



## USET FOUNDATION PERFORMANCE PATHWAY JUMPING GRANT

### —Realizing Dreams—

*Winning gold medals, gaining team experience, and traveling internationally are all a part of a young athlete's journey to the top of equestrian sport. With the help of the newly introduced United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant, eight deserving athletes achieved these milestones in 2025. In its inaugural year, the USET Foundation awarded \$75,000 in direct athlete grants, providing these promising riders with a vital springboard to pursue career-enhancing opportunities.*

**E**stablished to encourage and support young U.S. jumping riders in the FEI Children's through Under 25 divisions as they work toward representing their country on the world stage, the grant offers assistance to ensure financial barriers do not stand in the way of competitive opportunities.

Breaking into the upper tiers of the sport is a challenge for any jumping athlete, as the pool of talented jumping riders in the U.S. continues to grow in large part thanks to the opportunities provided by the US Equestrian (USEF) Jumping Pathway Programs. With so many promising young jumping athletes emerging — a success worth celebrating in its own right — the grant helps support these riders by providing access to opportunities that might otherwise be financially out of reach. Because the sport's financial demands can limit access to essential development opportunities, the grant helps reduce that burden. It enables athletes to gain experience and build momentum.

To ensure that U.S. Jumping maintains its prominence on the world stage for years to come, programs such as the USET Foundation's Performance Path-



Skylar Wireman, Olivia Sweetnam, Alexa Elle Lignelli, Carlee McCutcheon, Mia Bagnato, and Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski

way Jumping Grant are critical, which is why this groundbreaking grant seeks to invest in multiple talented young riders every year.

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Jennifer Gates Nassar, Nayel Nassar, and their team at Evergate Stables, youth riders can now apply for the grant to support their participation at prestigious national, international, and/or international team competitions for which they have been selected. The Ev-

ergeant team is like-minded in wanting to remove barriers for deserving and dedicated jumping riders who have proven ability and have earned the opportunity to participate in and focus on particular high performance programs.

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins said, "I'm thrilled that the Performance Pathway Jumping Grant program was able to support the aspirations of these talented young riders in its first year. Supporting these athletes

Photo by Kind Media

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES****Officers**

W. James McNERNEY, Jr.  
Chairman

Kristi Mitchem  
President & CEO

William H. Weeks  
Vice President

Akiko Yamazaki  
Secretary

Philip Ernst Richter  
Treasurer

**Trustees**

Ellen Ahearn  
Georgina Bloomberg

Shelby Bonnie  
Alex Boone

Gloria Callen

Jane Forbes Clark  
Toni Cupal

George H. Davis, Jr.  
Lisa T. Deslauriers

William Craig Dobbs  
Margaret H. Duprey

Elizabeth Fath

Jennifer Gates Nassar  
Clay Green

Louis M. Jacobs

Elizabeth L. Johnson  
Elizabeth B. Juliano

Terri D. Kane

Howard Keenan

Anne Kursinski

Beezie Madden

Elizabeth Meyer

Misdee Wrigley Miller

Thomas F.X. O'Mara

Rowan O'Riley

Signe Ostby

Suzanne Thomas Porter

Juliet Reid

Rebecca Reno

Christa B. Schmidt

Michael A. Smith

Patti Scialfa Springsteen

Diane Thomas

Ann Thompson

Zacharie Vinos

Angela Vogel

Laura Z. Wasserman

Chester C. Weber

**USET Foundation Staff**

908-234-1251

Bonnie B. Jenkins

Executive Director, ext. 215

Mark P. Piwowar

Chief Financial Officer, ext. 200

Kara Pinato

Assistant Executive Director, ext. 214

Catherine Pane

Director of Finance

& Accounting, ext. 203

Lisa Munro

Director of Development, ext. 209

Maureen Pethick

Director of Facility Operations  
& Office Manager, ext. 207

Kaki Meyer

Executive Assistant, ext. 208

Michele Cotter

Manager, Stewardship, ext. 205

Kathi Deck

Manager, Database, ext. 204

Eric Cohan

Manager, Facilities, ext. 202

Lucas Rodas

Facilities, ext. 202

Jump Media  
Newsletter Editor

Dear Friends,

2025 was a year marked by growth and optimism for our U.S. equestrian teams and athletes. Over the past 12 months, U.S. equestrian athletes competed in 31 FEI Nations Cup™ competitions, earning 18 podium finishes across the seven international disciplines. Additionally, in May, four U.S. athletes — Olympic jumping athlete Kent Farrington, Olympic eventing athlete Boyd Martin, Paralympic dressage athlete Fiona Howard, and vaulting athlete Ana Schult in the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Standings for females — were each ranked number one in the world in their respective disciplines. Their achievements reflect the strength of the US Equestrian (USEF) High Performance Pathway Programs, but none of this success would be possible without your support.



Photo courtesy of Kristi Mitchem

As the philanthropic partner of USEF, the USET Foundation's sole mission is to provide funding that helps strengthen our country's high performance programs by ensuring that our teams have the resources for training, competition, travel, and horse and athlete care that make competitive excellence on the world stage possible.

The efficacy of the USEF High Performance Programs is evident in the many accomplishments featured in our Fall newsletter. Several of our elite athletes landed major individual achievements. Among these, McLain Ward and High Star Hero captured an FEI Jumping World Cup™ qualifier win at the Santa Anita CSI5\* held at Santa Anita Park in California. In eventing, Boyd Martin and Miks Master C topped the CCI4\*-L at the inaugural US Equestrian Open of Eventing Final at Morven Park in Virginia, and in dressage, Ben Ebeling and Bellena won the FEI CDI5\* Grand Prix Freestyle at the US Equestrian Open of Dressage Final at Desert International Horse Park in California. At the 2025 FEI Para Driving World Championship in Germany, Para Equestrian Grade I driver Tracy Bowman clinched an individual silver medal, marking her third consecutive individual medal with Albrecht's Hoeve's Lars after they secured gold at the championships in 2021 and 2023.

Several developing athletes also demonstrated their talent and mettle. Isabelle Bosley and Conner topped the CCI3\*-L at MARS Maryland Five Star, while Cosby Green, an athlete on the USEF Eventing Development 25 Program List, sat at the top of the FEI Eventing U25 World Rankings and 10th on the FEI Eventing World Athlete Rankings as this newsletter went to press in December.

Direct athlete grants are also key to fulfilling the USET Foundation's mission. In its inaugural year, we're proud to showcase that the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant awarded \$75,000 to eight talented developing jumping athletes to help them compete in team competitions that are vital for their growth in the sport.

Equestrian sport is unlike any other. Standing atop the podium on the greatest international stages requires unwavering teamwork from a village that includes you. Now, we have the 2026 FEI World Championships squarely in our view. Next August, our U.S. equestrian teams in six of the seven international disciplines will vie for their rightful podium spots at one of the most revered venues in the history of equestrian sport in Aachen, Germany.

With this in mind, I want to express my utmost gratitude and appreciation for your dedication to our U.S. equestrian athletes and teams. Your belief in them not only inspires them to strive for greatness and powers their successes, but it also unites our community through the pride we feel for our country and all that we have and will continue to achieve around the globe.

I wish you and yours a happy, healthy holiday season. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Florida and California benefit events in January. I am so thankful to be on this journey with you.

Sincerely,

Kristi Mitchem  
President & CEO

*The United States Equestrian Team Foundation (USET) is a philanthropic partner of US Equestrian (USEF). The USET Foundation funds U.S. teams and programs through charitable gifts and donations and makes grants to USEF annually.*

## PERFORMANCE PATHWAY JUMPING GRANT

*continued from page 1*

on their competitive journey is a pivotal investment in the future of this sport and in the champions of tomorrow. We are delighted to see the Performance Pathway Jumping Grant Program fulfilling its purpose so effectively.”

### Youth Nations Cup™ Final

Two members of the U.S. Young Rider jumping squad who captured gold at the FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ Youth Final 2025 in Lier, Belgium, in September 2025, were recipients of the USET Foundation’s Performance Pathway Jumping Grant.

Along with her teammates — Alexa Elle Lignelli (New York, New York), Carlee McCutcheon (Aubrey, Texas), and Olivia Sweetnam (Wellington, Florida), as well as Chef d’Equipe Anne Kursinski — grant recipient Skylar Wireman (Bonsall, California) topped the leaderboard in emphatic style in the Young Rider category. The team was also supported by grant recipient Mia Bagnato (Fishkill, New York), who was selected to participate as the traveling reserve.

