Showjumping Team Competition

Germany Won Team Jumping Gold

Defending Olympic champions Germany won the team jumping event with Switzerland grabbing silver and Brazil out pointing France in a dramatic jump-off for bronze.
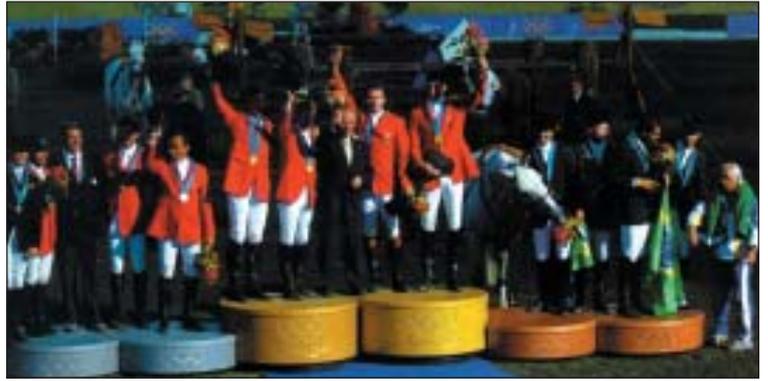
Germany, with Lars Nieberg and Ludger Beerbaum backing up from the team which won the same event at Atlanta, had a best three-rider total of 15 penalties after the two rounds, ahead of Switzerland on 16. Brazil and France were tied on 24.

The winning German quartet was Beerbaum, Nieberg, Marcus Ehning and Beerbaum, who was Germany's fourth-best rider, said it was a different experience for him after being his country's best performer in the event in 1996.

"This time I won a medal with the worst performance so thank you to my three colleagues," Beerbaum said, "I can be more than pleased because if my score had counted today we wouldn't have won a medal so I try to see the positive."

Despite being unhappy with the course, Rodrigo Pessoa, the 1998 world individual champion, managed a clear round in the last ride of the jump-off to give Brazil the bronze medal.

The teams event, known as the Nations Cup, was also the second and third qualifying rounds for Sunday's individual final. The top 45 jumpers progressed to the individual final competition.

. Becker. rode two clear. rounds in a brilliant. performance. "Today was unbelievable. For me it was a great feeling," Becky said.

Individual Showjumping Competition
Dutch Won gold and Silver
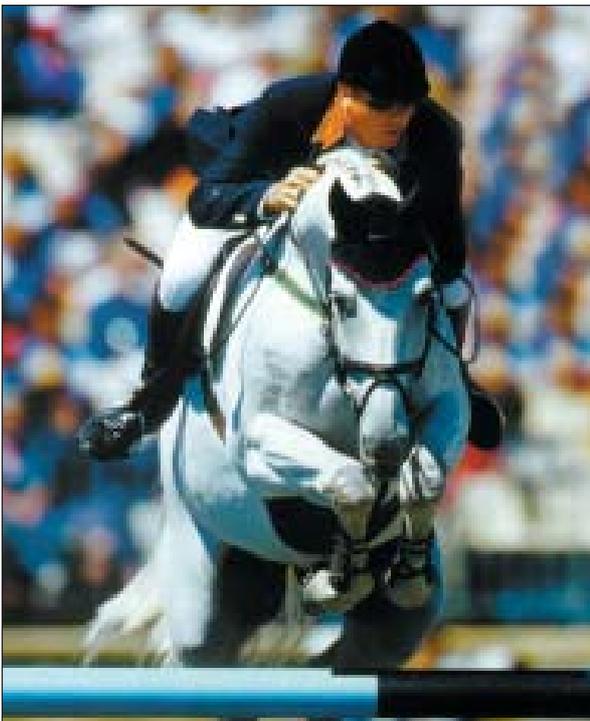
EQUESTRIAN EVENTS OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES CONCLUDED WITH THE FANTASTIC VICTORY OF JEROEN DUBBELDAM AND SJIEM (NED). SAUDI KHALED AL EID OFFERS THE FIRST EQUESTRIAN OLYMPIC MEDAL EVER TO HIS COUNTRY
Dutch riders claimed both the gold and the silver medals in the Individual Show Jumping final of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games at the Equestrian Centre Horsley Park on Sunday.
In a jump off after Round B, gold and silver went to the "Flying Dutchmen" Jeroen DUBBELDAM and Albert VOORN. The bronze went to Khaled AL EID from Saudi-Arabia.

"I've been riding Sjiem four years and have been second, third, fourth in many grand prix events," Dubbeldam said. "I never won a grand prix, but I won the Olympics."

