



Watch How Nora Batchelder and Faro SQF Claimed Open Grand Prix Freestyle at 2024 US Dressage Finals, Presented by Adequan®

November 10, 2024 – Lexington, KY – On the second of two gala evenings at the 2024 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®, Saturday's most prestigious class, the Open Grand Prix Freestyle, was led from the front. Nora Batchelder was first to go, and the 74.208% she laid down with her 16-year-old international partner Faro SQF proved too high a bar for her rivals to scale. The 2024 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® at the Kentucky Horse Park run through Sunday, November 10.



From first draw, Nora Batchelder and the 16-year-old Faro SQF nailed the Open Grand Prix Freestyle Championship with 74.208%, in what may be their last test together. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

Batchelder also scooped the Jazzman Perpetual Trophy for her win, presented by Donna Richardson. The reserve champion's sash went to Kristin Wasemiller-Knutson and Vashti, her own 15-year-old Nico mare, who was bred by Sherry Koella, for their energetic 73.183% test. Heather McCarthy finished third with 71.442% aboard Sandi Chohany's 13-year-old Ampere mare, Au Revoir.



Watch Nora Batchelder and Faro SQF's technically complex winning Open Grand Prix Freestyle Championship test. **Video by USEF Network/ClipMyHorse.tv.**

Batchelder, from Williston, FL, said, "His test had a lot of energy, and he feels like he really wants to do it. For a 16-year-old grand prix horse, it feels good that he's still so into it. He's been with me since he was nine — we did the Pan American Games together — and my first Finals ever was with him at Prix St. Georges, so it's fun to win at this level now. I love him so much; he's my heart horse."

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Two Laurens on Future Stars

Both Lauren Sprieser and Lauren Chumley logged wins on horses they firmly believe will be talented grand prix partners in future.

Lauren Chumley and Leeloo Dallas were the final combination in the Open Intermediate I Freestyle, and their fun routine and upbeat music saw them snatch the lead with 72.1%, despite the rider's uncharacteristic nerves. The compact 16-hand, eight-year-old mare by the Ravel son Gaspard De La Nuit bounded down the final center line in two-tempi changes.



An unusually nervous Lauren Chumley held it together to top the Open Intermediate I Freestyle from final draw on Leeloo Dallas with 72.1%. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

"It's a little bit of a different game when you go in, and you're expected to do well," said Chumley, who trains with Michael Bragdoll and splits her time between Pittstown, NJ, and Loxahatchee, FL. "I'm used to clawing my way up from the bottom, so this is a whole different game, and I have to learn to deal with that. I don't normally get nervous, but there's a bit of pressure: she's been winning at CDIs and got a grant from The Dressage Foundation."

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Looking For the Next Big Thing

Lauren Sprieser also has her sights set on the big prize of international grand prix with her Fourth Level Open winner, the Elvis Syndicate LLC's C Cadeau. The pair scored 73.843%, giving themselves 2.5% breathing room over the reserve champions Brittany Burson and Leonardo Z.



Lauren Sprieser's C Cadeau earned the Fourth Level Open Championship with 73.843% — 2.5% clear of the reserve combination. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

"He was reserve in the PSG with more enthusiasm in the canter than was required, but it's a taste of the grand prix horse of the future," said Sprieser, who trains with Ali Brock. "It's not imminent, but he's touching all of the pieces. He has a tremendous ability for collection."

Sprieser, who is based in Marshall, VA, has had the eight-year-old Danish gelding by Blue Hors St, Schufro for two years after finding him in Denmark but has shown him only sparingly.

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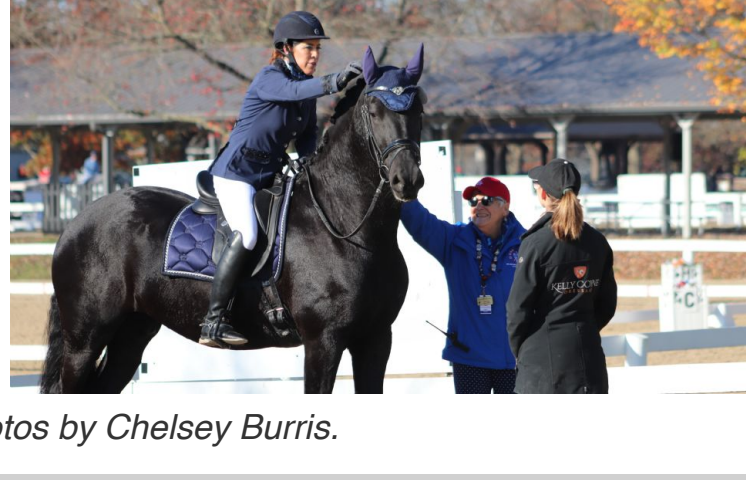
A Dead Heat



Joint winners of the Prix St. Georges Jnr/YR Championship, Isabella Rucki and Londyn Pachota with 62.5%. **Photo by SusanJStickle.com.**

The judges could not split the performances of Isabella Rucki and Londyn Pachota in the Prix St. Georges for Junior and Young Riders — a brand new class on the Finals roster for 2024. They were both awarded 62.5% and each was given a winner's cooler. Rucki rode Jamie Caddell's 21-year-old half-Arabian gelding PSA Mohegan Sun, while Pachota rode her own Samurai V, a 12-year-old gelding by Sir Donnerhall.

Out and About at Finals



Behind-the-scenes photos by Chelsey Burris.

Competition concludes on Sunday, November 8, with the final 10 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 of all the action from the Alltech Arena on USEF Network. To learn more about the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® and read daily news, visit the official US Dressage Finals event website. Start times and results can be found on www.horsheshowoffice.com.

Along with presenting sponsor Adequan®, the US Dressage Finals is supported by Great American Insurance Group, SmartPak® Equine, Platinum Performance, and LeMieux. Contributing sponsors include Cryostride, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Premier Equestrian, Sterling Thompson Equine, and Uvex.

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.

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