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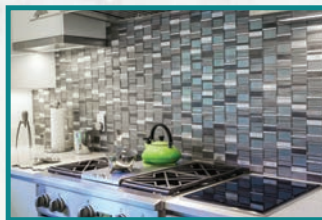


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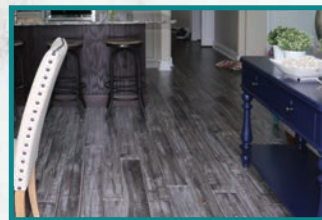
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WELCOME, POLO ENTHUSIASTS!

On behalf of Misdee and myself, along with our dedicated staff, we are pleased to welcome you to the 28th Season at the Sarasota Polo Club. Established in 1991 as the first development in Lakewood Ranch, the Sarasota Polo Club has a remarkable legacy. As only the second family to own the Club, Misdee and I are honored to become a part of this rich heritage and we are thrilled to mark this season as the beginning of a new and exciting era for our Club.

Polo is a community sport like no other. For decades our Club has been a popular Sunday tradition and part of the Sarasota social scene. This season the Sarasota Polo Club will welcome upwards of 40,000 polo fans, players, and pros from around the world. We are devoted to developing a growing base of passionate Sarasota Polo players and fans by providing exciting experiences, playing exhilarating matches, producing festive events and practicing good old-fashioned Southern hospitality.

By the way, we are more than just polo; from pig roasts to champagne toasts, our Club's spectacular grounds and venues are home to a variety of community and social events including outdoor concerts, festivals, sporting events, corporate meetings, family reunions, charity fundraisers and elegant weddings.

To be included in the action, I invite you to visit our social media pages to connect with us. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to sharing another fun-filled season with our friends, neighbors and guests from around the globe.

Have a wonderful time and come back and see us!

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Schedule

December

Day	Tournament	Theme	Halftime
2nd	8-10 Goal		Hitting Horse
9th	8-10 Goal		Hitting Horse
16th	8-10 Goal		Hitting Horse
23rd	8-10 Goal	Christmas Around the World	Holiday Games
30th	16 Goal		Hitting Horse

January

6th	USPA Governors Cup		Needle In A Haystack
13th	USPA Governors Cup		Hitting Horse
20th	Wayne Brown Memorial		Stick Pony Barrell Races
27th	Wayne Brown Memorial	Far Out 60's	Hitting Horse

February

3rd	Ringling Cup		Superbowl Games
10th	USPA Officers Cup		Woofminster
17th	USPA Officers Cup	What Happens at Polo Stays at Polo	Hitting Horse
24th	USPA Tourney	1920's Speakeasy	Newspaper Route

Live Music at the Polo Patio

March

Day	Tournament	Theme	Halftime
3rd	Sarasota Women's Challenge	Think Pink	Hitting Horse
10th	National Inter Circuit Championship		Hitting Horse
17th	National Inter Circuit Championship	St Pats	Pin the Shamrock on the Donkey
24th	10-12 Goal		Hitting Horse
31st	SMR CUP		Groom Games

April

7th	10-12 Goal		Hitting Horse
14th	10-12 Goal	Kids Day	Hitting Horse
21st	Robert A. Uihlein Memorial		Easter Eggstravaganza
28th	Robert A. Uihlein Memorial		Hitting Horse



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Learn the Polo Basics

A VIEWER'S GUIDE TO ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING SPORTS

The 2,500-year-old game of polo is one of the fastest and most technical sports played today. It is gaining increasing popularity as a premier spectator sport and can be an easy game for the first-time spectator to enjoy. Here are a few basic facts to help you watch the game:

GAME BASICS

Polo is played on a 10-acre grass field, 300 yards in length by 160 yards, which is the approximate area of 10 football fields. Goal posts are set eight yards apart on either end of the field. The object of the game is to move the ball downfield, hitting the ball through the goal for a score. Teams change direction after each goal. The team with the most scores at the end of the match is deemed the winner.

Two teams, made up of four players each, are designated by shirt color. The players wear high boots, knee guards, and a helmet. The ponies wear protective bandages and boots to shield them from the ball or the mallet. By tradition, players wear white pants in tournaments. The mallet, made of a

bamboo shaft with a hardwood head, is the instrument used to hit the polo ball.

The polo ball was formerly made of wood but is now plastic. It is about 3 to 3 ½ inches in diameter and 3 ½ to 4 ½ oz. in weight. In fact, the English word “polo” is derived from the Tibetan word “pulu,” meaning ball.

The surface of a polo field requires careful and constant grounds maintenance to keep the field in good playing condition. During halftime of a match, spectators are invited to go onto the field to participate in a polo tradition called “divot stomping,” which was developed to not only help replace the mounds of earth (divots) that are torn up by the horses’ hooves, but to also afford spectators the opportunity to walk about and socialize.

There are six periods, or “chukkers,” in a match. Each chukker is seven minutes long. Play begins with a throw-in of the ball by the umpire at the opening of each chukker and after each goal. Only penalties or injuries may stop play as there are no timeouts or substitutions allowed (except for tack repair).

The four basic shots in polo are distinguished by the side of the pony on which strokes or shots are made. That is “near-side” (left side of the mount) and “off-side” (right side of the mount). This creates the near-side forward, and back shot, and the off-side forward, and back shot. Shots can also be made under the pony’s neck, across his tail, or the difficult under-the-belly shot, all variations of the basic shots.

A team is made up of four players, each wearing a jersey numbered 1 through 4, which corresponds to their assigned position. No. 1 is the most offensive player, concentrating on opportunities for scoring. No. 4 is the defensive player, primarily responsible for defending his team’s goal. Usually, the most experienced and highest-rated players are at positions 2 and 3, with the pivotal



player being No. 3, who must serve as an effective field captain, or quarterback. The No. 3 coordinates the offense, and passes the ball upfield to his teammates as they press toward the opposition's goal. Each player is also assigned an opponent to cover on defense and must be prepared to shift offensive and defensive modes and to make any play that will benefit his team.

THE RULES

Although there are many rules to the game of polo, the primary concept to which all rules are dedicated is safety – for the player and his mount.

The right-of-way rule is defined by a player's position relative to the direction of travel of the ball when hit. Once hit, an imaginary line is drawn from the player to the ball, and extended ahead of the ball in the direction it is traveling. This imaginary line can not be crossed by other players. In general, play will flow backward and forward, parallel to the imaginary line extended ahead of, and behind, the ball. This rule creates safe traffic patterns that enable the participants to play at top speeds and to avoid dangerous collisions.

The line of the ball may not be crossed except under special circumstances and only in such a way as to legitimately gain control of the ball. When a player has the line of the ball on his right, he has the right-of-way. This can only be taken away by “riding off” and moving the player off the line of the ball by making shoulder-to-shoulder contact.

Strategy and anticipation are two of the most important elements in polo and usually come with experience. For the spectator, keep an eye on the horses. The speed and athletic abilities of both the horse and rider are spectacular. All of these elements combined make the fast-paced action of polo one of the most exciting and demanding sports in the world.

PLAYER HANDICAPS

Each player is assigned an individual handicap on the ascending basis of C, B, A (-2 thru 0) and 1 thru 10. This Handicap reflects the player's ability and his value to the team. The higher the handicap, the better the player (which is opposite to golf). There are only a few 10-goal players in the world.

The team handicap is the combined handicaps of the four players. The team with the lesser handicap is granted the difference in goals (or points) prior to the start of the match. For that reason, a match may well have a “score” prior to the start of the game based on team handicaps.

Player handicaps are evaluated and revised annually by the United States Polo Association. Handicapping is a subjective evaluation of the individual's horsepower, game sense, hitting ability, and overall value to a team.

PONIES

The polo ponies are central to the success of any team. They are primarily Thoroughbreds, often with race track experience, and considered the most athletic of equine performers because of the requirements to sprint, stop, turn and accelerate to open speed for seven minutes in duration. Although they are called “ponies,” they are actually small horses (average height 15 to 16 hands high). Players must change mounts after each chukker due to extreme demands placed on the ponies. Therefore, a team usually has a minimum of 24 horses available during the match.

Most horses can be trained to play polo, however training horses to learn the game should only be taken on by experienced polo players. Beginner and intermediate players are much better off buying an already trained polo pony. ●





Polopedia

BASIC DEFINITIONS TO ADD TO YOUR POLO WATCHING ENJOYMENT

Back Shot: A shot that can be hit from either side of the horse.

Chukker: There are six chukkers in a polo match, each one lasting 7 ½ minutes. Between each chukker, players change horses.

Divot Stomping: An activity that incorporates spectators into the game. During halftime, spectators are invited to go onto the playing field to replace pieces of turf that have been dug up by the horses.

Double-Chukkered: This term means that the same horse has been approved to be played again in a later chukker.

Field: The polo field is 300 yards long and 160 yards wide (10 acres). The goal posts have an 8-yard span.

Game: The game of polo consists of either four or six chukkers, depending on the number of available horses, the level of play, or the nature of the tournament.

Goal: A goal is scored when the ball crosses the line between the goal posts. The team's goal changes each time a goal is scored.

Handicap: Registered players are rated on a scale of minus 2 through 10 (the higher the better). Only 0 and 1 goal players can go up in half-point increments.

Hook: This is an extremely effective

defensive technique. A player may use his mallet to interfere with his opponent's swing.

Knock-In: Should a team, in an offensive drive, hit the ball across the opponents' backline, the defending team resumes the game with a free hit from the backline.

Line-of-the-Ball or Right-of-Way: This imaginary line follows the path that the ball takes. On each side of this line is a lane and these two lanes determine the right-of-way of the player.

Mallet: The shaft is made of bamboo cane with a hard-wood head. The head is beveled on one end to allow a full swing flush to the ground. The mallet is highly flexible and varies in length.

Near-Side Shot: This type of shot is made from the left side of the horse. A near-side shot can either be a forehand or backhand shot.

Neck Shot: A ball which is hit under a horse's neck from either side.

Off-Side Shot: The off-side is the right side of the horse. It is the most commonly used shot in polo.

Penalty: A penalty is a free hit towards the goal from a set distance. The severity of the foul committed determines what penalty will be awarded.

Positions: Each of the four team members play a distinctly different position. Players may momentarily change positions, but they try to stay at their initial spot. Player No. 1 is the most forward offensive player. No. 2 is just as aggressive, but plays deeper. No. 3 is the pivot between offense and defense and tries to turn all plays to offense. No. 4, or the back, is the defensive player whose principle role is to protect the goal.

Ride-Off: A ride-off occurs when two riders attempt to push each other off the line of the ball.

Tail Shot: A tail shot involves hitting the ball behind and under the horse's rump.

Third Man: This refers to the referee who sits off the field. If and when the two umpires on the field are in disagreement, the third man makes the final decision.

Throw-In: A chukker begins and many plays resume with the umpire bowling the ball between the two ready teams.

Umpires: Two mounted umpires on the field consult each other after each infringement and impose a penalty only if they agree. If they do not agree, they confer with the third man. They also monitor safety for the players and horses.

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Tools OF THE Trade

Polo, also known as the sport of kings, is a pastime that demands a kit to match. A polo player's equipment is very important not only for safety, comfort and performance, but also to demonstrate the right attitude to playing the game.

The rules for equipment vary in details between the hosting authorities, but are always for the safety of the players and mounts.





Polo Boots

For the same reasons that knee pads are essential to a polo player's safety during a match, top quality riding boots are a must. Ideally these made-for-polo boots should be thick, high quality leather, with a good sole and ankle support.

Polo Bags

Bags help carry the equipment (sticks, boots and saddle).

Polo Whip

The whip should have a good solid leather grip.



Polo Knee Pads

Knee pads are also an essential part of the kit, with a player's legs very exposed to the rigors of the match in the saddle. Different players may favor different variations of polo knee pads, including either two or three straps (the third helping to further secure the pad if necessary).

Protective Helmet

Polo was once a form of training for cavalry - a mentality it's easy to understand when you dress for a polo match today, with its own special protective equipment. Most important in this regard is the helmet to insure the player against any glancing blows from the polo ball, stray mallets and other potential hazards of the sport. When choosing a helmet it is always best to choose a product which has been approved by NOSCAE (the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment).



