

# WORLD CHAMPION RODRIGO PESSOA WINS WORLD CUP FINAL IN GOTEBORG

By SIMA FARES

The reigning World Champion, Rodrigo Pessoa defended his title in Goteborg, Sweden at the 21st World Cup Final in unbelievable style. Second runner up Trevor Coyle later reported that, "Pessoa is so good for the sport. He believes strongly in all of the members who make the sport work together." His current standing as World Champion and World Cup Champion, his lifetime knowledge of the sport and his youthful passion provide him with both the spotlight and the strength.

Pessoa's win in Goteborg was based on points gained throughout the World Cup season, which starts in October and ends in April. German Olaf Petersen designed all the courses in the finals and all rounds were said to be very difficult technically.

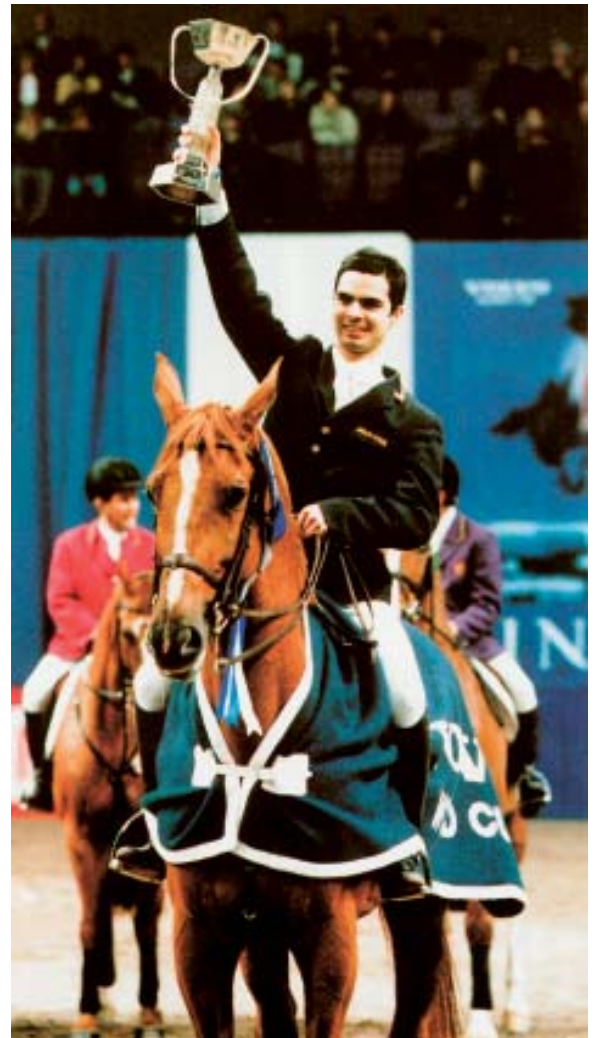
The Scandinavian crowd tensed up tremendously before the finals. Trevor Coyle and Cruising were clear with half a time fault but when Rodrigo entered the arena the crowd roared with excitement and the atmosphere was very tense. The one apparent thing was that Pessoa is comfortable with the stress; he acted as if it were any other day. He was focused and fierce. Succeeding to add a fault free round to his rapidly growing list of victories, Pessoa galloped around the ring, helmet in hand, knowing he had merited another title.

When asked about how he felt about finishing second, Trevor said, "First I would like to congratulate Rodrigo on a wonderful performance - again! It's getting a little boring for the rest of us. He's such a cool guy, we are hoping that with his win last year in the World Championships, all this pressure would build and build and build. We all keep waiting for him

to crack, and he still hasn't cracked. At the moment we are all struggling in his wake. We are just waiting to see if he cracks later on this year. Until then we will just be sitting there waiting!"

Rodrigo Pessoa is at the top of his game. Gandini Baloubet du Rouet will be going back to his father Nelson to ride, and Rodrigo will continue with Gandini Lianos.

After Volvo being the sponsor of the World Cup for 20 years, the turn of a new millenium brings a new sponsor - Budweiser, the world's best-selling beer. Budweiser World Cup 2000 will be held April 19-23, 2000 in Las Vegas, USA.



## FEI WORLD CUP FINAL RESULTS 1999

RANKING	RIDER	COUNTRY	HORSE
1	Rodrigo Pessoa	Brasil	Gandini Baloubet du Rouet
2	Trevor Coyle	Ireland	Cruising
3	Rene Tebbel	Germany	Radiator
4	Beat Mandli	Switzerland	Pozitano
5	Micheal Whitaker	Great Britain	Virtual Village Ashley
6	Ludger Beerbaum	Germany	Ratina Z.P.S.Priamos
7	Lesley McNaught	Switzerland	Dulf
8	Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum	Germany	Sprehe Stella
9	Emile Hendrix	Netherlands	RBG Finesse
10	John Whitaker	Great Britain	Virtual Village Grannusch