



OMAHA EQUESTRIAN FOUNDATION

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#RidetoOmaha Tuesday, April 4

ATHLETE FAMILIARIZATION

FEI World Cup™ Finals athletes took to the arena on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, for familiarization sessions at the CHI Health Center Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dressage riders were the first in, with U.S. representatives Anna Buffini, Steffen Peters, and Alice Tarjan all taking a tour. Each combination had productive schoolings as horses and riders get ready to compete in the week ahead.

The final U.S. Dressage rider to secure a spot in the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final presented by **Havensafe Farm** through qualification was Anna Buffini, who is riding her fiery chestnut mare FRH Davinia la Douce. Buffini was thrilled with how "Diva" felt in her practice during the familiarization session.

"I was so happy with her," she said. "I'm such a mare person. When they give you their heart, they try so hard, and she tries so hard for me out there."

"It's already the best show I've ever been to," Buffini continued of the venue. "Everybody told me about this place, and it has surpassed all my expectations. I've never experienced what it's like to have home-field advantage in a championship like this. It's unbelievable. Everybody I pass is so supportive of us and knows who we are. It's amazing, so I'm so glad we were able to qualify and make it here."



Anna Buffini and FRH Davinia la Douce.
Photo by [Alison Hartwell Photography](#)

Fellow U.S. rider and FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final Las Vegas 2009 champion Steffen Peters is making his return trip to Omaha after competing in the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final Omaha 2017. With the help of U.S. Dressage Team Technical Advisor and FEI Dressage World Cup Gottenburg 2003 champion Debbie McDonald, he felt his mount Suppenkasper, aka "Mopsie," went through the movements well.

"Mopsie was great," shared Peters. "Being a hot horse, it's always a little challenging coming to a venue like this. When we came into the arena, there were spectators that started applauding already, so it created a little bit of an atmosphere and he didn't react to that, which was reassuring. The World Cup is always very special to me, but anytime you get to ride in front of the American Dressage fans, it doesn't get any better. I was expecting some audience today, but I didn't expect them to clap. That was very nice to see. You feel very supported and very much at home."



Steffen Peters and Suppenkasper.
Photo by [Alison Hartwell Photography](#)

