



Lusitano New to The Level is Crowned Grand Prix Champion During Gala Evening at US Dressage Finals

A multitabled “sweetheart” Iberian stallion new to the level this summer was crowned the Grand Prix Champion under rider Jorge Arauz during Friday night’s gala evening at the [2025 US Dressage Finals](#) presented by [Adequan®](#). The show takes place from October 30 to November 2, 2025, at its new home, World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH.

Of the 14 starters, Arauz coaxed the winning 65.036% performance in the [Open Grand Prix Championship](#) from Dulce Borjas’s charming gray Lusitano stallion, London Do Vouga, despite the 11-year-old’s inexperience. Two mares joined them on the podium: Kristin Wasemiller-Knutson and her 16-year-old Trakehner Vashti slotted into the reserve spot with 65% and Laura Abner finished third with 64.891% on her 11-year-old Danish-bred mare, Bellina.



Jorge Arauz rode the 11-year-old Lusitano London Do Vouga to the Open Grand Prix title at the horse’s fourth show at the level. *Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)*

“It has been an amazing journey with this horse,” said Arauz, who works for Borjas at her Los Encinos Equestrian Hacienda in Magnolia, TX. “He came to us from Brazil three or four years ago as a kind of average horse schooling second level for Dulce to ride.”

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Tactical Ride Yields Results

After a mammoth seven hours of competition in the 36-strong [Second Level Adult Amateur Championship](#), detective Alexa Briscoe and her seven-year-old Lincolntime nosed ahead to claim victory with 71.032%.

She has owned the Londontime x Weltmeyer gelding since he was three, but his propensity to add his own moves meant they avoided rated competition until he was six.



Alexa Briscoe topped the huge Second Level AA Championship with 71.032% on her seven-year-old Lincolntime, by Londontime. *Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)*

“We had one of those more ‘creative’ tests yesterday as a warm-up class,” said Briscoe, who has trained with Becky Langwost-Barlow for three decades. “Today, there were a few points that I had to leave on the table to get through it and avoid a bigger issue, so I’m proud we managed the tension and pulled it off when it counted.”

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A Big, Brave Baby

The enormous four-year-old Rock It P certainly did rock it in the [First Level Open Freestyle](#) under his owner/rider Heather Mason, scoring 77.241%, helped by a plus-80% from the judge at C. They used music from the movie Enola Holmes put together by Kevin Whitney.



The youngest horse in the class, four-year-old Rock It P (by Grand Galaxy Win x Everdale), topped the First Level Open Freestyle with 77.241% under Heather Mason’s guidance. *Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)*

“He was completely distracted by the camera person yesterday in his training level test, so that was a mess,” said Mason of the 17.3hh gelding who was the only four-year-old in the First Level Freestyle. “Today he put on his bravery and was fantastic. It’s a very difficult floorplan with bold movements and combinations because he’s an honest horse, which is lucky because being so big it would be a problem if he wasn’t. I bought him as a foal, and he was only supposed to make 16.2hh.”

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Harrington Has the Edge

It was incredibly tight at the top in the [Third Level Open Championship](#), with local rider Nicole Harrington eventually prevailing. All three top rides scored over 72%, with Harrington besting the pack with 72.725% — including a high score of 76.25% from the judge at B — on Gail Garvin’s eight-year-old German gelding Despacito Corazon (by Destano x Belissimo M). In fact, the top eight all finished with scores over 70%.



Nicole Harrington and Despacito Corazon (by Destano) held off challengers to secure the winner’s blanket in the hotly-contested Open Third Level Championship with 72.725%. *Photo by [SusanJStickle.com](#)*

“I was sitting back at the barn with three left to go, and it was nail-biting to see if my score could hold,” said Harrington, whose training operation in Pleasant Plain, OH, is just half an hour from WEC. “It was a really nice ride. He was with me and let me ride him. He’s only going to go up from here.”

