



# OMAHA EQUESTRIAN FOUNDATION

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## #RidetoOmaha February Update

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

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 February's update:

- 👉 An interview with U.S. vaulter Kimmy Palmer 👉
- 📰 The latest news updates 📰
- 🏆 Moments in FEI Vaulting World Cup™ history 🏆

Read on for all the February excitement. There's only a little more than ONE month until this prestigious competition gets underway!

## FROM THE TOP OF THE PODIUM

We caught up with U.S. vaulter Kimmy Palmer to talk about her amazing bronze medal finish at the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final 2022 Leipzig in Germany and what she's looking forward to most about potentially competing in Omaha.

**Of all your top performances, what stands out about earning the bronze medal at the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final 2022 Leipzig?**

This competition was so special for me. Taking the bronze was unexpected. It helped set the tone for the year and boost my confidence. I feel like I became a new vaulter after the World Cup in 2022.



Photo courtesy of FEI/Richard Julliard

**What is your personal preparation routine for such an important event?**

On competition day, I'll start by doing a short workout to wake up and activate my body, followed by some breakfast. As the start time gets closer, I'll warm up with some running, balancing exercises, and stretching while listening to music. After, I'll run through my routines on the barrel or ground and repeat my more difficult moves until I feel confident and ready. Next, I'll suit up, grab my sticky spray, and tack up and head to the arena!

At this point in time ahead of the World Cup in Omaha, I should be fully fit and ready to compete. My goal now is to prepare my mind and body so I can perform my routine at the exact time I need to.

**Since vaulters frequently do not compete with their own familiar horses at championships, what is the hardest part of practicing and competing with different horses?**

Adapting to their height and movement is challenging. The second biggest challenge is not knowing how a particular horse competes. For example, if they become faster, come into the circle, and so on. Working with different horses is a learning experience. It's definitely very helpful to compete on a borrowed horse at a smaller competition before the important one.

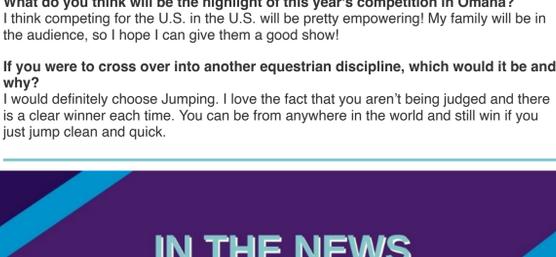


Photo courtesy of FEI/Liz Gregg

**What do you think will be the highlight of this year's competition in Omaha?**

I think competing for the U.S. in the U.S. will be pretty empowering! My family will be in the audience, so I hope I can give them a good show!

**If you were to cross over into another equestrian discipline, which would it be and why?**

I would definitely choose Jumping. I love the fact that you aren't being judged and there is a clear winner each time. You can be from anywhere in the world and still win if you just jump clean and quick.

## 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](#)

*Volunteer sign ups officially opened, giving equestrian enthusiasts the unique opportunity to help behind the scenes with the most important event of the year.*



[VOLUNTEER INFORMATION](#)

*Equestrian sport is putting Omaha into the international spotlight and the world is taking notice as we gear up for this year's Finals.*

*Competition officials were announced with a list of experienced appointees, including FEI Level 4 course designer Bernardo Costa Cabral of Portugal.*



[READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#)

*We're one step closer to knowing who will be in Omaha with the competition officials announced this week!*

*FEI Level 4 course designer Bernardo Costa Cabral of Portugal will be setting the... See More...*

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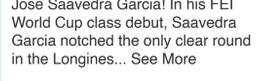
Volunteer sign ups are officially open! Now's your chance to be part of the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 Omaha at the CHI Health Center Omaha. Work behind the scenes, up close to the acti... See More... See More

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We're one step closer to knowing who will be in Omaha with the competition officials announced this week! FEI Level 4 course designer Bernardo Costa Cabral of Portugal will be setting the... See More... See More

