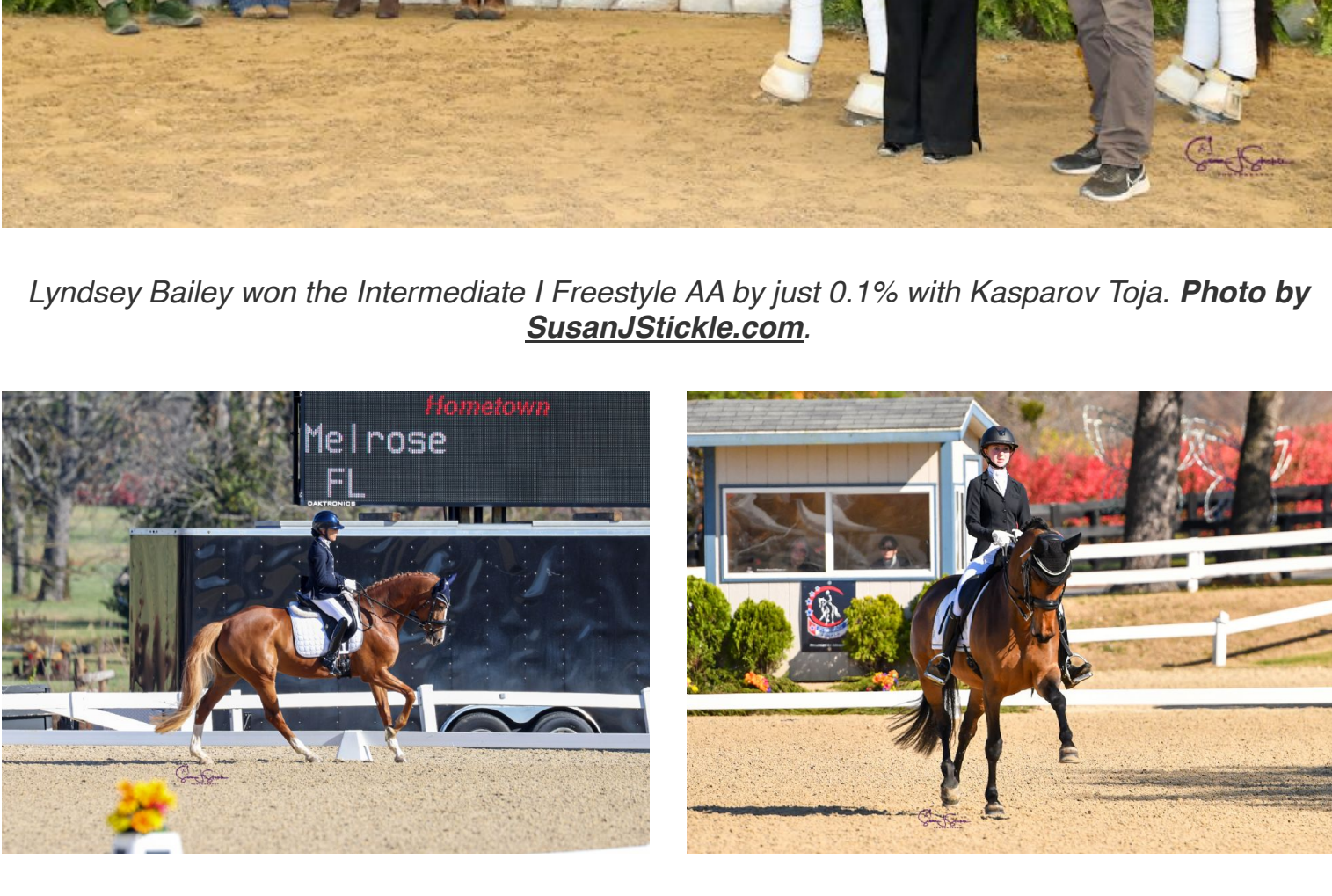
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Continuing The Legacy

