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Horse Show News

by ED CORRIGAN FEB. 20, 1972

West Germany rated the best of 1971 show jumping teams

For the third year in row, West Germany and Britain dominated international show jumping in 1971.

There was one important change, however, from 1970. That year, Britain narrowly beat out West Germany for first place. In 1971, West Germany not only closed the gap but finished the year at the top in both individual and team competition. These conclusions were reached by Max Ammann, a 33-year-old former correspondent now the editor of the Swiss weekly newspaper in New York.

This is the third year that Ammann, a frequent contributor to American and European equestrian magazines, has rated the jumpers of the world.

West Germany, which swept the North American indoor circuit in 1970, is the heavy favorite in the Olympics in Munich in both individual and team competition.

West Germany placed four riders in the individual top 10, and Britain had three on the list. However, neither had the No. 1 rider.

He was Raimondo D'Inzeo of Italy, the 47-year-old individual gold medal winner in the 1960 Olympics. He was followed closely by West Germany's Hartwig Steeken, the European champion.

Ammann's year-end ranking, which feature the top 20 individual riders and the leading 10 teams, has become the unofficial "official" ratings. They are published in leading horse magazines all over the world.

His individual rankings:

1, D'Inzeo; 2, Steeken; 3, Gerd Wiltfang, West Germany; 4, Ann Moore, Britain; 5, Grazinano Rancinelli, Italy; 6, Alwin Schockemöhle, West Germany; 7, Hans Gunter Winkler, West Germany: S. Harvey Smith, Britain; 9. David Broome, Britain; 10, Nelson Pessoa, Brazil.

From No. 11 to No. 20, placings were not used. Instead, the riders were listed alphabetically.

They were:

Allison Dawes, Britain; Anneli Drummond-Hay, Britain; Jim Elder, Canada; Terrance Millar, Canada; Elise Perez de las Heras, Mexico; Marcel Rozier, France; Neal Shapiro, United States; Hendrik Snook, West Germany; Bill Steinkraus, United States, and Paul Weier, Switzerland.

As in 1969 and 1970, no United States or Canadian rider placed in the top 10. Steinkraus, the Olympic gold medal winner, and Shapiro were rated in the second 10 because of victories in the John Player Trophy class in London and the Grand Prix of Aachen, respectively.

Elder got in because he won the Canadian Grand Prix series and Millar was placed because he won the individual bronze medal at the Pan-American Games.

Ammann said he examined almost 100 international shows held all over the world in 1971. He considered more than 1,000 classes.

The European championships for men in Aachen, West Germany, and for women in St. Gallen, France, along with the Pan-American Games in Cali, Colombia, were the major events of the season.

In addition, 15 official international shows were held in 1971. The National in New York and the Pennsylvania National in Harrisburg are the two official events in the United States. It is only at these shows that a Nations Cup, the official team class of international jumping, can be held.

There also were about 60 nonofficial international shows held all over the world.