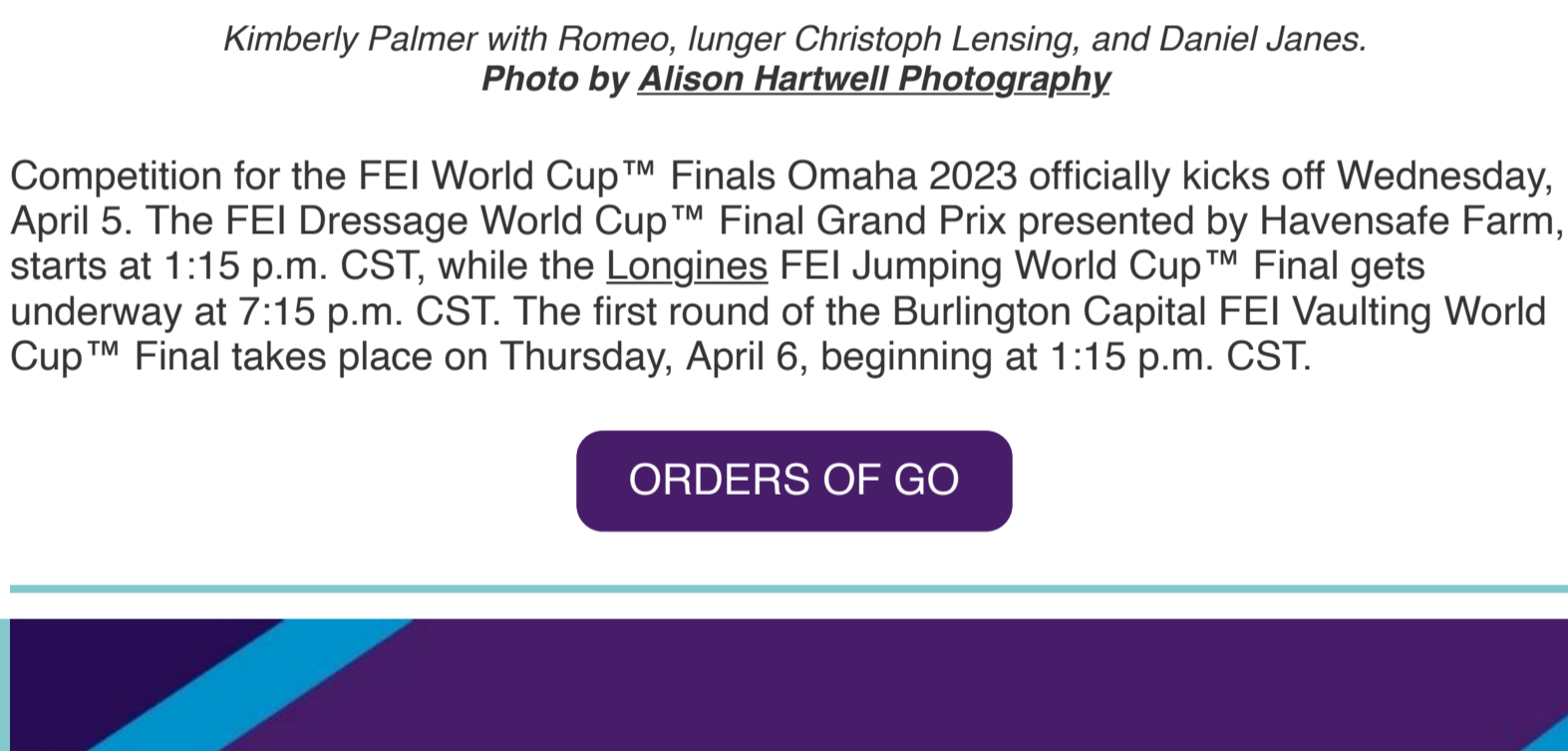
At the conclusion of the Dressage familiarization session, Jumping riders had their turn to scope out the setting. With a practice course set by Bernardo Costa Cabral (POR), some elected to jump while others simply flattened. Among them were the U.S. riders, Simonne Berg, Elisa Broz, Ailish Cunniffe, Natalie Dean, Nicholas Dello Joio, Hunter Holloway, Devin Ryan, Aaron Vale, and McLain Ward.

Eighteen-year-old Broz of Freedom, California, is one of five U.S. Jumping riders making their FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final debut. Broz is riding Kardenta van't Meerhof.

"My mare feels super, and she's jumping well," commented Broz. "She's quirky, but she's acting like herself, so that's all that really matters. For me, the goal is to put in good rounds. My mare is really experienced, so I just need to trust my ride on her and do the best I can."

With no sense of what to expect at this level of competition, Broz is thrilled to be taking it all in.

"The atmosphere during the competition is going to be super cool," she continued of her experience in Omaha. "It will definitely be the biggest atmosphere that I have ever competed in. I came in with no expectations and just an open mind, but it has definitely beaten my expectations. The facility is amazing, and the footing is great. I'm excited to watch all the top riders in the world compete."



Elisa Broz and Kardenta van't Meerhof.
Photo by [Alison Hartwell Photography](#)

Closing out the day was the Vaulting familiarization. Representing the host country are Kimberly Palmer and Daniel Janes, who each had a chance to practice in the arena with their horses. Palmer is the number-two-ranked female Vaulting athlete in the world and is a strong favorite to take the title. She has arranged new routines for this season specifically with the Burlington Capital FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final in mind.

"I'm feeling really good today," expressed Palmer. "I was excited to go into the main arena with my horse. The venue is beautiful. It's massive, and that feels empowering, so I think it's going to bring energy to my performances. I'm looking forward to giving the audience a great show."



Kimberly Palmer with Romeo, Junger Christoph Lensing, and Daniel Janes.
Photo by [Alison Hartwell Photography](#)

Competition for the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023 officially kicks off Wednesday, April 5. The FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final Grand Prix presented by Havensafe Farm, starts at 1:15 p.m. CST, while the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final gets underway at 7:15 p.m. CST. The first round of the Burlington Capital FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final takes place on Thursday, April 6, beginning at 1:15 p.m. CST.