On the first of three days of competition, the U.S. team dominated with four clear rounds and followed up with a close second place on day two. On the final day of competition, three textbook clear rounds from Wireman (Barclino B), Sweetnam (Epic), and Lignelli (Xo Zadora) meant that anchor rider McCutcheon (Aralyn Blue) did not need to jump, as the team score of zero faults could not be improved upon.

“To represent the U.S. team at the FEI Youth Nations Cup™ Final was a dream of mine for a very long time, and after several years trying to qualify, I finally made it in my last year of age eligibility,” said the 20-year-old Wireman. “To win gold my first — and last — year was a great accomplishment. The experience of being there and competing in a championship as a team is an opportunity that doesn’t come around often. The atmosphere of the competition was incredible, and our U.S. team was amazing and so supportive.

“Without the Performance Pathway Grant, I wouldn’t have been able to af-



*Photo by Kind Media*

Mia Bagnato and Cordiamo

ford the flights to Europe and back for my horse,” continued Wireman. “The USET Foundation plays a vital role in the sustainability of equestrian sports because without their help and support, it wouldn’t be possible to send all of our U.S. teams around the world to compete and earn our spot in championships like the Olympics.”

Although 19-year-old Bagnato was an alternate for the Young Rider team, she scored an individual win in the 1.45m Big Tour class on Cordiamo.

“Being able to represent the U.S. at the FEI Youth Nations Cup™ Final was a great learning experience, and for the team to come home with gold was unreal,” enthused the athlete. “The USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant played a huge role in my being able to go to the Finals. Flying the horses all the way there is expensive, and it’s not something I have the money for. I am so grateful for the support.

“Competing at this level is something I only dreamed of,” added Bagnato. “The USET Foundation plays such an important part in assisting younger riders to gain experience and exposure. Sometimes it’s hard to accept that there are things you can’t do simply because you can’t afford them, so having a grant like this, making it real and helping you out, is incredible.”



*Photo by FEI/Houou Tomita*

Skylar Wireman and Barclino B

## PERFORMANCE PATHWAY JUMPING GRANT

*continued*

### NAYC

Four up-and-coming jumping athletes — Honor Coulter (Sun Valley, Idaho), Haley Honegger (Elizabeth, Colorado), Khloe Kerins (Wellington, Florida), and Taylor Kamataris (Leesburg, Virginia) — received the Performance Pathway Jumping Grant to support their journeys to the 2025 Gotham North/FEI North American Youth Jumping Championships (NAYC) presented by USHJA in Traverse City, Michigan, July 30-August 3, 2025.

Offering a major show atmosphere designed to mirror a senior championships experience, NAYC is an important event for young North American athletes who aspire to represent their country at the highest levels.

Riding in the Children's division, 14-year-old Khloe Kerins made a remarkable NAYC debut. Riding her father Darragh Kerins' 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding Small Change, Kerins helped her Zone 4 team capture



Honor Coulter and Clark

Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian



Khloe Kerins and Small Change

Photo by Gary Howe/TCHS

Haley Honegger and Wilde Hilde

Photo by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

the gold medal, going on to repeat the podium-topping feat in the individual competition — an exciting example of how the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant helps rising stars pursue their dreams.

Across the five jumping rounds that made up the team and individual competitions, Kerins and Small Change remained fault-free.

“I was privileged to receive the USET Foundation’s Performance Pathway Jumping Grant,” said Kerins. “Competing at NAYC was a huge milestone and a dream come true, especially after earning both individual and team gold. Growing up in a show jumping family, I have looked up to so many incredible riders, including my parents and my older brother, Daniel, who are all professionals and have been supporting me every step of the way.

“Looking ahead, I hope to continue representing Zone 4 and someday follow in my dad’s footsteps by riding on winning Nations Cup teams,” she added.

Coulter was awarded a team sil-



Zone 4 Children’s team medalists Jesus Rigu, Ryan Haselden, Khloe Kerins, and Lola Bacardi

Photo by Gary Howe/TCHS

ver medal with Zone 9/10, also in the Children’s division. She and her horse Clark were clear in the second round of the team competition to help secure

the podium spot.

“I had a very nice round in my first trip and then a rider rail in the second, but I was happy with my horse; he was the absolute best teacher,” said the 14-year-old.

“It feels special to be part of an event that’s so grand and important, and I wouldn’t have been able to go without the support of the USET Foundation’s Performance Pathway Jumping Grant,” she added.

Riding as an individual for Zone 3, Kamataris and her own Las Vegas qualified for the championship final.

“The experience was amazing and such an important stepping stone in my riding development,” she said. “I’m so grateful that I was able to ride amongst some of the amazing top riders in the country and for everything and everyone who helped us get there, including the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant.”

Honegger rode her mother Alexia Honegger’s Wilde Hilde and contributed to the Zone 8 team after her horse overcame two major health issues.

“NAYC was an amazing opportunity for me,” said the 15-year-old rider. “I learned so much and made so many connections. I feel prepared to represent the U.S. in future championships. Thank you to the USET Foundation and Evergate Stables for sponsoring this grant program; it truly means a lot.”



Taylor Kamataris and Las Vegas

Photo by Kind Media

## PERFORMANCE PATHWAY JUMPING GRANT

*continued*

### McCutcheon's Debut

Another recipient of the USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant was 20-year-old Carlee McCutcheon. With assistance from the program, she traveled to the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Vejer de la Frontera CSIO3\* in Spain in October 2025 to compete in her first Nations Cup for her senior team debut, alongside teammates Emily Dehoff and Alexa Pessoa (both of Wellington, Florida), and Paris Sellon (Los Angeles, California).

"It's very expensive to travel with horses," said McCutcheon. "I was already in Europe, but it took me three days to get to Spain from the Netherlands. This grant program is powerful, and the U.S. jumping teams as we know them would not be possible if not for the generosity of everyone who donates to the USET Foundation including Jennifer Gates Nassar, Nayel Nassar, and the team at Evergate Stables.

"There are so many little details and moving pieces that go into competing, and they add up, so having this grant can really change the experience for a young rider like me. I'm grateful they choose to contribute to the future of show jumping and of future riders."

McCutcheon points out that the program benefits emerging riders like her, who may not yet have the established support structure of owners and sponsors.

"This USET Foundation Performance Pathway Jumping Grant is so helpful, especially for riders at three-star level or just starting to step up to Nations Cups," she said.

"If you're on the jumping pathway wanting to get to the top of the sport but not a well-established name like Laura [Kraut] or McLain [Ward] and without the backing, it can make all the difference. I don't want what they do for us to go unseen because I'm so grateful for the support."

In addition to McCutcheon, a grant was provided for 22-year-old Tanner Korotkin (Wellington, Florida), to attend the FEI Jumping Nations Cup Caledon CSIO3\* in Caledon, Ontario, Canada, on July 16-20, 2025. Although



*Photo by Mackenzie Clark*

Carlee McCutcheon and Aralyn Blue

he was the reserve rider on the team, Korotkin notched an impressive individual fifth-place finish in the \$90,000 Grand Prix of Caledon CSIO3\* on Kinmar Quality Hero, Sandalwood Farms' 12-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding by OBOS Quality 004.

"I would like to immensely thank Jennifer Gates Nassar, Nayel Nassar, and Evergate Stables for their generosity in making this grant possible," stated Korotkin. "It allowed me to gain invaluable experience competing for the U.S. in Canada. As a young rider, having to leave behind clients to travel a significant distance can be financially daunting, so I very much appreciate the support."

### Just the Beginning

As USEF's philanthropic partner, the USET Foundation's mission is to ensure athletes participating in USEF High Performance Programs have the resources necessary to achieve and sustain success. Integral to this effort is supporting talented young riders on USEF's High Performance Pathway.

The far-reaching impact of the Performance Pathway Jumping Grant in its first year underscores the need to continue investing in the future of young U.S. athletes and is key to maintaining global prominence for years to come.

– By Alice Collins

*The United States Equestrian Team Foundation  
cordially invites you to a benefit to support our United States  
Equestrian Teams at the 2026 FEI World Championships*

## **WELLINGTON, FLORIDA**

**Friday, January 16, 2026**

Cocktails six o'clock

Dinner seven o'clock

Live Auction | Dancing



*Scan for ticket information*

RSVP by January 7, 2026 (space limited)

# *Aachen*



## **THERMAL, CALIFORNIA**

**Friday, January 30, 2026**

Cocktails six o'clock

Dinner seven o'clock

Live Auction

Dancing



*Scan for ticket information*

RSVP by January 21, 2026 (space limited)

# UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS

AUGUST 18-24, 2025

WAYNE, ILLINOIS



Christian Simonson was awarded the coveted Adequan®/USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Champion title for his strong performances on Heidi Humphries' Fleau De Baian, finishing on a cumulative score of 69.52%.