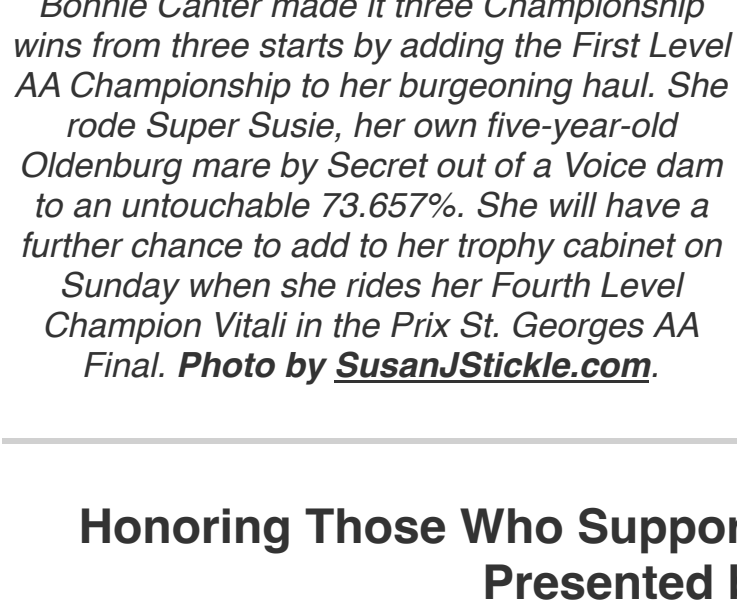
The Intermediate I Freestyle AA was nail-bitingly close, with the top three all finishing within 0.1% of each other. Lyndsey Bailey eventually came out on top, riding her own 18.1-hand, 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding Kasparov Toja by Vivaldi to 69.858%. The reserve champion Phyllis Sumner scored 69.842% on her own nine-year-old Soprano 9, while third place went to Tonna Faxon on Flash (69.75%).

"My mom passed away in 2019. She was a dressage rider, and this is my carrying on her legacy," said a tearful Bailey, who runs a feed and tack store in New York. "Although she's not here in person I can feel that she's here with us and this was for her. This is a dream come true."

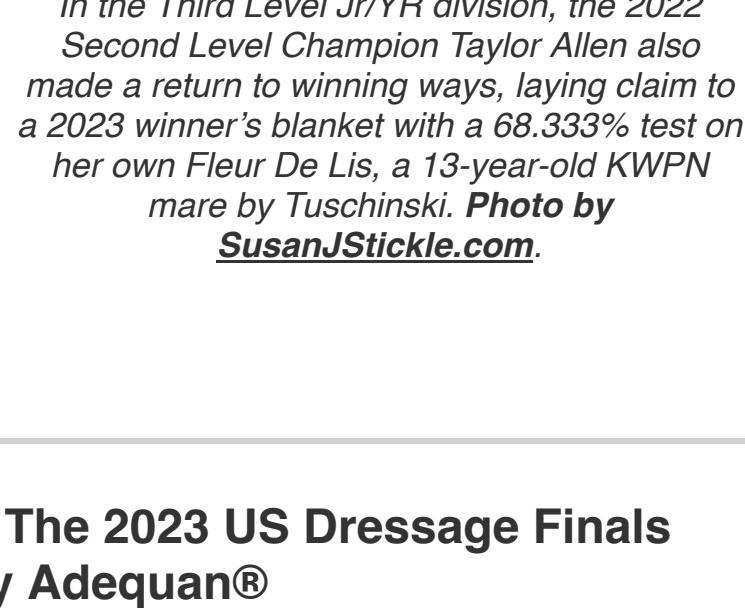
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Lyndsey Bailey won the Intermediate I Freestyle AA by just 0.1% with Kasparov Toja. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**



Bonnie Canter made it three Championship wins from three starts by adding the First Level AA Championship to her burgeoning haul. She rode Super Susie, her own five-year-old Oldenburg mare by Secret out of a Voice dam to an untouchable 73.657%. She will have a further chance to ride her trophy cabinet on Sunday when she rides her Fourth Level Champion Vitali in the Prix St. Georges AA Final. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**



In the Third Level Jr/YR division, the 2022 Second Level Champion Taylor Allen also made a return to winning ways, laying claim to a 2023 winner's blanket with a 68.333% test on her own Fleur De Lis, a 13-year-old KWPN mare by Tuschinski. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

Honoring Those Who Support The 2023 US Dressage Finals Presented by Adequan®



The lifeblood of every dressage show, especially one as large as the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®, is the volunteer core ready to offer up their time and expertise to help the competition run smoothly. A person who perfectly exemplifies this is Kathy Grisolia, the longtime Volunteer Coordinator of the Finals. In her 25-plus years of work in the dressage world, her other acts of service include being a member of the USDF Competition Management Committee and serving on the US Dressage Finals Organizing Committee. Tonight, she was honored by a special presentation and a hand-sewn quilt as a thank you for her many years of leadership at Finals. Thank you, Kathy! **Photo by Chelsey Burris.**

Volunteers who have served five years at the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® were honored in a special ceremony. **Photo by Chelsey Burris.**

Another release covering the remaining Saturday afternoon classes and the gala evening — including the Grand Prix Open Freestyle Championship — will follow.

Competition concludes on Sunday, November 12, with the final nine championship titles to be decided, from Training Level to Prix St. Georges. 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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