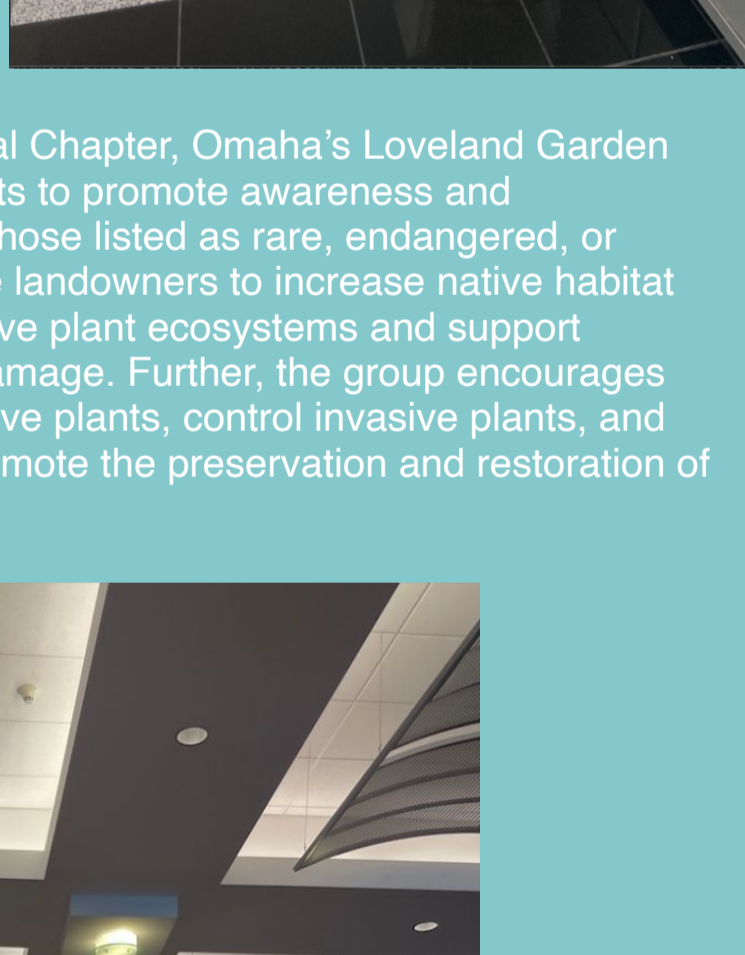
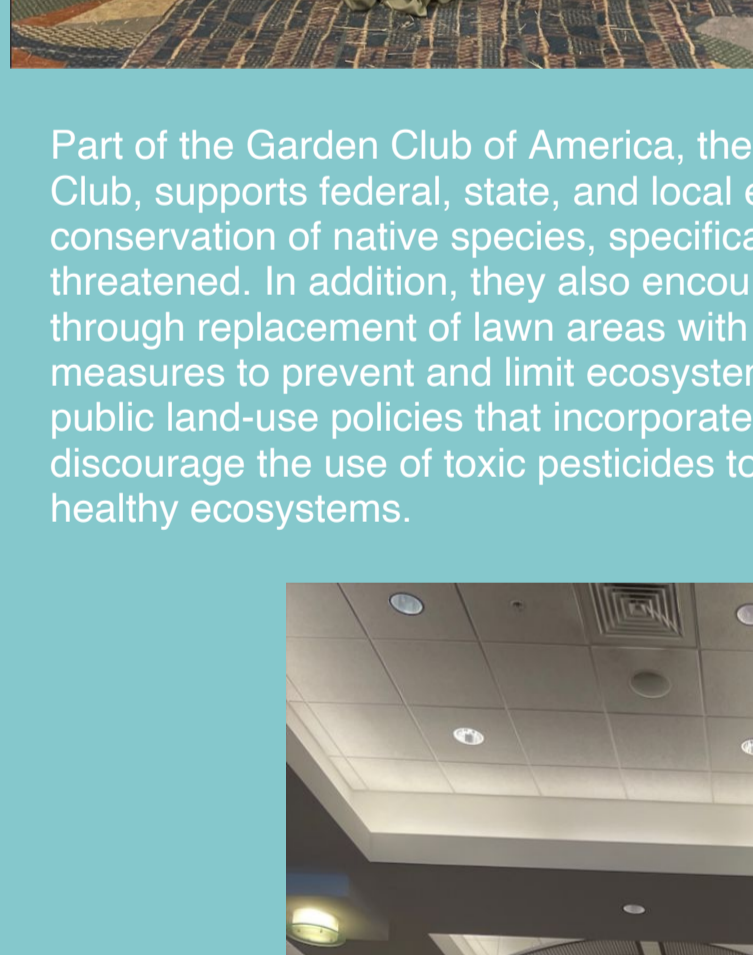
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IN THE NEWS

