



US Dressage Finals

presented by Adequan®

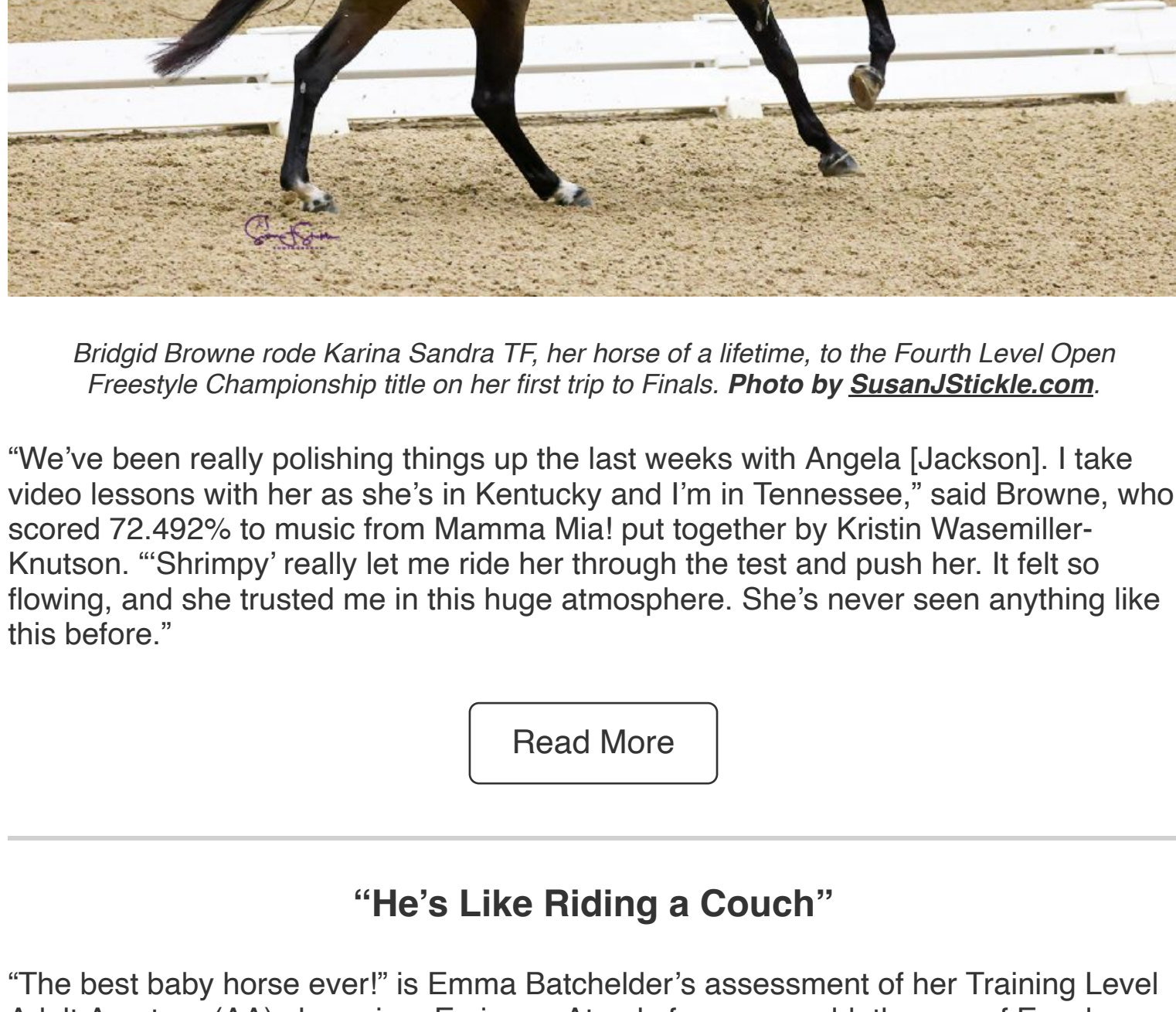


“Spicy Spitfire” Karina Sandra TF Takes Final Title of 2023 US Dressage Finals Presented by Adequan®

November 12, 2023 – Lexington, KY – The Kentucky Horse Park played host to the fourth and final day of action on Sunday, November 12, 2023, in the 10th anniversary edition of the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®. The remaining nine champions of the year were crowned at a show where competitors representing 40 states traveled from far and wide to vie for the more than \$120,000 of prize money.

When 19-year-old Bridgid Browne bought a foal — having never even handled a weanling in her life — little did she know that seven years later she would lift the Fourth Level Open Freestyle Championship title on her horse of a lifetime on her first trip to Finals.

“I love this mare with my whole heart,” enthused the 26-year-old of the 15.2-hand Karina Sandra TF, unable to contain the smile on her face. “I was refreshing the results over and over again because there were a lot of really competitive, good riders in there. It’s super special because I’ve done everything with her myself. It’s super rewarding.”