Polo Balls

Different playing conditions can require different polo balls, so it's best to consider which best suits your circumstances. In situations where weather conditions limit visibility, red balls can ensure a match goes ahead. The standard ball for outdoor polo is made of bamboo or willow root, measures about 3 1/4 inches in diameter and weighs about 4 ounces.



Regulation Spurs

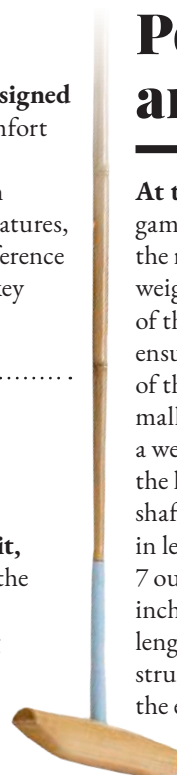
Pair solid boots with some reliable spurs, as without a strong, preferably stainless steel pair, any issues with this will affect the player's balance, and even safety, during the game.

Saddles

Saddles are English-style with deep seats like jumping saddles.

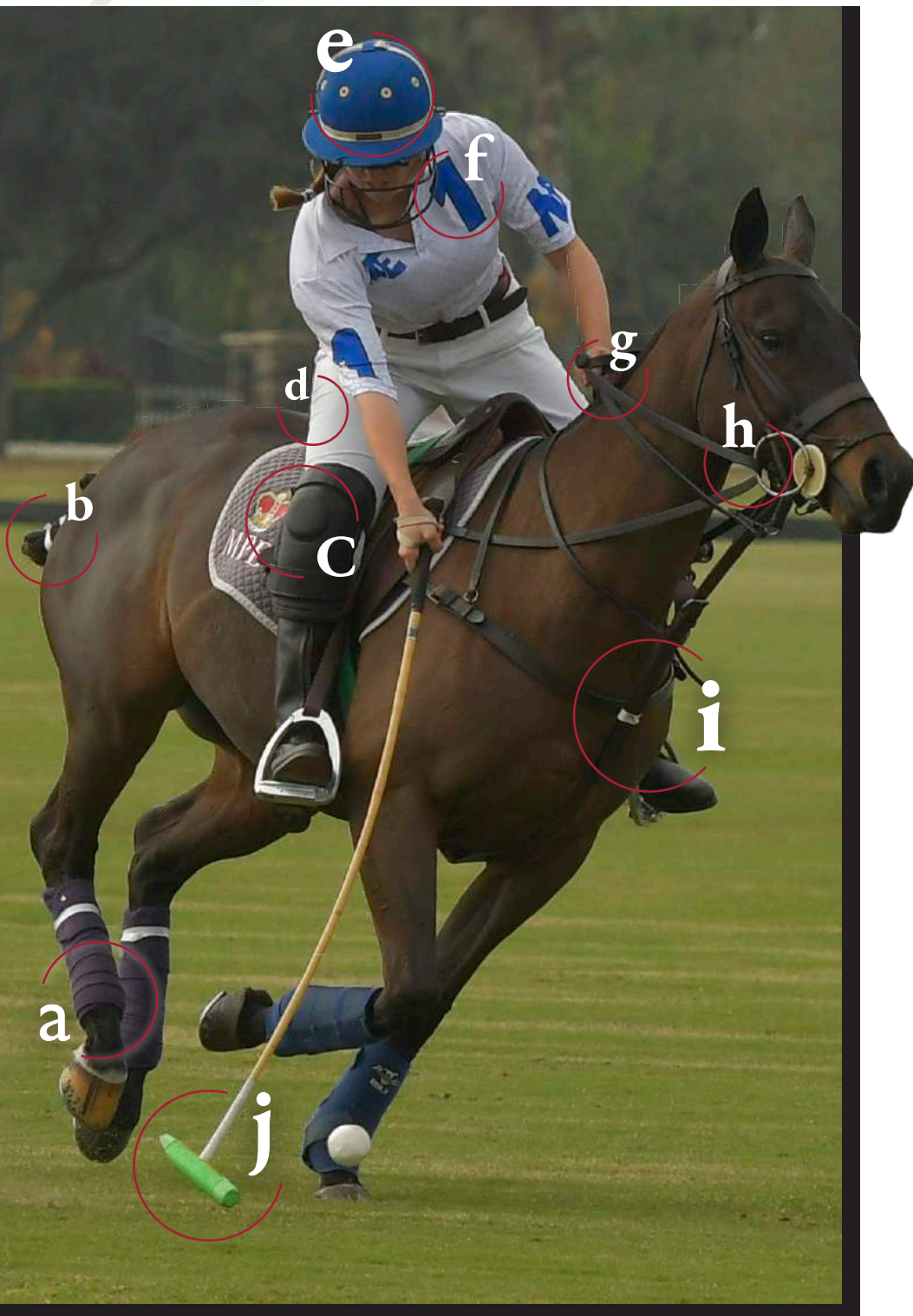
Polo Mallets and Sticks

At the business end of your polo game, the polo mallet and stick needs the right specification for you. The weight of the mallets and the length of the stick are both customizable to ensure this instrument suits the height of the pony, as well as playing style. The mallet has a rubber-wrapped grip with a webbed thong for wrapping around the hand and a flexible bamboo-cane shaft with a bamboo head 9 1/2 inches in length, the whole weighing about 7 ounces and varying from 48 to 53 inches, depending on pony size and length of a player's arm. The ball is struck with the side of the mallet, not the end.



What is That?

KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



a

Bandages

Protective wrapping that shield ponies' legs against contact with ball.

b

Braided Tail

Prevents interference with the mallet

c

Knee Guard

For knee protection.

d

Breeches

Polo pants, always white in polo.

e

Helmet

Hard surface, lined and strapped. The helmet protects the player from swinging mallets and balls traveling at a speed of nearly 100 mph.

f

Number

Each player wears a number 1-4. Every team member has a different role in the game

g

Reins

To enhance control of the pony

h

Bridles

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i

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j

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Q&A

WITH J. MICHAEL PRINCE,
PRESIDENT & CEO OF USPA
GLOBAL LICENSING INC.

By Dan Guttenplan



In January of 2018, J. Michael Prince was named president & CEO of USPA Global Licensing Inc. (USPAGL), the official licensing arm and national broadcaster of the U.S. Polo Association.

Prior to joining USPAGL, Prince was president and chief operating officer and a board member of Cole Haan. He also has served as chief operating officer of Guess; chief financial officer of Nike Affiliates, and earlier, CFO of Converse, a Nike subsidiary.

Prince recently sat down for a Q&A with the Sarasota Polo Club magazine.

When did you first become interested in polo?

“I became interested in the brand about two years ago when USPAGL reached out to me about a possible opportunity to work with them. I’ve always enjoyed sports-inspired fashion brands such as Nike and Converse as that is where I first cut my teeth in retail and fashion. Of course, Nike is considered by many in the industry to be the best sports-inspired brand in the world so I was fortunate to get my first career opportunity with them. When I realized that U.S. Polo Assn. was the official brand of the United States Polo Association, I was very excited about the unlimited potential I recognized for both the brand and the sport. What a wonderful way to be involved in the sport of polo and to be involved with a brand with a large global presence around the world.”

How did your professional experience prepare you for this role?

“I’ve been fortunate to work for fashion

retail and sports brands throughout my career for the last 15 years through all aspects of the business. This has included branding, marketing, product design and merchandising, global operations, international business and strategy. All of that has helped in this role. I’ve taken something from every place that I have been and applied those learnings to this wonderful opportunity.”

How would you describe the USPA brand? What do you want it to be?

“The brand itself is the closest connection of any brand to the sport of polo in the United States and internationally. It’s the official brand of the United States Polo Association. U.S. Polo Assn. is sport-inspired with classic American styling. We have over 1,000 of our own retail stores globally with a presence in 166 countries around the world and a \$2 billion retail footprint. We offer men’s, women’s and kids’ apparel and accessories. The brand is colorful, cutting-edge, millennial-driven, bright, inspired and

exceptional fashion. That’s what we want to continue. I also love the fact that we work so closely with the sport. In fact, we partner with the United States Polo Association to broadcast the sport and we’re bringing the sport of polo to about 10 million viewers globally through our broadcasts and livestreaming.”

How does the USPAGL help fund polo?

“We have a licensing business model that enables us to work with strong partners around the world and earn royalties from product sales of the U.S. Polo Assn. We reinvest a portion of those earnings back into the brand and the other portion is received by the United States Polo Association where the organization invests in the sport of polo by funding training programs, organizing tournaments, working with polo clubs, etc. The reinvesting in the sport is important to provide a long-term foundation to support future generations.”

Are you expanding to any new markets in 2019?

“We just recently opened in Scandinavia and Africa. We are currently looking at opportunities in Australia and a few markets in Africa remain open. We will also continue our retail store expansion with a goal of growing from over 1,000 stores today to over 1,300 in the next several years. We will also focus on growing more of our women’s and kid’s businesses as well.”

What new clothing lines, accessories or other apparel should people be keeping an eye out for in 2019?

“We are working to introduce more function and innovation into our products as well as focus on more sustainability opportunities. What we are really excited about is our new retail store concept we plan to launch in 2019. This new concept will provide consumers and sports fans alike to engage with both the brand and the sport in a more meaningful and fun way. We believe the experience has the potential to be transformational in the marketplace.” ●

Ashley Busch and Juan Bollini
Polo Players and Global Brand Ambassadors



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Misdee's Medal-Winning Performance

MISDEE WRIGLEY MILLER
IS THE FIRST WOMAN
TO EARN GOLD WITH
A FOUR-IN-HAND
TEAM AT THE WORLD
EQUESTRIAN GAMES

By Y.A. Teitelbaum

Misdee Wrigley Miller's four-in-hand team won their first goal medal at the prestigious FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG).

Sarasota Polo Club co-owner Misdee Wrigley Miller's summer was historical.

Wrigley Miller was an integral member of the U.S. four-in-hand team that won their first gold medal at the prestigious FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Tryon, North Carolina.

The U.S. team of Wrigley Miller, Chester Weber and Jimmy Fairclough built a substantial lead during the dressage phase on the first day and led throughout. Team USA was not a favorite to win a medal, according to Wrigley Miller. Traditionally, the Dutch are unbeatable, followed closely by the Germans. They also had to contend with an up-and-coming young Belgium team.

“There is no feeling in the world like standing on that podium, after so much work, and yes, blood, sweat and tears, and seeing the American flag being raised and hearing our anthem being played,” said Wrigley Miller. “Knowing we had made history for our country, being the first team to win gold, not to mention being the first woman, is a feeling that will be with me for the rest of my life!”

Combined driving is an intensive, high-risk, high-reward sport involving a carriage pulled by four horses, and features three phases of competition over three days: dressage, marathon and cones. In addition to the driver, there are two grooms on the carriage at all times for navigational purposes, and, most importantly, safety.

Preparing for WEG at Tryon began years ago, according to Wrigley Miller, who keeps the gold medal on top of her jewelry box until she can get a shadow box for it. “It’s the best necklace I have ever gotten.” Wrigley Miller started training with the world’s top driver, Boyd Exell, who won individual gold at Tryon. In addition to finding the right trainer, she also had to find the right combination of horses and a team of people that work well together day in and day out.

“Finding the right horses was difficult,” said





The U.S. team of Misdee Wrigley Miller, Chester Weber and Jimmy Fairclough led throughout the WEG competition.

Wrigley Miller, who is one of fewer than 10 women who compete at the sport's highest level. "Being a lady driver, I needed horses that were smaller, lighter in the hand, but still with big motion and power to compete over three days. Believe me, there was a lot of trial and error that went into finding the group of five that comprised my final team."

Although each carriage is pulled by four horses, each driver is allowed to bring five horses to a competition, allowing for a spare, or a "specialist" in one phase, which is what Wrigley Miller chose to do.

Daily training varied between focusing on the particular phases of dressage, marathon and cones. The greatest amount of time is spent on dressage, as that is the very basis of the sport. The least amount of time is spent training for the marathon, because of the inherent danger of injuring a horse galloping in the obstacles and because it tends to undo a lot of the patient dressage training.

Wrigley Miller is a relative newcomer to the sport, becoming involved late in 2013 when it looked like the U.S. would not be able to field a team for the 2014 WEG in Normandy. At that point, Wrigley Miller was competing with pairs and gaining invaluable international experiences.

"Needless to say, it was a steep learning curve, but nine months later, we went to Normandy and surprising everyone, Team USA finished in fourth, just a few points shy of the bronze," said Wrigley Miller.

