

Pa. judging team

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and second high man," said the proud veteran coach. Smith, who has had more teams in the top five than any other 4-H livestock coach in Pennsylvania, was unable to attend nationals with the boys because of a convention at Penn State. In his place he sent Gary Dean, Strasburg R2 assistant coach who has been training with the boys since the beginning of the summer. Smith, however, remained in contact with the team via telephone.

In total, the team was first in sheep judging, fourth in swine, second in cattle, and fourth in reasons. Their combined scores tallied up to 2092 points, a mere five points below the first place Illinois team. For Smith, who has never had a first place team at nationals, this narrow margin was hard to take. Dean also felt the disappointment of missing such a close, yet far away, victory. However, both coachs expressed their overall sentiment as excitement and joy that the team, as a whole and individually, had done so well.

Renrer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay H. Rohrer, Manheim R7, had judged the most consistantly of the four. In the different species judging, he took first in cattle, sixth in sheep, and fifth in oral reasons, along with taking the first place overall.

Rohrer has been gearing up for this contest for four years now, starting in competition when he was 16. Then he was a member of the junior livestock judging team. An ardent advocate of 4-H, Rohrer has said of the contest, "Judging gives you the expertise of choosing the right terms, saying your reasons smoothly, and handling yourself with poise."

According to Smith, this ability of Rohrer's to express himself with a well developed vocabulary was one of the key points to his success at nationals.

"I would say that to a certain degree he has a natural eye for judging animals," said Smith, "and he has developed the ability to do it quickly. He's also had four years of training to develop his vocabulary. Between these two, he's a first rate judge."

Rohrer, himself, admitted

that it was a close scoring contest, and the team members could either make it or break it in the reasons room. As a whole, the reasons room is what put the team in second place.

"We outplaced the Illinois team," says coach Dean, but they outtalked us." The average score per individual in the reasons room was 44 for Illinois and approximately 43 for Penn sylvania.

Brubaker, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brubaker, 2418 Harrisburg Pike, had a lot at stake when he went to nationals.

"His dad placed third in nationals," says Mrs. Brubaker, "and when he left, Ken said he was going to beat that record."

Ken verifies that statement. "I said I'd beat him for the last four yearsthat's what I've been working toward" said the enthusiastic 4-H'er. He was so excited the morning of the awards banquet when his name was announced in second place that he couldn't contain himself. "I just left out a holler," he says, "and I think I embarrassed Gary a little."

The titles to his name, along with second high man overall, are second place judge in sheep, ninth place judge in cattle, and sixth place judge in reasons.

Overall, in every contest Rohrer just barely edged Brubaker out of the higher place ranking. In reasons, they tied, but Rohrer had dropped fewer points in placing, so he got the next higher ranking. Overall, Brubaker was only six points behind first place.

This is not Brubaker's first high placing. He was individual high man at state competition in August. And, for two years in a row, he was high individual and high man in oral reasons at the Block and Bridle Club's Little International junior show.

"For me, it comes easy," says Brubaker, "by now, it's like a second language to me." He also lauds Smith and Dean for their tremendous coaching.

mendous coaching.

Also judging for the Pennsylvania team were Tony Eberly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Eberly, Denver R2, and Robert Hess, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hess, Lancaster R2. They both

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