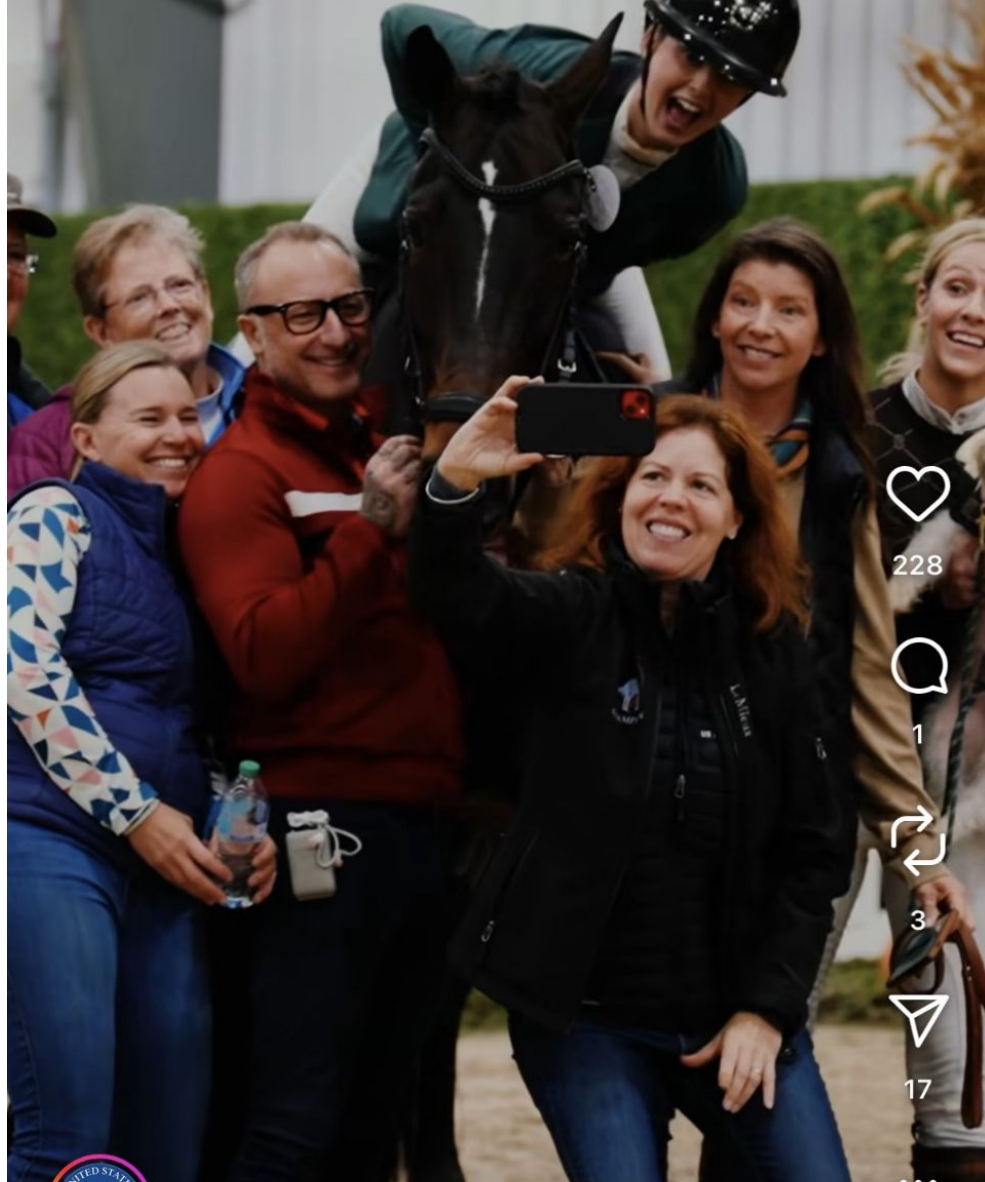
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Competition continues on Saturday, November 1, with 14 championship titles to be decided across the day and evening gala sessions. The [full digital show program is available here](#). Follow the action via the [USDF Facebook page](#), [USDF Instagram 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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