Bridgid Browne rode Karina Sandra TF, her horse of a lifetime, to the Fourth Level Open Freestyle Championship title on her first trip to Finals. Photo by SusanJStickle.com

“We’ve been really polishing things up the last weeks with Angela [Jackson]. I take video lessons with her as she’s in Kentucky and I’m in Tennessee,” said Browne, who scored 72.492% to music from Mamma Mia! put together by Kristin Wasemiller-Knutson. “‘Shrimpy’ really let me ride her through the test and push her. It felt so flowing, and she trusted me in this huge atmosphere. She’s never seen anything like this before.”

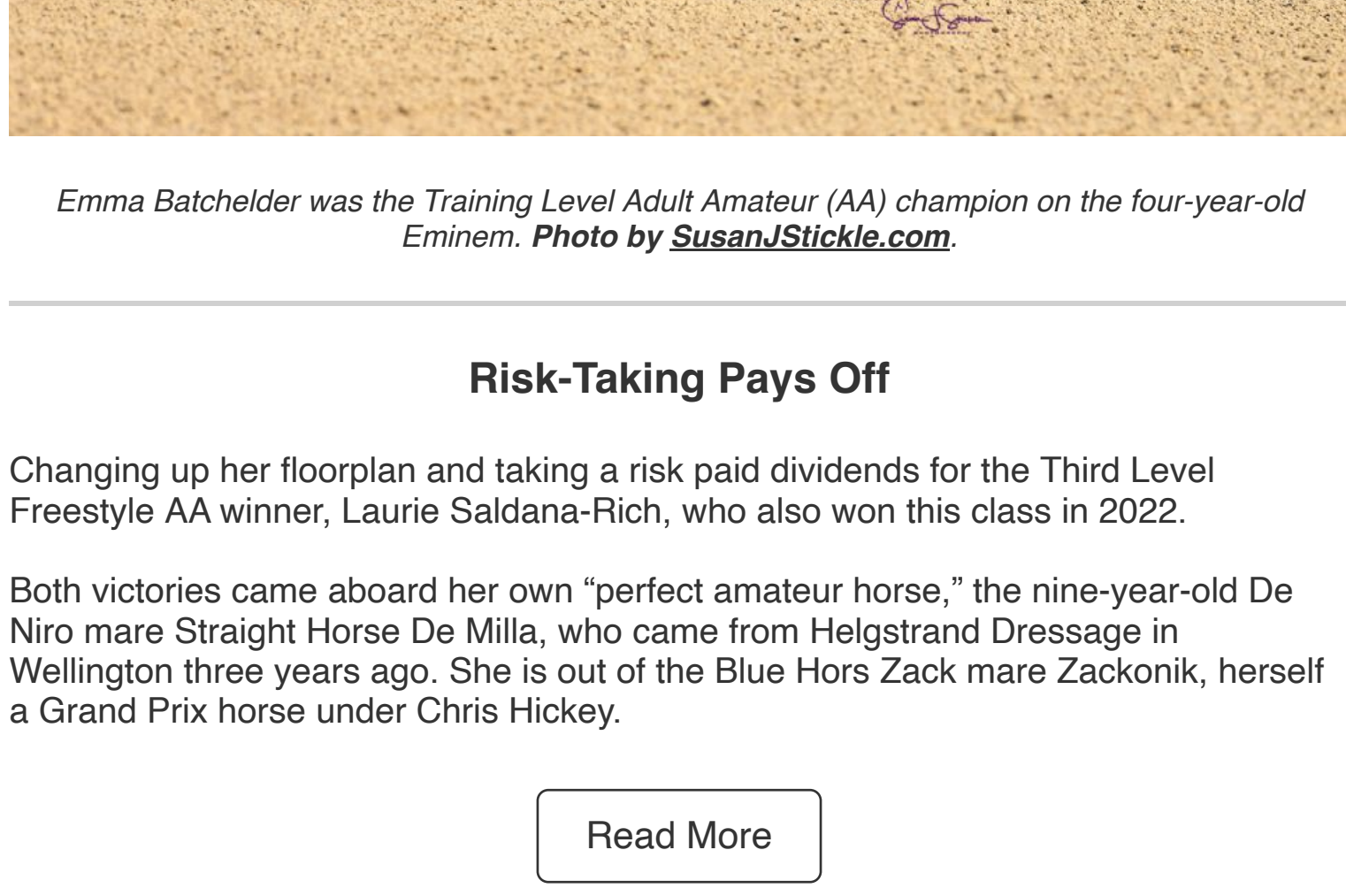
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“He’s Like Riding a Couch”

“The best baby horse ever!” is Emma Batchelder’s assessment of her Training Level Adult Amateur (AA) champion, Eminem. At only four years old, the son of Escalar vanquished all before him to take the title with 74.6%. Batchelder bought him at the Hanoverian Elite Auction in 2022.

