



PRESS RELEASE

A BATTLE ROYALE AS KENT FARRINGTON AND GREYA ARE BEST IN THE \$1,000,000 CSI5* 1.60M ROLEX US EQUESTRIAN OPEN GRAND PRIX AT THE WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL - ROLEX FINALE WEEK

Geneva, 28 March 2026 – USA's Kent Farrington and his 12-year-old mare Greya took the 2026-title in Saturday night's \$1,000,000 CSI5* 1.60m Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix at the Winter Equestrian Festival - Rolex Finale Week held at Wellington International in Wellington, Florida, USA.

The Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix was the first of seven events in the Rolex Series 2026 and the huge crowd of enthusiastic spectators that created an incredible atmosphere as the floodlights came on in the main ring at Wellington International proved the significance of this competition, the highlight of the Rolex Finale Week.

Farrington's win in the Rolex Grand Prix was the first in seven years for a home rider, which made the victory even sweeter for the 45-year-old who is currently ranked 2nd in the world. "It's always great to win at home," Farrington said. "Wellington has really become an equestrian community. They get a great local crowd that comes out here and cheers for all of us, but particularly the American riders so it's really exciting to win here at home. I hadn't won a Grand Prix yet this [WEF] season, so it's a great way to finish my [WEF] season this year."

Forty athletes had qualified for the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix during the Rolex Finale Week. Title defender and reigning Olympic Champion Christian Kukuk (GER), who is currently ranked 6th in the world,

was among the 40 athletes competing for the win, where he was up against not only Kent Farrington, but also the likes of world no. 3 Ben Maher (GBR), world no. 7 Nina Mallevaey (FRA), as well as world no. 11 Laura Kraut (USA).

The 14-fence track set by Guilherme Jorge (BRA) began bold with a triple bar followed by the Rolex Series-wall. The middle part of the course, which included a vertical-vertical-oxer Rolex triple combination followed by an open water, tested accuracy, before the horses and riders were faced with a very delicate finish to the track. It was a challenging course, where even title-defender Kukuk on his 2024 Olympic gold medallist Checker 47 (Comme Il Faut x Come On) opted to retire after running into trouble at the wall.

Under the Wellington flood lights, cheered on by the enthusiastic, sold-out crowd, the first clear round came from double Olympic gold medallist Ben Maher (GBR) and Enjeu de Grisien (Toulon x Andiamo), while Jordan Coyle (IRL) and Chaccolino (Chacco-Blue x Heartbreaker) followed suit to secure a jump-off. At the halfway stage, Maher and Coyle stood as the only two to have found all the answers to the questions asked by Jorge's track – the Brazilian mastermind had set a challenge to match the world-class field.

Kent Farrington and his incredibly consistent Greya (Colestus x Contender) delivered clear number three as the first pair to return after the midway break, while Darragh Kenny (IRL) and Eddy Blue (Eldorado vd Zeshoek x Chacco-Blue) jumped one of the most accurate rounds of the night to clear their way into the jump-off. Making it a battle of five for the title in the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix, 2025 European Champion Richard Vogel (GER) was the last to join the jump-off with Gangster Montdesir (Kannan x Cornet Obolensky).

Maher and Enjeu de Grisien were the pace-setters in the jump-off, and piled pressure on the remaining four duos as they raced through the finish line to stop the clock at 43.72 seconds. For Coyle and Chaccolino, the penultimate fence hit the floor, leaving them out of contention for the top of the podium. Third out, Farrington and Greya, who prior to the Rolex Finale Week had won an incredible nine of her 15 five-star 1.60m jump-offs, shaved off 0.73 seconds on Maher's leading time to slot into the lead.

However, with Kenny and Vogel to come, the night was far from over, and the knowledgeable Wellington-crowd was treated with an electric battle of the best. While Kenny and Eddy Blue gave it their best shot, a rail on the last oxer fell, leaving Vogel and Gangster Montdesir to decide the end result.

With a daring gallop to the last, the current world number four finished 0.12 seconds faster than Farrington but the risk came on the expense of a pole down on the final fence. With four penalties added to his score, Vogel slotted into third place ahead of Kenny in fourth and Coyle in fifth, while Farrington could celebrate the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix-title on home soil ahead of Maher in second.

"You never know if it's perfect until the class is over, but I thought I put in a very competitive round," Farrington commented on his jump-off. "I took enough risk to put real pressure on these guys, but I didn't take all the risk. I knew that if somebody put down a crazy round it was possible to be beat, but it was going to take a lot of doing."

"I think she's really an exceptional horse," Farrington said of Greya. "You do this a long time, and you have some good horses, maybe even some great horses, and then you have horses that are an outlier athlete, like I believe she is. She can do everything. She's fast, she's careful, she's scopey, she's rideable. It's just an incredible horse, and that's what you're seeing."

