

FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 Omaha (USA) Press Kit

(updated 4 April 2023)



LONGINES

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WORLD CUP™
OMAHA
2023
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Introduction

The **FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023** return to Omaha (USA) six years after hosting this event for the first time in 2017. Scheduled for 4 to 8 April 2023, the Finals will bring together 77 athletes from 23 nations in the three disciplines: **Jumping (40), Dressage (16), and Vaulting (21)** in a bid to claim one of the most prestigious trophies in the equestrian world.

Here's a preview of what to expect from this edition of the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 in Omaha:

Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2023 preview

History hanging in the balance as world's riders prepare for the grand finale....

By Louise Parkes



The wait is almost over and the excitement is sizzling....just a week to go to the start of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2023 in which a crack field of horse-and-rider combinations will battle for the supreme title of indoor jumping.

The history behind this series is the stuff of legend, and placing their name on the Roll of Honour is something every top athlete wants to achieve. But the competitions to decide the winner are always hard-fought and often unpredictable, and course designer Bernardo Costa Cabral from Portugal will be sure to test them all the way.

For the second time in its long history the Final will be staged at the CHI Health Center in Omaha (USA) where, with a capacity audience of 18,300, the crowd went wild when home hero and five-time Olympian, McLain Ward, clinched victory in 2017 with his great mare HH Azur.

Currently ranked fourth in the world, Ward returns as part of the nine-strong American contingent and this time will ride the 15-year-old mare Callas when flying the host nation flag.

Title-defender

Title-defender is world number two Martin Fuchs from Switzerland who partnered The Sinner and Chaplin to victory in Leipzig (GER) 12 months ago. This time around the 30-year-old rider brings the grey Leone Jei who carried him to European team gold and individual silver in 2021. However the entry-list of 41 athletes from 19 countries around the globe is filled with plenty of others who are also chasing down their hopes and dreams, and if ever there was a Final that can spring surprises then this is definitely one of them.

One of the intriguing things about equestrian sport is the age-range of competitors and the fact that male and female athletes compete on exactly the same stage. This time around the age difference between the youngest and oldest finalists is a not-inconsiderable 42 years.

America's Elisa Broz, who is only 18, earned her place through impressive results in the North America West series. She will be armed with the experienced 13-year-old Belgian mare Kardenta Van't Meerhof who previously competed at top level with Spain's Sergio Alvarez Moya before joining Broz's string in 2021.

The most senior rider is 60-year-old double-Olympian Pius Schwizer from Switzerland who, riding Ulysse and Carlina at both World Cup Finals, finished equal-second in 2010 and third in 2012. He brings the popular stallion Vancouver de Lanlore who competed at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games with French rider Penelope Leprevost in the saddle and who finished second at the last leg of the Western European League in Gothenburg (SWE) last month with the Swiss rider onboard.

Record

The record for the youngest rider ever to take the title remains with Canada's Mario Deslauriers who was only 19 when steering Aramis to victory in Gothenburg (SWE) back in 1984, beating two other legends of the sport, Brazil's Nelson Pessoa and America's Norman dello Joio.

And following in that distinctly equestrian tradition Norman's son, 33-year-old Nicholas dello Joio, is amongst the host nation contenders again this year.

Besides Switzerland's Fuchs and America's Ward, there will be two other previous winners in action this time around and both are German - Daniel Deusser who reigned supreme in 2014 and Marcus Ehning who is one of five three-time champions.

Also on the startlist are seven of the top ten athletes on the current Longines rankings including world number one, Henrik von Eckermann, who brings the incredible King Edward, the horse with which he scooped team gold at the Tokyo Games and double-gold at last summer's ECCO FEI World Championships.

Consistent

The Swedish rider has been very consistent at the Longines Finals, finishing third with Toveks Mary Lou in Omaha in 2017 and again the following year in Paris (FRA). He's not putting his superstar horse on the flight out of the airport in Liege (BEL) next Friday, which will carry all the European horses and many others to their US destination, without that fabulous World Cup trophy in his sights.