Jeroen DUBBELDAM and his mount, Sjiem, kept their nerve and won gold with a slow but safe round in a posted time of 50.65 seconds. Silver medallist Albert VOORN and Lando had to go first in the jump off and had to risk a quick round which brought one rail down. The former coach for the Australian show jumping team came in at 44.72 seconds. Khaled AL EID and Khashim Alaan couldn't beat the time after one rail down and ended in third place, securing the first equestrian medal ever for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The student of showjumping legend Nelson PESSOA was ranked 30th at the Games in Atlanta but was still considered a complete outsider. Dubbeldam and Voorn were hugging and crying together after their victory gallop. "I've been riding Sjiem four years and have been second, third, fourth in many grand prix events," Dubbeldam said. "I never won a grand prix, but I won the Olympics."
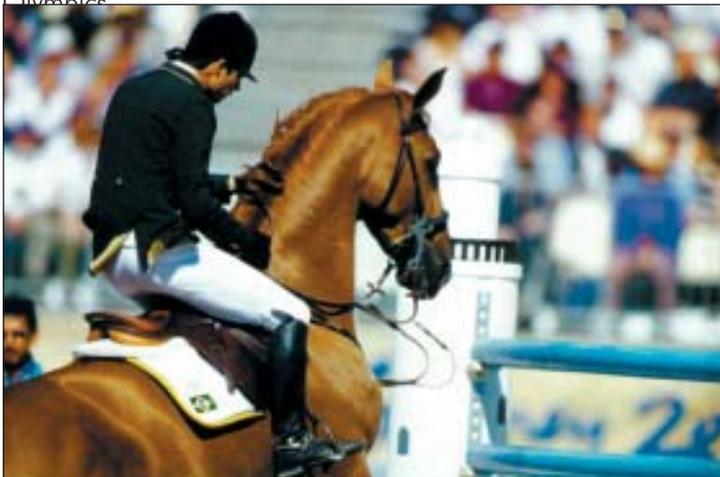
"I'm very emotional," said Voorn. "The whole time here, we were not considered to have the experience and mentality that we could win a medal." ``They were very quiet about it, but it really got us in the heart. This is a moment we can't describe,'' he said. The two medals were the Netherlands' first individual show jumping medals.

Al Eid's bronze was the first-ever equestrian medal for Saudi Arabia and only the country's second medal in Sydney.

"I'm very happy and I think next time I'm going to do a better job," a beaming Al Eid said.

The biggest surprise of the competition was the elimination of current world champion Rodrigo Pessoa of Brazil, who had a clear first round and looked like a shoo-in for the gold. But then his mount Baloubet Du Rouet refused the double of oxers three times in the second round. "There must have been a reason for him to stop," conclude Pessoa. "He may have hurt his back, twisted it or pulled something either before or after the triple where he made such an effort and then he just got scared."

"The podium today is not a surprise, it's solid riders, good riders," he said.

Next Stop Athens! ...
Gianni Govoni of Italy and The Netherlands Hans Horn survey the final fence.

Lars Nieberg helped Germany to win team gold, but finished just out of the individual medals. The Germans finished in equal fourth all three riders.

IMPRESSIONS OF SYDNEY 2 0 0 0

BY
Haya Bint Al-Hussein

Equestrianism is probably the only sport in the Olympic games where it is impossible to break records except perhaps by the sheer number of medals won during a career. I have, though, deduced that I am the only person in history to break an Olympic equestrian record...I hit the ground twice in less than 20 seconds!!!

As I search for ways for which to fulfill Khaled Assem's very large request of recounting my impression of the games, what comes to mind is the "Olympic mode" I felt on the day our plane landed in Sydney. That "mode" is a most striking feeling. My experiences during my 16-day stay deserve a book.

By virtue of finishing third at the qualifications at Falsterbo 1999, I still had hope of going to the Olympics. My place was secured when the Belgian team dropped out. My first taste of the "Olympic spirit" was when my federation informed me that quarantine was arranged for my horse "Lucilla." In the frenzy that ensued-in the form of travel arrangements for my mare and myself-friends I never knew I had materialized to help.

What I would most like to express is that even if the games meant no medal, my life will be richer for knowing-even for a second-that my horse asked me no questions but carried me back home on heart alone.

Visit our website, horsetimes.com to read the details of HRH Haya Bint Al Hussein journey to Sydney.

HRH Princess Haya with her team.
Alice Debany "Trainer"
Philippe Benoit "Vet"
Katy Monahan Prudent "Chef d'equipe
Dr. Sami Hamdan "Chef d'mission"
Mohamed Maidi "technical delegate"

Final Individual Results

The Olympic Individual Showjumping Gold Couple; Jeroen Dubbeldam & Sjiem of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands' Silver Olympic medalists Albert Voorn & Lando during the Individual Jumping.

The Arab Embassador Khaled El Eid galloping to the last fence on his way to the Bronze Olympic Individual Showjumping Medal.

Fighting back emotion Jeroen Dubbeldam of the Netherlands, enjoys his gold medal for Olympic individual showjumping. Sunday,Oct.1 2000.

An Olympic Moment Jeroen Dubbeldam, Albert Voorn and Khaled El Aid.

The Individual 3-Days Medalists David O'Connor, Andrew Hoy & Mark Todd.

Sydney 2000 Olympic Photo... Alexandra Ledermann of France leans over to give Rochet M a kiss after stumbling at a jump. The combination opted to retire from the competition.

The Victorious German Team and their Olympic Gold Lap of Honor. Marcus Ehning, Ludger Beerbaum, Lars Nieberg and Otto Becker.

Anky van Grunsven of the Netherlands, center, smiles as she stands with Germany's Isabell Werth, left, the silver medalist and Germany's Ulla Salzgeber, the bronze medalist, right, after receiving her gold medal for the individual dressage competition.