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Horse Show News

by ED CORRIGAN
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West German team is ranked no. 1 in horse show jumping

West Germany dominated the international show jumping world as no team has done before.

The West Germans not only were rated No. 1 by a wide margin in the team standings, but five of their riders were placed among the top 10 individuals. The annual unofficial ranking of world show jumping is compiled annually by Max Ammann, a 34-year-old Swiss newspaper editor. His rankings are regarded as the most authoritative in the world by most of the leading equestrian magazines and newspapers in North America and Europe.

The United States Equestrian Team was ranked No. 2 behind West Germany and slightly ahead of third-place Italy and fourth-place Britain.

The U.S.E.T. had one rider in, the top 10 — Bill Steinkraus, who was named president of the team yesterday after retiring as an active rider two months ago. He was sixth.

The remainder of the top 10 teams behind Britain consisted of Argentina, Switzerland, Canada, France, Spain and Poland.

Hartwig Steeken of West Germany was rated the No. 1 rider. He was followed, in order, by Graziano Mancinelli of Italy, the Olympic gold medal winner; Gerd Wiltfang of West Germany, Raimondo d'Inzeo of Italy, Alwin Schockemöhle of West Germany, Steinkraus, Henrick Snoek of West Germany, Fritz Ligges of West Germany, David Broome of Britain and Nelson Pessoa of Brazil.

D'Inzeo was No. 1 last year, Broome led the list in 1970 and Schockemöhle was the leading rider of 1969.

Ammann emphasized that the Olympic Games in Munich played a major part in compiling the rankings along with the 15 official international shows (CSIO) held around the world.

The Pennsylvania National In Harrisburg and the National Horse Show here are the two CSIO events in the United States. The Royal Winter Fair is the Canadian CSIO show. Some of the major European CSIO events are in Rome, Lucerne, Aachen, London and Dublin.

In addition, about 60 nonofficial international shows (CSI) were checked and the results considered.

“Consistency, major victories, over-all performance in big classes and scores in Nations Cup classes were taken into consideration,” said Ammann. “Not all of the international shows had the same competitors, so the strength or weakness of the field also was considered in evaluating the results.”

Besides winning the gold medal in the Olympics, West Germany captured five of the six Nations Cups in which it competed. Its only loss was in Rome where the second-stringers rode. The West German team won in Lucerne, Aachen, Ostende, Dublin and Rotterdam.

The U.S.E.T., the Olympic silver medal winner, got off to a slow start in its pre-Olympic tour of European shows by finishing third of five teams in the Nations Cup at Lucerne. The riders, coached by Bert de Nemethy also finished third at Aachen, but against a strong 11-nation field.

After the Olympics, the U.S.E.T. won all three Nations Cups in the fall indoor North-American circuit.

Steeken, who was second in the individual rating in 1971, won many of the biggest classes of the year in 1972—the championship of Aachen, the supreme championship of London and the Grand Prix of Brussels. He was fourth in the Olympics.

Mancinelli won the Grand Prix of Rome and La Baule and the puissance (high jump) at Berlin and Dublin on Ambassador. But he did poorly at Aachen and his tour of the North-American Circuit left a lot to be desired.

Ammann also compiled an individual list from 11 through 20.

It was done alphabetically. Frank Chapot, Kathy Kusner and Neal Shapiro, the other three members of the U.S.E.T., all made it along with Ann Moore of Britain, Vittorio Orlandi of Italy, Marcel Rozier of France, Hugo Simon of Austria, Harvey Smith of Britain, Paul Weier of Switzerland and Hans Gunther Winkler of West Germany.