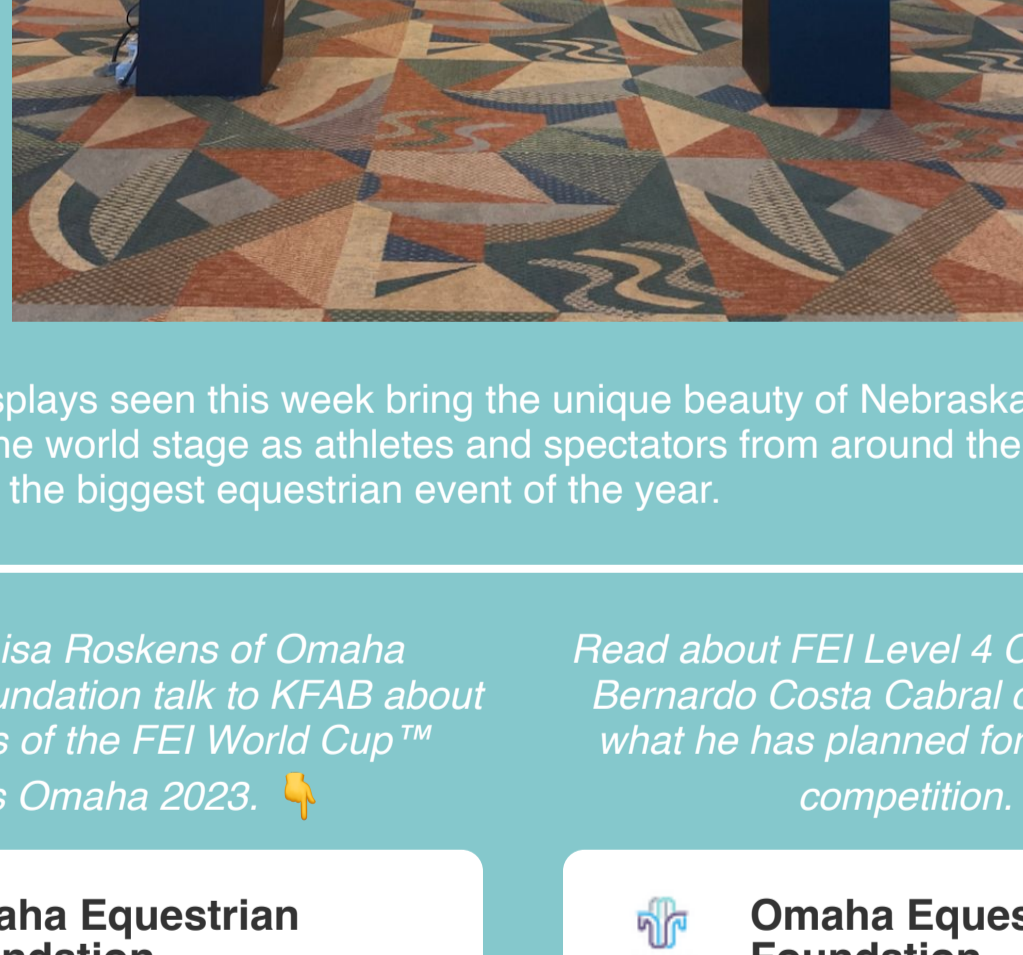
There's a lot going on at the world-class FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023 event. From venue happenings to media coverage, here's the latest straight from the horse's mouth.

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Flowers in the décor theme throughout the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023 have been provided by Omaha's Loveland Garden Club and celebrate the designation of April as Nebraska's Native Plant Month. Sheila Fitzgerald, who operates her own floral design business in Omaha, A New Leaf, is the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023 Décor Manager overseeing the magnificent arrangements with the help of her team.



Part of the Garden Club of America, the local Chapter, Omaha's Loveland Garden Club, supports federal, state, and local efforts to promote awareness and conservation of native species, specifically those listed as rare, endangered, or threatened. In addition, they also encourage landowners to increase native habitat through replacement of lawn areas with native plant ecosystems and support measures to prevent and limit ecosystem damage. Further, the group encourages public land-use policies that incorporate native plants, control invasive plants, and discourage the use of toxic pesticides to promote the preservation and restoration of healthy ecosystems.



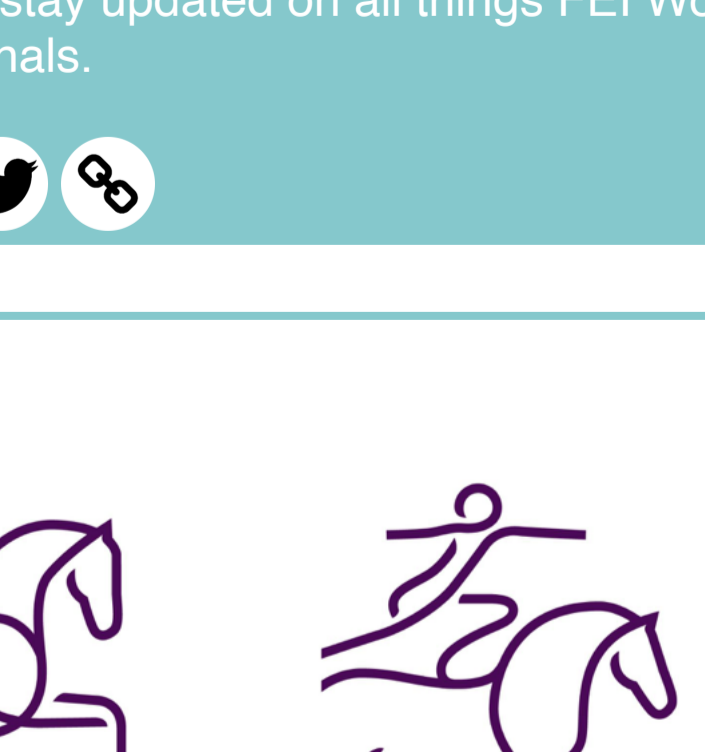
The floral displays seen this week bring the unique beauty of Nebraska and the Midwest to the world stage as athletes and spectators from around the globe converge for the biggest equestrian event of the year.

[Listen to Lisa Roskens of Omaha Equestrian Foundation talk to KFAB about the specifics of the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023.](#)

[Read about FEI Level 4 Course Designer Bernardo Costa Cabral of Portugal and what he has planned for the upcoming competition.](#)

Omaha Equestrian Foundation
The FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023 officially starts tomorrow so make sure you are caught up with all the details. Omaha Equestrian Foundation's founder Lisa Roskens talks to KFAB about ... [See More...](#) [See More](#)

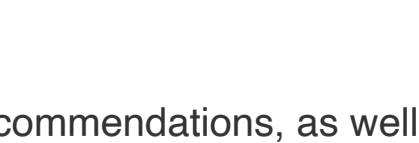
Omaha Equestrian Foundation
Get to know the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023 course designer Bernardo Costa Cabral! [Learn](#) Costa Cabral's history as a course designer and what he has planned for this year's World Cup... [See More...](#) [See More](#)



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Follow Omaha Equestrian Foundation to stay updated on all things FEI World Cup™ Finals.



JUMPING
 Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m.: Round 1
 Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.: Round 2
 Saturday, April 8, 6 p.m.: Final

DRESSAGE
 Wednesday, April 5, 1 p.m.: Grand Prix
 Friday, April 7, 6 p.m.: Grand Prix Freestyle

VAULTING
 Thursday, April 6, 1 p.m.: Round 1
 Saturday, April 8, 1 p.m.: Final Round

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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 OMAHA 2023 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.

