

TOP 10 RIDERS



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FEI TOP 10 SHOWJUMPING RIDERS

IN 2022

BY MENNA LOUTFY

MAKING IT TO THE FEI TOP 10 RIDERS LIST IS A DREAM FOR YOUNG EQUESTRIAN SHOWJUMPERS AROUND THE GLOBE. YEARS OF TRAINING, HARDWORK, SET BACKS AND PERSISTENCE ARE ALL PART OF EACH RIDER'S JOURNEY; LEADING UP TO THAT MOMENT ON THE PODIUM IN FRONT OF A GREAT AUDIENCE, REPRESENTING YOUR COUNTRY WHILE SALUTING THE FLAG RAISED UP HIGH ABOVE. HT TAKES A BRIEF LOOK INTO THESE TOP RIDERS' BACKGROUNDS, IDOLS AS YOUNG RIDERS & MORE.

HENRIK VON ECKERMANN



About: Born May 25th 1981 in Nyköping, Sweden. Henrik is a renowned Swedish Olympic rider. He has competed at three Olympic Games (in 2012, 2016 and 2020). His best individual Olympic placement came in the latest, 2020 Olympics in Tokyo when he won gold in the team competitions and placed 4th in the individual competition.

German equestrian jumper Ludger Beerbaum.

2022 Major Wins:

La Coruña CSI5*-W with Glamour Girl

Stuttgart CSI5*-W with Glamour Girl

Verona CSI5*-W Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ with King Edward

Riyadh CSI5* - GCT/GCL with Iliana

London CSI5* - GCT/GCL with Hollywood V

Knokke CSIO5* with Iliana

Stockholm City CSI5* - GCT/GCL with King Edward

Windsor CSI5* with Iliana

St Tropez - Grimaud CSI5* Grand Prix with King Edward

Doha, Al Shaqab CSI5* with Glamour Girl

**Sporting philosophy / motto:**

"If you don't step out into the unknown, you will never grow. If you don't fall and hurt your knees, you will never learn to cycle. If you don't risk something in life, you will never learn. But if you do, if you challenge yourself and step out of your comfort zone, you have a good chance to succeed. To win. And that to me is what life is." _ (equilifeworld.com, 2017)

MARTIN FUCHS

 | SWITZERLAND



About:

Born July **13th**, 1992 in Switzerland, Fuchs is a Swiss Olympic rider. He competed at the **2016** Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he finished sixth in the team and ninth in the individual competition. In **2019** he won the individual gold at the **2019** European Championship in Rotterdam.

Hero / Idol:

Swiss riders Thomas Fuchs [his father] and Steve Guerdat. _ (equenews.com, 2021; tagblatt.ch, 2019)

Sporting philosophy / motto:

“The most important things I believe are to work hard, be dedicated, try to understand your horse, and do your best every day.” _ (horsesport.com, 2020)

JULIEN EPAILLARD

 | FRANCE



About:

Julien Epailard is a French international show jumping rider born on July **24th, 1977**. JULIEN IS AMONG THE ELITE IN HIS DISCIPLINE; Author of 76 victories in international competitions in 2022, he is currently number 3 in the world and number 1 in France. Impressive for his sense of rhythm and trajectory. (horsepilot.com)

Most influential person in career:

His parents. _ (worldofshowjumping.com, 2017)

Sporting philosophy / motto

“I think my strongest point as a rider is that I am fast, but I think it is also my biggest weakness. Sometimes, if I prepare for a bigger class, I try to go slow. But if I think I can go fast, I try, and sometimes I lose, sometimes I win.” _ (worldofshowjumping.com, 2017)

HARRIE SMOLDERS

 | NETHERLANDS



About:

Smolders is a Dutch Olympic show jumping rider. He competed at the **2016** Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he placed **7th** in the team competitions. He also participated at the **2010** World Equestrian Games and at the **2009** European Championships.