All photos by Leslie Potter and Isabelle Whiteside for US Equestrian



Grace Christianson rode her own American-bred FHF Roulee into the top spot in the Aspen Leaf Farm/USEF Children Dressage National Championship with 78.37%.



Lexie Kment and Jami Kment's Gatino Van Hof Olympia continued their strong run of form in 2025, clinching the Young Rider National Championship with 70.049%.



*Kate Shoemaker and her own Supreme picked up the Overall Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage Grand Prix National Championship with a final score of 74.388%.*



*Christian Simonson and Zen Elite Equestrian Center's Indian Rock earned the Overall Neue Schule/USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Champion title with three commanding performances, including 79.43% in the freestyle.*



*Claire Tucker claimed the Overall Adequan®/USEF Junior Dressage National Champion title on her own Finnur with a 70.395% score.*



*Sabine Schut-Kery topped both the USEF Prix St. Georges (72.235%) and the USEF Intermediate I Dressage National Championship (71.412%) riding Akiko Yamazaki and Four Winds Farm's Jojoba De Massa.*

# MATT MORRISSEY'S MICHIGAN MISSION

Under the leadership of Matt Morrissey, Traverse City Horse Shows (TCHS) has evolved from a promising summer circuit into one of North America's premier destinations for high-performance equestrian sport. With a clear vision, deep family roots in horse show management, and a commitment to continual innovation, Morrissey has helped establish Northern Michigan as a cornerstone of the national competition calendar — and has made TCHS a valued partner of the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation and US Equestrian (USEF) in developing the next generation of athletes.

"My father, Michael, and I have been running events in Traverse City for about 11 years now," says Morrissey. "When we first got involved, we saw so much potential here with the combination of the town, outdoor activities, the unbelievable summer climate, and the chance to create something special for the sport. That's what motivated us in the beginning. What keeps us inspired today is seeing how it's all evolved — the quality of the competition, the energy around the shows, and the excitement from riders, sponsors, and fans who love coming here."



*Matt Morrissey*

Photo by Gary Hone/TCHS

That growth mindset has driven a remarkable evolution at the facility. From adding permanent stabling that encourages riders to make Traverse City their summer base, to creating new initiatives like the Farm to Stable dinner series and the Pony Palooza Pavilion, the venue's "more than a horse show" slogan rings true.

"It's honestly amazing to look back at how far TCHS has come," Morrissey reflects. "Annually, the grounds have transformed through continued improvements toward permanent infrastructure, the level of competition keeps getting stronger, and the whole experience for competitors gets better every year."

For Morrissey, the story of Traverse City is about its people — the team that makes it happen and the community that rallies behind it. He recalls a defining moment during the 2021 FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC), when a storm nearly wiped out the event overnight.

"It looked like there was no way any competition was going to take place that day or even the entire week," he says. "But it turned into one of the most inspiring moments for me. The entire TCHS team, as well as competitors, trainers, and family members, came together to literally rebuild, reset, and make sure that the show went on. After only a few hours' delay, we were able to resume competition that same day."

That resilience reflects the spirit of high-performance sport — and it's part of why Traverse City has become home to some of the most significant development events in North America.

"Having development competitions and championships like NAYC and a CSIO3\* along with five-star events like the American Gold Cup, Major League Show Jumping, and a Longines FEI World Cup™ qualifier all hosted here is a great honor," Morrissey says. "It also gives these riders and their connections the opportunity to discover Northern Michigan."



*The winning U.S. jumping team in the \$75,000 FEI Nations Cup of Traverse City in July 2025: Jacob Pope, Charlotte Jacobs, Mia Bagnato, Mimi Gochman, Tanner Korotkin, and Chef d'Équipe Anne Kursinski*

## A VALUED COMPETITION PARTNER

Morrissey's commitment to the growth of equestrian sport extends beyond his own venue. In 2025, TCHS joined the USET Foundation's Competition Partners Program — a partnership that reflects his altruism.

"We were quick to join because we believe deeply in giving back to the sport that's given so much to us," he explains. "The USET Foundation plays such an important role in supporting our athletes' journeys, and many of those athletes support us by competing in Traverse City during the summer. For us, it's about hosting great events and helping to build the future of equestrian sport in this country."

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins also appreciates the support of Matt and his team at TCHS.

"Matt has built Traverse City Horse Shows into a premier venue for both elite and developing athletes," says Jenkins. "His partnership and generosity toward the USET Foundation have created a wonderful sense of community and excitement in support of our U.S. equestrian teams. We are so grateful for all he does for the sport."

The collaboration was reinforced in the summer of 2025 when TCHS hosted two USET Foundation events.

"It made perfect sense for us to partner with the USET Foundation on two events this summer because our missions and goals align so closely," says Morrissey. "Supporting athletes who represent our country is essential to producing successful sports events here in the U.S. and successful teams representing our country at championships like World Championships and Olympic Games."

With 13 weeks of FEI international competition now on the calendar, Traverse City has cemented its place as a keystone of U.S. high-performance development.

"That kind of consistency contributes to the overall U.S. calendar that now allows athletes to stay stateside and still compete at a world-class level throughout the summer season," says Morrissey. "It eases the need for many riders to travel abroad to find top-caliber sport and earn ranking points and builds momentum for the U.S. circuit overall."



Photo by Gary Howe/TCHS

Young fans show their support during the USET Foundation and USEF Nations Cup Reception at Flintfields Horse Park on July 24, 2025, gathering for poster-making and pre-competition festivities ahead of the CSIO3\* Traverse City Nations Cup.

## MULTI-GENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

As a third-generation show organizer, Morrissey's dedication runs deep.

"I've gained invaluable experience working with my great uncle and father from a very young age," he explains. "The two of them have been involved in some of the country's largest shows over the last 50 years. To continue that tradition certainly motivates me."

Looking ahead, his goals remain ambitious but grounded in the same values that shaped Traverse City's success: vision, community, and perpetual progress.

"In the next five to 10 years, our vision for TCHS is to continue growing and become the summer epicenter of equestrian sport in North America," Morrissey says. "We want to provide a world-class venue where riders and horses of all levels can compete, gain valuable experience, and spend their summers in a unique region like Traverse City."

"I'd like to thank the USET Foundation for its important work. We're proud to be part of the effort to strengthen equestrian sport in the U.S., and we believe Traverse City has a meaningful role to play in that story," he concludes.

– By Alice Collins



Matt Morrissey is always striving to expand and improve the facilities at Traverse City.

Photo by Lindsay Brock



# Ward Wins Santa Anita World Cup Qualifier

Home nation athlete McLain Ward (Brewster, New York) broke through with a statement victory on November 22, 2025, under the lights at the Santa Anita CSI5\*-W at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, California. The venue, which hosted the equestrian disciplines at the 1984 Olympics, will do so once again for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Ward and High Star Hero won the \$400,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Los Angeles leg in unequivocal fashion, marking the biggest victory of their partnership.

The pair proved their prowess over course designer Anderson Lima's technical tracks, crossing the timers in the jump-off in an uncatchable 33.99 seconds. German athlete Richard Vogel finished second on Gangster Montdesir (34.39 seconds), followed by France's Nina Mallevaey with Dynastie De Beaufour (34.73 seconds).

Ward started the North American League season with some frustration, as his top horse Imperial HBF was sidelined due to injury, leading the athlete to call upon less experienced partners. He was plagued by "four fault-itis" at the Traverse City leg in Michigan, before a single time fault kept him out of the jump-off at the Washington International Horse Show. At Santa Anita, everything finally came together. Ward's emotions were evident as he punched his fist in the air after a flawless jump-off with High Star Hero, Michael and Wendy Smith's 12-year-old Belgian-bred gelding by Zazu x Darco.

"This horse stepped up," said Ward, a five-time Olympian. "He's been knocking on the door, and I'm thrilled for him to get a win."

## A THRILLING JUMP-OFF

Lima — who is also the course designer for the 2026 FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final in Fort Worth, Texas, in April 2026 — set a big, technical track. Seven of the sport's best rose to the top, setting the stage for a thrilling jump-off.

