



Four Fresh Champions Crowned on Opening Day of 2025 US Dressage Finals at WEC – Wilmington

October 31, 2025 – Wilmington, OH – On day one of the four-day [2025 US Dressage Finals](#) presented by [Adequan®](#), which began on Thursday, October 30, four of the 37 titles on offer were captured by fresh champions. The show, which offers \$125,000 in prize money, unfolded under autumnal conditions, so competitors and spectators were especially appreciative of the show's new home at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH, which hosts all championship classes indoors.



Lauren Chumley took the [Intermediate II Championship](#) with 68.48% aboard the nine-year-old U.S.-bred Leeloo Dallas in the mare's first year at the level. **Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)**

Leeloo Dallas Delivers Again

Lauren Chumley and Leeloo Dallas continued their smooth glide up the dressage totem pole, winning the [Intermediate II Open Championship](#) with 68.48% in a class of 14 starters. The duo won the Prix St. Georges title at the 2023 Finals and the Intermediate I Freestyle last year.

"This is Leeloo's first year at I-2, and I've had some really good and some not-so-great rides," said Chumley of the nine-year-old mare by Gaspard De La Nuit DG x Negro. "She's never naughty, but she's green at this — she's only been doing this level for, like, 30 seconds. She was good in the test, but she was amazing in the warm-up, so that was a feeling of what's to come. I can't wait until I can have it all in the ring."

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Mason Hones Her Craft

Finals specialist Heather Mason wasted no time with getting her winning groove on at this year's show, bagging another title that will be heading back to New Jersey. On the eight-year-old Manuscript SCF — the joint youngest horse in the class — she clinched the [Prix St. Georges Open Championship](#) with 70.392%, the only plus-70%.



Heather Mason opened her 2025 Finals account with a plus-70% win in the Open Prix St. Georges on Manuscript SCF, by Jazz. **Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)**

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First Draw Is Golden

Christina Morin-Graham was the very first Championship class rider of the entire 2025 Finals as the pathfinder in the [Intermediate II Adult Amateur Championship](#) on Thursday morning. Her 66.961% performance on her own 15-year-old Oldenburg mare Mondlicht was more than enough to keep her atop the leaderboard throughout to deliver her first Finals win, with the reserve champion finishing almost five percentage points adrift.

Morin-Graham — who has eight championship class rides this year — bought Mondlicht five years ago from Germany and was advised that she would not make a grand prix horse.



Adult Amateur Christina Morin-Graham rode her own Mondlicht to the Intermediate II title with 66.961% to capture the very first 2025 winner's sash. **Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)**

"They said she was too hot for the one-temps and wouldn't be able to do the piaffe/passage," explained Morin-Graham, who topped the same class at the Region 8 Championships on the Sarkozy x Ravallo mare. "I was happy to have her as a small tour horse, but over the years we've done a lot of growing together, and here we are doing big tour."

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A Magical Feeling

Taryn Anderson of Eerie, CO, was also first to go in the [Third Level Open Championship](#), and her 71.625% on her mother Tammy Anderson's seven-year-old Figardo proved unbeatable.



Figardo gave Taryn Anderson "a magical ride" to top the Third Level Open Championship with 71.625% — the day's highest Finals score. **Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)**

"He warmed up kind of tight in this big atmosphere, so I didn't know what to expect. I went in the ring, and he was just so lovely," said Anderson, who topped the same class at the Region 8 Championships on the Sarkozy x Ravallo mare. "I was happy to have her as a small tour horse, but over the years we've done a lot of growing together, and here we are doing big tour."

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Competition resumes on Friday, October 31, with nine championship titles up for grabs from Training Level to Grand Prix during the day and the evening gala. 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.

Along with presenting sponsor [Adequan®](#), the US Dressage Finals is supported by [SmartEquine](#), [LeMieux](#), and [Platinum Performance](#). Contributing sponsors include Premier Equestrian, Sterling Thompson Equine, and Uvex.

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usdfofficial Congratulations to all our competitors! What an amazing first day of competition at the US Dressage Finals! [#USDressageFinals](#)

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