Wrigley Miller has been around horses her entire life; her parents were in the Arabian horse business. She got involved in driving after inheriting two carriages that belonged to her great-grandparents.

"Those carriages led to me falling in love with the history and tradition of antique carriages and with driving multiples, and I competed in pleasure driving competitions," said Wrigley Miller.

She also used to play some polo but currently actively competes with American Saddlebreds. Right now, her life revolves around horses and their businesses, leaving little time for Wrigley Miller's non-equestrian hobbies: scuba diving and skiing.

"I am just a bit competitive, and if I can't practice and do well I get frustrated," said Wrigley Miller, whose husband James is patron of the Hillcroft Farm polo team. "However my husband really wants me to play this year, so you might see me out on the field."

Whether she plays or not, Wrigley Miller plans to be at Sarasota Polo every week for the featured Sunday match, watching others create memories. ●





shannon brinkman photo



erin gilmore
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Spirit Horses

TONY STROMBERG'S LIFE WORK IS PAYING
HOMAGE TO HORSES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

WORDS BY
Dan Guttenplan

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
Tony Stromberg



Tony Stromberg spent more than 20 years as a high-end advertising photographer in San Francisco before realizing he was depressed. He seemingly had everything anyone would want – a great job, money, exotic experiences, but he couldn't find fulfillment in his work.

Stromberg recently shared how horses brought that fulfillment to his life and how he's continued to make a successful career out of photographing his favorite species in a way that few have managed to master. Stromberg has found himself drawn to the wild horses of the west, photographing them in their natural state. His unique angle on the species has made his photography one of a kind.

Stromberg first became interested in photography in his early 20s. "I think I battled with it as a kid. I had a little camera and snapped pictures, but I didn't take it seriously until I was 23 or 24. I didn't study it in school; I was self-trained. I dabbled with it for a bit before I dove fully into that world.

"I went to college and bounced back and forth. I couldn't decide between creative writing, marine biology and atmospheric science. I ended up studying architecture at UC Boulder. I worked in architecture for three weeks. After that, I realized I didn't want to be an architect. I quit school, ended up in graphic design by default and I made a business of it for four or five years. Then I made a gradual transition to photography. I used to hire photographers for projects; they had a fancier life than I did. They were always in



studios and beautiful places taking pictures. I used to hang out in a photo store in Palo Alto (Calif.) and ask a lot of questions. I got involved with the Peninsula Advertising Photographers Association. Basically, I was doing a lot of commercial, high-tech photography. They took me under their wing, and I learned a lot from those guys. I put together my first portfolio and hired a professional consultant to brand myself. In his portfolio, Stromberg showcased a wide variety of photography including still life, architecture and food. "I wasn't really sure what I wanted to be or how I wanted to specialize. I put together a general portfolio. Most of it was still life shot in a studio." People liked me and hired me for jobs. That was in the early 1980s."

After 20 years of advertising work, Stromberg was extremely burnt-out on the business. "I found myself depressed. I was lackluster, lacking direction. I knew I needed a change and didn't know what it was. I went up to visit a friend north of San

Francisco. She spent weekends with horses and invited me. I went around with my camera in the pastures with the horses and she went riding. I hung out in the pasture with horses. I had a great time and it grew from there. I couldn't explain it at the time. Something about it made me feel happy."

"I learned later about equine-assisted therapy and was fascinated with that. There are different types of styles in that type of work. They use horses because horses don't like incongruity at all. If a person is pretending to be something they're not, they'll know right away. They get

uncomfortable. They taught me who I was and who I wasn't. "I'm not going to say I was trying to be macho in the beginning, but I was pretending to have it all together. I was the boss. They saw right through me. They told me, 'No, that's not who you are.' It's hard to explain how they do that. It's by their behavior and attitude.

"What happened after 20 years of working in advertising was I was a chameleon – not just with work but in general. I realized I could do any type of photography work for anybody. I became a person people wanted me to be, but I lost touch with my true self. Horses brought me to that and taught me who I was. It got me through my depression and back on track. I had no intention to make money initially on the work I did with horses, it was for pleasure. Now, it's an homage to horses for what they did for my life."

A friend of his joked about his connection to horses. "She said, 'This is your church.' It is a sacred thing for me. I became the kind of guy who they let ride new horses as a guinea pig. I rode quite a bit. I was out in the Redwoods doing some beautiful riding. Something about being in the presence of an animal like that is very honest. I learned I can be whoever I am and be completely accepted. It gave me a sense of freedom I wasn't finding with humans."

When asked whether he feels the same way about other animals, Stromberg said yes. "I think all animals are like that. I'm also a cat lover. I think they're similar. A dog will love you no matter who you are. With cats, you have to earn their respect. Horses are a little like that. All animals are forever attuned to a way of living that humans have forgotten

*"I learned
I can be
whoever I
am and be
completely
accepted.
It gave me
a sense of
freedom
I wasn't
finding with
humans."*









about. It's a different language they speak. It's not verbal; it's intellectual. There's a deeper level of trust."

On his website, Stromberg notes his preference to photograph horses living in collaboration and community, rather than the model that our society embodies (presumably a stable). When asked if it is the freedom of wild horses that make them so appealing for him to photograph, Stromberg replied:

"I think that's a lot of it. They're really struggling in government trying to gather up these wild horses to put in holding spaces or euthanize.

They think they're not making a profit and taking up space. The cattle industry and oil and gas are big players in that game. There are 60,000 government holding facilities where horses are being warehoused. That costs the taxpayers a lot of money. At one point, it became a state of stasis. There were natural predators that kept the population in check. Everything was fine until man came along and started putting up fences and industry got involved. I've done a lot with the wild horses in the United States; that's near and dear because of their plight, but they're struggling to survive.

"There's a certain freedom that wild horses embody. There's something about seeing millions of acres and the sense of freedom people are looking for. Many people live structured, rigid lives. When they see horses running free, it speaks to them on some archetypal level we don't understand. That's why I never photograph horses with bridles, saddles, bits or riders.



It's just the horse in nature."

In 2000 Stromberg moved back to Santa Fe (N.M.) and was introduced to his publisher, and from that his first book *Spirit Horses* evolved showcasing his incredible work. "After its release people began to inquire about teaching workshops. I taught an equine photography workshop in 2001, and that has grown into 75 percent of my income."

Although the wild horses are close to his heart, "the Lusitano and Andalusian horses are my favorites. I started doing workshops in Southern France, so I have a soft spot in my heart because that's where I started. It's very strange that after 20 years of heavily marketing and pushing new things to have doors open, it's been relatively easy ever since. When you stop trying so hard, it finds you. People tell me I have their dream job. I take photographs in wonderful places and get paid for it."

That's what they say, right? Find your passion, and it will never feel like work. ●



To buy Tony Stromberg's books or prints, visit: tonystromberg.com/buy-books-prints/

For information on Tony Stromberg's workshops, visit: tonystromberg.com/workshops/

Meet The Grooms

THE HEART OF THE SPORT

By Daniel Paulling

*Victor Flores exemplifies
the tireless work ethic that
is required for grooms.*

The Groom

Victor Flores

hometown:
GUADALAJARA,
MEXICO

experience:
22 YEARS AS
A GROOM



The alarm on Victor Flores' cellphone goes off at 6 a.m. each day, but he can't afford to press snooze. "You've got to get up," he said, "because horses don't wait."

Flores gets out of bed quickly. It's easy to do so because he's followed the same routine throughout his 22 years working as a groom. He's at the barn within 30 minutes, checking whether the horses he's responsible for have any cuts or injuries. He'll then feed them grain, finishing the first hour of his 12-hour workday.

"I don't complain because I get along very, very well with [the horses] and them with me," said Flores, a 39-year-old who started his work as a groom at the age of 17. "I really like it."

Flores' tireless work ethic is not uncommon in the world of grooms. In fact, it's the norm.

Grooms are the heart of the sport. They are men and women who are on-call seven days a week, 365 days a year. There are no vacation days in a profession that involves feeding and caring for horses, and ensuring the beautiful animals are fit and healthy enough to thrive.

The grooms are responsible for all aspects of caring for the horses, from exercising and bathing, all the way to health care. Providing a safe and clean environment for the horses is also of the utmost importance for grooms, so they maintain the stalls and barn and make sure all the tack and gear is in good condition and ready for game day.

Not only is the safety of the horse in the hands of the groom, the safety of the player is as well. One does not embark on this profession without a sincere love for horses and a tireless work ethic. Flores is no different.



“Grooms are the heart of the sport. They are men and women who are on-call seven days a week, 365 days a year.”

Flores' love for horses began when he'd visit his grandfather's farm in Guadalajara, Mexico while growing up. Although he didn't get to ride them, he loved petting them.

Years later, Flores began maintaining the fields at the San Diego Surf Polo Club and saw other people working with horses. He decided to join them, became a groom in 1996 and started working for Justo del Carril, a six-goal player from Argentina.

No pressure, right?

“Every job is pressure, but [I felt] a lot of pressure to get things done

well,” Flores said. “When we all start in something new, we're green. But we take a little bit of time, get the experience in getting to know a lot of things, to gain a lot of knowledge. The horses teach you, and you learn a lot of things. Within the three years I worked for him, the first three years of my polo life, I learned a lot.”

Flores' lengthy experience and the advice of others he's come across in the sport of polo have helped him develop the routine he follows each day in his job.

After feeding the 10 or so horses in his

care each morning, Flores takes them for a workout five at a time. They usually do a 20-to-25-minute walk to warm up, a faster-paced 12-minute run and a 12-minute walk to cool down. Flores does this twice, usually finishing around 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. before spending an hour or so cleaning the barn.

Flores has about four hours to himself before doing a lighter set of exercise starting around 2:30 or 3 in the afternoon. He feeds the horses again around 5 and finishes his day a little after 6.

Flores' work ethic and quality of work

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makes him a highly regarded groom.

“I got to know Victor while he was working for a close friend and teammate of mine, Jamie Mirikitani,” said Justin Baisch, for whom Flores spent the fall of 2018 working. “Jamie always spoke highly of him, and his talent was consistently showcased through Jamie’s string. They not only looked incredible but always performed flawlessly.

“Victor brings way more to the table than just his grooming skills. He’s a perfectionist. He raises the bar for everyone around him with his high standard. He manages my property

and polo field and is incredible with the young horses. He’s an all-around professional horseman.”

Perhaps the most difficult part of Flores’ job — other than the lengthy days filled with tiring work — is the travel. Flores, a St. Louis, MO. resident, spent a lengthy portion of the fall of 2018 in Aiken, S.C., working for Baisch, his sponsor. Flores travels all over the country, going to clubs in California; Chicago; Memphis, Tennessee; and Sarasota, among others.

“Sometimes when it’s a long trip, when it’s from [Aiken] to California,

it’s three or four days [of driving], those are the hardest days,” he said. “It’s not [hard] when you have a passion for polo. It’s a thing you really have to love. I follow the job because it’s a great sport.”

After his work each evening, Flores spends a few hours hanging out with his friends before heading back home. His cellphone alarm is set, and another day filled with responsibilities is just a few hours away. As Flores says, the horses don’t wait, no matter what day it is.

“That’s pretty much the groom’s life,” he said. “I love it.!” ●

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Dogs of Polo

THEY ARE AS MUCH A PART OF POLO AS PLAYERS

By Thomas Neumann

Dogs are an important part of the polo culture and all of our lives; They teach us about honesty and authenticity because they know no other way of being. It is because of this they have become man's best friend.

Just ask Sarasota Polo Club pro Josh Shelton, who can speak to the enjoyment of having a canine companion involved in his polo-centered lifestyle. Shelton, 29, has been playing polo since he was 12, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Jack Shelton.

Shelton can't imagine traveling around the country without his 9-year-old golden retriever, Chukker. "She goes to every polo game," Shelton said. "If I'm playing, she'll go to the field on the back of my truck and sleep under the truck or under my chair. Everyone knows Chukker."



