

W26

TOURNAMENT MAGAZINE



Queen of Dressage
Charlotte Fry
wins twice

page 4



Vaulting
Gold to finish
for Kathrin Meyer

page 10



**OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
FROM THE FEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026**

Issue 4 – Wednesday, August 19, 2026


scan
for english
version



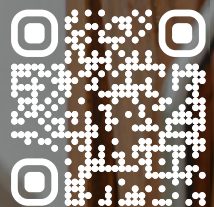
Allianz 

The Official Insurer



Die passenden Versicherungen für Sie und Ihr Pferd!

Offizieller Partner von Semmieke Rothenberger



ALLIANZ.DE

Dear visitors,
dear friends of equestrian sport,

what a fantastic week we already have behind us! At last, the time came to say with immense pride: Welcome Home. After years of preparation, planning, and anticipation, we were able to show the entire world what equestrian sport at the very highest level looks like. First, the stage was set for the dressage and eventing riders as well as the vaulters. All of them delivered outstanding performances with their horses – witnessing them as a spectator gave rise to goosebumps and emotional moments. I am especially delighted as well by the many medals won by the German team, including world championship titles in each of the three disciplines. To achieve that in front of a home crowd – it hardly gets any better!

Speaking of the crowd: apart from the athletes, the greatest strength of these FEI World Championships is our spectators. That means you! Without you, Allianz Park would not be the same, and its unique atmosphere would not exist. You turn the stadiums into vibrant arenas, and

your cheers can be heard far beyond the Soers when you enthusiastically celebrate every performance. There is nothing else like it anywhere in the world – it exists only in Aachen.

That is exactly why the best riders, vaulters, and drivers always want to come back here. This week, we are delighted to welcome the show jumpers, para-dressage riders, and four-in-hand drivers. They, too, are arriving with big dreams and ambitions; they, too, are ready for top performances in the arena, in the dressage ring, and across the course. And if all goes well, they will get to take a lap of honour and be celebrated in Aachen's city centre. The atmosphere at the Katschhof was exuberant and impressive, a fitting setting for the radiant medal winners. May it continue just like this!

We invite you to be part of this extraordinary sporting event for one more week. We are looking forward to it!



Photo: Andreas Steindl

Birgit Rosenberg
Board member ALRV

Imprint

Publisher
Aachener Reitturnier GmbH
(ART) Albert-Servais-Allee 50
52070 Aachen

Publishing House
Mediahuis Aachen GmbH
Dresdener Straße 3
52068 Aachen
www.mediahuisaachen.de

Editorial Office
Thomas Thelen, Chief Content
Officer (responsible for the
content within the meaning of
§ 8 Sec. 2 of the North Rhine-
Westphalia Press Act)

Advertising
Aachener Reitturnier GmbH
(see Publisher), responsible for
the content within the mean-
ing of § 8 Sec. 2 of the North
Rhine-Westphalia Press Act

Photos
Cover: Andreas Steindl,
Dagmar Meyer-Roeger
The photo credits in the inside
section are assigned to the
respective images.

Printing
Printing Partners Paal-
Beringen NV, Industrieweg 147
Pooert West Limburg 2206
3583 Paal Beringen



Isabell Werth
8-fache Olympiasiegerin

**Klein.
Größer.
Großartig.**

**Weil Erfolg lange vor
dem Auftritt beginnt.**

Als Top Partnerin der Reit-WM Aachen 2026 unterstützen wir den Reitsport in seiner ganzen Breite – von den ersten kleinen Momenten bis zur großen Bühne.



Weil's um mehr als Geld geht.



Glamourdale Remains the King

After gold in the Special, defending champion Charlotte Fry of Great Britain also secured top honours in the freestyle ahead of Denmark's Cathrine Laudrup-Dufour. There were bronze for Germany's Isabell Werth in the and Katharina Hemmer in the special.

"Glami was happy about the cheers from the crowd – he thought all the spectators were there just for him," Charlotte Fry said with a laugh. On Saturday evening, after the Briton and her stallion Glamourdale performed their freestyle in the "Lindt Prize" at Aachen Stadium, the crowd of more than 44,000 could no longer stay in their seats. The defending champions posted 91.907 percent – untouchable even for Denmark's Laudrup-Dufour (91.236) on Mount St. John Freestyle, who, as on the previous day in the "MEGGLE Prize" Grand Prix Special, won silver with bronze going to Werth (Rheinberg, 88.660) and Wendy de Fontaine.

"I don't think it can get any better. That was the test of my life. It was the most incredible feeling, one I've never had before in a test," exclaimed Fry, who had won team silver and two individual golds in Herning in 2022. At the 2025 European Championships in Crozet, Glamourdale had disappointed, finishing only ninth in the Special and tenth in the freestyle. "We worked for a year toward this World Championship. It's like this: what Glami wants, Glami gets – he's the king. And if he's happy, everything is okay. And he loves Aachen."

The 15-year-old had already shown top form in the Special, winning clearly with 82.295 percent. In the freestyle, the 15-year-old stallion was even more relaxed. For his powerful canter, he received averages of 9.9 and 9.8 at one point. That ultimately foiled Laudrup-Dufour and Freestyle, even though on their final centre line the optimistic refrain rang out: "Nothing's gonna stop us now."

The pair, who had made a few small mistakes in the Special but still narrowly secured silver on 80.927 percent, produced a flawless freestyle. They came within 0.671 points of Fry – a personal best. "In the Special it felt as if I had lost gold. Today it feels as if I won silver," beamed Laudrup-Dufour. "Free went fantastically. We've only ridden the new freestyle twice. I'm really happy."

"Oh, Wendy," sang Isabell Werth on the final centre line to the Barry Manilow hit. Her mare Wendy de Fontaine started strongly, but this time made a mistake in the two-time changes. The one-time changes went well, even if they were



Gold, silver, bronze: Charlotte Fry (centre), Cathrine Laudrup-Dufour (left), and Isabell Werth celebrate after the freestyle.

Photo: Dagmar Meyer-Roeger

a little short behind. But nines for the piaffes, passages, and pirouettes meant 88.660 percent, and bronze.

In the Special, renewed mistakes in the one-time changes as well as a hesitation before the piaffe had cost Werth what had seemed a very attainable bronze medal. "That easily cost me two points," said Werth, who had finished fourth on 79.544 percent behind her teammate Hemmer. "It was clear to me that my only chance in the freestyle was risk, risk," said Werth. And that is exactly what she went for. "Even the one-time changes worked this time – so I deserve this medal," the 57-year-old said with a laugh.

Justin Verboomen missed bronze by just 0.231 points. Zonik Plus looked much more relaxed than the day before in the Special (79.362 for fifth place). "Today he had more confidence. Above all, I wanted to enjoy the arena and the freestyle," said the double European champion, who did not want to put pressure on himself or his only ten-year-old stallion. "He is such a sensitive horse. And he's still young – he needs to gain a lot of experience."

Germany had already celebrated individual bronze on Friday through Hemmer (Borchon-Etteln) and Denoix – she missed silver by

”

I don't think it can get any better. That was the test of my life; it was the most incredible feeling, one I had never experienced before in a test.

