



OMAHA EQUESTRIAN FOUNDATION

Media Contact: Jennifer Wood | [Jump Media](mailto:JumpMedia) | jwood@jumpmediallc.com

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#RidetoOmaha Wednesday, April 5

DRESSAGE DAY 1

Defending Champion Jessica von Bredow-Werndl Puts Her and Dalara in Command in FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final Presented by Havensafe Farm

The defending FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final champion Jessica von Bredow-Werndl (GER) cruised to victory in the opening round of the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final presented by Havensafe Farm on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, taking place at the atmospheric CHI Health Center Omaha in the heart of Omaha, Nebraska. This is the seventh time the dressage final has been held on U.S. soil. The FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023 runs through April 5.

The reigning Olympic champion and world number one claimed the purple winner's blanket in the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final - Grand Prix presented by Havensafe Farm, scoring 79.922% on Béatrice A. Buerchler-Keller's 16-year-old Trakehner mare TSF Dalara BB (by Easy Game). She shrugged off the considerable challenge from her compatriot Isabell Werth, who is contesting her 24th FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final. Werth rode Madeleine Winter-Schulze and Victoria Max-Theurer's 13-year-old Quaterback x Hohenstein gelding DSP Quantaz to 77.485%.



Jessica von Bredow-Werndl and TSF Dalara BB
Photo by Alison Hartwell Photography

"Dalera was on fire," grinned von Bredow-Werndl, whose test had a couple of glitches due to the mare's eagerness, which brought the score down of 80% for the first time since January 2021. "I already watched my test, and my feeling is confirmed; she is in super shape. I am more than happy to be the winner today, although unfortunately with some big hiccups. Yes, she had a little bit too much energy for today, but the good thing is we could all see she is in top form. I definitely enjoyed the ride."

Wednesday's result brings von Bredow-Werndl and Dalera's unbroken winning streak to a staggering 21 tests, which began at the Tokyo Olympic Games — where the pair scooped team and individual gold. Dalera has been fit and fresh on arrival to Omaha, and von Bredow-Werndl gave her the chance to stop and look around as she walked into the atmospheric main arena.



Jessica von Bredow-Werndl and TSF Dalara BB in their winning presentation with Betsy Juliano, owner of Havensafe Farm, Maribel Alonso, FEI Board Member and Chair of Dressage Committee, Katrina Wuest, judge at C, and Lisa Roskens, Omaha Equestrian Foundation Board Chair.
Photo by Alison Hartwell Photography

"She was a little bit nervous, and that's okay," added von Bredow-Werndl, who was awarded 12 scores of 10 during her ride, all for the exquisite piaffe/passage. "It's a very electric atmosphere in there. I enjoyed the last days training her because she felt amazing from the first step. The first day I arrived she needed to buck a little bit, and obviously today she needed a buck before entering the arena as well. She is in super form, and just as excited as I am to be here."

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JUMPING ROUND 1

Von Eckermann and King Edward Save the Best for Last in the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Omaha 2023 Round 1

Forty of the world's best horse-and-rider Jumping combinations took to the CHI Health Center Omaha arena during the evening competition session for the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Omaha 2023 Round 1, where the number-one-ranked rider in the world, Henrik von Eckermann (SWE), galloped to the top spot with King Edward.

Bernardo Costa Cabral (POR) set the challenging 1.60m track for the Table C format first round — a speed round where every four faults converted to three seconds added to the overall time. The most challenging parts proved to be the tricky combination lines where the rider's control as well as the adjustability and power of the horses were put to the test. In the end, 15 riders jumped clear.



Henrik von Eckermann and King Edward
Photo by Alison Hartwell Photography

The final duo to contest needed little introduction. With von Eckermann in the irons, King Edward has jumped to numerous five-star wins, a team gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, as well as individual gold at the 2022 FEI World Championships in Herning, Denmark. Their success has helped propel von Eckermann to his leading world ranking for nine consecutive months.

"The horse, as most people know, is an unbelievable, fantastic horse and he's done so many great things, and thanks to the owner Georg Kähny, I can ride him," commented von Eckermann of the 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding (Edward 28 x Feo). "At home and to take care of, he is like a dog. He is very easy going, and it feels like you can take him in your home. Then the show comes, and he gets a lot of nerve. He has incredible power. He's a small horse, but somehow the engine he has behind is unbelievable, and that's why he can jump such big jumps — and of course he's very careful."



Henrik von Eckermann and King Edward in their winning presentation with Lisa Roskens, Omaha Equestrian Foundation Board Chair, Brittany Garcia, Longines Brand President for the U.S. and Caribbean, and Stephan Ellenbruch, FEI Board Member and Chair of the Jumping Committee.
Photo by Alison Hartwell Photography

Denis Lynch (IRL) set the pace as the first to go with Brooklyn Heights, but his leading time of 63.25 seconds didn't last long. Second in the arena, Yuri Mansur (BRA) and Vitiki cut the time down to 61.54 seconds. With four clear rounds from Harrie Smolders (NED), Pius Schwizer (SUI), Erynn Ballard (CAN), and Janne Friederike Meyer-Zimmermann (GER), the lead changed two more times before Scott Brash (GBR) and Hello Jefferson laid down a blazing trip in 59.23 seconds.