Chukker



Tazi



Lola

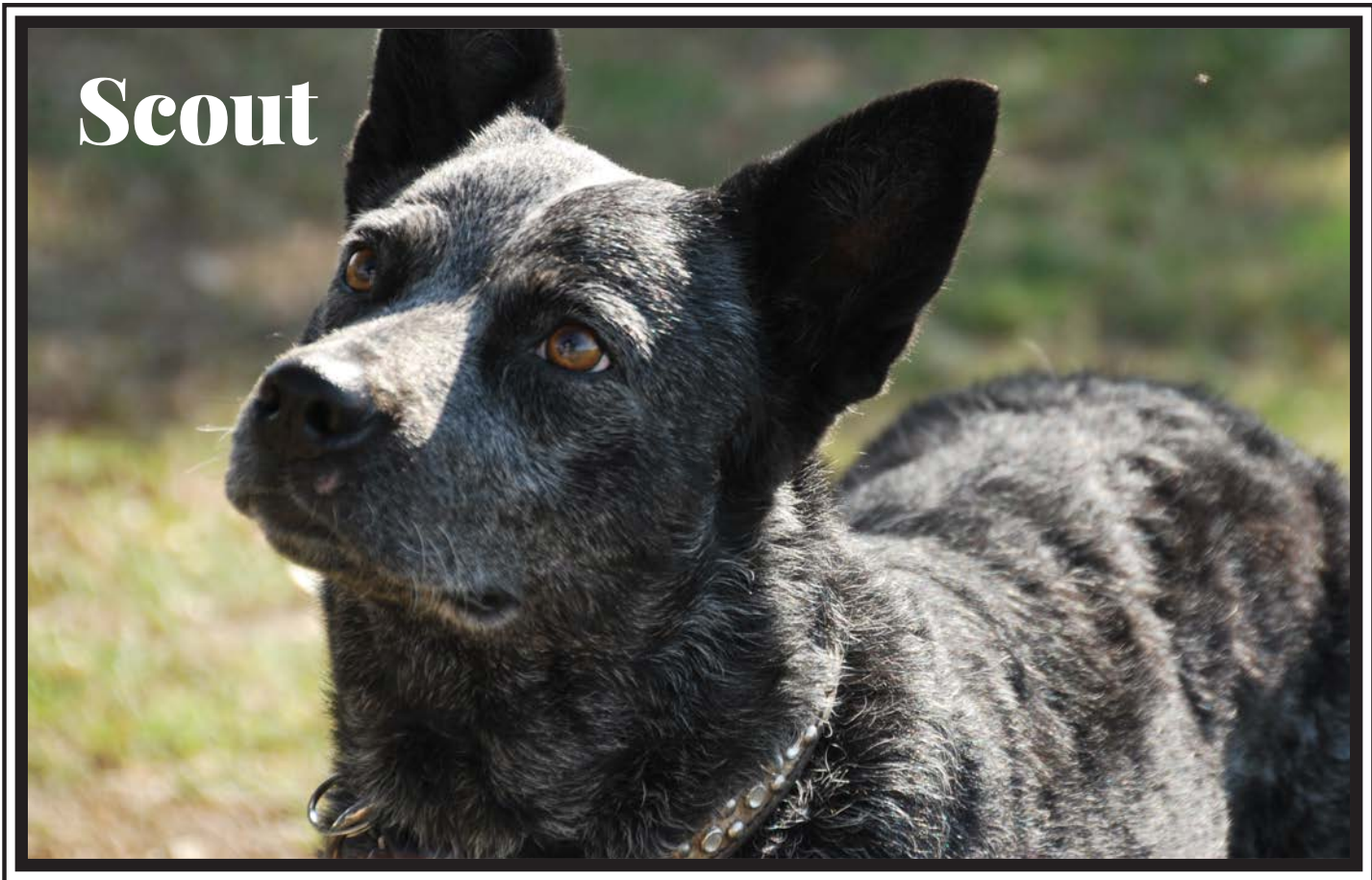
This is the case for many of the polo players we see here at the Sarasota Polo Club. It is not uncommon to see dogs holding their post on the back of a truck, patiently waiting for their master to return safely after each chukker. Shelton figures about half of the trailers at the Sarasota Polo Club have a dog.

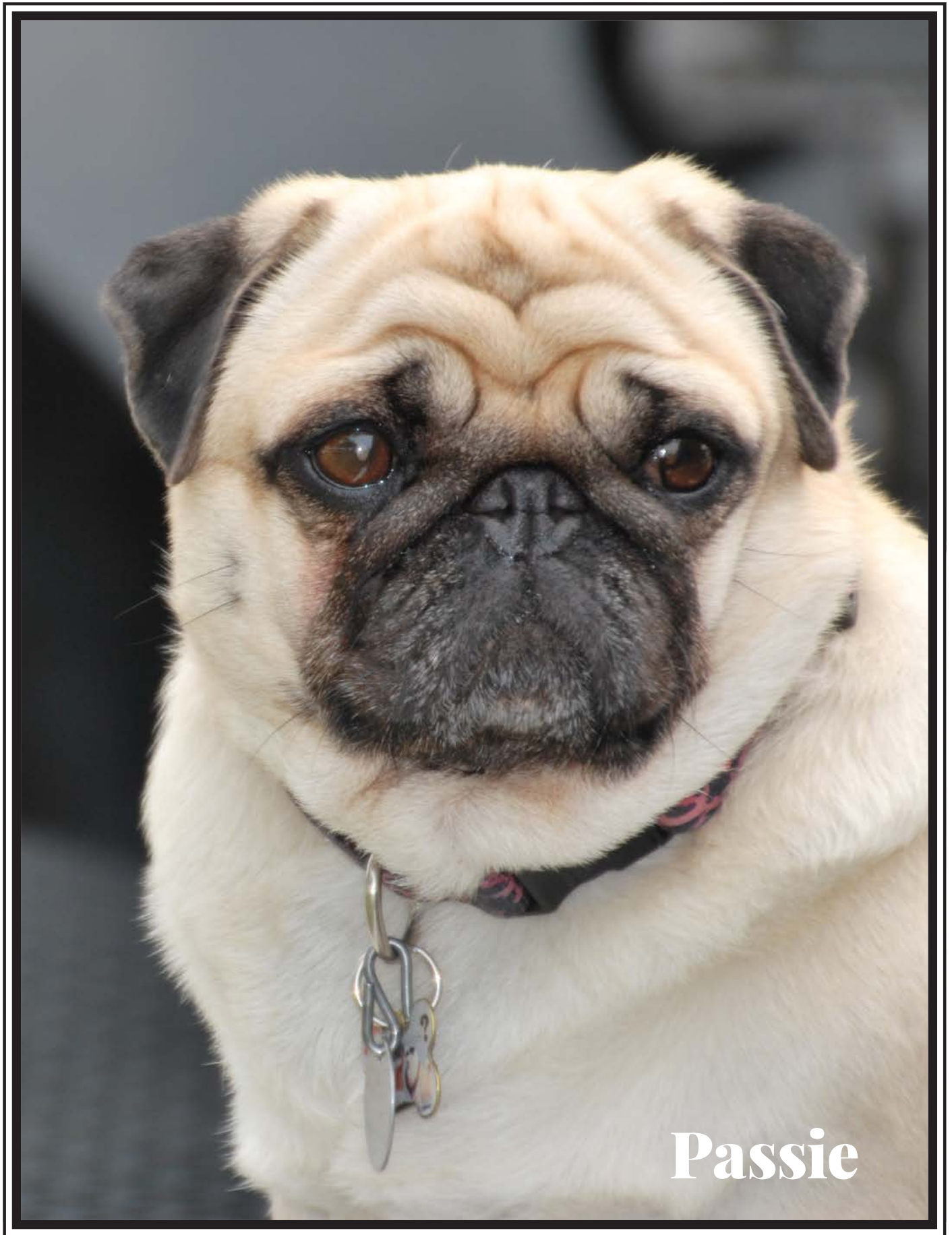
Some well-known dogs of the Sarasota Polo Club include Tim Cheromcka's black pug, Lola, Roper Morrow's mini Australian Shepherd, Ruby Ruth, and George Alexander's Airedale Terrier, Lovie.

For many equestrians, owning just one dog is not enough. Take Club owner James Miller, for example. His female pug, Passie, spends every Sunday guarding the Hillcroft Farm polo truck and trailer. James' wife, Misdee, also brings her Lurcher, Turbo, as her companion while she watches James play. The Schott Family also falls into this category. They have three dogs that are ever present at the trailer during games. Their Jack Russell, Vinnie, the most social of them, likes to make his mark while visiting his fellow canines at the field. He is small but he is mighty.



Ruby Ruth





Passie



Vinnie

Dogs are a big part of a polo player's life, but we can't forget the canine companions of our spectators! Dogs are just as common at the tailgate of the Sarasota Polo Club spectators every Sunday as they are at the trailers of our players. During halftime, you're bound to see a wide array of dogs perusing the fields with their owners.

Last year many of those dogs participated in the debut of Woofminster. As a homage to the dogs of polo, this fun competition coincides with the famed Westminster Dog Show and is a crowd favorite. If your dog is especially outgoing, make

sure to turn out for this event at halftime on February 10, 2019. The Woofminster Dog Show celebrates the dogs of the Sarasota Polo Club. Judges will select the winners and prizes will be given to the top three best-dressed pooches. The event also benefits a great cause, doubling as a fundraiser for the Lakewood Ranch Humane Society with the help of Woof Gang Bakery.

Dogs are an integral part of the Sarasota Polo Club, its members, and its spectators. Life without dogs at polo is like the night sky without stars – it wasn't meant to be. ●



Polo, a Family Tradition

SARASOTA POLO CLUB BRINGS TOGETHER MULTIPLE GENERATIONS

By Sarah Eakin

The ability to involve an entire family of all ages and abilities in one activity is one of polo's many appeals.

Polo is a sport famous for being passed down through the generations. The ability to involve an entire family of all ages and abilities in one activity is one of polo's many appeals. "Polo is one of the things that keeps us together as a family," said Stuart Campbell, a second-generation polo player here at the Sarasota Polo Club.

Originally from South Africa, Campbell's life with horses started out on the show jumping circuit. His first introduction to polo was through his father, who played with neighboring farmers on the weekends. Campbell soon discovered that polo was infinitely more exciting, requiring less of the tedious flat work required in the jumping world. Later in life, Campbell came to the United States on a working holiday. After being offered a





VOTERS HEAD to a full house

Town Hall's popularity as voting site causes minor annoyances for club members.

PAM EUBANKS
SENIOR EDITOR

Summerfield resident Gary Berns, a Lakewood Ranch Bridle Club member, dropped his absentee ballot at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, where he had come Nov. 1 to play cards.

Berns said he didn't mind the lines or any scheduling conflicts club members who use the site. "I think voting is important, than playing cards. And, yes, I'm parked in the grass."

Bennett said Lakewood Ranch Town Hall has proven to be the most popular of five early voting locations in Manatee County, averaging an average of 2,000 voters per day. He doesn't want that to change in the future.

"Lakewood Ranch is just about double any of the other locations," Bennett said. "The only time they didn't hit their 2,000 was Sunday. Sunday is the slowest day traditionally in this county."

Early voting has slightly affected the use of Town Hall by Lakewood Ranch-sanctioned clubs, but Lakewood Ranch Town Hall Executive Director Anne Ross proved well-in advance. Town Hall on November 2017, and planned where the elections office added these days on Oct. 25-27, already scheduled this and other months. Because of the

more space for voters Oct. 25-26, Ross said the first day of early voting, Oct. 25, was overwhelmed, turning out nearly 2,000 people during the entire week of early voting for the August primaries. "It's a very convenient place for a lot of people to stop to vote," Ross said.

She said she had not received any complaints about Town Hall as a site for early voting. There are some issues that may be improving in the future, such as At times, Town Hall's front desk employees have had difficulty calling or assisting regular customers because of noise from people waiting in line to vote, Ross said.

Parking, although challenging at times, has been generally available either in Town Hall's lot or in Lakewood Ranch.

The Supervisor of Elections' office requires political campaigns to remain at least 150 feet from the polling site, and out of the public walkways to the building.

Lakewood Ranch Community Development District, supporting an early voting site, will discuss early voting at Town Hall during November meetings, but Ross said she was not sure if that was the case.