Charlotte Fry

just 0.61 percentage points. In the Special, Hemmer achieved another personal best. Denoix moved lightly; a small hesitation in the second piaffe and when changing direction in the half-pass barely counted against them.

"To be honest, I was focused only on the team standings. I never dreamed of an individual medal," Hemmer said, beaming and with tears in her eyes. "Denoix is a spe-

cial horse. I'm so happy for what he has done for me." But surprisingly, she withdrew from the freestyle. "He had a minor injury earlier in the year and had to take a break, so he wasn't prepared for the freestyle the way he normally would be. In Aachen he gave everything for me in two rounds. Now he gets a well-deserved break," Hemmer explained.

Hemmer's withdrawal meant that Frederic Wandres (Hagen) still got to fulfil his dream of riding a freestyle under floodlights, moving up in her place. After a solid round, he finished 15th (76.246). "I'm realistic – you also must be able to assess yourself properly. We had a super competition and we're going home as team world champions," Wandres summed up. "I thought I'd just enjoy the freestyle. This show is unique."

Raphael Netz (Moosbach) impressed across the board on his World Championship debut. With 75.091 percent, he finished tenth in the Special, and with 80.946, eighth in the freestyle. "I was able to enjoy every second; Camelot again gave 120 percent for me," Netz praised his horse, who danced to music from the film *How to Train Your Dragon*. (rau)

Purzel Is the Sensitive One in the Relationship

Katharina Hemmer impressed with two personal bests at the World Championships in Aachen and, after team gold, also won individual bronze in the Special on Denoix.

The least surprised person was Isabell Werth (Rheinberg) herself. And the world's greatest dressage rider did not seem the least bit disappointed that she had just missed out on the bronze medal at the World Championships in Aachen. She enthusiastically hugged her teammate Katharina Hemmer and celebrated with her. Just a few minutes earlier, the 32-year-old from Borchten-Etteln had moved ahead of Werth on Denoix and claimed bronze in the Grand Prix Special with 80.866 percent – a personal best and her first score above 80.

"I was really happy for Kata, that was fantastic, and it had already become apparent on Wednesday. At least I had her on my radar for the Special," commented Werth, who had won gold in the team competition for the Lambertz Prize that Wednesday together with Hemmer, Frederic Wandres (Hagen), and Raphael Netz (Moosbach). Even then, Hemmer had thrilled with a top performance, finishing as the second-best German behind Werth with 79.244 percent.

"From now on, we'll spell Hemmer with an 'a' – because that was a hammer blow. It was incredible, just wonderful what Kata delivered so effortlessly at a championship. It got better and better from line to line," praised national coach Monica Theodorescu enthusiastically. "That was mentally so assured, really strong. In the walk, Denoix initially seemed a little restless, but it was great how relaxed Kata remained. And when he lifted his head a bit before rein-back, she gave him a moment before starting the movement," she said full of praise. "Denoix now knows he can rely on her. You can tell."

On the final centre line, Hemmer knew that she and Denoix had achieved something special – and she had tears in her eyes. "When I saw the score on the board, I got goosebumps," said Hemmer. "Everything had gone perfectly already in the warm-up, and I asked Hubertus why he was breathing so heavily. Everything was going according to plan," she commented with a laugh. Hubertus Schmidt is her trainer and employer. Twenty years earlier, at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen, he himself had been part of the gold medal team with Wansuela Suerte.

The now 32-year-old from Erwitte in Westphalia has been employed by Schmidt for 12 years. After graduat-



Katharina Hemmer on Denoix celebrates at the Equestrian World Championships.

Photo: Dagmar Meyer-Roeger

ing from school, she trained there as a professional groom and worked her way up to the highest level of dressage. She had ridden Denoix as a young horse before handing him over to her boss. At the end of 2022, she took over the sensitive now 14-year-old again, after Schmidt himself had already brought him into top-level sport before the end of his own competition career.

In 2023, the pair had already been reserve nominees for the European Championships, and in 2025 Hemmer had been part of Germany's gold-medal team at the European Championships in Crozet, France, alongside Werth, Wandres, and Ingrid Klimke (Münster). In the Special there, she had worked her way up to fourth place, just shy of the medals – at that time, Werth and Wendy had still finished ahead of her and Denoix. What is easy to forget, though: alongside 27-year-old Raphael Netz, Hemmer was also making her World Championship debut in Aachen. But she was one whom Theodorescu had already believed capable of winning an individual medal beforehand.

As in the Grand Prix, the 32-year-old also produced a personal best in the Special for the Meggle Prize. Her Denoix moved with great lightness;

”

To be honest, I never dreamed of an individual medal, but now it's the cherry on top of the cream.

Katharina Hemmer

minor hesitations in the second piaffe and during the flying changes in half-pass hardly counted against them. It was a beautiful picture – a trusting horse and a rider sitting well and in harmony. The applause from the crowd was tremendous even before the final score came through. "Denoix wanted to present himself to the spectators," his rider laughed, referring to their ride out of the arena, when Denoix, energized by the applause, passage-worked and showed himself off.

"To be honest, I never dreamed of an individual medal, but now it's the cherry on top of the cream," Hem-

mer said beaming, while at the same time fighting back tears. The 32-year-old describes herself with a grin as "thick-skinned": nothing can shake her calm, neither in preparation nor in the test. "And above all, she talks nonstop before it starts," Theodorescu revealed with a grin, illustrating it: "There she is in the stable aisle: blah blah blah, I'm just quickly going to the bathroom, blah blah blah, I'll just quickly do this or that, blah blah blah." The sensitive partner in the relationship is Denoix – a sensitivity that Hemmer now handles very well, also because she has built such a close bond with the chestnut gelding. "Purzel, as Hubertus nicknamed Denoix at home, now completely trusts me and Pauline, his groom," said Hemmer.

But after the celebrations over bronze, the 32-year-old unexpectedly announced that Denoix would no longer compete in the freestyle. "I was only able to ride our new freestyle once, at the end of April in Hagen. After that he had a slight injury, and we weren't able to prepare the freestyle for the World Championships. Purzel will now get a well-deserved break," Hemmer said – a decision that the national coach supported immediately and without any discussion. (rau)

Allianz Park Day: Tens of Thousands Experience the Atmosphere with Free Admission

Around 30,000 visitors explored the showgrounds during Monday's open day.



Open day is a tradition in Aachen: on Allianz Park Day, visitors from the region and from around the world were able to stroll across the grounds, shop, and soak up the World Championship atmosphere. This year, around 30,000 visitors also had the chance to experience the world's best riders up close.

Even though the sun only came out later, tens of thousands of people made their way to Aachen's Soers district to enjoy the atmosphere on Allianz Park Day with free admission. Normally, Allianz Park traditionally opens its gates on a Sunday during the CHIO; this year, however, the open day was moved to Monday because of the competition schedule. That did nothing to reduce the turnout: about 30,000 visitors came throughout the day to enjoy a colourful show program, the Championships Village, a world record attempt, and the world's best show jumpers live.