But the competition will be intense. Frenchman Julien Epailard, currently third in the rankings, is like an unstoppable force right now and his talent for speed riding is second to none. He posted three spectacular wins - in Lyon (FRA), Madrid (ESP) and Amsterdam (NED) - during this qualifying season and he brings the brilliant Donatello d'Auge to the Final.

Meanwhile Dutchman Harrie Smolders is surely so very close to taking the title. He's been runner-up twice, in 2016 with Emerald and last year with Monaco NOP who will be back in action this time around. Could this be his year to take that coveted top spot and the glory that goes with it?

It's all to play for with the first Final competition taking place on Wednesday April 5, the second competition on Thursday April 6 and the new champion crowned on Saturday April 8 when the top-30 go into the first round and the top-20 battle it out for the final placings.

It's going to be another epic conclusion to a great year of indoor sport, so don't miss a hoofbeat.....

FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2023 preview

Jessica and Dalera bid for a back-to-back double

By Louise Parkes



Following a baby-break that meant she didn't compete at last summer's ECCO FEI World Championships in Herning (DEN), Jessica von Bredow-Werndl returns to centre stage with TSF Dalera BB when the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2023 gets underway in Omaha (USA) next Wednesday.

The German rider and her lovely mare were on a roll when taking the 2022 title on home ground in Leipzig (GER) last April having already bagged a full set of Olympic and European medals over the previous seven months. And they showed they had lost none of their sparkle when returning to action in this season's Western European League, with wins in Lyon (FRA) last October and again in Basel (SUI) in January and each time posting an over-90% score.

If they maintain that form they seem well set to challenge for the double in a weeks' time when 17 horse-and-rider combinations from 11 different countries will contest the title.

Repeat wins

Repeat wins are a theme of this Final, but nobody has ever come close to matching the nine posted by The Netherlands' Anky van Grunsven with her two great horses between 1995 and 2008. Riding Bonfire she topped the podium in 1995, 1996,

1997, 1999 and 2000 and with Salinero, who only passed away last December at the age of 28, she won through in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008.

On next week's startlist is a lady who chased the Dutch star all the way to the line on many occasions. Isabell Werth has five wins under her belt and posted her first in Gothenburg (SWE) in 1992 which boasted an all-German podium of Sven Rothenberger in second place and Monica Theodorescu in third.

Over 30 years later this remarkable rider, known colloquially as "The Queen" and the most decorated athlete in equestrian sport, will line out in her 23rd Final. Currently lying third in the athlete world rankings and winner of the 2022/2023 Western European League series, she will mean business when strutting into the ring to chase down her sixth title with the feisty DSP Quantaz.

Each country can only field three athletes, and third of the German contingent is Ingrid Klimke, daughter of Dressage legend Dr Reiner Klimke and best known as a five-time Olympian and multiple medallist in the sport of Eventing. With the 15-year-old stallion Franziskus she won the third leg of the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Western European League in Stuttgart (GER) last November and she will be sure to make her presence felt when the action gets underway next week.

However there are a host of others also champing at the bit including Dutch star Dinja van Liere who brings the 11-year-old stallion Hermes NOP with which she won individual double-bronze at last summer's World Championship in Denmark, and Nanna Skodborg Merrald who was on the gold-medal-winning Danish team there with Blue Hors Zack.

Skodborg Merrald has opted to bring Blue Hors Zepter to Omaha and this is a new partnership that looks to have serious potential, finishing third at the Swiss leg of the Western European League in Basel and winning the ninth round of the 11-leg series in Neumünster (GER) last month.

The Netherlands will also be represented by Tamar Zweistra and Hexagon's Ice Weiss and Marieke van der Putten with Torveslettens Titanium RS2 while Morgan Barbançon and Sir Donnerhall II OLD will fly the French flag.

Lithuania's Justina Vanagaite (Nabab), Moldova's Alisa Glinka (Aachen), Singapore's Caroline Chew (Tribiani), Australia's Simone Pearce (Fiderdance), and Belgium's Jorinde Verwimp (Charmer) will be joined by the sole Swede, Johanna Due Boje (Mazy Klovenhoj). And completing the line-up are the US contenders, headed by Steffen Peters whose win with Ravel in Las Vegas (USA) back in 2009 nearly brought the house down.