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Text by Alice Collins and Amanda Picciotto Feitosa

DEMOS AND CLINICS

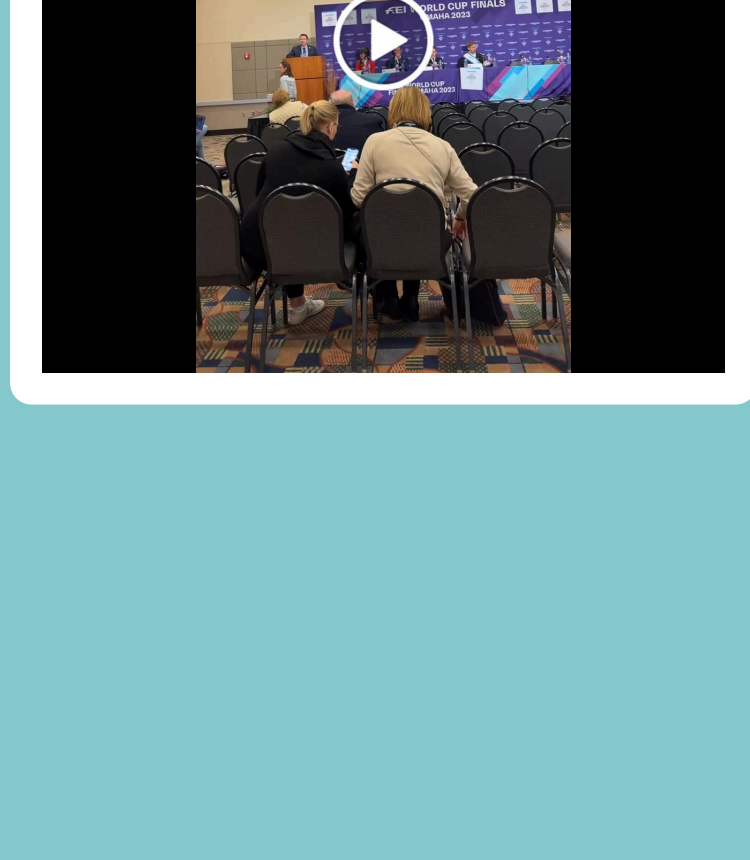
Photos by Tom Jodis Photography



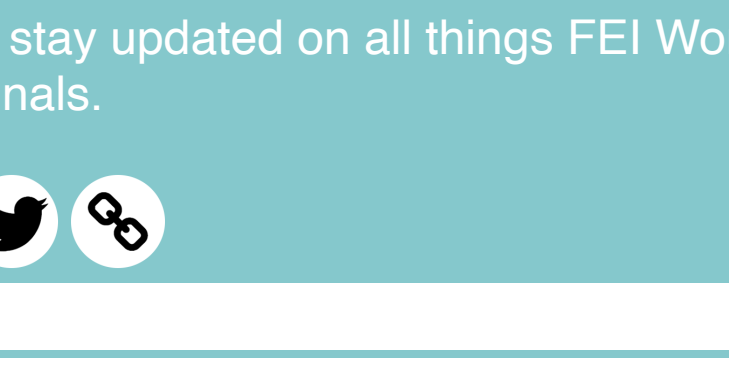
IN THE NEWS

Watch the press conference for the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Round 1. 🐾

Read about how the Bluebird Cultural Initiative is educating students and attendees on the cultural impact of Great Plains horses. 🐾



As thousands of people and athletes arrive at the CHI Health Center for the FEI World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023, Julie Boilesen of the Omaha Equestrian Foundation wanted to share more about t... See More

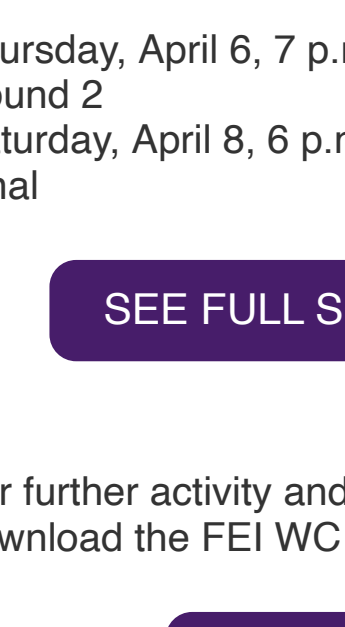


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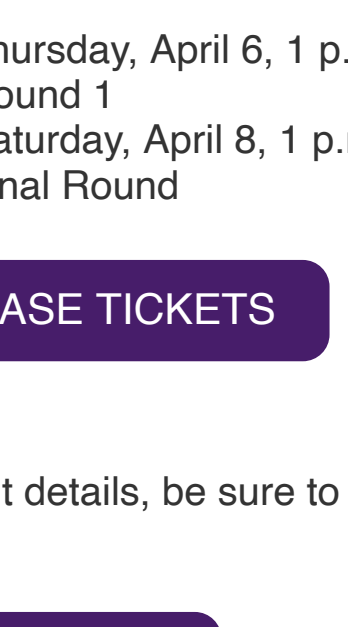
JUMPING

Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.:
Round 2
Saturday, April 8, 6 p.m.:
Final



DRESSAGE

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

[SEE FULL SCHEDULE](#)

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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.