The world's elite riders were already training in the main warm-up arena, and people gathered along the hedges around it, able to get close to their idols. Just a few meters away, displays featuring different breeds from German horse breeding and various equestrian disciplines could be admired. Among those drawing enthusiasm were Friesians, Fjord horses, mini trotters, and draft horses. Children and their parents who had taken part in the Family Rally presented by Allianz also wound their way through the Championships Village. At different stations across the grounds, they



could, among other things, meet German dressage rider Semmieke Rothenberger or show off their skills in the Bobby Car slalom at the Mercedes-Benz stand. At the Pferdesport Deutschland stand, para-dressage rider Regine Mispelkamp, vaulter Bela Lehnen, and show jumpers Sophie Hinners and Marcus Ehning answered questions from young reporters in a children's press conference.

And then things got exciting when 158 riders launched a world record attempt for the largest Haflinger and Edelbluthaflinger quadrille. In rows of four, the seemingly endless parade proudly crossed the grass, cheered on by huge numbers of spectators. Soon, it became official: the attempt had succeeded. The final official count was 147 – a world record. To great applause, the organizers were presented with the official certificate. (red)



An open day for young and old alike: in addition to the Family Rally, a world record was also set on Allianz Park Day. A lot of riders formed the world's largest Haflinger and Edelbluthaflinger quadrille.

Photos: Andreas Steindl



Perfection can only
be achieved with
care and attention.

Care and attention
happen to be two
of our specialities.

Banking is our craft.

Success depends on many factors, just like your wealth journey. With our global perspective and unmatched resources, we craft tailored wealth advice based on each individual's unique needs and ambitions.

As proud partner of FEI World Championships Aachen 2026, we look forward to seeing perfection brought to life.

Find out more



© UBS 2026. All rights reserved.



Between Full Speed and Feel

Germany's eventing riders delivered - with courage, trust, and smart tactics.

The medals in eventing have been awarded. The riders who competed in the DHL Prize at the FEI World Championships inspired. It began with dressage, where control and balance were required, continued with displays of stamina and energy across country, and ended with nerve-racking show jumping in the big stadium.

Michael Jung has become individual world champion for the second time. Even before the first week of the World Championships, he had predicted that his horse Chipmunk was in top form, and that is exactly how the 18-year-old gelding presented himself in Aachen in all three phases. The pair, who also won individual Olympic gold in Paris in 2024, know each other so well that they were in perfect harmony in dressage, cross-country, and show jumping - and therefore fully deserved to stand at the top, even though Britain's Rosalind Canter and her horse Lordships Graffalo finished only narrowly behind in second place.

Individual bronze also went to Great Britain, to Laura Collett and her horse London. She picked up time penalties in both the cross-country and show jumping, and also had one rail down on the final day in the stadium. But thanks to an outstanding dressage test, it was still enough for third place.

”

The spectators out on cross-country are incredible — they give you a tailwind.

Michael Jung

A crowd of 35,000 spectators cheered on the riders from the very start of the cross-country course. Jung and Chipmunk showed just how inspiring that can be with their brilliant round, in which they finished five seconds under the optimum time. “The spectators out on cross-country are incredible,” Jung said after the medal ceremony. From the very first fence, they carry you



Christoph Wahler competed only as an individual rider, not for the team: after a superb cross-country round and a slightly weaker show-jumping performance, he finished in 16th place.

Photo: Michael von Fisenne

through the course. “You get a tailwind,” said Jung, though there is not much time to look left or right. Your concentration always has to stay on the horse. That is the art of it.

While Jung judged the risk perfectly, things did not go quite as well for Julia Krajewski and Uelzener's Nickel in cross-country. The two had caused a sensation in dressage, earning the best score of all. But on the cross-country course they needed 34 seconds more than the optimum time, which brought many penalty points. “Nickel isn't the fastest horse. I tried to ride as evenly as possible.”

In show jumping, the pair pulled themselves together once again and made it through the course with just one rail down. “I know what he can do and what he can't. Our job was to deliver well for the team. We did what was asked of us,” Krajewski said afterwards, satisfied with the result. She described her mistake at the vertical with the plank as “an annoying rub of the rail.” Over the rest of the course, she and Nickel stayed calm, helping secure a strong result for the team. In the individual standings, Krajewski finished 17th.

Speaking of the team: it had been clear from the outset that the British would be extremely hard to beat. Overall, however, the German riders produced a strong collective performance and secured silver because Jung, Krajewski, and Malin Hansen-Hotopp (on Carlitos Quiditch) all played to their strengths at

different points. Hansen-Hotopp, for example, jumped clear in the final phase. Thanks to that strong round, she even moved into the individual top ten and finished ninth.

And Libussa Lübbecke, the fourth team rider whose result was the drop score for Germany, made just one mistake in the show jumping with Caramia. The 25-year-old finished 41st individually. Lübbecke had mixed feelings: “That one mistake in show jumping was a pity, but the horse performed beyond what we had dreamed of,” she said.

Christoph Wahler would also have liked to remain in the top ten

with D'Accord. After dressage and cross-country - in which he was the fastest and therefore the best performer overall - he was lying in fifth place. Wahler was competing only as an individual and had not been nominated for the team. Had he not had two rails down in the show jumping, along with time penalties for going three seconds over the limit, he would have finished fourth. Instead, he ended up in 16th place, but the performance he and his horse delivered across country was outstanding.

The same can be said of Jung's overall performance. After the success of individual gold and team silver, he and his teammates immediately contacted Peter Thomsen by video call. The national coach had been unable to attend Aachen after a riding accident in June, and yet in a way he was still present, as he remained in constant contact with the riders and with his deputy, Rodolphe Scherer, the team's cross-country trainer. The absence of their coach had brought the team even closer together.

The German eventing riders can be very happy with their results in Aachen. Gold and silver shine brightly, and Christoph Wahler also proved his class as the third-best German in the individual standings. Another welcome bonus: by finishing second at the World Championships, the German team has already secured qualification for the team competition at the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Perhaps they can beat the British there. (ebr)



Outstanding in dressage and the best pair in that phase. In the final standings, Julia Krajewski and Uelzener's Nickel finished 17th.

Photo: Dagmar Meyer-Roeger

This Time the Last Jump Goes Right

Eventing: World champion Michael Jung thanks his horse and the whole team.

Michael Jung became individual world champion in eventing for the second time in Aachen. With his 18-year-old Chipmunk, the 44-year-old experienced the special moment that had been denied to them at the 2022 World Championships because of a mistake at the final obstacle.

"Chipmunk was in super form this week," Jung said after the victory. No grand gestures, no pathos. That is exactly where the secret of success in this World Championship week lies. Eventing is a discipline in which the rider cannot simply impose a plan on the horse. He has to listen to the horse, feel, react, know when he can go faster and when he is better off not asking too much. After a very strong dressage test, Jung managed this outstandingly well in both the cross-country and the show-jumping course.

What Chipmunk and his rider Michael Jung delivered on the cross-country course was not a re-

ckless attack. It was pure trust that encouraged the horse to gallop so powerfully around the track. But Jung does not just want to be fast. He knows what Chipmunk can do and when he has to steady him, as after the two touches on the poles in the final show-jumping round, when the rider collected the horse again to make it clear: "Hey, we want to win gold here." After Rosalind Canter's clear round, the pressure was "enormous," as Jung admitted. "Above all, time was also tight." But the balance between risk and reason worked out.

