



# OMAHA EQUESTRIAN FOUNDATION

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## #RidetoOmaha March Update

Join the #RidetoOmaha as we build up to the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023.

The world will be watching as the best of the best Jumping, Dressage, and Vaulting athletes descend on the CHI Health Center Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska, to compete for international glory.

In March's update:

- 🌟 An interview with U.S. Dressage rider Anna Buffini 🌟
- 📰 The latest news updates 📰
- 🏆 Moments in FEI Dressage World Cup™ history 🏆

Read on for all the March excitement. There's less than a month until this prestigious competition gets underway!

## FROM THE TOP OF THE PODIUM

We caught up with U.S. Dressage rider Anna Buffini to talk about qualifying for the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final, what she's looking forward to most about competing in Omaha, and her amazing partner FRH Davinia La Douce.

**What did it feel like to secure your qualifying spot for the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final?**  
It felt surreal. We started our World Cup qualifying season back in November, and it was so close until the very last second. All the way until March we had to stay focused and fight for it. I'm so grateful to get this opportunity again, and I'm hoping to improve on our performance in last year's World Cup. I don't think the reality of qualifying really sunk in until the next couple days after the last competition. As grateful as I am to make it, there's so much work to be done.

**What are you looking forward to most about competing in Omaha?**  
Competing in an international championship in your own country is what you dream about, especially since America has so many fewer opportunities to host big shows like that. It makes it so much more special! There's an extra level of comfort being home and familiar with your surroundings, the people, and how everything works. More than anything, I hope to lay down a solid performance for the U.S. crowd, and I can't wait to perform our "Top Gun Maverick" freestyle that was designed specifically in the hope of competing it in Omaha.