He pinned Werth riding Satchmo and van Grunsven riding Painted Black into second and third on that memorable day, and the five-time Olympian brings his Tokyo 2020 team silver-medal-winning ride Suppenkasper to do battle this time out.

Also flying the Stars and Stripes will be Alice Tarjan and Serenade MF who have posted consistently strong results over the last few months, and Anna Buffini and FRH Davinia La Douce who finished 12th in the Freestyle at last year's Final in Leipzig.

FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final 2023 preview

Titles for the Taking

By Joanne Eccles



Anticipation is building for the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final, taking place outside Europe for the first time in Omaha, USA, from the 6th – 8th April. Joining the World's best in Jumping and Dressage for an epic week of competition, the top ranked Vaulters will aim to 'go large' stateside to take home the title of Champion.

Qualifying took place within the 2022 season and the top ranked eight Male and Female individual Vaulters, and four Pas de Deux, who accepted the invitation, will make the journey to the Midwest USA. The individual athletes will perform a Technical test and those in the Pas de Deux will take part in 2 Free tests over two days of competition aiming for glory. None of last year's winners have chosen to return, leaving the floor completely open for new title holders. A flight has been chartered for six horses to fly from Europe to Nebraska, whilst the rest of the participants will partner with American horses and lungers.

Kimberly Palmer is one of the front runners for the Female title. She will hope to use her home advantage to improve on last year's third place finish. We can expect excellent artistry as she performs new technical and freestyle routines aboard Romeo lunged by Christoph Lensing. After stunning judges with her exceptional technical routine in Herning last year, fellow North American, Averill Saunders, will make Canada's premier performance at the FEI Vaulting World Cup™.

She will compete with a new partnership, Max and Sarah Krauss from Germany. However, Julia Sophie Wagner (GER) vice World Champion will stand in the way and aim to bring the title home to Europe. Compatriot Kathrin Meyer brings her own horse San Classico lunged by her Mum Sonja Meyer. Switzerland also has two representatives: Nadja Büttiker with her years of experience, and World Cup debutant Danielle Bürgi. Completing the line up, Eva Nagiller is Austria's hope in the individual competition, she has partnered with Mary McCormick and Kilian, and Blanka Nemeth of Hungary who will also work with an American team.

Heading up the Male contenders and searching for the elusive title is Germany's Jannik Heiland. He will compete with FRH Highlight and Alexandra Knauf and will fight off competition from Lukas Heppler (SUI) who has qualified for the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final for the 10th consecutive time, combining with Best Brew and Andrea Selch from the USA for this event. His best World Cup result is second place. In a battle of experience versus youth, Dutch talent Sam dos Santos and Colombian Estiven Palacio Hernandez look to shake things up and have every chance to show they're worth the title. Julian Wilfling competes for Germany in his second final, while the USA's hope in the Men's competition is Daniel Janes who makes his first individual appearance at a final. Davide Zanella (ITA) and Andrin Müller (SUI) round out the competition.

All eyes are on World Champions Chiara Congia and Justin van Gerven (GER) in the Pas de Deux competition. Undoubtable favourites, they will bring their medal-winning team to Omaha to recreate their winning routines from the 2019 European and 2022 World Championships, and present their final performances together as they retire at the end of the event.

The Silver medal winning pair from last year's FEI World Championships (Diana Harwardt and Peter Künne GER), will be in attendance aiming for high scores to kick off the season. They need to hold back stiff competition from Austria's Eva Nagiller and Romana Hintner as well as the Danish duo Maria Thinggaard Sorensen and Freja Linde who are already out in the States training on their horse, Lunar Eclipse.

Many of the athletes have partnered with new equine companions and will show how versatile and talented they are when they take to the arena for what will be an exhilarating and enthralling competition as we crown new FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Champions.



About the venue for the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023

The city of Omaha (USA) will host for the second time the **FEI World Cup™ Finals** in 2023 for the disciplines of Jumping, Dressage and the first one for Vaulting. All competitions will be held in the CHI Health Center Omaha, a venue with a size of 100,000 square meters and capacity for more than 18,000 visitors.