Farrington praised the Rolex Series events, pointing out how a combination of several different factors make them so popular among riders and spectators alike.

"First of all, the best riders come so we always have the highest level of sport," he pointed out. "Then great prize money. The prestige of a Rolex event really puts us on the map with other sports, and then there is a great audience like we have tonight. I think combining those things, you have the best in sport and a great event that we're all proud to be in. And I'm very happy to win!"

"It was an amazing crowd to jump in front of, probably the biggest I've seen here and as always a fun end to a long season," second placed Ben Maher added.

"It's always hard to go first when you have these guys after you," Maher said about being beaten after having the difficult task of being the pathfinder in the jump-off. "It was a little bit whatever I did, I think they were going to do; they were going to try and do something extra. So, it was about putting

enough pressure on, leaving the jumps up and forcing them into mistakes – which I did, all bar one.”

“He's really graduated into an incredible horse and perhaps even the best horse I have in my string now,” Maher said of Enjeu de Grisien. ““There's nothing he can't do. He's been a little bit slow developing. When he was seven, he was a very difficult horse to ride but he's been getting better and better the older he's getting. We just need to get half a second quicker!”

“I think that's why our sport is so exciting; it's only over when it's over,” Vogel said after finishing third. “Unfortunately, that wasn't great riding to the last fence. I should have done one less stride; Gangster was right there with me. I'm super proud, mega happy with how he performed and how he jumped. I just did one too many strides.”

“We have very high hopes in him,” Vogel added. “This for sure was the biggest test he ever faced. And to perform that well in the first round and jumping so fantastic in a jump-off makes us super proud about him. He could have not done anything better today.”

For complete results from the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix, [click here.](#)

From the Winter Equestrian Festival, the Rolex Series will move on to CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena, Italy, between 27–31 May, then to Jumping International de La Baule – Officiel de France on 11–14 June, and further on to the south of Sweden for Falsterbo Horse Show from 8–12 July. Jumping International de Dinard on the coast of Brittany, France, is the next stop from 27 July–2 August, before RDS Dublin Horse Show in the Irish capital is host to the penultimate event between 4–9 August. The Brussels Stephex Masters in Belgium will conclude the Rolex Series between 26–30 August.

Key facts of the Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix

Number of starters: 40

Grand Prix qualifiers:

- CSI5* 1.55m Table A over two rounds on Thursday, 26 March – top 30 qualify for the Rolex Grand Prix

- CSI5* 1.50m Table A over one round against the clock on Friday, 27 March – top 10 qualify for the Rolex Grand Prix

Course height: 1.60m

Course designer: Guilherme Jorge

Prize money: 1 million USD

WINNERS OF THE ROLEX US EQUESTRIAN OPEN GRAND PRIX

2015 McLain Ward – HH Carlos Z (USA)

2016 Ben Maher – Saren (GBR)

2017 Sergio Alvarez Moya – Charmeur (ESP)

2018 Margie Engle – Royce (USA)

2019 McLain Ward – HH Azur (USA)

2021 Daniel Deusser – Killer Queen (GER)

2022 Ashlee Bond – Karoline of Ballmore (USA)

2023 Richard Vogel – Cepano Baloubet (GER)

2024 Christian Kukuk – Checker 47 (GER)

2025 Christian Kukuk – Checker 47 (GER)

2026 Kent Farrington – Greya (USA)

About the Rolex Series

The Rolex Series brings together seven of the world's most respected show jumping events, each of them supported by Rolex. The highlight of each of these events is the Rolex Grand Prix, where the best horses and riders in the world compete for seven of the most coveted Grand Prix-titles in the sport of show jumping.

United through the Rolex Series, which was launched in 2024, these seven esteemed events all have their own distinctive qualities but also share certain common denominators. Firstly, each of the events that are part of the Rolex Series honours the heritage and traditions that so uniquely characterize the sport of show jumping. Furthermore, the venues that make up the series – many of them with a rich equestrian history – offer facilities and infrastructure which are globally renowned. The seven venues are also all especially valued for their highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable spectators who create an unparalleled atmosphere known to make horses and riders perform at their absolute best.

Rolex Series Events 2026

Winter Equestrian Festival - Rolex Finale Week | March 24-29, 2026
CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena | May 27-31, 2026
Jumping International de La Baule - Officiel de France | June 11-14, 2026
Falsterbo Horse Show | July 8-12, 2026
Jumping International de Dinard | July 30-August 2, 2026
RDS Dublin Horse Show | August 5-9, 2026
Brussels Stephex Masters | August 26-30, 2026

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