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Throwback to when top equestrian sport in Omaha was just a thrilling dream. Now we are excited to welcome the world back to our second FEI World Cup™ Finals in April! Read about the journe... See More



[READ THE FEI ARTICLE](#)

*Mexico's Jose Saavedra Garcia made his FEI World Cup class debut a winning one when he bested the field in the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Puebla (MEX).*

**Omaha Equestrian Foundation**

We're getting closer to knowing which U.S. athletes will lead the charge at the FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals Omaha 2023! Read how the top riders, including McInain Ward, Laura Kraut, Lilli... See More... See More



[READ THE PRACTICAL HORSEMAN ARTICLE](#)

*U.S. athletes Ashley Holzer and Sarah Tubman rode to second and third respectively during Friday Night Stars at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival.*

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A little Monday Motivation courtesy of Mexico's 24-year-old rising star Jose Saavedra Garcia! In his FEI World Cup class debut, Saavedra Garcia notched the only clear round in the Longines... See More



[JUMPING NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS](#)

**Omaha Equestrian Foundation**

Another super FEI Dressage World Cup™ qualifier under the Friday Night Stars at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival! 🌟 U.S. rider Ashley Holzer piloted Valentine to the runner-up spot, and fellow U.S.... See More... See More



[DRESSAGE NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS](#)

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



## VICTORIES ON MEMORY LANE

Get ready to watch this year's Burlington Capital FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final champions 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 Vaulting history.



With wins in the FEI World Championships™ and FEI World Equestrian Games™, Switzerland's Patric Looser added yet another impressive title to his resume when he claimed the first male FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final win in Leipzig, Germany, in 2011. Though he finished the first day of freestyle competition sitting in second place behind France's Nicolas Andreani, Looser's sensational performance on the final day saw him close out a commanding season on top. Photo courtesy of FEI



It was Germany's Simone Wiegele who scored the first FEI Vaulting World Cup™ women's title in 2011. Wiegele, along with longeur Agnes Werhahn and horse Arkansas, produced an impeccable performance, scoring an impressive 8.613 on the second day of freestyle competition. Wiegele already had a strong lead going into the final day, and her final performance put the exclamation mark on a convincing victory.

Photo courtesy of FEI/Matt Lewis Getty



Haley Smith and Daniel Janes were the first U.S. Pas de Deux to finish on the podium in a FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final, earning silver in the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final 2019 Saumur in France. That momentous top performance capped off a triumphant 2019 season, in which Smith and Janes also finished in second at the FEI Vaulting Nations Cup™ CVO4\* at CHIO Aachen in Germany earlier that year. They followed up on their 2019 success with a bronze medal in the Pas de Deux at the 2021 FEI Vaulting World Championship in Budapest, Hungary.



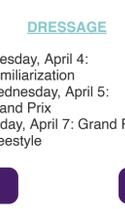
Photos courtesy of Haley Smith

## MAKE YOUR PLANS



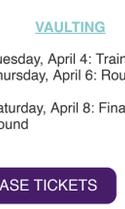
**JUMPING**

Tuesday, April 4: Training  
Wednesday, April 5: Round 1  
Thursday, April 6: Round 2  
Saturday, April 8: Final



**DRESSAGE**

Tuesday, April 4: Familiarization  
Wednesday, April 5: Grand Prix  
Friday, April 7: Grand Prix Freestyle



**VAULTING**

Tuesday, April 4: Training  
Thursday, April 6: Round 1  
Saturday, April 8: Final Round

[SEE FULL SCHEDULE](#)

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

Lodging during the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 Omaha is still available. Book now for discounted pricing until March 12, 2023.

[RESERVE NOW](#)

Don't forget, reservations for vendor booths are still open. Tiered pricing options allow you to pick the package best suited to your budget and goals. More than 52,000 ticket buyers from 38 countries and all 50 states attended the FEI World Cup™ Finals in 2017, and this year's event promises to be even bigger. Register now to be part of the biggest equestrian sporting event of the year.

[BECOME A VENDOR](#)

**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.