"I think it was really easy. The wait wasn't that bad — like 15 minutes. Everyone

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The Campbell, Beck, Schott, Uihlein, and Shelton families are multigenerational polo families at Sarasota Polo Club.

playing job in Detroit, he canceled his return ticket home, much to the dismay of his parents. Now, Campbell has built a life here in the U.S. – one that is centered around polo. His children, Pippa and Ian, both play, as does his wife, Victoria. This year, the four members of the Campbell family plan to play their first tournament together as a team at the Villages Polo Club. Stuart will be calling the shots on the field, as he has already calls the shots off it. “Absolutely not” was his response when asked whether his children were likely to follow their father down a professional polo road. “I’ve told them they need to be the sponsor, not the pro.” As a result, school comes first and polo is very much a hobby. Polo has nevertheless featured in their education. “The subject of having a car came up,” said Stuart. “I told them I would give them one or two green horses to train. When they sell them, they can use that money to buy a car.”

As a certified polo instructor, Stuart is using his expertise to teach interested players of all ages. This is how the Beck family became involved in polo. The Beck’s discovered polo when their eldest son, Daniel, took a lesson from Stuart here at the Sarasota Polo Club. For 15-year-old Daniel, it was a similar story of losing interest in the family business of eventers and hunter/jumpers. “It’s like riding with the sewing club,” Daniel told his mother, Kelly. “We went to watch a polo match after he said that,” she explained. “He then had his first lesson with Stuart, and here we are - 80 horses later.” Virtually the entire Beck family – Daniel, Jon, Luke, Nicholas, Christian, Anneke, Jillian, Kelly, and her husband, Mike – have taken up

the sport and play it with varying degrees of commitment, reflecting their availability. Mike’s work in the mining industry, involving significant business-related travel, made it less likely for him to get involved in the sport. But after tiring of constant polo talk at the family dinner table, it was a case of “if you can’t lick ’em, join ’em,” Kelly said.

Kelly home-schooled her children, which worked well with the nomadic polo life. Like the Campbell children, turning professional has not been on the table for any of the Beck children. Already, Daniel is pursuing an engineering career, and Anneke is attending Cornell University. Kelly embraces the “sweat equity” - as she calls it - that her children have acquired from being involved in polo, particularly on summer trips with Stuart Campbell, where they have worked to earn their spurs. Travel, too, has been educational, as they have participated in polo-related stints in Africa, Argentina, as well as various parts of the United States. “You see families torn apart left right and center when they are all doing different things,” Kelly said. “It’s rare in this world that you can do something as a family in a sport that brings in the community. And I love the fact that Sarasota is going to keep embracing the kids and the family angle.”

The Campbell and Beck families are not the only multigenerational polo families here at the Sarasota Polo Club. The Schott, Uihlein, and Shelton families also follow a similar pattern. Not only does polo bring a family together; polo brings families together. Being part of a tradition that develops such a community is something the Sarasota Polo Club is proud to facilitate. ●

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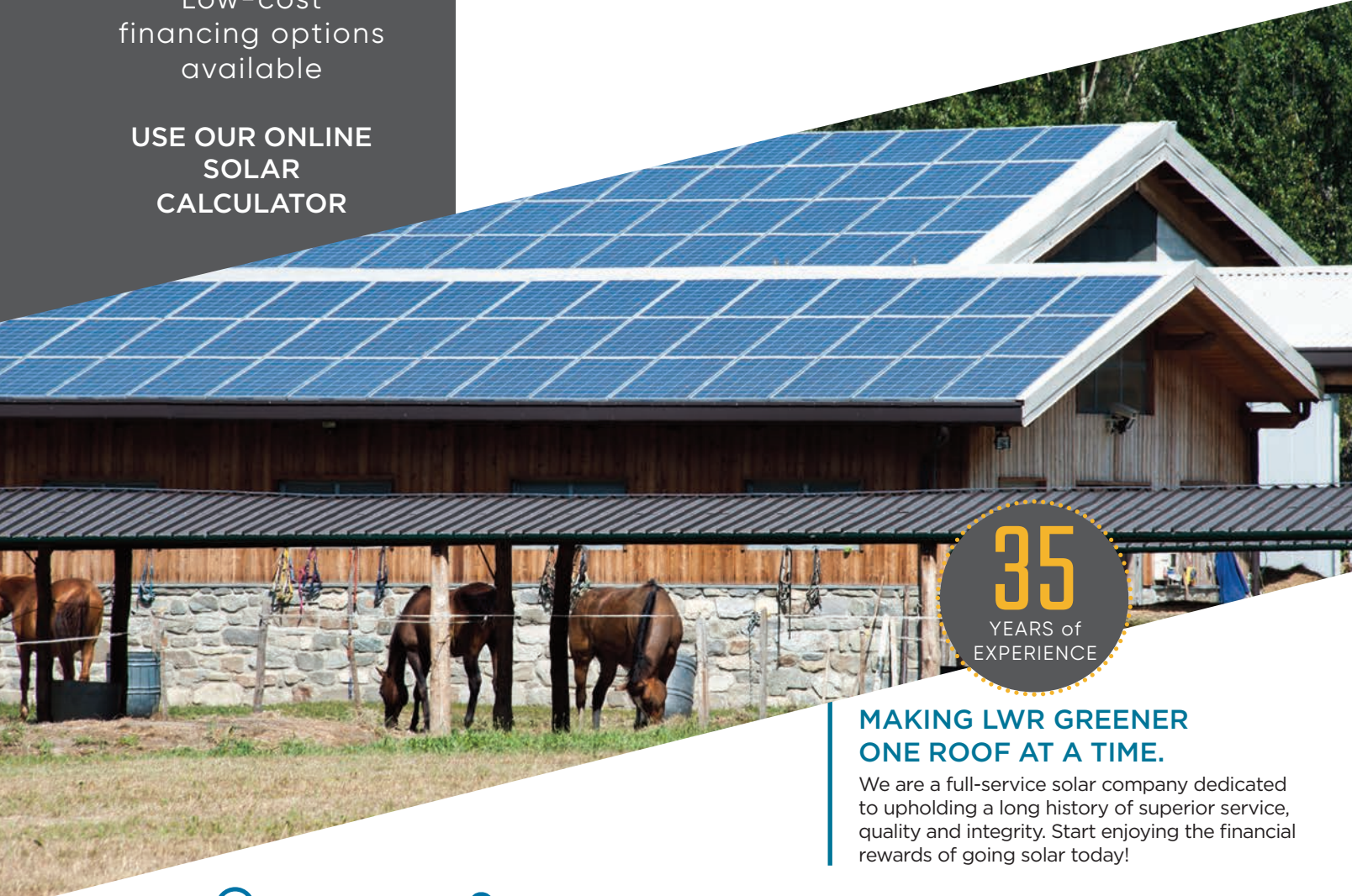
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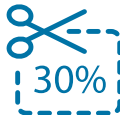
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The Man Behind the Clydesdales

GEORGE ALEXANDER HAS A LIFETIME IN POLO

By Thomas Neumann

George Alexander might be retired as a polo player, but don't expect him to leave the game behind anytime soon. Although he put down the mallet a few years ago, Alexander stays busy around the Sarasota Polo Club driving his team of Clydesdales, offering wagon rides to dozens of children every Sunday at halftime of matches — something he's been doing for nearly 20 years.

Alexander, 79, played a prominent role in polo for many years. In addition to competing in the sport for four decades, he served on the U.S. Polo Association board of governors for more than 30 years. He was part of the USPA rules committee for much of that time, including a stint as chairman. George and his wife Barb bought a home in Lakewood Ranch in 2000 and have been involved with the Sarasota Polo Club ever since.

These days, many spectators know Alexander best as the man who drives the Clydesdales at halftime. He's been doing it for so long that he figures some of the children on the wagon have parents who did the same when they were kids. Alexander still enjoys connecting the next



generation to the sport, even if he drives a smaller team these days.

“We had four horses out for about five years,” Alexander said. “Then we had six out for about five years. Then we dropped back to four for about five years.

“Now, I’m getting old, so we’re driving two,” he says with a chuckle.

Clydesdales fall under the category of draft horses, born and bred for hard work and noted for the feathering on their lower legs. They’re cold-blooded, and most have a quiet disposition — “They’re too damn big to put up with if they don’t,” Alexander explains. At one point, the breed became imperiled, with a global population of fewer than 100 in 1975. While Clydesdales are more prevalent today, they are still relatively scarce, with a number estimated at 5,000.

The breed became famous in North America for its association with the Budweiser brand. So maybe it’s no coincidence that Alexander got his first two Clydesdale as retirees from the Budweiser stable as gifts from Andy Busch, great-grandson of brewery founder Adolphus Busch.

“Andy got me a couple retirees from the brewery and got me started,” Alexander said. “Then you



outgrow those gift horses and start supporting your own habit.”

That was more than 20 years ago, and Alexander subsequently developed a fondness for the Clydesdale breed. Even though he had been around horses most of his life, he felt a particular connection with Clydesdales because his great-grandfather had imported the breed from Scotland in the 1800s.

Alexander currently owns five Clydesdales, all males, each of which he purchased in Canada. Bert, 13, carries the flag out before each Sunday competition. The others take turns pulling the wagon. Winston and Chip are a few years younger than Bert. Duke and Earl are a couple years younger than those two.

“We like to get them when they’re 5 or 6,” Alexander said. “At around 13 or 14, they start feeling their age.”

In addition to the halftime wagon rides and carrying the flag, Alexander’s Clydesdales also bring players out to the field before matches and carry players up for their postgame awards. The Clydesdales also stay busy away from the polo club, participating in local festivals and parades.

“If it sounds like fun, count us in,” Alexander said. ●

From left, former Sarasota Polo Club player George Alexander gives wagon rides to dozens of children every Sunday at halftime of matches.

Inset photos, Clydesdales fall under the category of draft horses, born and bred for hard work and noted for the feathering on their lower legs.

Top right, Clydesdales bring players out to the field before matches and carry players up for their postgame awards.

Bottom right, Alexander currently owns five Clydesdales, all males, each of which he purchased in Canada.





Upcycling to the Polo Field

THE RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT GIVES HORSES A SECOND LEASE ON LIFE

By Sarah Eakin

In an era where upcycling is all the rage, the horse world has joined the bandwagon with the creation of the Retired Racehorse Project – which offers Thoroughbreds who have completed their time in the racing industry to reinvent themselves in a variety of disciplines. The Retired Racehorse Project mainly rehomes off-the-track Thoroughbred’s as show jumpers and eventers, but has more recently been working with the polo industry as an additional outlet for rehoming their athletes. Since the majority of horses now purpose-bred for polo are either purebreds or Thoroughbreds, it is not as much of a stretch as one might think.



Trey Schott, a former 5-goal player from Kentucky, who winters at the Sarasota Polo Club, has been converting off-the-track racehorses into polo mounts for a quarter of a century. He has participated in the Retired Racehorse Project along with his son, Buck Schott, for several years. “Thoroughbreds are highly intelligent animals,” he said. “Very agile, very quick, and with the endurance to play a 7-minute chukker. Polo is much faster than it used to be 10 years ago, and at least 80-percent of the horses on the field today are Thoroughbred.”

Originally played on small equine breeds – hence the inherited, but misleading term, polo “ponies” – horses for polo have evolved over the years to reflect the nature of the sport.

In more recent times, the polo pony would have likely been part Quarter Horse (or in the case of Argentina, part Criollo), but as the game took on a need for greater speed and endurance, thrifty professionals and inspired horse trainers would sift through Thoroughbred horse sales looking for a suitable polo prospect. A suitable polo prospect would be a Thoroughbred that is compact, not too big, and hopefully with a biddable temperament. “You would look at their confirmation and how they trot in hand,” said Trey. “You try to judge their temperament from how they handle the situation, but for every one that works out there, may be five that don’t.”

With the advent of the concept of upcycling racehorses, numerous charities in addition to the Retired Racehorse Project have sprung up. Many provide re-housing facilities for Thoroughbreds redundant to the racing industry and offer an important transitional five- to six-month ‘deprogramming’ for the young athletes after they are removed from the pressured environment of a racing yard. “Being able to visit the re-housing places saves you from beating the bushes trying to find prospects,” said Trey, who often gets calls from such centers when they come across the right “type” for polo. “The odds are much better that the horse will actually make a polo pony,” he said.

In Argentina, polo dynasties and their vast estancias sport

large breeding operations with tried and tested polo bloodlines, but in the United States, the same economics don’t add up. “Very few people in the U.S. breed polo ponies,” Trey explained. “It’s not really cost effective. It costs on average \$500 a month to keep a horse, so you’re at least at \$15,000 to \$20,000 before you bring them in to train.” Breeding for polo has taken a new twist in the past decade with the introduction of cloning, so far producing promising results. Adolfo Cambiaso – the world’s leading player – has played an entire game on clones of his all-time favorites. Some clones hit the open market, but the price tag is prohibitive for most. “The clones go for \$150,000 to \$250,000,” said Trey.