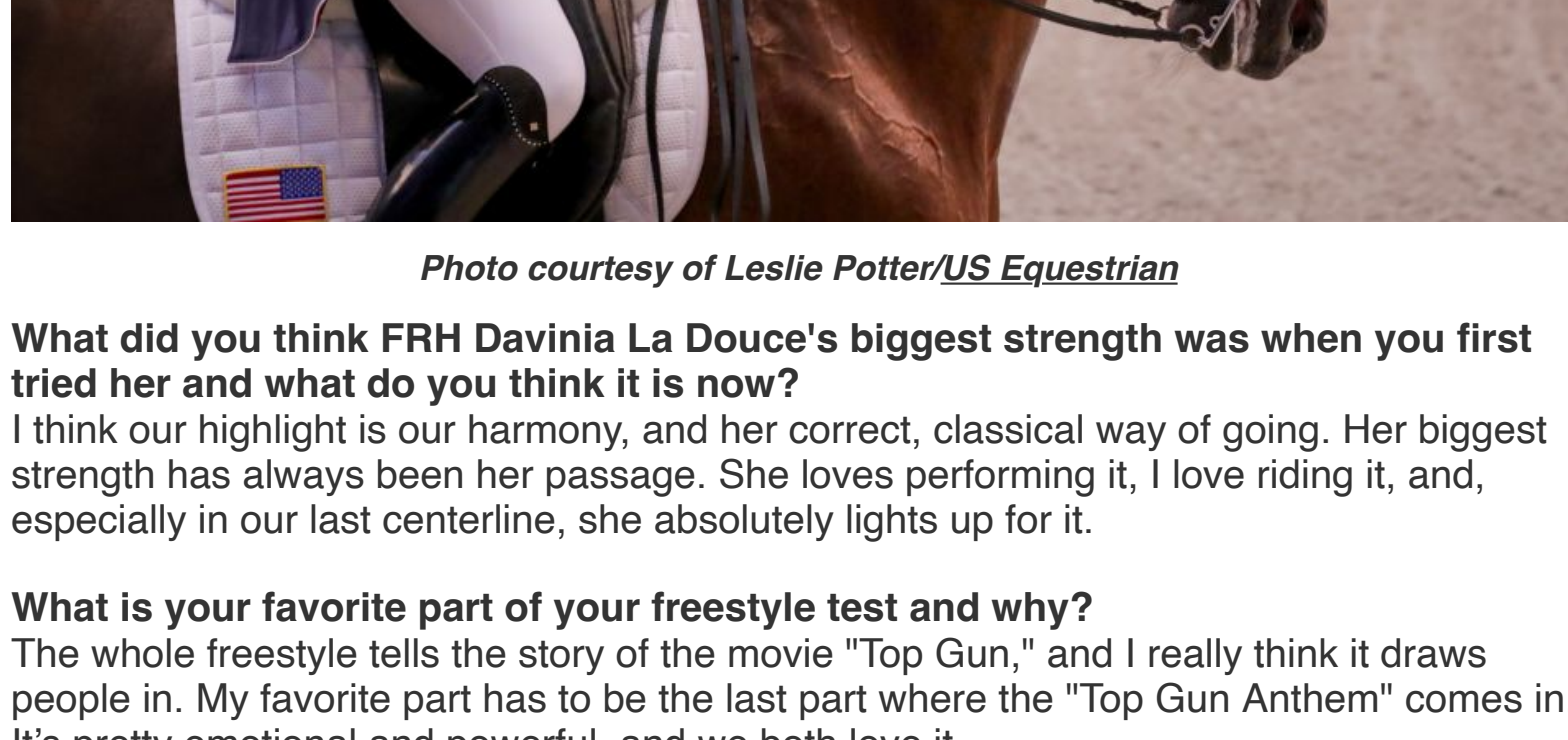


Photo courtesy of Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

**What did you think FRH Davinia La Douce's biggest strength was when you first tried her and what do you think it is now?**  
I think our highlight is our harmony, and her correct, classical way of going. Her biggest strength has always been her passage. She loves performing it, I love riding it, and, especially in our last centerline, she absolutely lights up for it.

**What is your favorite part of your freestyle test and why?**  
The whole freestyle tells the story of the movie "Top Gun," and I really think it draws people in. My favorite part has to be the last part where the "Top Gun Anthem" comes in. It's pretty emotional and powerful, and we both love it.



Photo courtesy of Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

**Do you have any good luck charms or superstitions?**  
I don't have any superstitions, but I am very closed off more than ever during shows in order to focus. I'm either with my horse or in my hotel room. I don't like talking to people or doing too much. I just try to focus and make it seem like a normal show at home.

**If you could ride any previous FEI World Cup™ Finals winner who would it be and why?**  
Totilas and Valegro. They both changed the sport of Dressage forever. To feel greatness like that must be absolutely incredible.

## IN THE NEWS

There's a lot going on in the lead-up to the world-class FEI World Cup Finals 2023 Omaha event. From venue happenings to competition qualifiers around the globe, here's the latest straight from the horse's mouth.

[SEE ALL NEWS UPDATES](#)

U.S. rising star Anna Buffini punched her ticket to Omaha when she rode to the top spot in the final FEI Dressage World Cup™ North American League qualifier aboard FRH Davinia La Douce. 🏆

Andre Thieme (GER) won the final qualifying class in the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League with DSP Chakaria in Ocala. 🏆

**Omaha Equestrian Foundation**

There she is, the girl on fire! 🔥 Who's ready to watch this pair light up the arena in Omaha!?! 🏆

@fei\_global @fei\_dressage @feiworldecupfinals @usadressage @usdfofficial @anna\_buffini #RidetoOmaha #FEI... See More... See More

**Omaha Equestrian Foundation**

Jump into a new week with some #MondayMotivation courtesy of German Olympian and European Championship individual gold medalist Andre Thieme! He and DSP Chakaria turned and burned for th... See More... See More



Omaha Equestrian Foundation has partnered with Brooke USA, officially designating the FEI Dressage World Cup™ freestyle competition as the Brooke USA Charity Session. 🏆



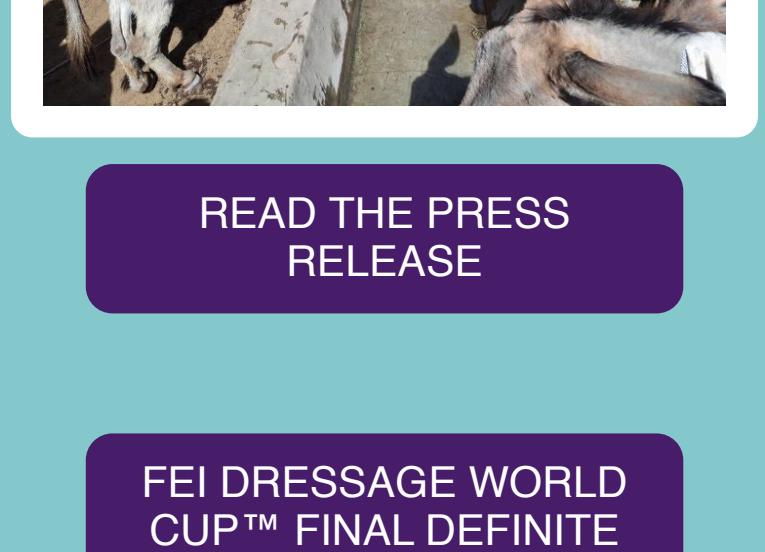
ShowPlus® will be available to protect horses, riders, and grooms by providing benefits in case of unexpected accidents during the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023. 🏆