“He’s been a total love and a trooper,” enthused the Florida-based nurse anesthetist. “He’s just a really smart, brave boy. He was a little tired as he’s been so pumped this week, but he listened and was so supple in the test. He’s totally comfortable and easy to sit — it’s like riding a couch. He’s four but I’m never afraid of him.”

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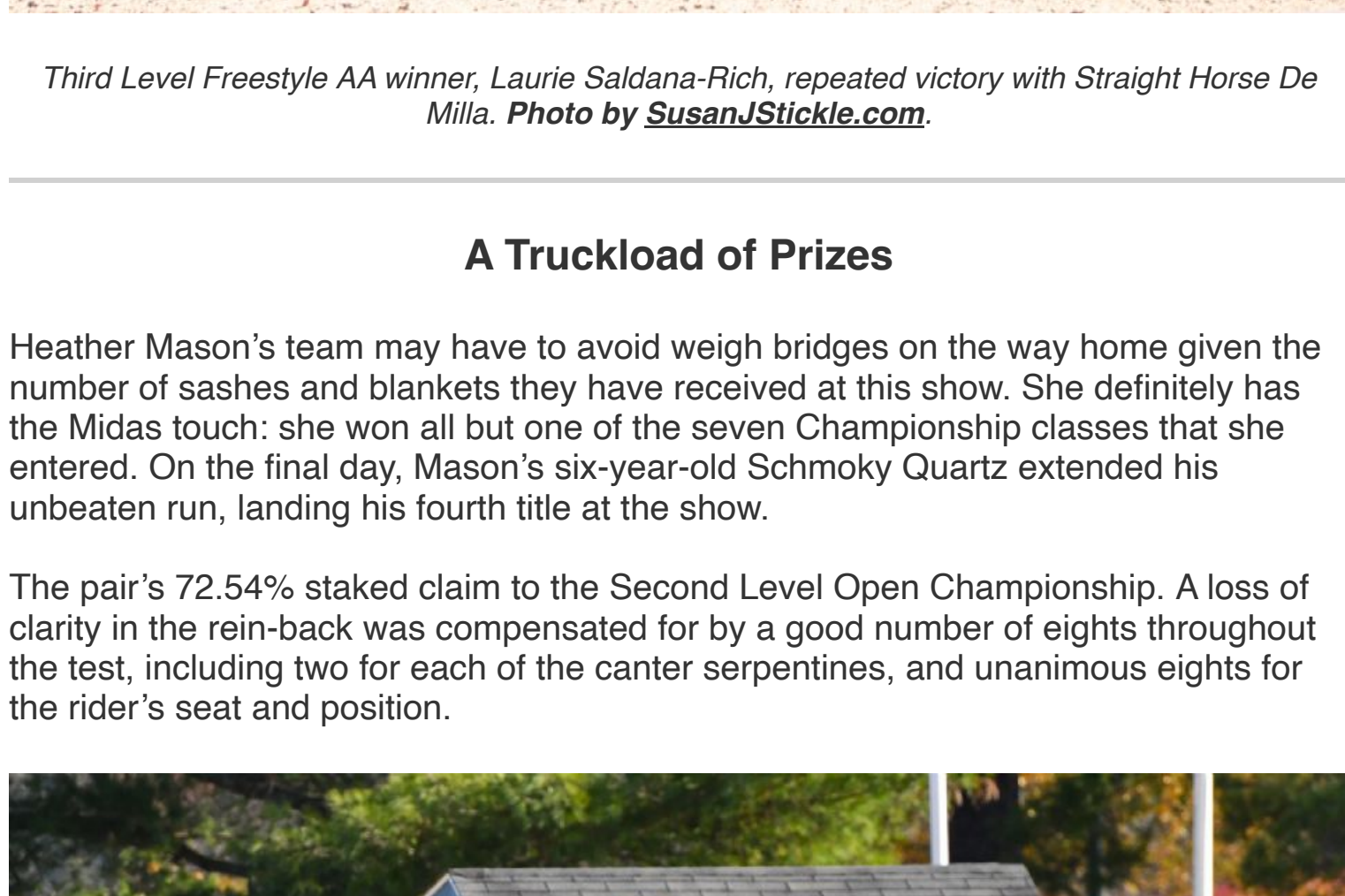
Emma Batchelder was the Training Level Adult Amateur (AA) champion on the four-year-old Eminem. Photo by SusanJStickle.com

Risk-Taking Pays Off

Changing up her floorplan and taking a risk paid dividends for the Third Level Freestyle AA winner, Laurie Saldana-Rich, who also won this class in 2022.

Both victories came aboard her own “perfect amateur horse,” the nine-year-old De Niro mare Straight Horse De Milla, who came from Helgstrand Dressage in Wellington three years ago. She is out of the Blue Hors Zack mare Zackonik, herself a Grand Prix horse under Chris Hickey.