Roaring applause, great joy for a top rider who does not lose his head, boast, or theatrically sacrifice his authenticity. That wins him a great deal of sympathy.

"Just being here at all is already gigantic," Michael Jung said after his second individual world title. He knows that moments like these are not to be taken for granted and

how much work lies behind them. He also mentions the people who feed the horse, care for it, train it, and organize everything behind the scenes. For Jung, one thing is clear: behind every great ride stands an entire team.

And who knows what the future may still hold with his exceptional horse Chipmunk. His rider is not talking about the 18-year-old retiring from top-level sport anytime soon. "I don't want to say anything about that right now. He is in unbelievably great shape at the moment." Jung is leaving the door open. He will not say farewell to his horse as long as there is no reason to do so.

How will he make that decision one day? "Together with all the people involved," says Jung. "When the feeling fades a little, or however it may happen." Michael Jung does not know exactly. After all, he has just become world champion with this wonderful horse. (ebr)



Simply happy: Michael Jung celebrates his World Championship victory in Aachen.

Photo: Dagmar Meyer-Roeger

MIT UNS KANN MAN PFERDE STEHLEN.

UNSER ENGAGEMENT FÜR DIE REGION:



FÜR DICH. VOR ORT. VERSORGT.

 **STAWAG**

The Insatiable Vaulters

Germany's record at this World Championship is impressive. The national coach is thrilled.

No, Kathrin Meyer wanted to hear nothing of melancholy. "I made the decision and stand fully behind it. I can't imagine a more beautiful way to end my career," said the vaulter. For the highly decorated 25-year-old, the FEI World Championships at Aachen 2026 were a farewell performance; she had previously announced that this World Championship would be her last championship event.

Meyer delivered once again in her "last dance." Up to that point, an individual medal at a World Championship had been missing from her résumé. That changed at Allianz Park. In the "Sparkasse Prize," the 25-year-old produced flawlessly clean performances and won silver with Captain Claus OLD and lunger Gesa Bührig.

A crowning finale

The next day brought the crowning finish for the athlete, who had already stood on the top step of the podium multiple times at European Championships, CHIO Aachen, and the World Cup Final: in the team competition, Meyer was able to celebrate the gold medal in her final championship freestyle. "I feel a great deal of gratitude and I'm proud to have delivered outstanding rounds at this venue," said the Hamburg native. She will remain involved in her sport – as a coach for young talent in Fredenberg.

Meyer will now turn her attention to the future. But the present is also worth a look. Because the German vaulters, with their performances in Stadium 3, were – without exaggeration – in a league of their own. "And that is definitely not something to be taken for granted. The level of competition is high, and the field is broad. And yet in every event here we're not only competing for medals, we're winning them too. That was outstanding," praised national coach Kai Vorberg.

To illustrate: in the women's individual event, all the medals went to Germany. Gold was won by Alice Layher with the mare Candy and lunger Daniel Zembrot (9.041), ahead of Meyer (8.862) and bronze medallist Annemie Szemes with Rubinio and lunger Nina Vorberg (8.436). In the freestyle, Layher even received a perfect 10.0 for artistry once, underlining that her victories at CHIO Aachen 2025 and this year's World Cup Final in Opglabbeek, Belgium, had been no fluke.



They often had reason to celebrate at this World Championship: the German vaulters.

Photo: Michael von Fisenne

In the men's individual, the dominant Frenchman Quentin Jabet could not be beaten (8.794). But behind Dutch vaulter Sam Dos Santos (8.508), 21-year-old Bela Lehn was able to celebrate bronze with Max and lunger Sarah Krauß (8.448). Janik Heiland – also on a farewell tour – and Kimberly Hyks with Crashkurs and lunger Andrea Harwardt also finished in third place. Despite a fall in the first freestyle, there was still precious metal in the pas de deux (8.303), behind the French pair Theo Gardies and Noely Thibaudat (9.039) and the Italians Rebecca Greggio and Davide Zanella (8.982).

Finally, there was Team Norka,

representing Germany, from the Cologne-Dünnwald Vaulting Club, with eleven-year-old Westphalian gelding Ecuador NRW and lunger Alexandra Knauf. Bela Lehn, Yara Jolie Scheel, Philipp Goroncy, Larina Herpertz, Fabio Ring, and Gianna Ronca definitely provided the most emotional moments in a euphoric Stadium 3: gold in the group competition (8.477) ahead of France (8.200) and Austria (7.900), and gold in the team competition together with individual vaulters Layher and Meyer (9.103), again ahead of France (8.996) and Italy (8.771). Here too, as a crowning finale, they received a perfect score for artistry.

Serial winners at CHIO Aachen and at World and European Championships, the Cologne squad symbolise the insatiable German vaulters, who won seven medals in five competitions in the Soers. "The French were very strong, and mentally it wasn't easy for us either. You win gold on Saturday and then the next day you must be fully focused again, because in this sport anything can happen at any moment," Lehn emphasized.

Even more impressive, then, was the dominance of the German vaulters at this home World Championship. "We won the most gold medals and the most medals overall. I'm very happy and grateful that we were able to achieve this here in Aachen," said Vorberg, adding: "We delivered wonderful images and emotions. It is the confirmation of decades of work."

The national coach, who has been in the job since 2023, also spoke in this context of a "grown culture" and a national level of competition that makes it clear to everyone that it is not a given to be nominated for championship events every year. Accordingly, Vorberg is not overly worried—despite the retirements of Meyer, Heiland, and Thomas Brüsewitz, who finished 13th in the individual after a mistake including a fall: "We have great depth and are looking forward to the future. A lot of talent is coming up from the junior ranks." For now, that does not sound like the end of the insatiable ones ... (lv)



One last time in action: Kathrin Meyer (right) with lunger Gesa Bührig and her horse Captain Claus OLD.

Photo: Michael von Fisenne

Between Disappointment and Pride

Leon Hüsgen experienced the home World Championship from the unfamiliar perspective of a spectator.

A conversation with national coach Kai Vorberg, then a glance into Stadium 3 at Allianz Park: vaulter Leon Hüsgen was present at the FEI World Championships Aachen 2026 – albeit in a different role than he had envisioned. “Normally, I rarely get the chance to watch my teammates on site during their competitions. So this experience is definitely different for me. But there are worse places than Aachen for that,” said the 27-year-old with a wink.

His mood had already improved somewhat after devastating news shortly before the start of the World Championship for the former student at Aachen University of Applied Sciences: Rockemotion NRW, the vaulter’s World Championship horse, had to be withdrawn “due to an acute onset of lameness.” For the 27-year-old, that meant the end of his World Championship; Jannik Heiland moved up to replace him in the individual event.



No World Championship appearance after all at short notice: Leon Hüsgen.

