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Horse Show News

by ED CORRIGAN
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Britain was the top show jumping team in the world last year, with West Germany a close second, according to an unofficial survey.

Max Ammann, a 32-year-old Swiss foreign correspondent stationed in New York, issued his second annual rating of world show jumping teams last week. Ammann is an international authority on the sport and his work appears in many leading European equestrian publications.

The United States Equestrian Team was rated third, followed by Canada, Italy, France, Switzerland, Brazil, Soviet Union and Belgium.

The dominant position of Britain and West Germany also shows in the individual placings. Three riders from Britain and four from West Germany made the top 10.

David Broome and Harvey Smith of Britain were rated 1, 2, followed by Alwin Schockemöhle of West Germany.

“Between them, Britain and West Germany won eight of the 10 Nations Cups in which they competed,” Ammann said. “Individually, most of the leading trophies went to either British or West German riders.”

West Germany swept the North American indoor circuit, winning all three Nations Cups, two of the three Grand Prixes, all three puissances and two Stakes. Britain, which did not make the North American Circuit, won the Nations Cups of London, Rome and Dublin.

The biggest prize of the year, the world championship, was won by Broome in La Baule, France. The women's title was won by Janou Lefebvre of France, while the unofficial team crown was won by Britain by a 1-point margin over West Germany.

To arrive at his ratings, Ammann studied the results of about 70 international shows. Sixteen officially were recognized as international shows by the Federation Equestre Internationale, the world governing body of equestrian sports.

Only, these official shows (called CHIO events) are permitted to hold Nations Cup competitions—the team class of international show jumping. Of the 16 CHIO shows in 1970, three were held in North America, 10 in Western Europe, two in Eastern Europe and one in Africa.

In addition, there were about 50 other F.E.I.-recognized (but not official) shows and about a half-dozen international events, like the Balcan Games and the Grand Prix of Cleveland. All were considered in the tally.

“The rating of Britain and West Germany posed some problems,” said Ammann. “Britain won four Nations Cups in nine starts, while West Germany had six victories in 11 competitions.”

The two countries met seven times. Britain won four times and West Germany three.

“Their most important meeting was at the Dublin show,” Ammann said. “Britain won and West Germany could do no better than third behind Italy. On that basis, Britain got the No. 1 spot.”

The United States Equestrian Team was placed No. 3 on the basis of winning the Nations Cup at Lucerne, finishing third at Aachen and La Baule and taking the second spot behind West Germany at all three North American shows.

In the individual list, no United States or Canadian rider made the top 10. Miss Lefebvre was No. 4 behind Schockemöhle, Then came Anneli Drummond Hay of Britain, Hans Günter Winkler of West Germany, Hartwig, Steeken of West Germany, Graziano Mancinelli of Italy, Gert Wilfang of West Germany and Raymondo D'Inzeo of Italy.

The U.S.E.T. and Canada, each placed two riders in the second 10. This was an alphabetical list and Ammann made no attempt to rate the riders. Bill Steinkraus, the U.S.E.T. captain and Olympic gold medal winner, and Frank Chapot were listed. Jim Elder and Barbara Simpson were the Canadian riders on the list.