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Horse Show News

by ED CORRIGAN JAN. 26, 1975

Steeken, British team lead riding rankings

Hartwig Steeken of West Germany has been ranked No. 1 in the unofficial annual world rating of horse show riders, and Britain has been placed as the top team.

The rankings are made by Max Ammann, a Swiss equestrian journalist and editor of the Lucerne newspaper, Luzerner Tagblatt.

"The rankings," he said, "are based on the results of 16 official international shows around the world, about 55 unofficial shows and all the major Grand Prix events held in the United States and Canada during the year."

The shows that were used to help determine the ratings in the United States were the national in Madison Square Garden; the Washington International; the American invitation in Tampa, Fla.; the American show-jumping championship in Upperville, Va.; the American Gold Cup in Philadelphia; the Cleveland Grand Prix in Chagrin Valley, Ohio; the Jacksonville (Fla.) Grand Prix and the American Grand Prix in Palmetto, Fla.

Jenkins Ranked Fourth

Two British riders, David Broome and Harvey Smith, were ranked second and third, respectively, while Rodney Jenkins, the leading professional rider in the United States, was fourth.

Hugo Simon of Austria was placed fifth, Paul Schockemöhle of West Germany sixth, Eddie Macken of Ireland seventh, Mrs. Janou Tissot of France eighth, Alwin Schockemöhle of West Germany ninth and Raimondo d'Inzeo of Italy 10th.

Ammann did not place the second 10. Instead, he ranked them all tied for the 11th spot. They included three members of the United States Equestrian team — Frank Chapot (captain), Buddy Brown and Dennis Murphy.

Steeken, who was ranked No. 1 in 1972 and was the runner-up in 1971 and 73, was easily the best in the world. In addition to winning the world championship at

Hickstead, England, Steeken also captured the Germany jumping derby and won the Grand Prix of Cologne and La Baule.

Broome won the unofficial world professional championship at Cardiff, Wales, and was the winner of the Victor Ludorum at the Horse of the Year Show in London.

Smith won the Daily Mail Cup in London, the Grand Prix of Amsterdam and the British Jumping Derby.

Jenkins, who finished eighth in the world championship, won the coveted John Player Trophy in London and the San Diego Grand Prix on No. 1 Spy, and took that match play championship at Cardiff, plus the American Gold Cup and the American show jumping championships on Idle Dice.

Two New Americans

While Chapot has been near the top of the list since Ammann began the ratings in 1969, it is doubtful that two newcomers from the same country ever made the top 20 before.

That's the case of Brown and Murphy, neither of whom had competed internationally before the U.S.E.T.'s trip to the major European shows last year. Brown won the Irish Trophy in Dublin and Murphy captured two puissance (high jumping) classes on the Fall Circuit and was the leading rider in Toronto.