By contrast, a trainer can buy the untried and untested former racehorse for as little as \$1,000 to \$5,000. Placing a value, albeit a low one, on these horses has literally given them a new lease of life. Prior to the movement for upcycling, the racetrack rejects’



The Retired Racehorse Project mainly rehoms off-the-track Thoroughbreds as show jumpers and eventers, but has more recently been working with the polo industry as an additional outlet for rehoming their athletes.

destiny was likely exportation for the foreign meat market.

Trey and Buck both annually enter the Makeover Polo Division of the Retired Racehorse Project, held at the Kentucky Horse Park. The contest is judged in three stages: agility, stick and ball and, for the finalists, an actual chukker. The judges – representatives of the United States Polo Association (USPA) – awarded a second place to Buck this year, which includes a percentage of the \$10,000 prize money offered for each of the ten makeover divisions. “It’s a really good program,” said Trey, recently elected as the US Polo Association Mid States Circuit Governor. “I am fully supportive of it and hope that, in the future, the program can grow with further support from the USPA.” ●



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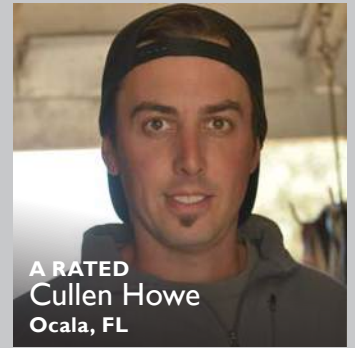
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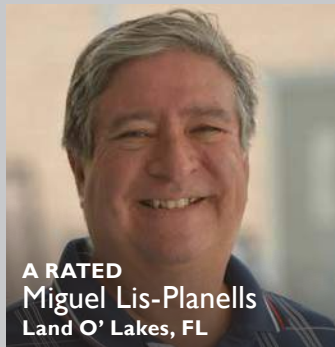
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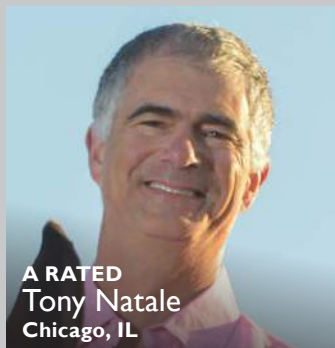
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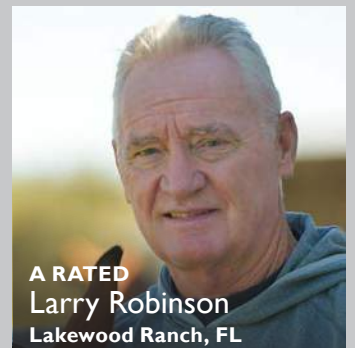
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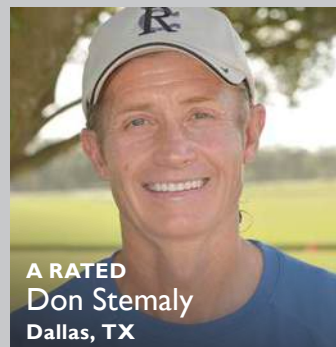
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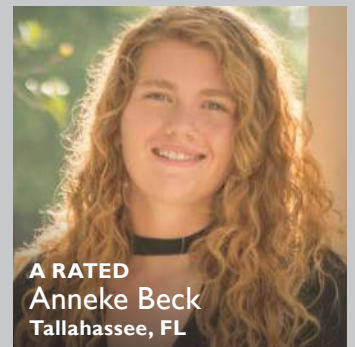
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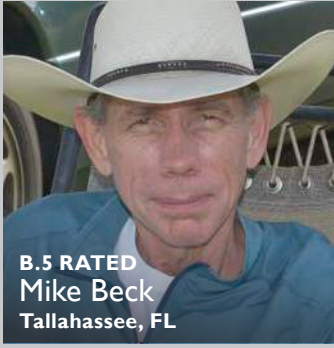
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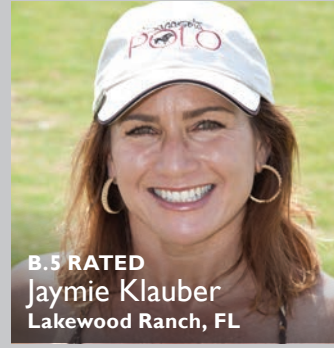
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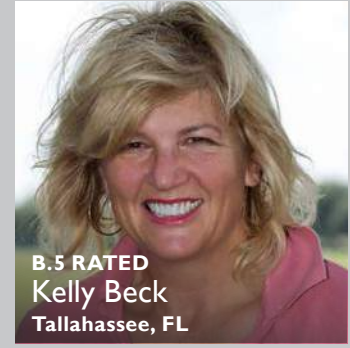
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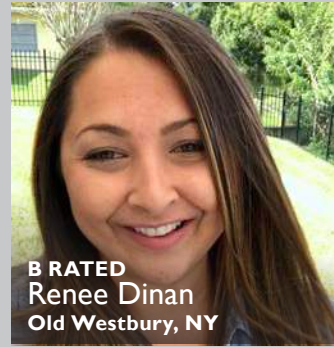
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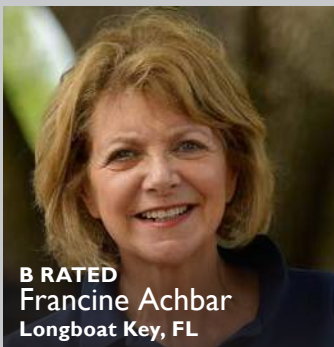
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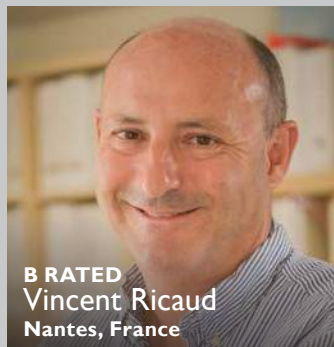
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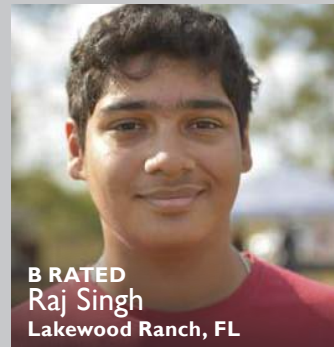
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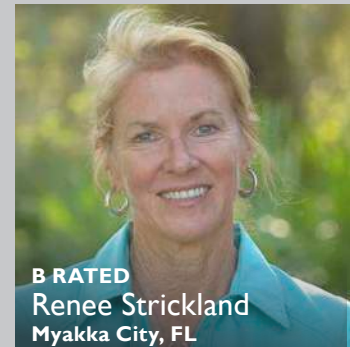
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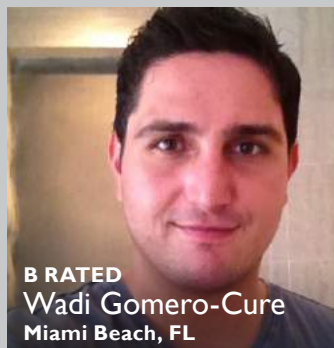
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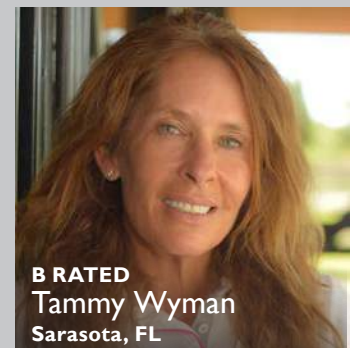
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Mar. 17: St. Patty's Day

Judging Based On: Best Kiss Me I Am Irish Decor, Best Dublin Drink, Best Blarney Baked Good





Leading Ladies of Polo

MORE WOMEN ARE PLAYING THE SPORT WORLDWIDE

By Dan Guttenplan

With 19 women players at the Sarasota Polo Club, the club is trending in a direction parallel to that of the overall sport - women are becoming more present at every level of competition. Women are the fastest-growing segment of the sport, says George DuPont, the executive director at the Museum of Polo. According to United States Polo Association (USPA) statistics, more than 40 percent of the association's members are women.

Traditionally a male-dominated sport, polo was originally infiltrated by a woman in disguise. Sue Sally Hale is believed to be the first woman to make her entry into the sport in the 1950's and 1960's when she pretended to be a man, even wearing a fake mustache to compete in professional polo. Her daughter, Sunny Hale, followed her mother's lead and took the sport to an entirely different level, becoming the first woman to compete on a winning team in the U.S. Open in 2000. Women are now team owners or "patrons," playing at the top level of international polo and encouraging others to get involved in the sport.

Sunny Hale used her prominence to give the sport credibility by bringing together some longstanding tournaments, as well as creating new ones. A seven-time most valuable female player, Hale was the team captain and leading scorer in the 2000 U.S. Open Women's Polo Championship, scoring five goals in Goose Creek's 7-6 victory. She also was perhaps the strongest advocate for the tournament and a vital reason why it has existed for the more than 20 teams and over 100 women. Hale also helped encourage a revival of the U.S. Women's Open, which was reborn in 2011 after a hiatus. The U.S. Women's Open is also a qualifier for the Women's Championship Tournament (WCT), which Hale founded in 2005.

Hale created a rating system for women at all levels. But Hale's desire for equine care took her further, setting up resources for polo pony welfare when she initiated the American Polo Horse Association, a website where players and owners can collect, preserve, and record pedigrees of polo ponies. Hale also travelled the world as a motivational speaker, both within the sport and further afield with major corporations and businesses.

While Hale, who died in February of 2017 from complications of breast cancer, will never be replaced in the sport, she



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Introducing the WIPN

The revolutionary Women's International Polo Network (WIPN) is a nonprofit, independent international network of women polo players. The organization is dedicated to enhancing women's polo around the world by connecting women polo players via a sophisticated website, set to launch in December of 2018. The website will feature player profiles, as well as a comprehensive global calendar of women's polo tournaments around the world. Visitors to the site will be able to search for players by name, handicap, or location, and contact each other in a manner that facilitates easier team building and more efficient tournament organizing. The WIPN will encourage and develop corporate sponsorship and philanthropic outreach. The website will also contain a feature to find certified women umpires and instructors, post helpful information, and watch women's polo-related content. The primary purpose of the WIPN is to foster and grow the women's polo community in the next county and on to the next continent. To learn more, or to get involved, visit wipnpolo.com.

As part of the launch of the WIPN, the inaugural 2019 Women's Florida Circuit will begin in January. The Sarasota Polo Club is proud to host The Sarasota Women's Challenge as part of that circuit. Join us on Sunday, March 3 for the tournament finals.

undoubtedly helped pave the way for women to thrive for years to come. Hale inspired women to own their own teams, hiring in other highly-rated players for professional matches. She also encouraged women to join men-dominated professional teams, including:

Nigerian-born Uneku Atawodi, the first African American female polo player in the world. The 30-year-old represents her native country of Nigeria on the international stage and also runs a charity by the name of "Ride to Shine."

Nina Clarkin, a 35-year-old from England, is considered to be the best female polo player in the world and the only one with a

10-Goal handicap.

Mia Cambiaso, a 15-year-old from a proud polo family, teamed up with her father Adolfo and 12 year-old brother Poroto to win the prestigious Sterling Cup earlier this year. With Magoo Laprida finishing the quartet, it was a historic moment for the sport as the Cambiaso's won their first-ever high-goal tournament as a team. Mia Cambiaso was named Most Valuable Player in the final match of the tournament.

Over the last decade, the USPA has created introductory polo programs for both young men and women. It is safe to say that the sport of polo has come a long way since the days when women were forced to dress in disguise to compete. ●



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For the Love of the Game

By Abby Weingarten

Promoting polo is a one-student-at-a-time process. At Sarasota Polo Club's "Polo School", amateur athletes learn at their own pace with the guidance of seasoned instructors.

The Polo School's mission: to draw newcomers to the sport, change the public perception of what polo is, and create a family-centered athletic community.

