

No one is prophet in his own land !

Sire analysis of the WBFSH show jumpers ranking list, April 13, 2013

As usual we consider the top 200 horses in this ranking (crème de la crème) and we are going to list the sire with 3 or more offspring belonging to the top of the sport.

9	BALOUBET DU ROUET	SF
6	KANNAN	KWPN
5	CORNET OBOLINSKY	BWP
5	DARCO	BWP
5	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	SF
4	CONTENDRO	HOLST
4	GUIDAM	SF
4	NONSTOP	BWP
4	QUICK STAR	SF
3	CARETINO	HOLST
3	CORRADO I	HOLST
3	HEARTBREAKER	KWPN
3	KASHMIR VAN SCHUTTERSOF	BWP
3	LUX	HAN
3	MR. BLUE	KWPN
3	NABAB DE REVE	SF (registered BWP)

The 2 leaders of this ranking are a proof of the French proverb: No one is prophet in his own land. **Baloubet du Rouet**, the SF with the highest performances (3 WC finals and a gold at the Olympics) was almost not used by the French breeders (from the 9 top performers sired by Baloubet du Rouet only 1 is SF, and the KWPN have 3) the opposite is true for **Kannan**, the Dutch stallion was not much used by the KWPN breeders (from the 6 top performers sired by Kannan none are KWPN and 3 are SF)

Is FEI Longines riders ranking fair ?

For a long time I wanted to understand why the FEI was using such a system to rank the riders, as we all know, they are adding the points earned at each competition by the rider during a 12 months period (there is a limit on the number of competition that can be considered)

This, at first look, seem fair but it's a complete nonsense !

Because they seem to forget that our sport is not like every other sport, our sport is comprised of a team : a rider and a horse.

For this reason we must rank only the pairs rider/horse and use this ranking to also open the door for the participation at some competitions that uses the ranking to allow which rider is invited to compete (the Global Champion Tour is one example)

Today a rider with only one great Grand Prix horse will never be able to enter in the top 50 (best example is Corradina and Carsten Otto Nagel, the rider is ranked 89th) and if they try they will « burn » the horse.

The riders ranked at the top today have multiple top mounts and owners of top horses will be attracted to those riders because they know that it will allow their horses to participate in some of these top events, this will continue to close the door to up and coming riders with only one great horse.

I can easily imagine that the riders sitting at the top of the ranking have no interest in a change of

rule, because they want to stay in control of the situation.

From a spectator point of view it's also important to watch a competition when the top pairs are competing, it's very different to see Steve Guerdat riding « Nino des Buissonnets » than Steve riding « Ferrari » or Nick Skelton riding « Big Star » than Nick riding « Unique »

We must never forget that for the majority of our sport's fan, the hero is the horse.

I dream of such a ranking that's fair to the spirit of our sport and I also want the FEI to limit the number of competition a horse is allowed to participate in order to avoid some exaggeration.

I know a perfect world doesn't exist but we can try to come closer...

By Andy Smaga