

FEI WORLD CUP JUMPING

Dutch rider Wim Schroeder and his Olympic partner Eurocommerce Montreal galloped to victory in the opening leg of the 2004/2005 FEI World Cup Jumping series in Oslo on October 10. It was no easy win as a total of 18 of the 38 starters qualified for the jump-off. Robert Spalins set the first real target in the jump-off with Coolcoron Cool Diamond but was taking no chances when going for a careful clear in 37.57 as this was the stallion's first big show for 11 months. Germany's Christian Ahlmann and the mare Comtoesse went into the lead when shaving 0.6 off the Irishman's time. Switzerland's Steve Guerdat immediately bettered that with Isolab Orthodox almost a second quicker. Frenchmen Edouard Couperie (Pro Pilot II) and Philippe Leoni (Cyrenaika FRH) both left all the fences standing as did Denmark's Thomas Velin and Godsend du Revandy but without threatening the leader and Guerdat was looking good until Wim careered into the ring. Scorching round the track, the 33-year-old stopped the clock in 34.71 and the rest could not catch him.

Rolf-Goran Bengtsson stormed to victory in the second leg of the 2004/2005 FEI World Cup Jumping series at the 20th anniversary Helsinki International Horse Show in Finland (October 17) which attracted half the world's top ten riders. Second-last to go in the seven-horse jump-off, Bengtsson, riding the 10 year old gelding MacKinley, was chasing the target-time of 40.09 seconds set by Germany's Morodith Michaels-Boerbuer and Check Mate but the Swedish rider left the result in no doubt when breaking the beam in the super-fast time of 39.26 seconds.

Germany's Toni Hassmann won the third leg in Verona, Italy riding the promising young mare Lolita. A total of 12 went through to the jump-off but only three produced double-clear performances. Belgium's Jean-Claude Vangeenbergh got it just right however, setting the first real target when clear with Oets Hugo Andiamo Z in 39.16 seconds. Andrea Heroldi came very close to the leader when breaking the beam in 40.28 seconds to move into the runner-up spot temporarily. Helsinki winners Rolf-Goran Bengtsson and MacKinley presented no threat to the leading pack when collecting eight faults in a slow time but Hassmann scorched round in 38.48 seconds.

Brazil's Rodrigo Pessoa produced a sparkling performance with Baloubet du Rouet to win the fourth leg in Geneva. Going fifth in the 11-horse jump-off, Baloubet stormed home in a time none could match with Germany's Christian Ahlmann and Coster slotting into runner-up spot following a slow and careful clear. Baloubet du Rouet's playful character can sometimes prove frustrating but the 15-year-old stallion was firing on all cylinders. Baloubet exploded over the final oxer to stop the clock in 38.80 seconds.

Britain's Richard Davenport produced the biggest result of his career to win the fifth leg of the FEI World Cup Jumping series at the Great Hall in Olympia during London's traditional Christmas show. Riding the nine-year-old mare Laguna, Richard, 24, who lives near Manchester in England set the target in the 13 horse jump-off and many of the best in the world, including Geneva winners Rodrigo Pessoa and Baloubet du Rouet, could not improve on that. Denmark's Tina Lund created a huge sensation when snatching victory with her last-to-go effort in the sixth leg of the FEI World Cup Jumping series in Mechelen, Belgium. The 23-year-old former European Young Rider Champion from Copenhagen steered the 10-year-old chestnut mare Andante fast and clear over the jump-off track to demote long-time leader Toni Hassmann to runner-up spot.

ZOER SETS ZUIDLAREN ON FIRE

A jubilee anniversary, another record setting crowd and a winner from the host province: it couldn't get any better than it was in Zuidlaren. The crowning glory came when Echten-based Albert Zoer closed the 50th edition of NIO Zuidlaren with victory in the BMO Grand Prix of Zuidlaren with Lowina, a daughter of Farmer.

The jubilee show was a real fire cracker of an event for this normally sober northern part of the Netherlands. Yet combine a lot of knowledgeable horse people, and not a few experts, and a very faithful public who sympathize and appreciate sporting achievement in the arena and the show held in the Prins Bernhardhoeve could not have been anything but a success.

NIC Zuidlaren is Holland's oldest indoor horse show. There were 36,000 visitors. Highlight of the jubilee was the visit of HM The Queen of the Netherlands.

Jacob Mellissen

**CSI****
STUTTGART**

The 20th anniversary edition of the Stuttgart German Masters attracted almost 60,000 spectators over its five days. Marcus Ehning won for the third time the Mercedes German Master title in show jumping. With his 2003 World Cup winner Anka, the Olympic team gold medalist recorded the fastest round in a seven-horse decider. Marcus previously won the title in 1999 and 2002 with For Pleasure and for his efforts this year collected the keys to a Mercedes-Benz A 200 valued at 25,980 Euro. Only John Whitaker had succeeded, so far, in achieving the hat trick winning in 1988, 1989, and 1992 with the legendary Millie.