Fostering a lifelong love of polo begins at the grassroots level, with veteran instructors ready to invest in students' futures.

That is the thinking behind the Polo School here at the Sarasota Polo Club (SPC). Amateur athletes, guided by pros,

are becoming experts at their craft while keeping the club's membership multi-generational. The School continuously introduces newcomers to the sport, challenges people's preconceived notions about what polo is, and cultivates a lively athletic community.

Through the Polo School, students are able to take lessons from certified instructors.

This year's instructors include Scott Lancaster, Stuart Campbell, and David Eldredge. The Polo School provides players with a horse, tack, and a mallet and are taught on SPC grounds throughout the week. Private or group lessons are available.

Polo School enrollees experience a 10-week, twice-a-week, hour-long course that teaches the rules of the game, as well as horsemanship and swing mechanics. Graduates of the course can become SPC members and play in the Arena League before moving on to the Sunshine League

(both have full tournament schedules, and players at multiple levels can participate). Because polo is a team sport, students are able to make friends with people from all over the globe - the camaraderie is unbeatable.

Like Lancaster, Eldredge is always working toward growing the program. "The polo school is a vital part in the development of players here at the Sarasota Polo Club, and it is something we are working on evolving further," says Eldredge.

Anyone who is interested in enrolling should come out to a game and witness the excitement first-hand - talk with the players, listen to their stories, and observe their passion for the sport. The Sarasota Polo Club believes that everyone starts somewhere and polo is not out of reach for even the most amateur player. ●

Sarasota Polo School

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An Open Door to the Sport

By Daniel Paulling

.....
The interscholastic/intercollegiate programs welcome new players to SPC

Stuart Campbell and David Eldredge can't wait to shape the Sarasota Polo Club's next generation of polo players. In 1928, the United States Polo Association (USPA) created the Interscholastic Program to develop youth polo and currently has over 50 programs throughout the United States. As part of the team, students will have clinics twice a week and learn horsemanship, riding, mallet skills, and playing strategies. The Sarasota Polo Club's Interscholastic Team will be headed up by current 4-Goal professional player and member of the Sarasota Polo Club, Stuart Campbell. David Eldredge, the new Director



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of Polo for the Sarasota Polo Club and former Cornell University coach, will also be helping out when his schedule allows.

The Interscholastic Program is formatted to develop middle and high school-aged students who live within a 100 mile radius of the club. Currently, the Sarasota Polo Club has several young members that play with and against older, more experienced players, but the Interscholastic Program provides them something else, says Eldredge, “It gives them the opportunity to play with other polo players within their age group and the opportunity to travel and compete nationally against their peers.”

This year, nine students will have the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural program and will go down in history as the first Interscholastic Team at the Sarasota Polo Club. Stuart Campbell is thrilled to be a part of that history. “I’m looking forward to coaching the Interscholastic Team for a few reasons, and one of the main reasons is to see the kids having fun playing with each other,” says Campbell. He believes that, when kids of a similar age and skill level play against one another, it not only increases their enthusiasm for the sport; it encourages them to better themselves within the sport. This not only benefits the individual player, but the sport as a whole because it continues to feed quality players into the tournaments. “I’m looking forward to hopefully being able to produce a team that can compete



at the top level and be competitive anywhere in the country. I’m fortunate enough to have the new polo manager, David Eldredge, around to help give us some advice.”

Eldredge has a passion for coaching, proven by his success at Cornell University, where he became the most winning college coach in history. He Eldredge has a passion for coaching and is looking forward to teaching others about the sport that he loves so much. “If you talk with any teacher, they’re going to say the same thing: When you see that light go on in the kids that says ‘Ahhhh, I get it, or you see them accomplish something on the field, there’s no greater high.”

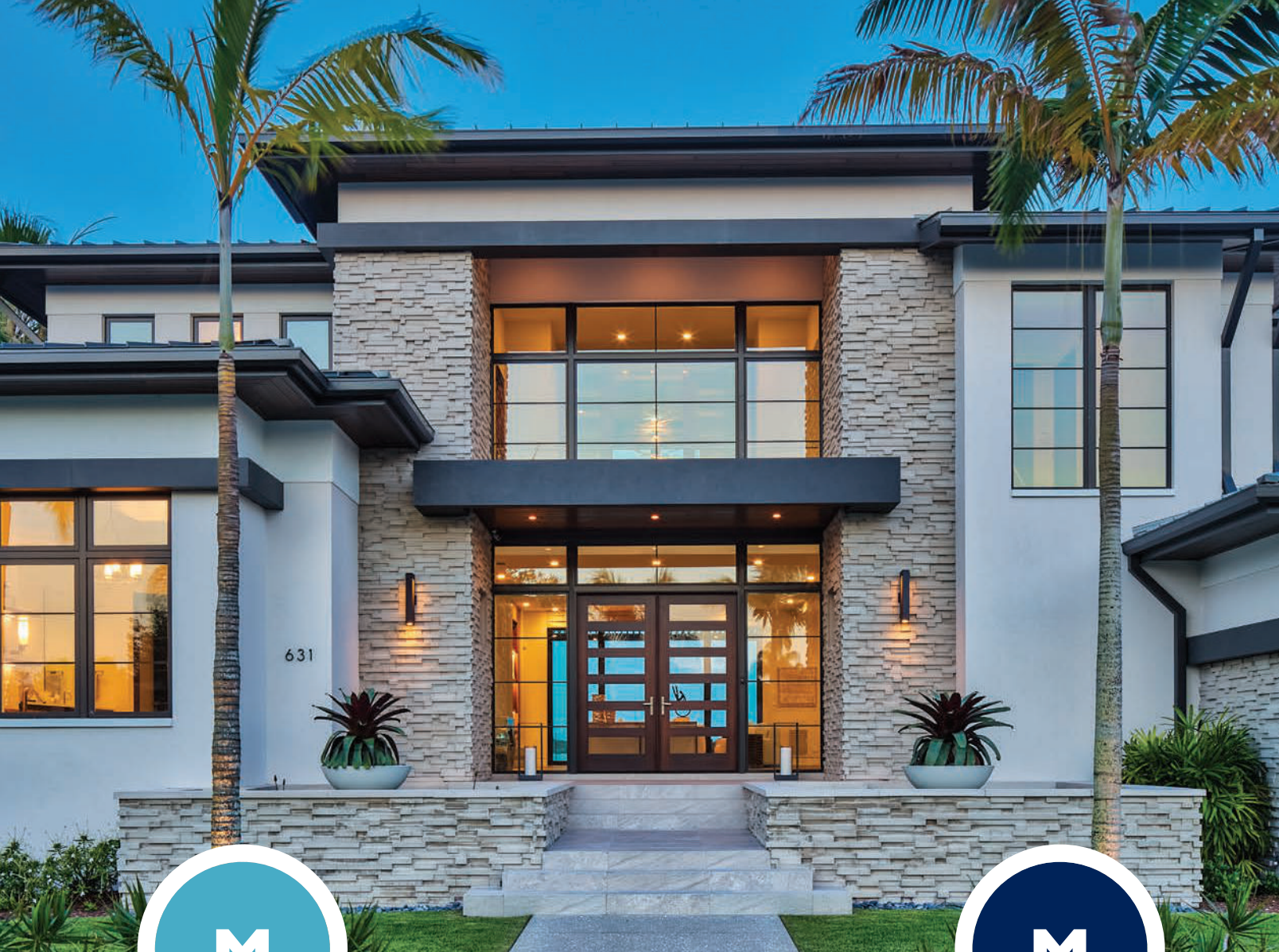
Campbell and Eldredge are hoping to grow the Interscholastic Program as well as generate new

local players for the club. They highly encourage any rider to come out and try polo as, according to Campbell, “it’s the most fun you’ll have on the back of a horse with kids your age.” ●

“We can expose students, so they can come in and they can improve their riding, learn to play a fabulous game, and move on up because it’s a lifelong sport.”

– Sarasota Polo Club Director of Polo David Eldridge





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Just beyond the Polo Club, fans will soon have new after-match options at Waterside Place, the lakeside town center of the new Waterside village at Lakewood Ranch. Having broken ground in fall of 2018, Waterside Place will be offering waterfront dining, shops and community events in a walkable neighborhood setting by 2020!

“Waterside is really a game-changer for Lakewood Ranch,” said Laura Cole, vice president of marketing for Lakewood Ranch Communities. “It’s an evolution in how we live, work and play on The Ranch, using the mixed-use concept that is gaining so much popularity throughout the country, but completely tailored to our culture and natural surroundings.”

The first thing you’ll notice about Waterside is where its name came from -- seven sizable lakes, with the largest being a mile long and half mile wide. The town center will be built here, including an 8-acre peninsula that will be the multipurpose Waterside Park and event lawn, and a pedestrian bridge over to the shops and restaurants.

The Players Centre for Performing Arts is also planning to move its theaters to Waterside Place, and is already working with Waterside’s lifestyle director to provide programming. The first “Theater in the Field” began in late 2017, and productions have included “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “Huck Finn.”

The Market at Lakewood Ranch, currently hosted on the polo fields, will eventually make Waterside its permanent

home, as well. Haven’t been yet? It’s become a Wednesday afternoon tradition from December through April, starting at 3 pm. Come for fresh veggies, artisan breads, local honey, live music and even sunset yoga.

If you’d love to live closer to the polo fields, your options abound at Waterside. With 12 neighborhoods planned and homes lining the lakes, Waterside makes a seamless transition from the Polo Club’s rural feel into lakefront living and then again into a walkable urban center. So there’s always something going on, as well as an easy way to unplug around every corner.

Plus, access to Waterside couldn’t be easier. Lorraine Road now connects University to Fruitville Road, meaning downtown Sarasota and pristine white-sand beaches are just that much closer.

Homebuilders at Waterside include Arthur Rutenberg, Homes by Towne, Lee Wetherington and Pulte, starting in the low \$400s to over \$1million. With architecture inspired by the West Indies, the Keys and the Gulf, there will be a wonderful diversity of home types and styles to choose from. The two neighborhoods currently selling, LakeHouse Cove and Shoreview, also offer their own resort-style amenities on the waterfront – truly a lifestyle like none other!

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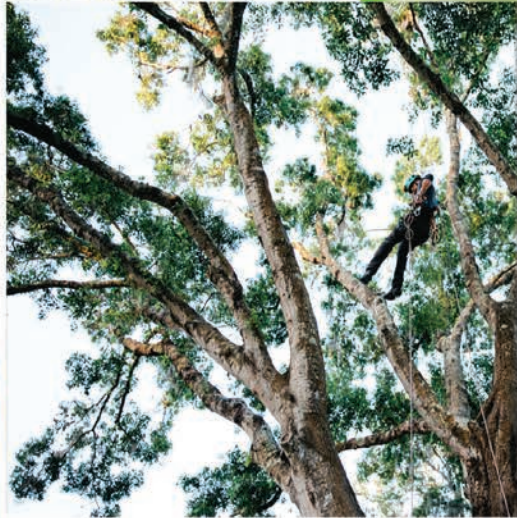
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Action

There's a reason polo is called "the fastest game on four feet." Since 1991, the Sarasota Polo Club has been providing exhilarating polo matches every Sunday through the winter. With Clydesdale wagon rides, tailgating, halftime entertainment, and divot stomping, the Sarasota Polo Club is the perfect place for a family outing.













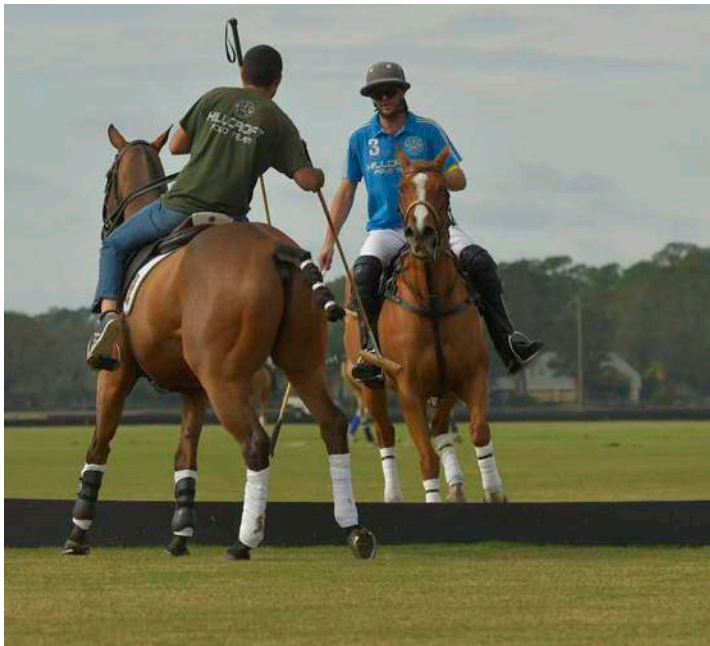
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In Their Honor

By Y.A. Teitelbaum

The Sarasota Polo Club trophies recognize legendary figures

The winners of the Wayne "Bronco" Brown 8-Goal Tournament receive the beautiful bronze "Bronco Buster" trophy.