In the first round, Vogel, the 15th rider to jump, was the first to crack the code for a clear round. In the jump-off, he put pressure on with another sharp



McLain Ward and High Star Hero

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

clear. Vogel, who has spent the past two seasons commuting between Europe and North America, has established a base in the U.S. with Ward, and the two athletes fueled one another.

"I wouldn't even call it a trainer or student situation; I'd call it a tight friendship," said Vogel. "He's a great mentor of mine and [has] taught me a lot."

Ward set himself apart as he left out a stride between fences one and two in the jump-off and turned back remarkably quickly to the vertical three fences from home.

"My horse has a bigger stride, so I was able to get the eight [strides], but the eight was fast," shared Ward. "The third jump showed up a little wild, but the horse gave a great effort."

Ward has been riding High Star Hero since summer 2024, and while the pair found near-immediate success, Ward noted that High Star Hero is "a very talented horse — very careful, and very sensitive."

Following his win, Ward rose to second place behind Ireland's Conor Swail in the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ North American League ahead of the Texas final in the spring.

Laura Kraut (Royal Palm Beach, Florida) finished in fourth place with Bisquetta, elevating her to third place in the rankings. She was closely followed

in the class by U.S. athletes Aaron Vale (Williston, Florida) and Kent Farrington (Wellington, Florida), who finished fifth and sixth respectively.

The next North American League leg takes place at the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Thermal CSI5\*-W on January 31, 2026, at Desert International Horse Park in California.

## SUPPORTING CLASSES

U.S. athletes continued to shine in the supporting classes. In the \$40,000 1.50m competition over two rounds, Jessica Springsteen recorded a win riding Stone Hill Farm's 12-year-old Naomi Van Het Keizershof to a double clear. Natalie Dean piloted Marigold Sport-horses LLC's 10-year-old Pedro Van De Barlebuis into second place with another fast double clear. Ward finished fourth on Robin Cleary Parsky's 12-year-old, First Lady. They repeated their fourth-place finish in the \$100,000 Welcome class with a double clear.

Kraut won the \$50,000 Saint Enzo 1.45m National Grand Prix on the United Touch S daughter, Una Mariposa, a nine-year-old owned by St. Bride's Farm. She also finished third in the \$35,000 C. Jarvis Insurance two-phase class on Cherry Knoll Farm's nine-year-old Old Lady D, by Eldorado VD Zeshoek.

— Adapted from FEI press release

# FEI™ WORLD CUP™ FINALS 2026

FORT WORTH, TX

*Dickies Arena*  
April 8-12



LONGINES  
FEI  
JUMPING  
WORLD CUP  
FORT WORTH  
2026  
FINAL

FORT WORTH  
SPORTS  
COMMISSION  
FW

LONGINES

SPLIT RICK  
JUMPING TOUR

FORT WORTH

ZEN  
FEI  
DRESSAGE  
WORLD CUP  
FORT WORTH  
2026  
FINAL

# MARTIN BECOMES FIRST OF EVENTING CHAMPION

## MARTIN MAKES HISTORY

The inaugural US Equestrian Open of Eventing Final came to an exciting conclusion at Morven Park International Equestrian Center in Leesburg, Virginia, on October 12, 2025, with four-time Olympian Boyd Martin (Cochranville, Pennsylvania) and Miks Master C capturing the historic CCI4\*-L win.

The pair's victory marked the conclusion of a thrilling world-class event, which was ultimately decided by the triple combination of the final line in the last phase. Martin and the 13-year-old gelding solidified their victory after producing a clear round, completing on a final score of 28.7. Will Coleman (Ocala, Florida) finished second with 16-year-old Irish Sport Horse Off The Record and clinched third on another Irish Sport Horse, the 10-year-old Very Dignified.

"It's an incredible feeling to win here," said Martin, who rides the horse for owners Ocala Horse Properties, LLC, Deborah Palmer, and Rachael Isaacson. "Morven Park is one of the best venues in the world. For years, we've all seen the potential here. The US Equestrian Open has brought in amazing prize money and attracted the country's best horses and riders. To win this inaugural event is a huge honor."

Martin and Miks Master C, who is cared for by Stephanie Simpson, took home the lion's share of the \$200,000 prize pot. Both Martin and Miks Master C's names will now be added to the perpetual US Equestrian Open trophy, marking their place in history as the US Equestrian Open of Eventing Final's first-ever champions. Additionally, Martin was also awarded the MARS American Bred Talent Trophy, presented to the top-finishing U.S.-bred horse in the CCI4\*-L competition. Miks Master C is by Mighty Magic and was bred by Laurie Cameron.

Miks Master C was previously campaigned by fellow U.S. Eventing Team athlete Liz Halliday, with Martin taking over the ride after Halliday's cross-country accident in 2024.

"I'm so grateful to the owners for trusting me with one of Liz's top horses," he said. "Miks Master C is a legend. He was Liz's top hopeful, and he's an incredible horse with the right mix of power, grit, and heart. He moves like a warmblood, but thinks like a Thoroughbred — he's a true three-day eventer with an amazing gallop."

"The course was good and very technical," added



Boyd Martin and Miks Master C

Martin. "You had to ride it almost like a jump-off. It rewarded forward, efficient riding and showed how beneficial it is to practice pure show jumping on the side."

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

The Morven Park event was also the final competition in the 2025 USEF Eventing National Championships League, which was run under a new format across all divisions, from CCI1\* to CCI4\*. The League brought together top athletes and horses from across the country to contest National Championship honors.

Winners were determined based on each athlete's three lowest cumulative scores from any U.S. FEI eventing competitions licensed by US Equestrian (USEF) during the participation period, which spanned the calendar year leading up to the Morven Park Final.

The League is a result of the decision to move away from a single-event national championship for each level, and it has created a more meaningful and accessible format for the

U.S. eventing community, demonstrated by the nationwide representation among this year's champions.

The new format eliminates geographic barriers and rewards season-long achievements, providing a more accurate reflection of excellence across the year.

Although attendance at the Morven Park Final was not mandatory, Martin's result in the CCI4\*-L secured him both the Overall and Professional USEF CCI4\* Eventing National Championships titles.

The Final marked one of Martin's many successes across the League, earning him a final cumulative score of 93.7. His Morven Park score of 28.7 was his best CCI4\* score of the season. Overall, he earned his championship title on three sub-33 scores produced in partnership with three different horses: Miks Master C, Commando 3, and Cooley Nutcracker.

## COLEMAN'S DOUBLE DELIGHT

Coleman led the field on Off The Record coming into the final day's show jumping, but a single rail down over course designer Derek di Grazia's (USA) track opened the door for Martin to take the top of the podium. Off The Record, a VDL Arkansas gelding owned by the Off The Record Syndicate and cared for by Erin Jarboe, finished on a final score of 29.1.

Coleman and Very Dignified (by Dignified Van't Zorgvliet) climbed from 18th place after dressage to clinch third with two immaculate jumping rounds. The mare, who is owned by Jerome Broussard, Elizabeth Lendrum, and Gloria Callen — also cared for by Jarboe — finished on 35.4 on her CCI4\*-L debut.

For Coleman, a Virginia native, the debut of the US Equestrian Open concept at the historic Morven Park venue, located in a region with a deep traditional connection to horses and horse sport, elevated the competitive atmosphere and showcased the sport.

"It's an awesome cross-country course on one of the best eventing-specific venues in the U.S.," said Coleman. "Anyone who is curious about eventing or wants to see what it's all about got such an awesome taste of that."

On the future of the US Equestrian Open of Eventing, Coleman said, "This is just the beginning. "What US Equestrian has built with this series is something that's going to continue to grow, build more momentum, attract bigger crowds, and more prize money, which is really exciting for us as athletes, for our owners, and for our teams."



Will Coleman and Off The Record



Will Coleman and Very Dignified

## SMITH SHINES IN CCI3\*

The Dutta Corp./USEF CCI3\* Eventing National Championships were dominated by seasoned U.S. Eventing Team athlete Tamie Smith (Murrieta, California). She clinched both the Overall and Professional Championship titles after an impressive season of top finishes on both coasts in the league.

Smith's campaign was anchored by Molly Duda's talented nine-year-old mare, Lillet 3. The Livello daughter produced one of the lowest finishing averages in the league and multiple sub-30 dressage scores across the season. The athlete's consistency kept her narrowly ahead of Coleman and Meg Pellegrini in the CCI3\* ranks, and Smith finished the league season with a cumulative winning score of 84.5.

