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Horse Show News

by ED CORRIGAN FEB. 10, 1974

West Germany rated no.1 again in show jumping

West Germany, as might be expected, was the premier show-jumping nation in the world last year, albeit by a narrow margin over Britain.

This was the third year in a row West Germany was rated No. 1. The United States, second in 1972, fell to third last year.

The ratings— unofficial, but the only rankings made on an annual basis—are the work of Max Ammann, 34-year-old editor-in-chief of a newspaper in Lucerne, Switzerland. He had been issuing the ratings for five years.

Ammann lived in the United States for 10 years as a foreign correspondent before returning to his native country less than a year ago. His ratings are regarded as highly authoritative by most of the equestrian publications around the globe.

In his individual rankings, Ammann places Alwin Schockemöhle and Hartwig Steeken of West Germany first and second, respectively, followed by Rodney Jenkins of the United States and Paddy McMahon of Britain, the current world champion.

"The results of about 80 international shows all over the world were evaluated," Ammann said in a statement that accompanied the ratings. "Fifteen of them were C.S.I.O.'s [official international events], including the three on the North American indoor circuit — Washington, New York and Toronto."

Both, the West Germans, the 1972 Olympic champions, and the British were busy during the 1973 season. West Germany competed in 12 of the 15 shows and the British in 13. Among them, they won 11 Nations Cups. The United States Equestrian Team, which was second to West Germany by a narrow margin in the Olympics. won two, while South Africa and Switzerland took one each.

Switzerland was ranked fourth behind the United States, followed by The Netherlands, France, Italy, Canada, Sweden and Belgium.

In the individual list, David Broome of Britain was rated No. 5 behind McMahon. Then came Hugo Simon of Austria, Gert Wiltfang of West Germany, Harvey Smith of Britain, Paul Weier of Switzerland and Johan Heins of The Netherlands.

Ammann ranked the second 10 on the individual list in alphabetical order. The riders included Frank Chapot of the United States, Graham Fletcher of Britain, Piero d'Inzeo of Italy, Fritz Ligges of West Germany, Ann Moore of Britain, Vittorio Orlandi of Italy, Hubert Parot of France, Nelson Pessoa of Brazil, Paul Schockemohle of West Germany and Hendrick Snoek of West Germany.

Neither Raimondo d'Inzeo, who was No. 1 in 1971, nor Graziano Mancinelli, the 1972 individual Olympic gold medal winner, made the top 20. Nor did Hans Günter Winkler, long-time ace of the West German team. All had a disappointing year.

The West Germans won the most important Nations Cup of the year, in Rotterdam against eight rivals. They also managed to beat the British on their home ground in London, Aachen and Geneva.

The British won in Rome, Nice, Madrid, Dublin, Ostende and at the National Horse Show in New York. The U.S.E.T., which did not compete in Europe last year, won at Washington and Toronto with Chapot, Jenkins, MacCone and Mike Matz riding.

Alwin Schockemöhle was awarded the top individual spot on the basis of his victories in the Grand Prix of Europe in Aachen, the Grand Prix of Rotterdam and the President's Cup in Washington, all aboard his remarkable gray mount, Rex The Robber.

Steeken was handicapped because of two leg injuries, which kept him idle for part of the season. However, he won both the Hamburg Jumping Derby and the Grand Prix of Amsterdam on his talented mare, Simona.