**Omaha Equestrian Foundation**

Did you hear!?! Omaha Equestrian Foundation has partnered with Brooke USA, the leading national nonprofit focused on alleviating the misery of working horses, donkeys and mules and the peop... See More

**Omaha Equestrian Foundation**

Horse people know to expect the unexpected, so we are happy to announce that ShowPlus® will be available to protect horses, riders, and grooms at the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023. Read... See More



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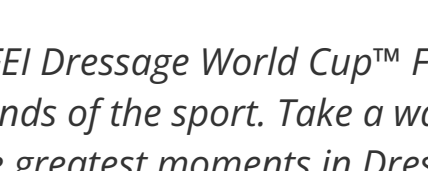
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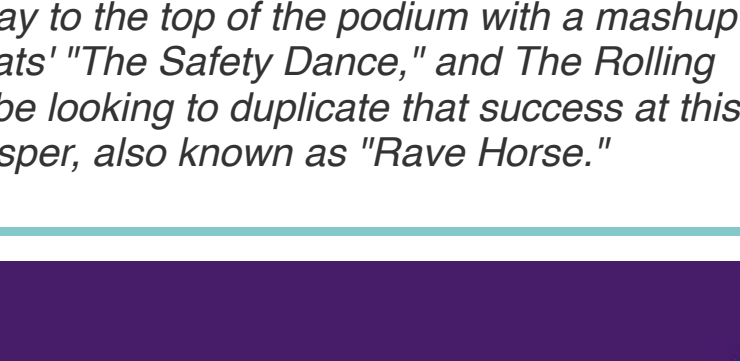
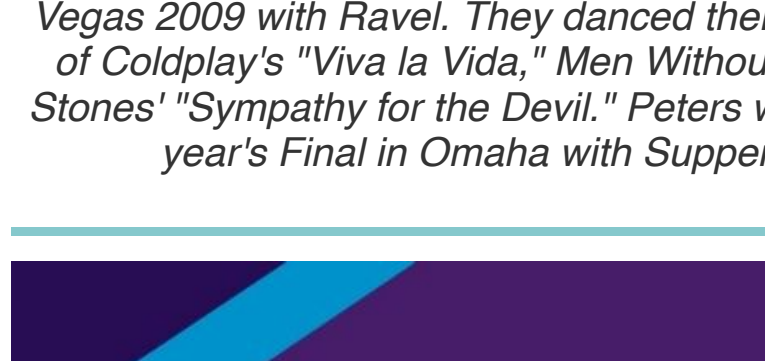
## VICTORIES ON MEMORY LANE

Get ready to watch this year's FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final champion emerge with awe-inspiring performances from legends of the sport. Take a walk down Memory Lane as we relive some of the greatest moments in Dressage history.



Photo courtesy of FEI

In 2003, Olympic bronze medalist and Pan American gold medalist Debbie McDonald was the first U.S. athlete to win the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final with her longtime mount Brentina. Perhaps even more memorable was their freestyle performance at the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final Las Vegas 2005, where they brought the crowd to its feet with dazzling movement set to the Commodores' "Brick House" and Aretha Franklin's "Respect." Fittingly, Brentina was eventually retired in an emotional ceremony during the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final Las Vegas 2009.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Wood Media

Three-time U.S. Olympic team medalist Jennifer Peters turned the atmosphere electric as she scored his first major championship win at the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final Las Vegas 2009 with Ravel. They danced their way to the top of the podium with a mashup of Coldplay's "Viva la Vida," Men Without Hats' "The Safety Dance," and The Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil." Peters will be looking to duplicate that success at this year's Final in Omaha with Suppenkasper, also known as "Rave Horse."

## MAKE YOUR PLANS

<b>JUMPING</b>	<b>DRESSAGE</b>	<b>VAULTING</b>
Tuesday, April 4: Training Wednesday, April 5: Round 1 Thursday, April 6: Round 2 Saturday, April 8: Final	Tuesday, April 4: Familiarization Wednesday, April 5: Grand Prix Friday, April 7: Grand Prix Freestyle	Tuesday, April 4: Training Thursday, April 6: Round 1 Saturday, April 8: Final Round
<a href="#">SEE FULL SCHEDULE</a>		<a href="#">PURCHASE TICKETS</a>

For further activity and dining recommendations, as well as event details, be sure to download the FEI WC Finals 2023 Omaha app.

[DOWNLOAD THE FEI WC FINALS 2023 OMAHA APP](#)

**About the Omaha Equestrian Foundation**

The Omaha Equestrian Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that strives to bring equestrian sport into the mainstream by changing the way it is presented and to develop Omaha into a hub of the sport horse industry, attracting and developing championship competitions as both educational and economic development opportunities for the community.