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Tamie Smith and Lillet 3

# GLORY FOR EBELING

## at US Open of Dressage Final



**B**en Ebeling returned to his Californian roots at Desert International Horse Park, hoisting the US Equestrian Open of Dressage winner's trophy on November 15, 2025, after topping the FEI CDI5\* Grand Prix Freestyle. The historic event, which offered \$200,000 in prize money, was the first-ever five-star dressage show on the West Coast.

Ebeling (Wellington, Florida) and Bellena earned a personal best of 79.903% for their iconic female pop artists' freestyle. Germany's Felicitas Hendricks and Drombusch OLD took second with 78.26%, while Anna Marek (Dunellen, Florida) and Fayvel — winners of the previous day's FEI CDI5\* Grand Prix — finished third on 77.83%. Of the 12 starters, representing the U.S., Canada, and Germany, four combinations earned new career-high freestyle scores.

"Every time I ask this horse to come through for me, she is just so



Ben Ebeling and Bellena



Anna Marek and Fayvel

Photos by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

clutch," said Ebeling of Vantage Equestrian Group II, LLC and Ann Romney's 15-year-old Belissimo M mare. "She's an incredible competitor, and I'm so lucky to have her by my side and in that arena. We're continuing to build this synergetic and symbiotic bond; I'm so proud of her. A rider is nothing without their horse."

Ebeling took over the ride from his father, U.S. Olympian Jan Ebeling, in late 2024. The 26-year-old Ebeling noted that the format of the US Open of Dressage Final competition, which highlights the freestyle, represents a positive push for the sport to connect with more people and appeal to a broader audience.

"It's an amazing opportunity for our sport to show that we can make it

fun and entertaining, while highlighting the incredible attributes of our horses," he said. "Getting to have my name inked on this trophy motivates me to keep going and keep pushing."

For Marek, the third-place finish on Cynthia Davila's 15-year-old Zizi Top gelding Fayvel capped a strong season, which included the overall series league win and the resulting \$12,500 bonus.

"What's really fun about showing this horse is that he's uncomplicated," she enthused. "I can really go for it and, when the pressure is on, I know I'm going to fight for it and he's going to be right there with me every step of the way. It's been an amazing week in California."

- Adapted from US Equestrian press release

# USET FOUNDATION Reception



Above: USEF Dressage Development Program athlete Geñay Vaughan, FEI Event Director Thomas Baur, and judge Cesar Torrente (COL) at the draw party to determine competitors' order of go.

Below: Branded hats at the USET Foundation reception amplified the patriotic feel at the event.



Left: Anna Marek received a check for \$12,500 for topping the US Open of Dressage League after strong performances throughout the 2025 season.



Below: Attendees enjoyed ringside seats at the USET Foundation reception.

Photos by Avery Wallace/US Equestrian



The US Open of Dressage Final attracted sponsors, spectators, top riders, and plenty of excitement in the inaugural year of the series.



Jacob Pope, Mimi Gochman, Mia Bagnato, Charlotte Jacobs with U.S. Jumping Development Chef d'Equipe Anne Kursinski on the podium at the 2025 FEI Jumping Nations Cup Traverse City CSIO3\*.



## Help Fuel U.S. Equestrian Success in 2026!

Join the Team -  
Donate Now!



Philanthropic Partner of US Equestrian

2025 was a year of remarkable achievements for U.S. equestrian athletes.

As we look toward the 2026 FEI World Championships in Aachen and the road to Los Angeles 2028, your support ensures that our team has the training, resources and opportunities to compete at the highest level.

The journey continues with every athlete, every horse and every supporter like you. Thank you!



### Your 2025\* Impact at a Glance

#### \$2.5 million from USET Foundation to USEF High Performance Programs

**31**  
**Nations Cup**  
competitions were contested across all disciplines.

**28**  
**athletes debuted**  
on Nations Cup teams across all disciplines.

**24**  
**unique horse-and-rider pairs**  
represented the U.S. in jumping at the five-star level.

**\$1 million**  
**in direct athlete grants**  
were awarded to at least 90 athletes in 2025.

**18 podium**  
**finishes, and counting,**  
were garnered across all disciplines.

\*Data provided by US Equestrian and USET Foundation as of September 2025.

# LONGINES League of Nations

The 2025 Longines League of Nations™ season showcased the strength, consistency, and depth of the U.S. Jumping Team, particularly among young, up-and-coming horse-and-rider combinations, as they battled the world's best in an exciting year of competition. From an unforgettable victory on home soil at the World Equestrian Center – Ocala, to a hard-fought fifth-place finish at the Final in Barcelona, Spain, U.S. athletes proved their mettle on the global stage.

The season ran from February to October, with qualifying legs held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Ocala, Florida, Rotterdam in the Netherlands, and Saint-Tropez-Gassin in France, culminating in the Longines League of Nations™ Final in Barcelona, Spain, on October 5, 2025.

The season kicked off under the desert sun in Abu Dhabi, spearheaded by Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland. In the Ocala leg, the team of Lillie Keenan (New York, New York), Aaron Vale (Williston, Florida), Laura Kraut (Royal Palm Beach, Florida), and McLain Ward (Brewster, New York) topped the podium in commanding fashion. In Rotterdam, the team finished fifth, following up with sixth in St. Tropez-Gassin.

At the 2025 Final, the top eight teams faced off in two rounds of competition in a field packed with Olympic and World Championship medalists. The U.S. team of Callie Schott (Wellington, Florida), Kraut, Karl Cook (Rancho Santa Fe, California), and Alessandra Volpi (Woodside, California) secured a fifth-place finish. Great Britain won the title, with Ireland in second and Germany taking third.

## INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

Riding as individuals at the high-profile Longines League of Nations™ CSIO5\* shows around the world, U.S. jumping athletes recorded impressive results.

In France in September, Cook won the CSIO5\* Grand Prix riding Signe Ostby's 13-year-old Caracole De La Roque (by Zandor) with a fast double clear. Kraut also jumped a double clear in the class, slotting into third with Cherry Knoll Farm Inc.'s 11-year-old Bisquet Balou C daughter Bisquette.

In the Grand Prix of the City of Barcelona, Alex Matz finished second with another double clear riding Ikigai, a 12-year-old by Elvis Ter Putte, who is owned by 5 Star Partners.

Every venue challenged athletes and their horses in different ways over some of the world's most technical courses. The consistent U.S. results indicate the quality and depth of the nation's jumping horses and riders. As of November, the U.S. jumping team sits at the top of the Longines League of Nations™ Ranking. With the 2026 FEI World Championships on the horizon, the 2025 Longines League of Nations™ season provided invaluable experience and momentum for many U.S. jumping riders.

– By Alice Collins



Photo by Mackenzie Clark

Karl Cook and Caracole De La Roque with groom Tessa Falanga



Photo by Digishots

Alex Matz and Ikigai

# USEF TALENT SEARCH FINALS – *East*

In October, the iconic Hamilton Farm, home of the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation headquarters, hosted the 2025 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East. Eleanor Rudnicki (Conroe, Texas) and Qwantreau were crowned champions.

The final day of competition featured Phases III and IV, which tested each combination's ability to navigate a jumper-style course while demonstrating the fundamental precision and technique of the traditional American style of riding.

The 1.15m track featured a technical course including several bending lines, unrelated distances, and an open water intended to evaluate adjustability, accuracy, and time management. Rudnicki piloted Qwantreau, Sadie Leon's nine-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding by Taran De La Pomme, and maintained her lead after the earlier phases. They earned a jumping score of 90 in Phase III. Rudnicki proceeded to notch the highest combined score of 385 in Phase IV, the ride-off, to cement the win.

## RIDE-OFF RINGCRAFT

After the Phase III scores were given by judges Chris Kappler and Caitlin Venezia White, the top four combinations — Rudnicki, Lily Epstein (Coral Gables, Florida), Baylee Rowan (Little Compton, Rhode Island), and Emily Jurnovoy (Woodstock Valley, Connecticut) — returned to contest the championship title in a final ride off in which they swapped horses to vie for the prestigious title.

Kappler, who was impressed with the top four's ringcraft, said, "From the moment they walked in the ring, there was presence. They all demonstrated high levels of connection to the horse and incredible displays of horsemanship."

"This is a huge win," said Rudnicki. "I have been working and preparing for this championship for several years. I'm glad it went well, and I look forward to the opportunities in the jumper ring that this win will bring me in the future."

She plans to use the result as a stepping stone in developing her professional career.



Eleanor Rudnicki and Qwantreau

Photos by Isabelle Whiteside/US Equestrian

"I hope this can open up more opportunities," she said. "It's great to be here competing in a place that holds so much history and with people who work with the teams regularly. It's one of my ultimate goals to represent the U.S. Jumping Team in the future."