Photo: Dagmar Meyer-Roeger

Forced to watch

So Hüsgen was forced to watch, but he made a very deliberate decision to remain on site. The Neuss native saw fellow German Alice Layher produce an extraordinary freestyle in the women’s individual event – including a score of 10.0 for artistry. “You very rarely get to see that. Our women are really very strong – just

like Team Norka,” Hüsgen said in his analysis. Just how accurate that assessment was became clear in the results: Layher won gold in the individual and team classifications; the team from the Cologne-Dünnwald Vaulting Club won gold in both the group and team classifications, together with Layher and Kathrin Meyer as the individual vaulters.

Hüsgen, too, had dreamed of earning a place on the team before the World Championship began, but even then, he knew: “The national competition is fierce.” That dream burst two days before the start of the competition. “Unfortunately, Rockemotion was already not moving quite rhythmically that morning. That’s why we didn’t even present him at the horse inspection.”

Hüsgen had already had to improvise before the World Championship, when it became clear that his regular horse, Diamond Sky, would not be fit for the event. After an intensive search, the 27-year-old found Rockemotion with lunger Nina Vorberg and managed in a short period of time to adjust to the new circumstances. His World Championship nomination was the reward – but nothing more. “Of course, at first, it was frustrating. But I quickly told my lunger that without her and ‘Robby,’ I wouldn’t have been here at all. But that’s just how equestrian sport is sometimes,” Hüsgen emphasized. (lv)

MACH, WAS WIRKLICH ZÄHLT.



Supporte uns als

SOLDAT/IN

der Heereslogistiktruppe (m/w/d)

Bundesweit



Mehr Infos live vor Ort in Aachen oder unter:
bundeswehrkarriere.de



BUNDESWEHR

“A bit anxious” when the phone rings

But the German national coach can breathe a sigh of relief: his squad is fit for the speed competition.

Week two of the World Championships and the day of transition – which did not only apply to the weather: while on Sunday convoys of transporters rolled out of Aachen's Soers district in all directions, traffic on Monday was moving the other way – into the Soers. The show jumping horses arrived, along with the para and driving horses. “Because the stables not only had to be mucked out but also disinfected, we couldn't come until Monday,” reports national coach Otto Becker, who had set off himself early on Monday morning from Münster to Aachen to welcome his team.

“Every time the phone rang, I was a bit anxious,” Becker admitted with a laugh. But no bad news came from his riders; all five of them – and above all their horses – reached the Soers safely. They moved into the stables that the German dressage team, which had won gold and two individual bronzes, had vacated the day before. “A team medal is our goal as well; anything that comes after that in the individual would be a bonus,” Becker put it. “Our minimum goal is a place in the top five in order to secure qualification for the 2028 Olympics.”

The national coach of the German show jumpers has brought a strong team to the start: Daniel Deußer (Wolvertem, Belgium) on Otello de Guldenboom, Marcus Ehning (Borken) on Coolio 42, Sophie Hinners on Iron Dames Singclair, and Richard Vogel on United Touch S (both Dageobertshausen). There is a reason Becker grew nervous whenever the phone rang during the journey: he had already had to “replace” one rider. Marcus Ehning moved into the team in place of André Thieme (Plau am See), and Christian Kukuk moved up from second to first reserve. Thieme withdrew from the World Championships after his mare Chakaria stepped into the water jump again in Falsterbo following the “Tschio.” “At the moment she's uncertain at water. It will take time to gradually rebuild her confidence,” Becker said regretfully.

Ehning and Coolio 42 moved up. Back in 2006, the now 52-year-old had already been part of the team that won bronze. First reserve now is Olympic champion Christian Kukuk (Münster) with Checker. Just how important a reserve rider can be had become clear at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, when Cornado misstepped in the warm-up and Ehning opted not to start.



Part of the home World Championships: Daniel Deußer and Otello de Guldenboom.

Photo: Imago/Steinsiek.Ch

But Kukuk was reportedly unhappy about his reserve role, as he stated publicly more than once. The Paris Olympic champion had seen himself in the team. “We had six riders and horses beforehand who were all more or less on the same level. I don't think

”

We have a strong team again, and I believe all four of my riders are capable of winning an individual medal as well.

National coach Otto Becker

anyone can say that we selected the wrong squad,” Becker emphasised. “All six nominated riders are good enough and had spring results to show. But we had to choose four,” said Becker, who does understand Kukuk's disappointment.

For the team and individual riders – around 170 from 55 nations – the World Championships begin on Wednesday with the speed class for the “Turkish Airlines Prize.” “I don't envy

the course designer his task,” Becker said in advance, already expressing respect for Aachen's long-time course designer Frank Rothenberger. He faces the difficult challenge of building a course that on the one hand tests the elite, while on the other not presenting the weaker combinations with insurmountable tasks. The points resulting from the time difference to the winner – with jumping faults also converted into seconds – are carried into the next round, which explains why the results include decimal numbers. Vogel won European Championship gold in 2025 by just 0.01 points. He had finished a narrow second in the speed competition and then went on without another fault.

That shows how important the speed class is. “It's the jump-off in advance. Right from the start, you must take some risks,” the German national coach said bluntly. Anyone who does not really put their foot down in the first competition usually has no further say in the individual medals. “We have a strong team again, and I think all four of my riders are capable of an individual medal as well,” Becker emphasised, “but there are surely eight to ten teams capable of winning a medal if things go well.”

Anyone who was there in Aachen in 2006 still remembers the final well, when the grey stallion Cumano not only carried his rider Jos Lansink (Belgium) to victory, but also impressed in the horse change among his three rivals Bezzie Madden (USA), Mer-

edith Michaels-Berbaum (Thedinghausen), and Edwina Alexander (Australia). Twenty years later, there is no longer a horse change; it was abolished in 2014. “The old format was certainly great promotion for our sport and thrilled the spectators,” Becker too was a fan of it. “But it's no longer up to date. It is fairer from a sporting point of view if, after five demanding rounds, the best rider wins. And not, as in the past, when after the horse change perhaps the rider who had been fourth up to that point becomes world champion. So, in that sense, I don't miss the horse change at the end.” (rau)



No more bad news shortly before the home World Championships: national coach Otto Becker. Photo: Imago/Frank Heinen

Many Contenders for Victory

The speed class for the Turkish Airlines Prize on Wednesday will also serve as the first team competition.

When the team medals in show jumping are decided from 19 to 22 August at the FEI World Championships Aachen 2026, the most successful nations of recent years will meet in an unusually open contest. Compared with the 2022 World Championships in Herning, Denmark, and the 2025 European Championships in A Coruña, Spain, the situation has changed significantly for several of the leading nations.

A look back: from Herning to Aachen

At the 2022 World Championships, Sweden – Olympic champions in 2021 – won gold with Henrik von Eckermann, Peder Fredricson, Jens Fredricson, and Malin Baryard-Johnsson. Silver went to Great Britain, bronze to the Netherlands. For the German team, the battle for medals ended dramatically: André Thieme experienced a frightening moment when he was catapulted out of the saddle of his mare Chakaria. The fall ended Germany's medal hopes, because Marcus Ehning's eight faults on Stargold then counted and could no longer be discarded as the drop score.

