

Historical Perspective: 1992 Pan Am Championships

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While cleaning out the garage, I stumbled upon some older *USCTA NEWS* magazines. (For our younger readers, "USCTA" stands for United States Combined Training Association, and is the original name of our USEA.) I can get lost for hours in the old black-and-white pages, with pictures of horses long-forgotten and riders before their marriages (or divorces). It is neat to look back on old events, some still running, others gone forever. Most of all, it highlights the evolution of our sport... how it has changed, in fence building, course design, riding style, all the way down to fashion trends. And this is just from "recent" times, most of my eclectic collection is from the 90s decade. Today I will bring you an article from the [February 1992 edition of *USCTA News*](#), reporting on the Pan American Championships. I hope you enjoy this blast from the past as much as I did!

The following article was written by Fifi Coles. It is published in its entirety; any grammatical mistakes or typos are entirely the result of my re-typing skills. I have bolded rider/horse names for interest, and occasionally added comments.



Pan American Championships

Canadians Make a Clean Sweep. Nick Holmes-Smith Wins Individual Gold

By Fifi Coles

Photo caption: Pan Am Individual and Team Gold Medal winners Ruderpest and Nick Holmes-Smith--a picture of confidence--through the water complex. Photo by Brant Gamma

While other disciplines of the Pan American Games were held in Cuba, the Three Day Event took place in Chatsworth, Georgia, fielding Teams from the U.S., Canada, Bermuda, Jamaica, and Mexico. The Pan Ams were run as a CCI* [ed note: that's long format!!] which is comparable to Open Intermediate level. This is to encourage up and coming upper level competitors from North, South, Central America and Canada, and give them much needed international Team experience. As host country, the US was allowed not only four Team riders, but six Individuals, which gave ten of our young riders a first-rate taste of big time international competition.

The Canadians sailed through the event on a winning streak, sweeping both the Team and Individual competition, led by **Nick Holmes-Smith, the Individual Gold medal winner**. Nick and the Canadian three-quarter-bred **Ruderpest** performed the best dressage test of a lifetime. Their first place standing was particularly sweet as Ruderpest's warmup went from bad to worse, lasting almost three hours.

Riding their first string horses, the Canadian riders were given a final week long tune-up by former US Three-Day Event coach **Jack Le Goff**. Some Canadians, including Nick Holmes-Smith, train with him intermittently, while the relatively inexperienced **Susie Maloney**, who finished the summer months under his tutelage, finished 12th as an Individual rider.