Emily Jurnovoy and Caroline Moore's 14-year-old Danish Warmblood by Favorit Ask came second with a score of 341. Baylee Rowan brought home third with 314 on Missy Clark's nine-year-old Connemara gelding, Watermelon.

Clayton Farrell (Venice, Florida), was awarded the Hollow Brook Wealth Management Sportsmanship Award in recognition of an individual who personifies the highest standard of integrity, sportsmanship, and generosity throughout the competition.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release



Eleanor Rudnicki and Qwantreau with the judges, her trainers, and USEF and Platinum Performance representatives

# USEF TALENT SEARCH FINALS – West

After a thrilling third round and final ride off, Nicole McMillion secured the champion's title at the 2025 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – West at Desert International Horse Park, California, November 7-8.

McMillion (Huntington Beach, California) partnered with Summerhouse Farm LLC's Change Up PS, a nine-year-old Oldenburg stallion, for the finals. She trains with Jim Hagman. Change Up PS was ridden to victory in 2024 by Avery Glynn.

"I told Jim that I'd really like to do the finals this year," said McMillion. "We put our feelers out, and maybe three weeks ago, Abby Steller, the horse's owner, called and asked if I wanted to use 'Timmy.' She said, 'I just want to be able to watch him, and I've watched you grow up.' Out of the kindness of her heart, she let me ride her horse, and he is incredible."

Because McMillion is currently a student at Texas A&M University, where she is a member of the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) Equestrian Team, she didn't have a chance to ride Change Up PS before the week of the finals. Her experience as a varsity equestrian proved an asset not just for catch-riding Timmy but also for competing in the unique format of the Talent Search Finals.

"The flat phase was a new format for this year," she said. "Going in, I tried to keep a level head. I'm on a team at college, and we compete in a very similar format, so I had that background and tried to use that to my advantage."

With a few small bobbles in the flat phase and a solid gymnastic phase on day one, McMillion stood in seventh place heading into the final phase.

"I knew that the final day is weighted the heaviest, and I thought that it was probably the phase that Timmy shines in," she said. "I went into it thinking, 'It's anyone's game. I just need to move up to the top four [to qualify for the ride-off], and it's a clean slate from there.'"

"I rode Timmy for the first time on Tuesday, and it was so much fun!" she said. "I haven't had that much fun in a



Nicole McMillion and Change Up PS

long time. He's truly an incredible animal. He's so scopey; he could jump the moon if you ask, and he gives you the best feeling in the air."

## INTO THE TOP FOUR

After completing the Phase III course with a score good enough to move into the top four, the athletes completed a shorter jumping course on all four of the top horses. McMillion's catch-riding skills served her well as she earned the top score on three of the four horses, securing the win.

Reserve champion honors went to Shiloh Roseboom (Brentwood, Tennessee), who partnered with Ingenium Farm's nine-year-old Zazou. They sat in second position after the first day's flat and gymnastic phases and went on to win the top score in Phase III. Roseboom had four strong rides in the ride-off.

Sophia Blake (Santa Barbara, California) and Katalina Raiszadeh (Rancho Santa Fe, California) rounded out the ride-off line-up. Blake, with Carson Cummings's 13-year-old Oldenburg gelding E-Up, clinched third place.

Judges Lillie Keenan and Jimmy

Torano highlighted the Talent Search program's overarching goal of recognizing young athletes who have the horsemanship skills necessary for the top levels of the sport.

"We really emphasized that this final is meant to be a step toward team riding, and from our first meeting, we made it clear that when you make a mistake, you need to stay on course and not give up," said Keenan. "I think the four [riders] we ended up with all stayed strong and improved over the rounds. What stood out about Nicole was that she continued to ride seamlessly, but adjusted her ride for each of the horses, and that's really what the test is about."

Torano added, "We hope that these four athletes are looking forward to the future and to riding on a team. Hopefully, they have their eyes set on representing the U.S."

The Hollow Brook Wealth Management Sportsmanship Award was given to Valentina Lehner from Aptos Hills, California. The award recognizes a junior rider who best personifies the highest standards of integrity, sportsmanship, honor, kindness, and generosity.

– Adapted from US Equestrian press release

Photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

# Wonderful Woodside



*USET Foundation and USEF hosted a welcome party and owners' reception at The Horse Park at Woodside.*

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation and US Equestrian (USEF) hosted an eventing owners course walk and panel discussion at The Horse Park at Woodside, California, on October 2, 2025.

The panel, featuring James Alliston, Tamie Smith, Molly Duda, and USET Foundation Trustee and eventing horse owner Ellen Ahearn, discussed the USEF Eventing Pathway Programs during a welcome social happy hour during the CCI4\*-S event week at the 2025 Woodside Fall International. The competition served as the last of 20 qualifiers in the new US Equestrian Open Eventing Series (see p14).



*Guests asked questions during the pathway panel.*



*Asia Vedder and Natalie Hummel*



*The event included a cross-country course walk for eventing horse owners.*



*Jen Duda and Molly Duda*



Steve Roon, Executive Director of  
The Horse Park at Woodside



Anna Nicholas,  
owner for James Alliston



Natalie Hummel, Ruth Bley, and Julianne Guariglia

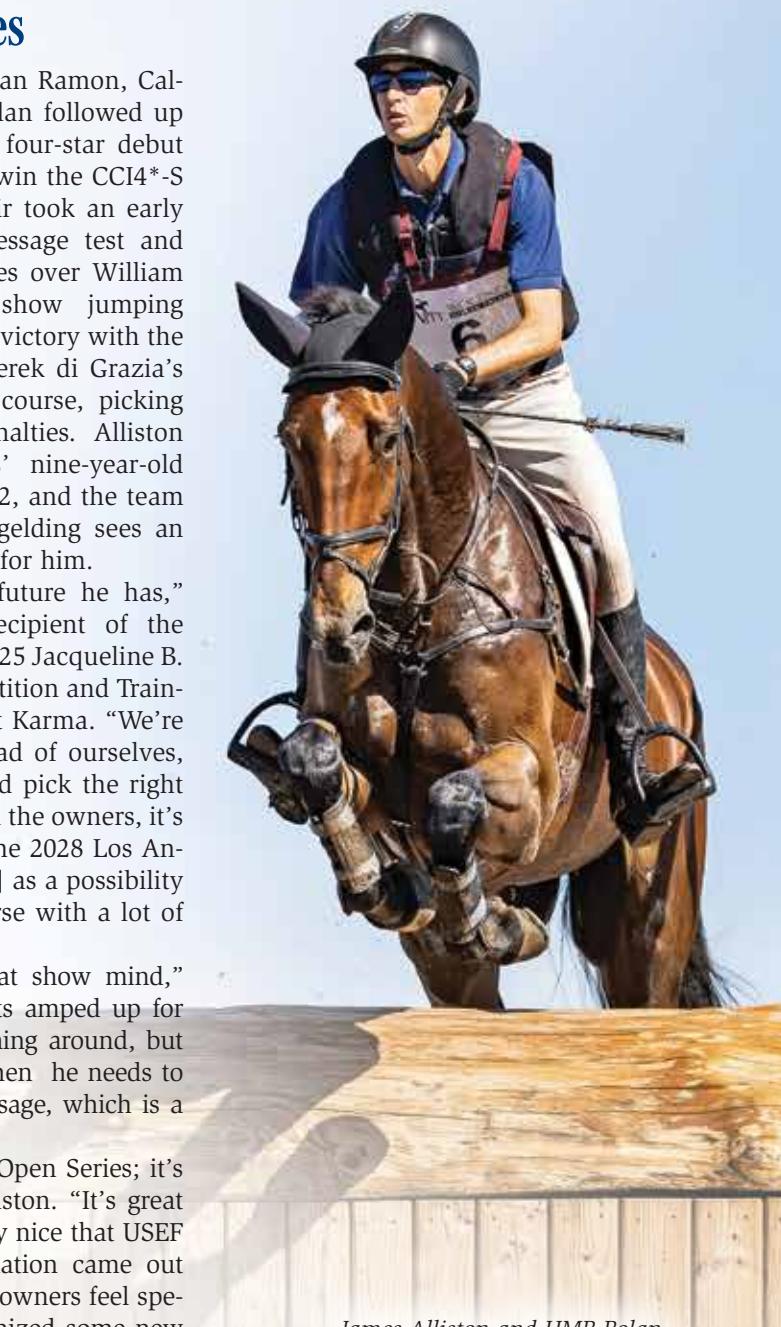
## Alliston Shines

James Alliston (San Ramon, California) and HMR Rolan followed up their victory in their four-star debut two weeks earlier to win the CCI4\*-S at Woodside. The pair took an early lead with a 32.4 dressage test and zero jumping penalties over William Robertson's (USA) show jumping course, then clinched victory with the fastest trip around Derek di Grazia's (USA) cross-country course, picking up just 0.4 time-penalties. Alliston rode Anna Nicholas' nine-year-old to a final score of 37.2, and the team around the Tolan R gelding sees an exciting career ahead for him.