Three years later, at the 2025 European Championships in A Coruña, Belgium pulled off the major surprise. The team of Gilles Thomas, Thibaut Spits, Pieter Devos, and Nicola Philippaerts overtook the previously leading British and German teams and won only the second European team title in the federation's history after Rotterdam 2019. Great Britain took silver ahead of Germany, which had lined up with Ehning (Borken) on Coolio, Sophie Hinners (Pfungstadt) on Iron Dames My Prins, Christian Kukuk (Riesenbeck) on Just be Gentle, and Richard Vogel (Pfungstadt) on United Touch.

Despite winning the European title a year ago, Belgium does not travel to Aachen as the clear favourite. The biggest setback concerns Thomas and Ermitage Kalone. Thomas won individual bronze at the Europeans and, with faultless rounds, was a key factor in the team gold. In the Grand Prix of Riesenbeck, the 28-year-old withdrew from the jump-off because his top horse had been injured. "Ermitage Kalone's health and well-being come first, no matter how hard the decision is right now," Thomas said. Belgium is therefore losing not only its most reliable points scorer,



Who will be celebrating on Friday evening? In 2022 in Herning, Sweden, Great Britain, and the Netherlands stood on the podium.

Photo: IMAGO / Stefan Lafrentz

but also one of the most successful horses of the past two years. In addition, Grégory Wathelet with Bond Jamesbond de Hey will also miss Aachen.

Germany: a home World Championships as a major opportunity

Germany is likely to go into Aachen as one of the favourites. After championships without a medal at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris and the 2022 World Championships in Herning, the team ended its brief dry spell at last year's Europeans and secured bronze. With Marcus Ehning – Olympic team champion in Sydney in 2000, world team champion in Lexington in 2010, and three-time European team champion – on Coolio 42, Sophie Hinners on Iron Dames Singclair, Richard Vogel on United Touch, and Daniel Deußner on Otello de Guldenboom, national coach Otto Becker is sending a star-studded squad into the competition. Christian Kukuk, the reigning individual Olympic champion and tenth in the world rankings, is only listed as the reserve rider. "We have four exceptional riders and we definitely think we have a chance," says Ehning, who is heading into his 19th championship. Is it an advantage that he, Deußner, and Vogel have all already won the Aachen Grand Prix? "I don't know.

Here, everything starts from zero again," says Ehning.

The home advantage in the Soers could be a decisive factor. The German team is traditionally given a huge lift by Aachen's knowledgeable and fair crowd, especially during the team final under floodlights. "We know what awaits us: a cauldron," as Ehning puts it. The foundation for a possible team medal will already be laid on Wednesday in the speed class. "If you only want to ride a nice round out there, you can quickly give away valuable seconds," says Sophie Hinners, who last year was the most successful rider worldwide in Nations Cups with 14 clear rounds. "We need to have a smart plan."

British consistency

Alongside the hosts, experts also have Great Britain on their list of favourites. The British were on the podium at both the 2022 World Championships and the 2025 European Championships. At the 2024 Olympic Games in the grounds of Versailles Palace, Scott Brash, Ben Maher, and Harry Charles also won gold. Gold in Paris, silver in Herning, silver in A Coruña – no other nation has been as consistently successful across the most recent major championships. In Aachen, Paris's gold-winning trio will be joined by Jack Whitaker and Adrian Whiteway,

meaning Great Britain is once again undoubtedly among the closest contenders for gold.

Sweden may be defending champions, but the situation has changed since Herning. Most notably, the dominance of Henrik von Eckermann and King Edward has ended since the 16-year-old gelding had to take a one-year break from competition. In Aachen, the Swedish Olympic champion, two-time world champion, and World Cup winner will compete with Minute Man. Whether von Eckermann and his teammates Petronella Andersson, Peder Fredricson, Wilma McMahon, and Thomas Ryan will be in the mix for the top places remains to be seen.

And the others?

The Netherlands won bronze at the 2022 World Championships and have experienced championship riders such as Willem Greve and Harrie Smolders. Switzerland, led by Martin Fuchs and Steve Guerdat, and Ireland, with top riders Shane Sweetnam and Cian O'Connor, are also considered contenders for the title. One thing is certain: the team competition, which begins on Wednesday with the speed class and ends with the final under floodlights on Friday evening, promises plenty of excitement. (tp)

The Dream of the Podium

Para-dressage: At 71, Heidemarie Dresing wants to fight for a medal.

Starting on Wednesday at the FEI World Championships Aachen 2026, two personalities will take to the arena who, by their own account, are equally crazy and share the same passion for sporting competition and high-performance sport. Heidemarie Dresing is an exceptional athlete in more than one way. She represents Germany in para-dressage, having lived with multiple sclerosis for many years, and she also wants to be an inspiration to older people. Dresing is 71 years old, making her the second-oldest registered participant at the World Championships. Her motto: Nothing is impossible. As the equestrian adds: "If you make an effort and keep moving, you can still achieve great things even at an older age."

And Dresing still has unfinished business. At her first World Championships in 2022, at the 2021 Paralympics, and at the 2019 European Championships, she finished fourth several times. Although she returned home from last year's European Championships in Ermelo with three gold medals, the desire to stand on the podium at a home World Championship in Aachen is what drives the Westphalian rider. With her eleven-year-old Oldenburg mare Poesie, she has the perfect partner. "Poesie is just as crazy as I am. She's a fighter and definitely has a mind of her own — she is a girl, after all. The two of us have extraordinary harmony and very subtle communication."

Dresing already had considerable riding experience when she decided to defy her illness and pursue para-sport. The passionate horse breeder has been riding since the age of ten and had already enjoyed success in dressage up to advanced level. Then, in 2011, came the devastating diagnosis. Dresing thought she would have to give up the sport she loved. But then Hanne Brenner, a successful German para-dressage rider, told her: "The only person who is disabled is the one who disables themselves." She told Dresing about the existence of para-sport, and suddenly she was able to compete again — albeit differently than before. Because of her diagnosis, Dresing experiences neurological and muscular impairments such as balance problems, fatigue, and reduced muscle strength. She has a walking impairment and depends on a wheelchair, even though she can manage a few meters without it.



She refuses to be defeated by her illness: Heidemarie Dresing.

Photo: ALRV/Jasmin Metzner

She therefore competes in Grade II, one of five competition classes in para-dressage.

The classification depends on the severity of the impairment. In Grade I, the riders with the greatest limitations compete, and the tests are ridden at walk. In Grade II, the test also consists mainly of walk, with short trot sequences, transitions, and movements such as leg-yield. In Grade III, there is more trot than walk, with serpentine, transitions, and also lateral movements in trot or turn on the haunches. From Grade IV onward, the tests are ridden not in a 20 x 40 meter arena but in a 20 x 60 meter one, and in all three basic gaits. The tests are comparable to advanced elementary level in able-bodied dressage. In Grade V, riders perform lateral work such as half-pass in trot and canter, as well as a simple change. The tests and freestyle are modeled on medium-level dressage classes in able-bodied sport.