Definite entries

Check all the athletes participating at the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 in Omaha (USA)




[Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final](#)

[FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final](#)



[FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final](#)

Full Programme



Tuesday 4

09:00 - 12:00	FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final presented by Havensafe Farm Familiarization	
13:00 - 15:00	Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Training	
15:45 - 17:00	Burlington Capital FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final Training	


Wednesday 5

13:15 - 16:15	FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final presented by Havensafe Farm Grand Prix	
19:15 - 21:30	Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Round 1	



Thursday 6

13:15 - 14:45	Burlington Capital FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final Round 1	
19:15 - 22:00	Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Round 2	

Friday 7

18:15 - 21:30	FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final presented by Havensafe Farm Grand Prix Freestyle to Music	
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Saturday 8

13:15 - 14:45	Burlington Capital FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final Final Round	
18:15 - 21:45	Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final Final Round	

You can check the full programme and competition schedule [here](#).

FEI Jumping World Cup™ 2023 Leaders

League	Athlete	Country
<u>Western European League</u>	Henrik Von Eckermann	SWE
<u>North American League</u>	Daniel Coyle	IRL
<u>China League</u>	Jirigala Eerdeng	CHN
<u>Middle East Sub-League</u>	Moufi Owaida Al Karbi	UAE
<u>North African Sub-League</u>	Majid Djaidi	MAR
<u>Australian League</u>	Sarah-Louise McMillan	AUS
<u>Eurasian League</u>	Nurjon Tuyakbaev	UZB
<u>Central America and Caribbean Islands League</u>	Manuel Espinosa	COL
<u>Central European League – Northern Sub-League</u>	Andrius Petrovas	LTU
<u>Central European League – Southern Sub-League</u>	Damian Cojocariu	ROU
<u>Japan League</u>	Kenki Sato	JPN
<u>New Zealand League</u>	Philipp Steiner	NZL
<u>South African League</u>	Nicola Sime	RSA
<u>South American North League</u>	Santiago Medina	COL
<u>South American South League</u>	Geronimo Viana	BRA
<u>South East Asian League</u>	Marcho Alexandro	INA

[Check the full FEI Jumping World Cup Standings here](#)

FEI Dressage World Cup™ Leaders

League	Athlete	Country
<u>Western European League</u>	Isabell Werth	GER
<u>Central European League</u>	Justina Vanagaite	LTU
<u>North American League</u>	Steffen Peters	USA
<u>Pacific League</u>	Charlotte Phillips	AUS

[See the full FEI Dressage World Cup standings here](#)

FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Rankings – Men

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Lambert Leclezio	FRA
2	Julian Wifling	GER
3	Lorenzo Lupacchini	ITA
4	Jannik Heiland	GER
5	Thomas Brüsewitz	GER
6	Andrin Müller	SUI
7	Dominik Eder	AUT
8	Lukas Heppler	SUI
9	Daniel Janes	USA
10	Talmage Conrad	CAN

[See the full FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Standings - Men here](#)

FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Standings – Women

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Manon Moutinho	FRA
2	Kimberly Palmer	USA
3	Sheena Bendixen	DEN
4	Kathrin Meyer	GER
5	Nadja Büttiker	SUI
6	Eva Nagiller	AUT
7	Danielle Bürgi	SUI
8	Ilona Hannich	SUI
9	Tessa Divita	USA
10	Julia Sophie Wagner	GER

[See the full FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Standings - Women here](#)

FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Standings – Pas de Deux

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Chiara Congia / Justin Van Gerven	GER
2	Diana Harwardt / Peter Künne	GER
3	Rebecca Greggio / Davide Zanella	ITA
4	Freja Linde / Maria Thinggaard Sørensen	DEN
5	Romana Hintner / Eva Nagil	AUT
6	Sofie Van der Laan / Renske Van Schaik	NED
7	Ema Martinkova / Emma Kolesarova	SVK
8	Theresa Thiel / Dominik Eder	AUT
9	Hannah Schulz / Sarah Posdziech	GER
10	Timo Gerdes / Jolina Ossenbergs-Engels	GER

[See the full FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Standings – Pas de Deux here](#)



MER
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HOSPITAL

Fast facts about the FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023

Total number of athletes: 80

- **Jumping:** 40 athletes
- **Dressage:** 17 athletes
- **Vaulting:** 22 athletes

Total number of Horses: 72

Total competing nations: 25

Nations participating for the first time:

- Singapore (Caroline Chew) and Lithuania (Justina Vanagaite) are represented for the first time in the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Finals
- Australia (Blanka Nemeth – Individual Female), Canada (Averill Saunders-Individual Female) and Denmark (Freja Linde & Maria Thinggaard Sorensen – Pas de Deux) will be represented for the first time in the FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Finals.

Youngest Athletes

- **Jumping:** Elisa Broz (USA) – 19 years old
- **Dressage:** Anna Buffini (USA) – 29 years old
- **Vaulting:** Sam dos Santos (NED) – 17 years old

Oldest Athletes

- **Jumping:** Pius Schwizer (SUI) – 61 years old
- **Dressage:** Steffen Peters (USA) – 59 years old
- **Vaulting:** Jannik Heiland (GER) – 31 years old

Most Appearances

- **Jumping:** Mclain Ward (USA) and Marcus Ehning (GER) – 19 appearances
- **Dressage:** Isabell Werth (GER) – 23 appearances
- **Vaulting:** Lukas Heppler (SUI) – 9 appearances

First FEI World Cup™ Final for:

- [Jumping in 1979 in Gothenburg \(SWE\)](#)
- [Dressage in 1986 in 's-Hertogenbosch \(NED\)](#)
- [Vaulting in 2011 in Leipzig 2011 \(GER\)](#)

Past Winners

Jumping

Most wins

Athlete	Country	Total Wins
Steve Guerdat	SUI	3
Hugo Simon	AUT	3
Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum	GER	3
Marcus Ehning	GER	3
Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	3



Reigning Champions Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Final 2022

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Indiv	Martin Fuchs & Chaplin (SUI)	Harrie Smolders & Monaco B (NED)	Jens Fredricson & Markan Cosmopolit (SWE)

Dressage

Most Wins

Athlete	Country	Total Wins
Anky Van Grunsven	NED	9
Isabell Werth	GER	5
Monica Theodorescus	GER	2
Christine Stückelberger	SUI	2
Charlotte Dujardin	GBR	2
Ulla Salzgeber	GER	2
Adeline Cornelissen	NED	2



Reigning Champions FEI Dressage World Cup™ Final 2022

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Indiv	Jessica Von Bredow-Werndl & TSF Dalera BB (GER)	Cathrine Laudrup-Dufour & Vamos Amigos (DEN)	Isabell Werth & Weihegold OLD (GER)

Vaulting

Most Wins

Athlete	Country	Total Wins
Nicolas Andreani	FRA	3
Anna Cavallaro	ITA	3
Torben Jacobs	GER	3



Reigning Champions FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Final 2022

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Men's Individual	Lorenzo Lupacchini & Rosenstolz 99 (ITA)	Lambert Leclezio & Saitiri Old (FRA)	Jannik Heiland & Rockemotion (GER)
Women's Individual	Manon Moutinho & Saitiri Old (FRA)	Janika Derks & Rockemotion (GER)	Kimberly Palmer & Rosenstolz 99 (USA)
Pas de Deux	Janika Derks & Johannes Kay (GER)	Eva Nagiller & Romana Hintner (AUT)	Chiara Congia & Justin Van Gerven (GER)



FEI online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the **FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 in Omaha (USA)** [here](#).

Access to the **Official FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 Media Resource Centre** [here](#) for quotes and transcripts.

Schedules and **results** will be available [here](#).

The **FEI World Cup™ Finals 2023 in Omaha (USA)** will be broadcast live on **FEI TV**, the FEI's official broadcasting platform.

Images & Content: Free images for editorial purposes are available from the [FEI Flickr account](#) in the photostream and in the dedicated album.

Video footage will be available at <https://fei.broadcast-content.tv/> with the following login details: media@fei.org Password: **FEI2018**

Biographies from the main participants are available [here](#)

You can find the **FEI** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [FEI YouTube](#)

Join the action on Social Media by using the hashtags **#FEIWorldCupFinals** and **#TimeToBeat**

Get all the info (results, medal winners, pictures...) from all past FEI competitions on the [FEI History Hub](#).

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