"What a bright future he has," said Alliston, the recipient of the USEF Foundation's 2025 Jacqueline B. Mars National Competition and Training Grant with mount Karma. "We're trying not to get ahead of ourselves, keep him healthy, and pick the right classes for him. For all the owners, it's so exciting to have [the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games] as a possibility when you have a horse with a lot of talent and potential."

"Rolan has a great show mind," he continued. "He gets amped up for the jumping and running around, but it doesn't boil over when he needs to be relaxed in the dressage, which is a huge asset."

"We love the US Open Series; it's awesome," added Alliston. "It's great for the sport. It's really nice that USEF and the USEF Foundation came out for this and made the owners feel special and maybe galvanized some new owners for Californian riders. We love having that presence here."



James Alliston and HMR Rolan

Tamie Smith and Danito, leaders after dressage with a score of 28, finished second. They added one rail in the show jumping and a handful of time-faults on cross-country for a final score of 48.1 for Ruth Bley's 16-year-old gelding by Dancier.

"He feels great and so on it; he's an old pro," Smith said. "He's feeling really strong and happy. Having USEF and the USEF Foundation come out, recognize the owners, do a course walk, and get the recognition out there for everybody is super important. It's really refreshing to see the effort they are putting in."

Smith also captured the CCI3\*-S with Jeanne Shigo's 11-year-old *Jump To Day D* (by *Up To Date*) as well as the CCI2\*-S with Julianne Guariglia's eight-year-old *Canturo* mare, *Solaguayre Cantata*.

- Adapted from article by Jonathan Horowitz



# MARTIN THIRD AT MARYLAND



*Boyd Martin and Commando 3*

**O**n the final day of the MARS Maryland 5 Star CCI5\*-L on Sunday, October 19, double-clear rounds in the jumping phase were few and far between and certainly influential. U.S. Olympic eventing athlete Boyd Martin and Commando 3 delivered one of the four double-clear rounds over Michel Vaillancourt's track, which ultimately moved them up from fifth place to finish third on 38.3 penalties.

The combination are members of the US Equestrian (USEF) Eventing Elite Program which aims to identify combinations with demonstrated medal-winning potential at the next FEI World Championships or Olympic Games. Martin (Cochranville, Pennsylvania) is also on the list with his 2024 Olympic mount Fedarman B. Swiss athlete Felix Vogg and Cartania, whom Vogg co-owns with Phoenix Eventing S.A.R.L., took the win in the five-star event with a final score of 28.7

penalties. Australian Monica Spencer and her Thoroughbred gelding, Artist, finished in second place with 31.7.

"It's been a wonderful year for us and the horses," said Martin. "Huge congratulations to Felix and to Monica. Felix lived with us in America for a year, and my wife's secretly in love with him," he teased. "I'd love to win, but it's not so bad being third to these two champion riders. They're both fantastic people, a great horseman and horsewoman. I just feel honored to be here with them."

Martin has been thrilled with the performance of Yankee Creek Ranch's 12-year-old gelding by Connor 48 this year.

"He's been a champion," added Martin. "He's finished second at Kentucky and now third at Maryland, so he's had a wonderful year, and I think the best is still to come. Next year I'd like to try and win one of these things."



## BOSLEY TOPS CCI3\*-L

Karen Martin's eight-year-old Oldenburg gelding Conner, by Casiro 3, gave Maryland native Isabelle Bosley her first three-star win in June 2025. He then helped her earn her first CCI3\*-L victory in October after jumping double-clear in both the cross-country and show jumping phases at Maryland.

"Finishing my round and being in that arena and seeing people I have known my entire life cheering for me — that I didn't even know would be there — was a pretty special feeling," said Bosley (Monkton, Maryland).



*Isabelle Bosley and Conner*

She and Conner led the division from start to finish on their untouched dressage score of 24.8. As she warmed up for the final phase, Bosley took in some words of wisdom from her mentor, Phillip Dutton.

"I have a ton of confidence in my horse, and he's a good show jumper, so that's always a nice feeling during the last day," she said. "Phillip was very helpful in keeping me calm in the warm-up — I usually keep my cool for the most part — but he definitely gave me a couple pieces of advice. My horse was jumping great, and I knew I just had to stay out of his way and get him to the fence in a pretty decent spot, and he should take care of it, and he did."

It was an all-American podium, with Alyssa Phillips and the 10-year-old Holsteiner gelding Rockett 19 (by Rock Forever) finishing second. Phillips and Rockett 19, whom she co-owns with

Julie Phillips, also left their dressage score of 25.5 untouched.

"I was so happy with how he was jumping out in the warmup, and I just wanted to go and give him a good ride. I couldn't have been happier with him," said Alyssa.

Navigating a new partnership can have its ups and downs, but third-placed Olivia Dutton is hitting her stride with the Jewelent Group's 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding Jewelent, by Valent. They finished on a score of 32.9.

"We're a new partnership, so I feel like everything we've done so far is still about getting to know each other," she said. "In the bigger atmosphere, I wasn't sure how he would be. It was a little bit rattling when we had the first fence down, but I tried to keep my cool, and he jumped great after that."

*— Adapted from USEA press release*

# COMPETITION *Partners* PROGRAM

**N**ow entering its third year, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation's Competition Partners Program brings together top horse shows across the country in support of a shared mission: ensuring that U.S. equestrian high performance athletes have the resources they need to excel on the world's greatest international stages.

The program focuses on the cross-promotion of top-flight competitions and the USET Foundation's efforts to support high performance athletes across the disciplines.

Through the Competition Partners Program, participating horse shows become vital allies in advancing equestrian sport. By partnering with the USET Foundation, these events showcase their commitment not only to competition excellence but also to the long-term development of U.S. equestrian athletes, horses, and the broader equestrian community.

Horse show organizers who participate gain promotion through the USET Foundation and visibility as leaders within the sport while reinforcing the USET Foundation's mission of supporting U.S. athletes, pro-

moting U.S. excellence on the world stage, and building for future U.S. equestrian team successes. Whether through fundraising efforts, on-site activations, print promotion options, or awareness campaigns, the USET Foundation provides a downloadable toolkit to all Competition Partners.

The materials are designed to raise awareness of the vital role the USET Foundation plays, enabling shows to demonstrate to their communities and fans the importance of supporting athletes on their journey from national competition to international success.



Visit [www.uset.org/CPP](http://www.uset.org/CPP) to learn more or scan the QR code.



# Bowman Bags Silver

**A**t the 2025 FEI Para Driving World Championship in Läden, Germany, in October, Para Equestrian Grade I driver Tracy Bowman clinched an individual silver medal. This was the third consecutive individual medal for Bowman and Albrecht's Hoeve's Lars after they secured golds at the championships in 2021 and 2023.

Bowman (Martinez, California) and the 16-year-old Welsh pony gelding started strong, placing first in their dressage phase. The pair had a solid marathon day, completing cleanly to finish in fourth in that phase. A skillful cones round earned them another fourth-place finish, and secured them the silver medal on a final score of 142.59.

Lars typically spends part of the year in Europe and part at Bowman's multi-discipline Kismet Farms, where she is the owner and head trainer. In 2025, he spent the spring and summer competing in para and able-bodied competition in Europe.

"Lars has been undefeated in dressage all season, even in the two-stars," said Bowman. "That's kind of his specialty. He's probably equal in all three phases, but he's really known for dressage."



Tracy Bowman and Albrecht's Hoeve's Lars

Photo by Melanie Guillamot

The U.S. team included Bowman, Diane Kastama (Arroyo Grande, California) with Freedom, and Deborah Marcuccilli (Honeoye Falls, New York) with Tjibbe — both horses that were borrowed from owner Koos De Ronde. The trio was led to a fourth-place finish by U.S. Para Driving Team Chef d'Equipe, Marcie Quist.