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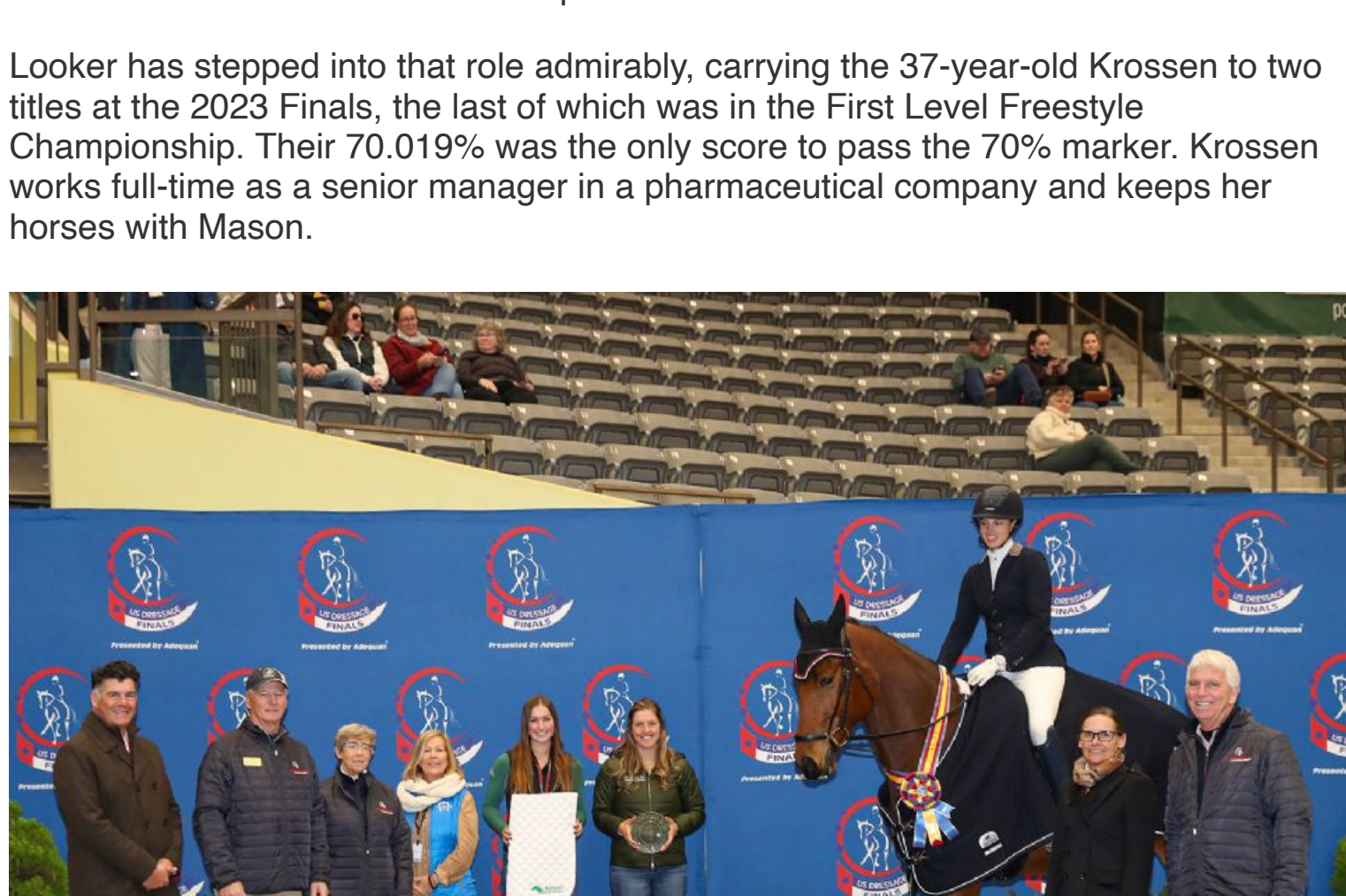


Third Level Freestyle AA winner, Laurie Saldana-Rich, repeated victory with Straight Horse De Milla. Photo by SusanJStickle.com

A Truckload of Prizes

Heather Mason’s team may have to avoid weigh bridges on the way home given the number of sashes and blankets they have received at this show. She definitely has the Midas touch: she won all but one of the seven Championship classes that she entered. On the final day, Mason’s six-year-old Schmoky Quartz extended his unbeaten run, finishing his fourth title at the show.

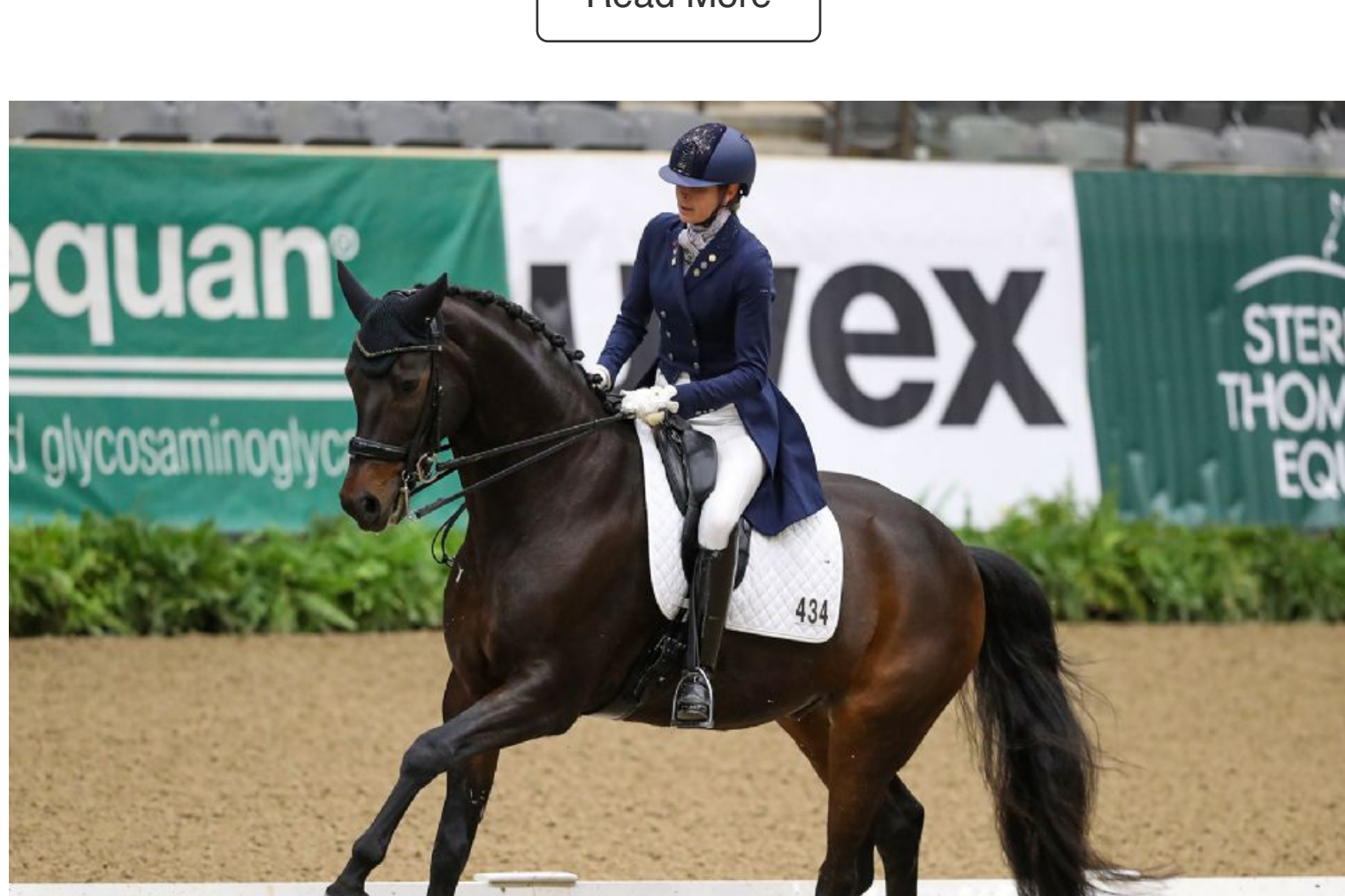
The pair’s 72.54% staked claim to the Second Level Open Championship. A loss of clarity in the rein-back was compensated for by a good number of eights throughout the test, including two for each of the canter serpentine, and unanimous eights for the rider’s seat and position.



Schmoky Quartz, ridden by Heather Mason, remained unbeaten and they won their fourth title of the Finals in the Second Level Open Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com

Mason’s pupil Alexandra Krossen also had a superb show, picking up her second title of the week with Looker SCF. The horse was a custom foal by her Krossen used to ride called Zulf SCF, and when he died from colic, she decided to use Zulf’s frozen semen to custom-breed a replacement.

Looker has stepped into that role admirably, carrying the 37-year-old Krossen to two titles at the 2023 Finals, the last of which was in the First Level Freestyle Championship. Their 70.019% was the only score to pass the 70% marker. Krossen works full-time as a senior manager in a pharmaceutical company and keeps her horses with Mason.