After his victory late on Friday night, Ehning said he "was very lucky to be the last starter in the jump-off." Luck however played little part in his success as Marcus thoroughly earned his starting position after finishing top of 12 finalists after two qualifying rounds.

Clear in round one of the final, the pair also came home without fault in the jump-off, crossing the finish in 31.93 seconds to take over the lead from young Swiss rider Christina Liebherr and L.B. No Mercy (0/32.56).

CSI**
KUALA LUMPUR**

The KL Grand Prix and feature class of three spectacular days of jumping at the Putra Stadium in Kuala Lumpur (October 1-3) was claimed by German based New Zealander Daniel Meech, a rider somewhat left of the mainstream field. The 30 year old Meech, riding his Olympic mount, Diagonal, said he knew he was in with a chance, but wasn't really expecting to out gallop the ten strong jump-off field as "Dagger is not really a super fast horse." Nevertheless he did to win the richest class of his career and pocket the first prize of 60,000 Euro - the prize money in Kuala Lumpur being only bettered by Calgary.



Grand Prix winners New Zealander Daniel Meech & Diagonal
Julie Wilson

HORSE INTERNATIONAL

SPORTS & BREEDING

Reports on the European Scene L'ANNÉE HIPPIQUE AWARDS 2004



BCM's Eric Bruegger presents the L'Année Hippique Award for Best Outdoor Jumping Show to Randy W. Fedorak of Spruce Meadows.

The Award for Best Indoor Jumping Event went to the CSI-W Geneva (SUI) and the Award for best Eventing show was presented to the CCI Blenheim (GBR).

SCHROEDER WINS GRAND PRIX OF MAASTRICHT

Wim Schroeder and his Olympic mount Eurocommerce Montreal became the first Dutch winners of the Grand Prix in 17 years of Jumping Indoor Maastricht when they managed to hold off the challenge of Ireland's Jessica Kuerten and Quibell in an exciting jump-off.

Only seven combinations out of a field of 44 stayed clear in the first round: five Dutch, Germany's Marcus Beerbaum and Jessica Kuerten. She was first to go in the jump-off with Quibell (by Quidam do Rovelli) and stayed clear and it looked a fast round. Dutchman Roelof Bri started promisingly with Billy Orange (by Animo), but finished with eight faults for sixth place eventually. From the start it was clear that Wim Schroeder had set his mind on winning. "Montreal (by Althol Z) can turn short even if he is running," said Wim afterwards. He crossed the line over two seconds faster than Kuerten. No one could beat that.

The remaining four combinations had their respective troubles. Jeroen Dubbeldam was unlucky in a short right-hand turn with a ill Nussau (by Indastro) who slipped and almost fell and that loss of balance resulted in four faults. Yves Houtackers with Gran Corrado (by Grammus) and Angelique Hoorn with BCO VDL Osanta (by Indastro) also had four faults to finish fourth and fifth. Last to go Marcus Beerbaum had bad luck with Leena (by Lord Liberty) on the same turn as Dubbeldam. Leena lost her grip for a moment and Beebaum fell off which meant disqualification and seventh place.



Wim Schroeder & Eurocommerce Montreal.

People & Places



Washington: Show president Sheila Jutteau and Charles Mann, a former Washington Redskins.



Vienne: Hugo Simon and E.T.



Maastricht: BCM's Henk Bruegger, Inc FDI's Eva Salomé and Michel De Boschier of NTG Group Denekse.



Cerriera: French international tennis players Guy Forget and Arnaud

NEWS

Equestrian Community Mourns Darragh

THE Irish equestrian community, much-divided in recent times due to a long series of controversies including the ongoing saga of Cian O'Connor's Olympic doping case, was united in grief over the recent sudden death from a suspected heart attack of former show jumping star Paul Darragh who died at his home in County Meath on January 3, aged 51 years.

Paul's reputation as a professional extended over a long and successful career that climaxed in the 1970's when he was part of the Irish 'dream team' that included Eddie Macken, Capt. Con Power and James Kavanagh.

He enjoyed a real renaissance in his career when, after agreeing to take on HRH Princess Haya as a pupil in December 1994, he then recorded an incredible couple of seasons with her two talented horses Cord and Scandal. Princess Haya said, "I don't know anyone who had such a long, ongoing chapter in their sporting

life encompassing several generations. Paul played a huge part in the history of show jumping in Ireland."

2005 FEI AGM

THE FEI's 2005 General Assembly will be held at the Grange City Hotel in London from April 6 through 10. A Forum will be held, at which the recently appointed FEI Task Force on Doping and Medication Policy will present its conclusions and discuss them with participants.

LAS VEGAS TICKETS

TICKETS for the 2005 Dressage and Jumping World Cup Finals to be held in Las Vegas at the Thomas and Mack Center, April 20-24, 2005 can be ordered online at www.worldcuplasvegas.com. According to the organizers, series ticket sales have already surpassed the total ticket sales from 2003, when the Budweiser Jumping World Cup Final last took place in Las Vegas.

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