— Adapted from US Equestrian press release



## Zone 4 Wins Prix des States

**O**n October 10, 2025, at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, six teams representing their United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) zones went head-to-head in the Turnham Green/USEF Junior Jumper Prix des States Team Championship, a key stepping stone along the US Equestrian (USEF) high performance jumping pathway.

The Zone 4 team successfully defended their 2024 win over a course designed by Oscar Soberon (USA) in a competition run under a traditional Nations Cup format with two 1.40m rounds.

The winning team was made up of Gabriella Curry (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) and Esto De Viscount, Amy Krebs (Franklin, Texas) and Jabantos, Lily Epstein (Coral Gables, Florida) and Zjechov, and JJ Torano (Wellington, Florida) with Lyon 50.

Kim Land, who has served as the Chef d'Equipe for Zone 4 since 2011, emphasized the importance of building trust and camaraderie among her athletes, saying, "These roles are super important for bringing up the next genera-



Clara Prop and  
Mistral Van De Vogelzang



The winning Zone 4 team of JJ Torano,  
Amy Krebs, Lily Epstein, and  
Gabriella Curry

Photos by Isabelle Whiteside/US Equestrian

tion and creating team spirit. They're all well trained, well mounted, and work incredibly hard."

Torano and North Run's 11-year-old Lord Argentinus stallion, Lyon 50, were team anchors.

"This is my third team event of the year, and it's a good experience for ev-

eryone to deal with pressure," he said.

Torano then finished third in the individual championship, which was won by Clara Prop (New York, New York) on Aquitaine Equine's Mistral Van De Vogelzang, who jumped a double clear.

— Adapted from US Equestrian  
press release



# MARTIN MAKES HIS MARK AT PAU



*Boyd Martin and Cooley Nutcracker*

Shortly after finishing third on Commando 3 at the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill (see p24), U.S. athlete Boyd Martin headed to France for the 35th edition of the Les 5 Etoiles de Pau CC15\*-L, which ran October 23-26, and repeated his podium placing, this time with Cooley Nutcracker.

New Zealand's Tim Price won the title for a record 12th time, this year on Jarillo with a final score of 30.9, climbing from third heading into the final phase. Great Britain's Tom Jackson and Plot Twist B vaulted up the leaderboard after sitting in the 31st position after dressage, finishing on 33.2 after jumping double clear.

Changeable autumn weather necessitated adjustments to the event's program, while a fantastic cross-country test shook up the rankings, and in the show jumping phase, the top 10 riders were all in touching distance.

Martin (Cochranville, Pennsylvania) was in 10th coming into the final day's show jumping and pulled off a clear round just a fraction over the time to add 0.4 penalties to his score. He and The Nutcracker Syndicate's 11-year-old Cooley Nutcracker, by Tolan R, finished on a score of 33.9 to clinch third in front of the more than 40,000 spectators.

"I wasn't sure how Nutcracker would perform because I haven't been riding him for very long," said Martin, who took over the ride from Liz Halliday, who guided the horse to 19th place at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. "When I saw how he jumped the first few fences, I was delighted. He has been very well trained. My goal is not to ride just one type of horse, but to ride all types. While Maryland was a cross-country course that required stamina, the track in Pau required good riding, shortening and lengthening the stride."



*Cosby Green and Highly Suspicious*



*Cosby Green and Jos Ufo De Quidam*

## GREEN MOVES UP RANKINGS

Cosby Green, an up-and-coming athlete on the USEF Eventing Development 25 Program List, which is a USEF Pathway Program supported by the USET Foundation, brought two horses over the finish line. She claimed 11th place on Clay and Edie Green's 15-year-old gelding Highly Suspicious (by Russell) and 22nd on Heather Morris's Argentine-bred 17-year-old gelding Jos Ufo De Quidam.

As of December 2025, the 25-year-old (Lexington, Kentucky) was top of the FEI Eventing U25 World Rankings and

10th on the FEI Eventing World Athlete Rankings, while Martin occupied the second spot.

"Pau was a great way to end the year," said Green. "It was fair and challenging, and the horses delivered for me. Getting into the top 10 is something you always hope will happen — and you work towards — but it feels like a dream. I'm so proud of my horses and team for achieving this milestone."

"The Pathway Programs have helped shape my goals by encouraging me to structure my career with the future in mind," she continued. "Having help from Leslie [Law] and Karyn [Shuter] has been an incredible experience; they help take our performances to the next level."

"I am lucky to have had lots of opportunities this year that wouldn't have been possible without support," she added. "I am passionate about U.S. eventing; we have an incredible team of riders. I want to do everything I can to be an asset, and it takes so many people to make these results happen. We all have our eyes on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and with help from the USET Foundation and the USEF Pathway Programs, I think it will be the best Games yet."

## CONQUERING THE HEMISPHERE

With her 14th-place finish in the CCI5\*-L at Pau, Emily Hamel secured the impressive feat of completing all six of the northern hemisphere five-star events — Kentucky, Maryland, Badminton, Burleigh, and Luhmühlen — together with Black Flag Option LLC's 18-year-old Corvett, making them the first U.S. athlete-and-horse combination to accomplish the sextet.

"He felt great and really happy to be doing the job," said Hamel (Aiken, South Carolina). "He just always has so much fun out on course, and it makes it more enjoyable to me."

— By Alice Collins



*Emily Hamel and Corvett*

# COMPETITION



Photo by Mikhail Proctor/US Equestrian

## ••••• VAULTING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the 2025 EVUSA/USEF Vaulting National Championships in Rancho Murieta, California, in August, three-star division athlete Kimberly Palmer (pictured) of the Half Moon Bay Vaulters dominated the women's competition. Aboard Jameson C.R., Palmer took the overall women's title with a final score of 8.308. Jace Brooks of the Wasatch Peak Vaulters finished top in the men's division with Touch Of The Guinness Blues on a score of 7.061.



Photo by Mackenzie Clark



Photo by Susan J. Stickle

## ••••• DRESSAGE AT DEVON

In the first North American League FEI World Cup™ Dressage qualifier of the 2025-2026 season at the 50th anniversary edition of Dressage at Devon on September 27, Ben Ebeling topped the leaderboard of 17 starters. He rode Ann Romney's 15-year-old mare Bellena (by Bellissimo M) to 77.655% in the freestyle.

# HIGHLIGHTS



Photo by High Desert Photo

## COACHELLA CUP

Laura Kraut topped the podium in the \$750,000 1.60m FEI CSI5\* Coachella Cup Grand Prix on December 6, 2025, at Desert International Horse Park in California. Kraut and Bisquetta, Cherry Knoll Farm's 11-year-old mare by Bisquet Balou C, held off stiff competition from their U.S. compatriots. McLain Ward and the in-form High Star Hero clinched second, just 0.03 seconds off Kraut's pace. Skylar Wireman, who received the USET Foundation's Performance Pathway Jumping Grant in 2025 to support her participation in the FEI Jumping Youth Nations Cup Final in Belgium (see cover story), was third on Barclino B.



Photo by Shawn McMillen

## WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL

At the Washington International Horse Show in October, three-time Olympic medalist Laura Kraut won the second of seven legs of the North American League in the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ competition. She rode St. Bride's Farm's Tres Bien Z to the top of the eight-strong jump-off with a faultless round in the 10-year-old gelding's World Cup™ debut.



Photo by Libby Law

## BOEKELO

Hallie Coon finished in ninth place in the 2025 Boekelo CCIO4\*-NC-L in October. Riding her own nine-year-old Dutch Warmblood Lucky Fortuna (by Cohinoor VDL), she climbed from 44th place after dressage to secure a top-10 finish with just 0.8 time faults to add after cross-country and a clear inside the time in the show jumping phase to finish on 33.4 penalties.



Photo by Nicole Zerbe/US Equestrian

## ENDURANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U.S. team finished in seventh place at the 2025 FEI Endurance World Championship for Juniors and Young Riders in Buftea, Romania, in September. All four team members — Jax Beloberk, Vanessa Erickson, AnnaMaria Clarke, Lila Reeder, and Uma Kraskin — crossed the finish line in the 120km ride. Clarke was the highest-placed U.S. rider, claiming 23rd overall on Valerie Kanavy and Dessa Miller's Arabian gelding, Southern Justice.



## USET Foundation News

United States Equestrian Team Foundation, Inc.  
1040 Pottersville Road  
P.O. Box 355  
Gladstone, NJ 07934-9955

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. postage

**PAID**

New Brunswick, NJ  
Permit #928

Address Service Requested



*The Hamilton Farm stable complex at the USET Foundation's historic headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey*