



For Immediate Release

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Great Performances in the Dixon Oval And Wheeler Ring Dressage at Devon 2018

September 29, 2018 (Devon, PA) – Saturday kicked off with 23 riders competing in the FEI Intermediaire I CDI3*. The class was won by Royale (Routinier/Infinite), a 15-year-old chestnut Olednburg gelding bred by Daniel Sullivan and ridden by Megan Davis. The Dixon also hosted The FEI Young Rider Individual Test CDIY, the FEI Intermediaire A for Amateur CDIAm, the FEI Pony Individual Text CDIP and the FEI Children’s Team Test CDICH.

While the performances can hold the attention of the audience, at Dressage at Devon there’s always more happening on the grounds. On Saturday morning, Lisa Schmidt, a USEF ‘S’ Dressage Judge and Trainer, and creator of Adult Amateur Dressage Access, met with Adult Amateurs to discuss their questions, and the challenges and opportunities facing adult amateurs. There’s no question that Dressage at Devon is amateur friendly, featuring additional classes on Sunday.

The exhibitions went off without a hitch as the Governor General’s Horse Guard and The First Troop of Philadelphia City Cavalry demonstrated military maneuvers from hundreds of years ago. They’ll be back Sunday for more demonstrations and a Meet n’ Greet with the young Dressage Explorers.

Grand Prix Special

Hallmark (His Highness/Lapislazuly), a 14-year-old Hanoverian, and Diane Creech of Ontario, Canada won the Grand Prix Special. Diane is no stranger to the Dixon Oval, having ridden in the Grand Prix last year on Chrevis Christo.

Grand Prix Musical Freestyle

Riders and spectators alike look forward to Saturday night under the lights as the horses compete for the coveted title of the winner of the Grand Prix Freestyle. Months are spent preparing the right mix of music and choreography, creating a three-way team – horse, rider and music.

Winner, Jessica Jo Tate on Faberge (Floristan/Baroness), earned an impressive score of 73.650, riding to what she called “a mixture of pop and classical. “It was a really good time and the weather was great. It is such a famous ring – every rider understands the magic of the Dixon Oval,” she said. “It is so much like Europe. The crowd was wonderful, truly behind the rider. It is an honor to ride in the Dixon.” And Hallmark? “He is a horse with a heart of gold. Actually, he is all gold!”

Coming in second was Nicole Harrington on Wizard of Oz (Weltmeyer/Vadella). Harrington bought him as a Prix St Georges horse – as a project with the intent to resell. But horses sometimes have a way of finding their way into the hearts of riders. This is the first time she has done the CDI saying “It was always on my bucket list.” The music? It was a mixed sound track from, where else, The Wizard of Oz. From Somewhere Over the Rainbow to the evil witch cackling in the background, it just fit. “It started out as a joke,” said Harrington. “But that’s what he wanted. He loved it!”

Soraya II (Sandro Hit/Dynamique) took home third, with a score 70.275, riding to a mix of Taylor Swift, Adele, and Nicki Minaj. “This was her first CDI Freestyle and I just decided to go for it,” said rider Kimberly Herslow of Stockton, NJ. “I felt I could ride with a little more expression. This is the most fun freestyle I’ve ever done!”

We can’t wait to host families and friends on Sunday as the 4th Annual Dressage Explorers takes place along with the Blessing of the Animals, exhibitions continue and exciting performances take place in both rings And, of course, don’t forget the shopping – you might even find some sales.

About Dressage at Devon (www.dressageatdevon.org)

Dressage at Devon has been a premier North American Equestrian event since its founding in 1975. It combines world-class dressage competition and the world’s largest open breed show with the international Fall Festival show and special activities for the entire family. The six-day event attracts hundreds of riders from around the world and thousands of spectators. Dressage at Devon is a 501(c) (3) PA non-profit organization, benefitting equine education.