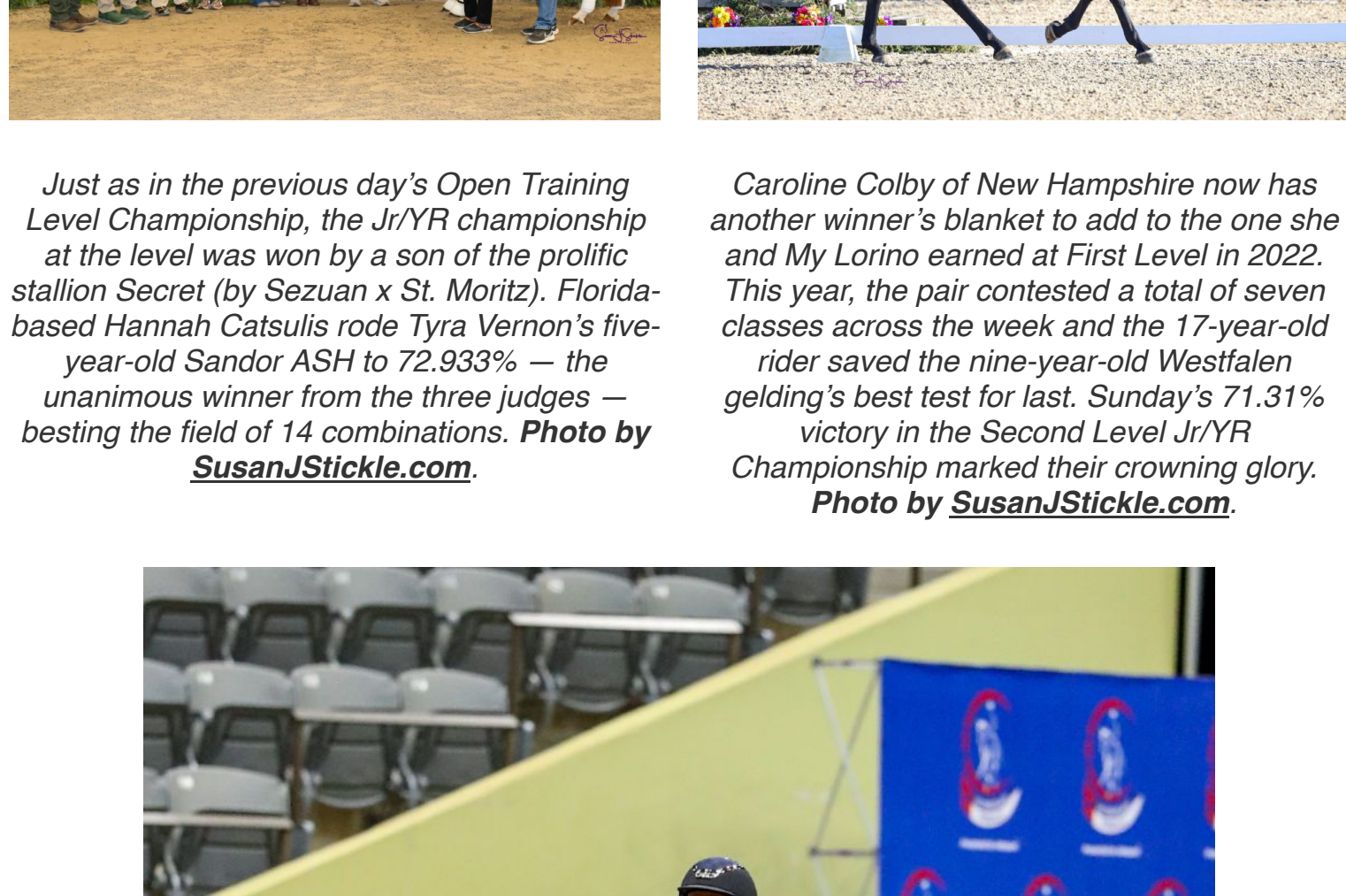


Alexandra Krossen and Looker SCF notched the only score to pass the 70% marker to win the First Level Freestyle Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com

Krossen also finished third in the Prix St. Georges AA riding Heather Mason’s 11-year-old Oldenburg mare Nicene to 68.529%. The class was topped by Amy Swerdlin, who was another AA to add to her winning tally this week on the final day. She rode her own eight-year-old home-bred Fellowship CCW, a horse that is by Follow Me out of Scholastica, by Sir Donnerhall, to the Prix St. Georges title with 71.078%.

Swerdlin edged out another in-form AA partnership, relegating Bonnie Canter and her petite seven-year-old Vitali to the reserve spot with 70.784%.

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Amy Swerdlin and Fellowship CCW, her own eight-year-old home-bred, won the Prix St. Georges AA Championship. Photo by SusanJStickle.com

Continuing the day’s theme of 2023 champions adding to their winning tally, Taylor Allen added the Fourth Level Jr/YR accolade to her name, scoring 68.75% on her own 13-year-old KWPN Tuschinski mare, Fleur De Lis.

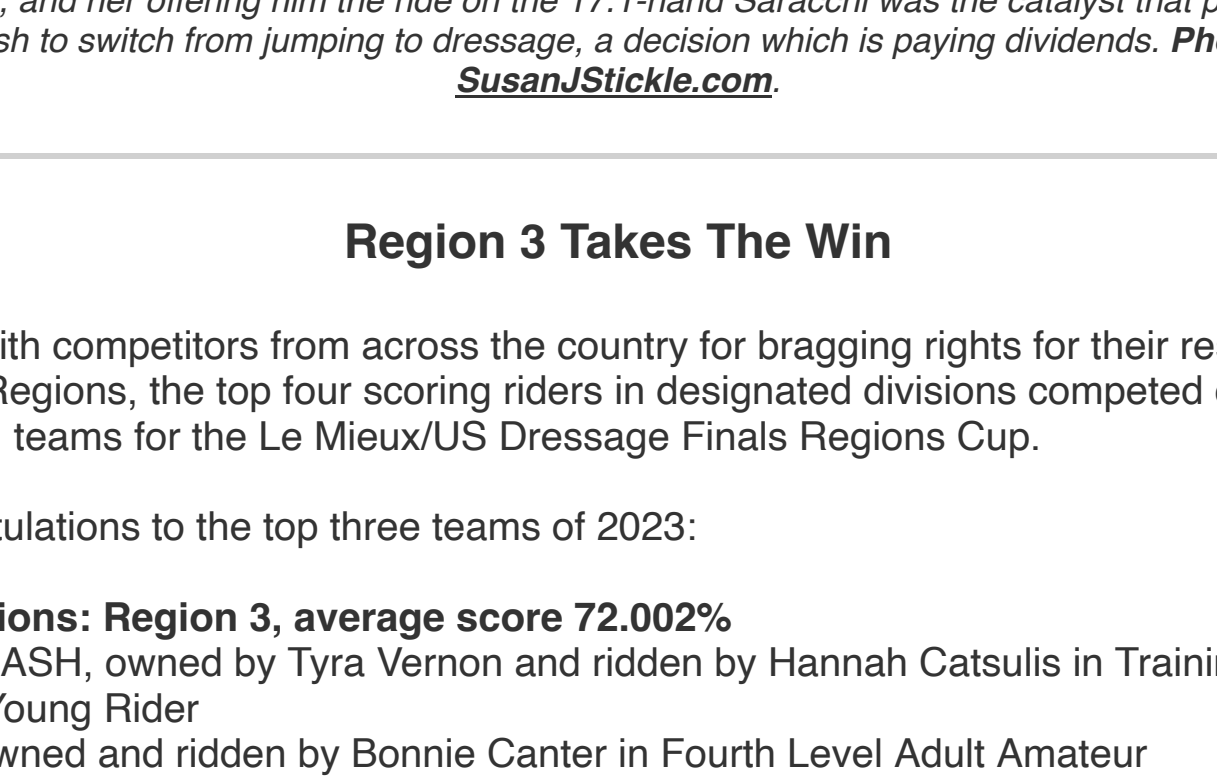
Additional 2023 Champions



Just as in the previous day’s Open Training Level Championship, the Jr/YR Championship at the level was won by a son of the prolific stallion Secret (by Sezuan x St. Moritz). Florida-based Hannah Catsulis rode Tyra Vernon’s five-year-old Sandor ASH to 72.933% — the unanimous winner from the three judges — besting the field of 14 combinations. Photo by SusanJStickle.com



Caroline Colby of New Hampshire now has another winner’s blanket to add to the one she and My Lorino earned at First Level in 2022. This year, the pair contested a total of seven classes across the week and the 17-year-old rider saved the nine-year-old Westfalen gelding’s best test for last. Sunday’s 71.31% victory in the Second Level Jr/YR Championship marked their crowning glory. Photo by SusanJStickle.com