Influence:

His grandparents ; growing up in his family's farm

Sporting philosophy / motto:

"As long as the horses are healthy and love their job we'll keep scoring. I won't force any horse just to get some extra points." (equineews.com, 2018)

CONOR SWAIL

 | IRELAND



About:

Swail is an International Showjumper based in the US. He has had an extremely successful career to date with over **130** career wins. At the end of **2021** Swail claimed no less than three FEI World Cup's in North America. _ www.redmillshorse.com

Hero / Idol:

British rider John Whitaker. (jumpernews.com, Nov 2022)

Sporting philosophy / motto:

"You can never stop learning, ever." _(globalchampionstour.com, 2014)

BEN MAHER

 | GREAT BRITAIN



About:

Born January 30th 1983, Ben Maher is a British show jumper. He represented Britain at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2009 European Championships in Windsor, 2012 London Olympics, 2016 Rio Olympics and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

In September 2013, he became the first British jumper in 20 years to be ranked world number one by the International Equestrian Federation [FEI]. In 2005 at age 22, he became the youngest person to have won the Hickstead Derby in England.

Hero / Idol:

British equestrian jumper Robert Smith, German equestrian jumper Ludger Beerbaum. (globalchampionstour.com, 2018)

Sporting philosophy / motto:

“Work hard. Everyone has different backgrounds, but if you’re in the right place, you can always move up the ladder. Make sure you have goals and ambitions, and don’t stop until you’ve achieved them.” _ (landrover.co.uk, 2015)

MARLON MODOLO ZANOTELLI

 | BRAZIL



About:

Born June 19th 1988, Marlon Zanotelli competed in the individual jumping event at the 2020 Summer Olympics. He is considered the first rider representing Brazil to win a gold medal in an individual equestrian event at the Pan American Games by claiming victory in the individual jumping competition at the 2019 Games in Lima, Peru.

Hero / Idol:

Brazilian Formula One driver Ayrton Senna, Brazilian jumper Rodrigo Pessoa. (redmills.co.uk, 22 Jul 2016)

Sporting philosophy / motto:

“The only place where the result comes before work is in the dictionary.” _ (globo.com, 27 Jul 2015)

MAIKEL VAN DER VLEUTEN

 | NETHERLANDS



About:

Born February 10th, 1988, Maikel competed at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, where he won a silver medal in team jumping and finished 37th in the individual. As of May 2020, he is ranked as the #15 rider in the world.

Hero / Idol:
German jumping riders Marcus Ehning and Daniel Deusser, Dutch jumping riders Gerco Schroder and Jeroen Dubbeldam. (Noelle Floyd Magazine YouTube channel, 30 Jul 2014)

Sporting philosophy / motto:

“Work hard, but have fun at the same time.” _ (Noelle Floyd Magazine, 2014)

DANIEL DEUSSER

 | GERMANY



About:

Born August 13th, 1981, Daniel Deusser is a German equestrian and Olympic bronze medalist. He represented his country at the Rio De Janiero ,2016 Summer Olympics

Hero / Idol:
British jumping rider John Whitaker, German jumping riders Franke Sloothaak and Ludger Beerbaum. (noellefloyd.com,2019)

Sporting philosophy / motto:

“A great rider is one who always wants to learn, who never sits still, who never thinks that he is finished with his career, one who always tries to get better.” _ (cnn.com, 2019)

TOP 10 RIDERS

KEVIN STAUT

 | FRANCE



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About: Born November 15th, 1980. Kevin is an Olympic French showjumper who won the Gold medal in the team competitions in Rio De Janiero 2016 summer Olympics.

Hero / Idol:

British jumping rider Scott Brash, German jumping riders Ludger Beerbaum and Marcus Ehning. (equenews.com, 25 May 2015; Athlete, 20 Jul 2012)

Sporting philosophy / motto:

"Obtaining a good technique is difficult. You have to work hard and be very strict with yourself. The goal is to be able to do difficult things easily and this requires sensitivity. In fact, to be a good rider, you need a mix of technique and feeling." _ (animoitalia.com, 2015)

 Reference : fei.org



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