Three tests are ridden in each grade. The first test, Grand Prix A for the Prize of the Aachen City Region, serves as the first qualifier for the freestyle final. At the same time, this is where the individual medals

”

Poesie is just as crazy as I am. She's a fighter and definitely has a mind of her own — she is a girl, after all. The two of us have extraordinary harmony and very subtle communication.

Heidemarie Dresing

are awarded. The second qualifier for the freestyle final is Grand Prix B for the Allianz Prize. It also serves as the team final, where the team medals are decided. Each team consists

of three to four riders from different grades. For the team classification, the three best results from Grand Prix B count. The top eight combinations in each grade from the two qualifying tests are admitted to the concluding freestyle final.

Alongside Heidemarie Dresing with Poesie, Germany will also be represented by Helen Brandt with Vulkan Vegas and Anna-Lena Niehues with Vive L'Amour in Grade IV, as well as Regine Mispelkamp with Vayala in Grade V. In total, eleven sets of medals will be awarded in para-equestrian sport. National coach Silke Fütterer-Sommer sums up the mood of her athletes shortly before the start: "It means an enormous amount to us that para-dressage is part of the World Championships and part of this great World Championship family — together with the dressage, show jumping, and eventing riders, the drivers, and the vaulters. It is a wonderful opportunity to present our sport to a large audience. Aachen is always a special show, and we have had the chance to ride there a few times before, though on a much smaller scale." The para competitions will take place on the showgrounds from Wednesday to Sunday. (ust)

Five grades, one goal: fairness

How the classification system ensures fair competition in para-dressage.

Even the national dressage coach had to admit something. "I still haven't completely figured out the rules of your competition classes," said Monica Theodorescu with a smile during a joint interview with Silke Fütterer-Sommer, the national coach for para-dressage. At the FEI World Championships Aachen 2026, this discipline will be included for the first time. Reason enough to take a closer look at the grade system in para-dressage.

How does the grade system work?

The grades are based on the extent of each athlete's physical impairment. There are five grades. Grade I includes the most severe impairments, while Grade V includes the least severe, for example athletes with impaired limbs or artificial joints. Every rider must undergo a classification process, which is carried out by specially trained doctors or physiotherapists.

Various movements and exercises are assessed during this process. The rider is then assigned to a grade ba-

sed on a points system. "The aim, of course, is to make competition as fair as possible between athletes with comparable circumstances," says Fütterer-Sommer. Athletes are regularly reassessed, so reclassification can certainly occur in order to reflect their current physical condition.

Do the tests differ between the grades?

Yes. In Grade I, for example, tests are ridden exclusively at the walk. "To outsiders, that may initially seem less spectacular. In reality, however, it requires the highest level of precision. Every line, every figure, and every meter must be ridden exactly," says Fütterer-Sommer. In the lower grades, I to III, impairments are generally more pronounced. That is why exceptionally subtle communication between horse and rider is required, emphasises the national para-dressage coach.

Which grades do the German para-dressage riders compete in?

Heidemarie Dresing competes in Grade II. Helen Brandt and Anna-Lena Niehues are classified in Grade IV. Regine Mispelkamp competes in Grade V.

How does the team competition work?

The regulations require that at least one rider from the lower grades, Grades I to III, must be part of the team. At this World Championship, all four German riders will compete for the team score.

One result is dropped. Several riders may belong to the same grade. However, three team members may not be assigned to the same grade. (lv)



Starts in
Grade V: Regine
Mispelkamp.

Photo: Dagmar Meyer-Roeger


CàMaiol



VERTRIEB: WEIN WOLF GMBH, BONN WWW.WEINWOLF.DE

Will Dries Degriek Dethrone Boyd Exell?

Four-in-hand driving: Australia's Boyd Exell is aiming for his eighth consecutive world title. The German team, too, has its eyes on the podium.

One big question hangs over the four-in-hand championship, which begins on Thursday: will serial winner Boyd Exell celebrate his eighth straight World Championship victory, or will the Australian finally be forced off his throne? There is certainly competition that could threaten him. Nineteen nations will send their carriages into the contest from Thursday to Sunday. Here are the key questions surrounding the driving discipline at the FEI World Championships Aachen 2026.

How does the format of the four-in-hand World Championship work?

The World Championships in four-in-hand driving are held every two years. There is both an individual competition and a team competition. Each driver may use up to five horses, allowing changes between phases. That is because, among driving horses too, there are specialists for dressage and for the marathon. The horses' positions in the team also make a difference: some pull the carriage, others help indicate the direction, and the rear horses do most of the work in the turns. When it comes to going straight ahead – and above all, going fast – the driver lets all four horses pull.

For a team at the World Championships, at least two, ideally three, four-in-hands must compete. In each phase, the two best results count toward the team classification. At the end, there is therefore both an individual world champion and a team world champion. Each nation may nominate up to five teams. Drivers beyond the official team size compete only in the individual classification. One hour after Wednesday's vet check, the teams for the team competition must be nominated.

On Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 August, the dressage test for the 54 four-in-hands from around the world is on the program.

On Saturday, the action moves into the Aachen Soers for the marathon. Eight tricky obstacles await the teams on the approximately nine-kilometre course. Each obstacle consists of several compulsory gates that must be driven through in alphabetical order from A to F. Penalty points are given, among other things, for knocking down specially designed removable elements or if



Will the Australian Boyd Exell (pictured here at CHIO 2025) celebrate his eighth consecutive World Championship title, or will someone dethrone him? Photo: Michael von Fisenne

the driver or groom leaves the carriage.

On the final day of the World Championships, the cones phase – the third and last test – will decide who takes home which medal. In this course, the drivers' speed, skill, the horses' obedience, and responsiveness are tested. If a ball falls from one of the cones, that means three penalty points. Often the time allowed is set so tightly that additional time penalties are added if competitors exceed it. The start order is the reverse of the standings: whoever is leading goes last.

Who is competing for Germany?

The High-Performance Sports Committee of the Driving Committee has nominated the following four-in-hands:

Mareike Meier (Negernbötel) with Zazou, Zalando, G, Friedolin, and Racciano

René Poensgen (Eschweiler) with Havanna-Almire, Harold, Kadans, Lieveling, and Fax

Anna Sandmann (Lähden) with Iwan van de Martha Hoeve Texel, Harley, Fantast, Musketier, and Cobra

Christoph Sandmann (Lähden) with Las Vegas, Max Van Het Rode land, Donvito vd Mulligenvree, Jordan, and Melviro

Georg von Stein (Modautal) with Darco, Javiro, Jerco, Oxford Turfhorst, and Playboy

Who are the favourites?

Since 2010, Australia's Exell has been reigning individual world champion. At the FEI Four-in-Hand World Championship in Szilvásvárad, Hungary, in 2024, he once again dominated and secured his seventh consecutive title. Bram Chardon of the Netherlands won his first individual World Championship medal there, taking silver. For the first time, Exell also won a team medal for Australia together with his teammate Tor van den Berge – the duo claimed bronze. American Chester Weber took individual bronze.

Take note, however: Belgium's Dries Degriek is currently in excellent form. At the end of July in Rastede, the 31-year-old won the Nations Cup with 128.90 penalties, ahead of Exell on 131.47. Third was American Weber on 135.30.