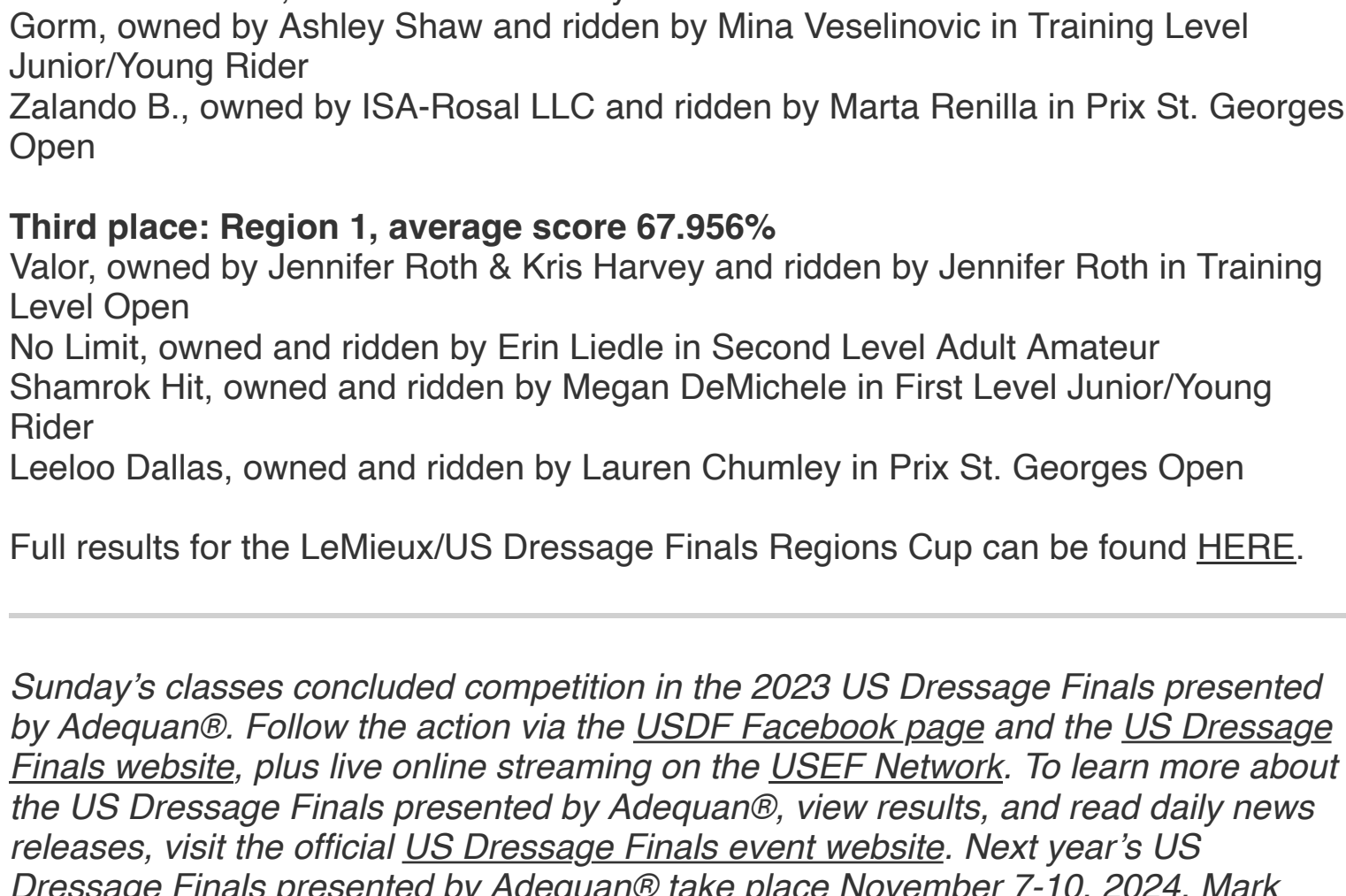
In the Fourth Level Jr/YR Championship, it was the last rider to go, the 18-year-old Taiwan Parrish, who swept to victory. He rode Saracchi, Lauren Chumley’s 18-year-old bay gelding by Sandro Hit, to 69.637%. He has been helping at his trainer Lauren Chumley’s barn since he was 14, and her offering him the ride on the 17.1-hand Saracchi was the catalyst that prompted Parrish to switch from jumping to dressage, a decision which is paying dividends. Photo by SusanJStickle.com

Region 3 Takes The Win

Vying with competitors from across the country for bragging rights for their respective USDF Regions, the top four scoring riders in designated divisions competed on regional teams for the Le Mieux/US Dressage Finals Regions Cup.

Congratulations to the top three teams of 2023:

Champions: Region 3, average score 72.002%
Sandor ASH, owned by Tyra Vernon and ridden by Hannah Catsulis in Training Level Junior/Young Rider
Vitali, owned and ridden by Bonnie Canter in Fourth Level Adult Amateur
Sandor ASH, owned by Tyra Vernon and ridden by Hannah Catsulis in Training Level Junior/Young Rider
Fellowship CCW, owned and ridden by Amy Swerdlin in Prix St. Georges Adult Amateur



Hannah Catsulis, Amy Swerdlin, and Bonnie Canter were the winning team from Region 3 in the Le Mieux/US Dressage Finals Regions Cup. Photo by Chelsey Burris.

Reserve Champions: Region 9, average score 68.703%
NTEC Dorian Gray, owned by Kai Handt and ridden by Julia Handt in Training Level Open
Dante Ruben M.R., owned and ridden by Anartz Chanca in Third Level Adult Amateur
Gorm, owned by Ashley Shaw and ridden by Mina Veselinovic in Training Level Junior/Young Rider
Zalando B., owned by ISA-Rosal LLC and ridden by Marta Renilla in Prix St. Georges Open

Third place: Region 1, average score 67.956%
Valor, owned by Jennifer Roth & Kris Harvey and ridden by Jennifer Roth in Training Level Open
No Limit, owned and ridden by Erin Liedle in Second Level Adult Amateur
Shamrok Hit, owned and ridden by Megan DeMichele in First Level Junior/Young Rider
Leeloo Dallas, owned and ridden by Lauren Chumley in Prix St. Georges Open

Full results for the LeMieux/US Dressage Finals Regions Cup can be found [HERE](#).

Sunday’s classes concluded competition in the 2023 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®. 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 read daily news releases, visit the official [US Dressage Finals event website](#). Next year’s US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® take place November 7-10, 2024. Mark your calendar!

By Alice Collins for Jump Media/US Dressage Finals

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.

US Dressage Finals Media Contact:

Jennifer Wood
jwood@jumpmediallc.com