In fourth place in Rastede, the German team of Mareike Meier, Anna Sandmann, and Christoph Sandmann finished the four-in-hand Nations Cup with 280.57 penalties. Belgium stood on top with 271.60 points, ahead of Australia on 272.12 and the Netherlands on 278.10. The four-in-hand Nations Cup is usually held in Aachen, but because of the World Championship in Aachen in August, it was moved to Rastede.

In the past, the Netherlands often dominated the team competition. In Szilvásvárad two years ago, the Dutch team achieved a historic suc-

cess: with their twelfth team gold, setting a new record.

The German team also wants to leave Aachen with a medal. In 2024, the German team of Mareike Meier, then still Harm, Michael Brauchle, and Georg von Stein won World Championship silver. At the 2025 European Championship in Lähden, held at the venue of Christoph and Anna Sandmann, the German team of Meier, Anna Sandmann, and Brauchle won bronze, while Sandmann became European vice-champion.

A look at the history

Prince Philip was once a major supporter of driving sport. He was not only FEI President from 1964 to 1986, but in 1980 he also became world champion in four-in-hand driving as part of the British team.

Germany has also had an individual world champion: in 1994, Michael Freund triumphed in The Hague. Germany also won the team title there. The same happened at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen. Sandmann, who is once again competing for Germany this week, won individual bronze there 20 years ago. A good omen? (tob)

i

The Four-in-Hand Schedule

Thursday, 20 August

10:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Dressage, team and individual classification, Feinkost Käfer Prize, Stadium 2 in Allianz Park

Friday, 21 August

10:30 a.m. to 4:35 p.m.

Dressage, team and individual classification, Feinkost Käfer Prize, Stadium 2 in Allianz Park

Saturday, 22 August

10:00 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.

Marathon, team and individual classification, Schwartz Group Prize, Soers marathon course

Sunday, 23 August

8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Cones driving, team and individual classification, Event Rent GmbH Prize, Stadium 2 in Allianz Park; team and individual medal ceremony, Baron and Baroness von Buchholtz Prize

PROGRAMME AUGUST 19 – 20

Wednesday, 19 August 2026

**MAIN STADIUM**
09:30 – 17:20 CEST**Jumping:****Turkish Airlines-Prize**
First Competition Team
& Individual Qualifier**STADIUM 3 –
ALLIANZ PARK**
08:30 – 11:15 CEST**Para Dressage:****Prize of StädteRegion Aachen**★ Grand Prix A Individual Final
& First Individual Competition
Qualifier for the Grand Prix
Freestyle, Grade III**STADIUM 3 –
ALLIANZ PARK**
11:30 – 14:20 CEST**Para Dressage:****Prize of StädteRegion Aachen**★ Grand Prix A Individual Final
& First Individual Competition
Qualifier for the Grand Prix
Freestyle, Grade I**STADIUM 3 –
ALLIANZ PARK**
15:20 – 17:40 CEST**Para Dressage:****Prize of StädteRegion Aachen**★ Grand Prix A Individual Final
& First Individual Competition
Qualifier for the Grand Prix
Freestyle, Grade II

Thursday, 20 August 2026

**MAIN STADIUM**
09:00 – 17:10 CEST**Jumping:****Mercedes-Benz Prize**Second Competition Team Final &
Second Individual Qualifier**STADIUM 2 –
ALLIANZ PARK**
10:30 – 16:20 CEST**Four-in-Hand:****Feinkost Käfer-Prize**

Dressage Team & Individual

**STADIUM 3 –
ALLIANZ PARK**
09:00 – 12:15 CEST**Para Dressage:****Prize of StädteRegion Aachen**★ Grand Prix A Individual Final
& First Individual Competition
Qualifier for the Grand Prix
Freestyle, Grade IV**STADIUM 3 –
ALLIANZ PARK**
13:00 – 16:00 CEST**Para Dressage:****Prize of StädteRegion Aachen**★ Grand Prix A Individual Final
& First Individual Competition
Qualifier for the Grand Prix
Freestyle, Grade V

★ Medal decision

W26

FEI WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS
AACHENFEI WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS
COLLECTIONJetzt erhältlich in den Fanshops
auf dem Turniergelände!

Horses, competitions, spectators: Test your knowledge of the FEI World Championships

The FEI Championships Aachen 2026 will make Aachen the center of international equestrian sport for 13 days. But how well do you know the World Championships and the equestrian history of the Soers? Test your knowledge in our quiz - from exciting records and famous winners to surprising facts about the biggest equestrian event of the year.

Question 1: How many medals will be awarded in total at the 2026 World Championships?

- ☐ A) 59
☐ B) 118
☐ C) 177

Question 2: Which discipline has been added at the 2026 World Championships compared to the classic CHIO Aachen?

- ☐ A) Endurance riding
☐ B) Para-dressage
☐ C) Polo

Question 3: In what year were the World Equestrian Games last held in Aachen?

- ☐ A) 1998
☐ B) 2006
☐ C) 2015

Question 4: Approximately how many blades of grass grow in the main stadium of the Aachen Soers?

- ☐ A) 35,831,040
☐ B) 358,310,400
☐ C) 3,583,104,000

Question 5: Which World Championship took place in the Aachen Soers in 1970?

- ☐ A) Show jumping
☐ B) Dressage
☐ C) Eventing

Question 6: How many championships had the ALRV already hosted in Aachen before the 2026 World Championships?

- ☐ A) 8
☐ B) 15
☐ C) 21

Question 7: In what year were the first World Championships in show jumping held in Aachen?

- ☐ A) 1936
☐ B) 1955
☐ C) 1978

Question 8: Why are the 2026 Equestrian World Championships especially important for the 2028 Olympic Games?

- ☐ A) Aachen automatically awards the Olympic tickets for all individual riders
☐ B) The team competitions serve as the first qualifiers for Los Angeles 2028
☐ C) The winners receive a wildcard for the Olympics

Question 9: What special role does Aachen play in para dressage in 2026?

- ☐ A) It will be the first time para dressage is held in Aachen
☐ B) Para dressage will be part of an equestrian World Championship in Aachen for the first time
☐ C) No team competitions will be held

Question 10: Which horse won the World Championship title in show jumping with its rider at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen?

- ☐ A) Shutterfly
☐ B) Cumano
☐ C) Goldfever

Question 11: Which nation won the Nations Cup in show jumping at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen?

- ☐ A) Germany
☐ B) Belgium
☐ C) The Netherlands



Photo: stock.adobe.com



TURKISH AIRLINES

CONNECT TO AMAZING FLAVOR

with delicious choices prepared by our flying chefs

STAR ALLIANCE 

Products and services are subject to change depending on flight duration and aircraft.

Mercedes-Benz

Wer hinten Platz nimmt, sitzt am Steuer.

Die neue S-Klasse verkörpert den zeitlosen Anspruch der Marke Mercedes-Benz.
Die weltweite Ikone unter den Limousinen steht für den Pioniergeist und die Innovationskraft,
die den Erfinder des Automobils seit 140 Jahren prägen.

Welcome home.



140 YEARS OF
INNOVATION