The spoils go to the victors in the sport of polo. At the end of each tournament, a trophy is awarded to the victorious team. Those trophies signify more than just a victory for the winning players; in many cases, trophies are created to memorialize past players who played a significant role in the sport.

There are a few men in the sport who have made a great impact in the polo world, and we begin with one of them. Robert "Bob" Uihlein, Jr. was the driving force in co-founding the Milwaukee Polo Club after the end of World War II and, through its

establishment, helped to preserve polo in the Midwest. Later, in 1974, the Milwaukee Polo Club launched the Gold Cup, which became the second most prestigious tournament in the United States behind the U.S. Open.

As a polo player, Uihlein won two U.S. Open titles and numerous high-goal polo tournaments, including the Monty Westbury Cup in 1953 and 1961. In addition to his playing of polo, Uihlein contributed to the sport by serving as governor of the United States Polo Association (USPA) from 1949 to 1953, and again from 1955 to 1974. He was inducted into the Museum of Polo

and Hall of Fame in 2001.

Uihlein also worked hard off the field. In 1942, he joined the family business, the Schlitz Brewing Company, as a salesman. Through his hard work, he eventually became President of Schlitz Brewing Company some 20 years later.

The ties between the Schlitz Brewing Company and Sarasota Polo Club preexisted Uihlein's career with the brewer. In 1922, the company acquired land in the Lakewood Ranch area, some of which is now the Sarasota Polo Club. However, Uihlein is credited for building the sport at the Sarasota Polo Club thanks to the club's proximity to

his job with Schlitz.

Uihlein Jr. passed away in November of 1976 at the age of 60. In his honor, the Robert A. Uihlein Jr. Memorial Trophy was established. This trophy is awarded to the winning team of the Robert A. Uihlein Jr. Memorial tournament. This year, the two-week tournament will run from April 21 to April 28. Fans who attend the tournament on either of those Sunday's – or any other Sunday – will see the original bell from the Milwaukee Polo Club that signified the end of a chukker hanging atop the announcers' stand above the pavilion.

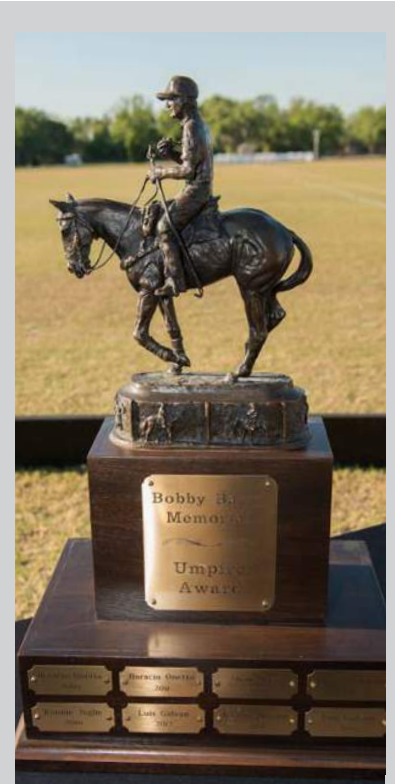
Another man that made a great impact on the polo world is Wayne "Bronco" Brown, a well-rounded and sought after player in his day. Brown is best known for his 1960 win of the U.S. Open Championship as part of the Oak Brook Country Club team with teammates A.D. Beveridge and future Hall-of-Famers Cecil Smith and Harold Barry. Brown, who grew up in Texas and trained horses for the U.S. Cavalry with his father, won numerous tournaments at varying levels of play. Rated at 4 goals, Brown's all-around skills made him an important member of any team. Brown passed away on December 31, 1993 also at the age of 60.

Since 1995, the Sarasota Polo Club has honored Brown's legacy with his namesake 8-Goal Tournament. The winners of the tournament get their names engraved on the beautiful bronze "Bronco Buster" trophy. This trophy is presented after the finals of the Wayne "Bronco" Brown 8-Goal Tournament on January 27. Fans are also encouraged to stop by the clubhouse to view a wall-size print of Brown and his many U.S. Open teammates celebrating the 1957 National 20-Goal victory. The print includes Brown, Harold Barry, the Beveridge brothers, and Uihlein, Jr.

In addition to the trophy that is presented to the winning team of a tournament, individual awards also are sometimes presented to deserving players. Bobby Barry was a key member of the younger generation of one of the most famous U.S. polo families in history. Through hard work and determination,

Barry became one of the most respected players. Playing primarily as a 6-goal player, Barry won numerous prestigious tournaments in his career, including the Butler Handicap, the C.V. Whitney, Heritage, Continental, President's, Centennial, Inter-Circuit, and North American Cups. He also played in the U.S. Open Championship. Barry's polo career ended when he was diagnosed with cancer, which he fought successfully. He went on to become one of the top USPA umpires through his consistent and impartial professional decisions. In his memory, the Bobby Barry Umpire Award was created and is awarded to the Sarasota Polo Club player who is deemed most deserving. Bobby Barry passed away while jogging on the beach in July of 2008 at the age of 47, but his legacy lives on with this award.

Neil Chur was an avid polo player, dedicated sponsor, and equine aficionado. He competed at various levels with his Strawberry Banks Farm team. Chur was well-known for his "ready-to-play" attitude and cheerful disposition. Well-respected by the equestrian community, the Neil and Barbara Chur Equestrian Center at Knox Farm State Park was dedicated in his memory. Today, the center plays host to both soccer and polo matches. Each year, the Sarasota Polo Club honors Chur's legacy with the Neil Chur Horsemanship Award. Horsemanship, the art of riding, handling, and training horses, is a crucial piece of maintaining the health and happiness of our equine athletes. Good horsemanship requires that a rider control a horse's direction, gait, and speed with maximum effectiveness and minimum effort. All players are eligible to win this coveted award. The recipient is someone who embodies what it means to be an all-around horseman. He or she must understand the strategy of the game and be able to communicate with his or her horse in a way that does not inflict fear or pain, but rather through the animal's own natural instincts and methods of communication. In this way, the horse works as a willing partner with its rider through respect, trust, and love of the sport. ●



The Bobby Barry Memorial Umpire Award recognizes someone who makes consistent and impartial professional decisions.



The Neil M. Chur Memorial Horsemanship Award recognizes someone who embodies what it means to be an all-around horseman.

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Raj Singh



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GROOM AWARD**
Julian Montiel



BEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER
Buck Schott



**NEIL M. CHUR MEMORIAL
HORSEMANSHIP**
Buck Schott



NYTS TOURNAMENT

Sarasota Polo Club (White Jerseys): (L-R)
Madelyn Porter, Vance Miller,
Will Smith, Ry Koopney

Regent (Blue Jerseys): (L-R)
Vaughn Miller, Ian Campbell,
Raj Singh, Jillian Beck

Sarasota Polo Club (Maroon Jerseys): (L-R)
Lucy Walter, Kaitlyn Horning,
Madelyn Richter, Hanna Horning

VSF (Green Jersey): (L-R)
Remy Stainton, Lorca Stainton,
Camille Ricaud, Robby Mooney



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2018 WINNERS' CIRCLE

December

January

February

March

April



NEW YEARS CUP

December 29-31

WINNER

Brookland/Gold Dragoon's

Richard Terbrusch, Thomas Ravenel,
Alejandro Alvarez, Luis Galvan



MVP

Alejandro Alvarez



2018 WINTER CUP

January 5-7

WINNER

Bandoleros/Brookland

Thomas Ravenel, Nick Brien,
Dennys Santana, Luis Galvan



MVP

Dennys Antonio Santana

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†Turn times and approvals subject to limitations and guidelines.



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GOVERNORS CUP**

January 12-14

WINNER

New Hope

Dennys Santana, Buck Shott,
Jon Luke Beck, Tim Cheromcka



MVP
Buck Schott



**USPA
SPORTSMANSHIP CUP**

January 19-21

WINNER

Barefield

Mark Mulligan, Jon Luke Beck,
Buck Schott, Joe Wayne Barry



MVP
Jon Luke Beck



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**USPA
CONSTITUTION CUP**

January 24-February 4

WINNER

Hillcroft/Tito's

James Miller, Joe Wayne Barry,
Jake Stimmel, Herndon Radcliff

MVP

Herndon Radcliff



**ROBERT A. UIHLEIN, JR.
MEMORIAL**

February 6 - 18

WINNER

Wildcat

Wesley Bryan, Ryan Gilbertson,
Marcos Onetto, Del Walton

MVP

Ryan Gilbertson



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2018 WINNERS' CIRCLE

December

January

February

March

April



WAYNE BROWN MEMORIAL

February 23-25

WINNER

Whiskey Pond/ Pest Disease Management

Nick Johnson, Holly Chamberlain,
Brent Hamill, Charly Quincoses



MVP

Megan Bugraaff



SCHROEDER-MANATEE RANCH CUP

March 2-3

WINNER

Whiskey Pond

Stuart Campbell, Luis Galvan,
Dennys A. Santana, Tim Chermocka



MVP

Dennys A. Santana

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2018 WINNERS' CIRCLE

December

January

February

March

April



USPA NATIONAL INTER-CIRCUIT

March 23 - April 1

WINNER

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James Miller, James P. Uihlein, Buck Schott,
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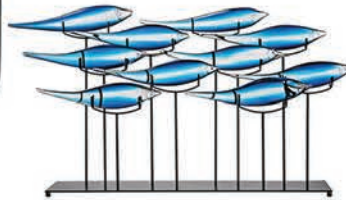
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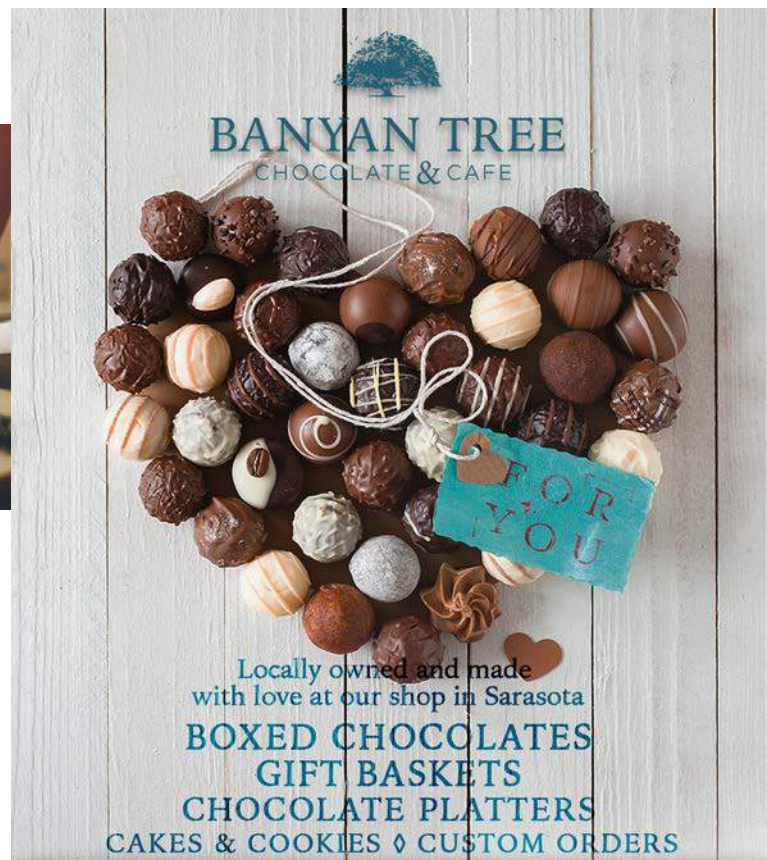
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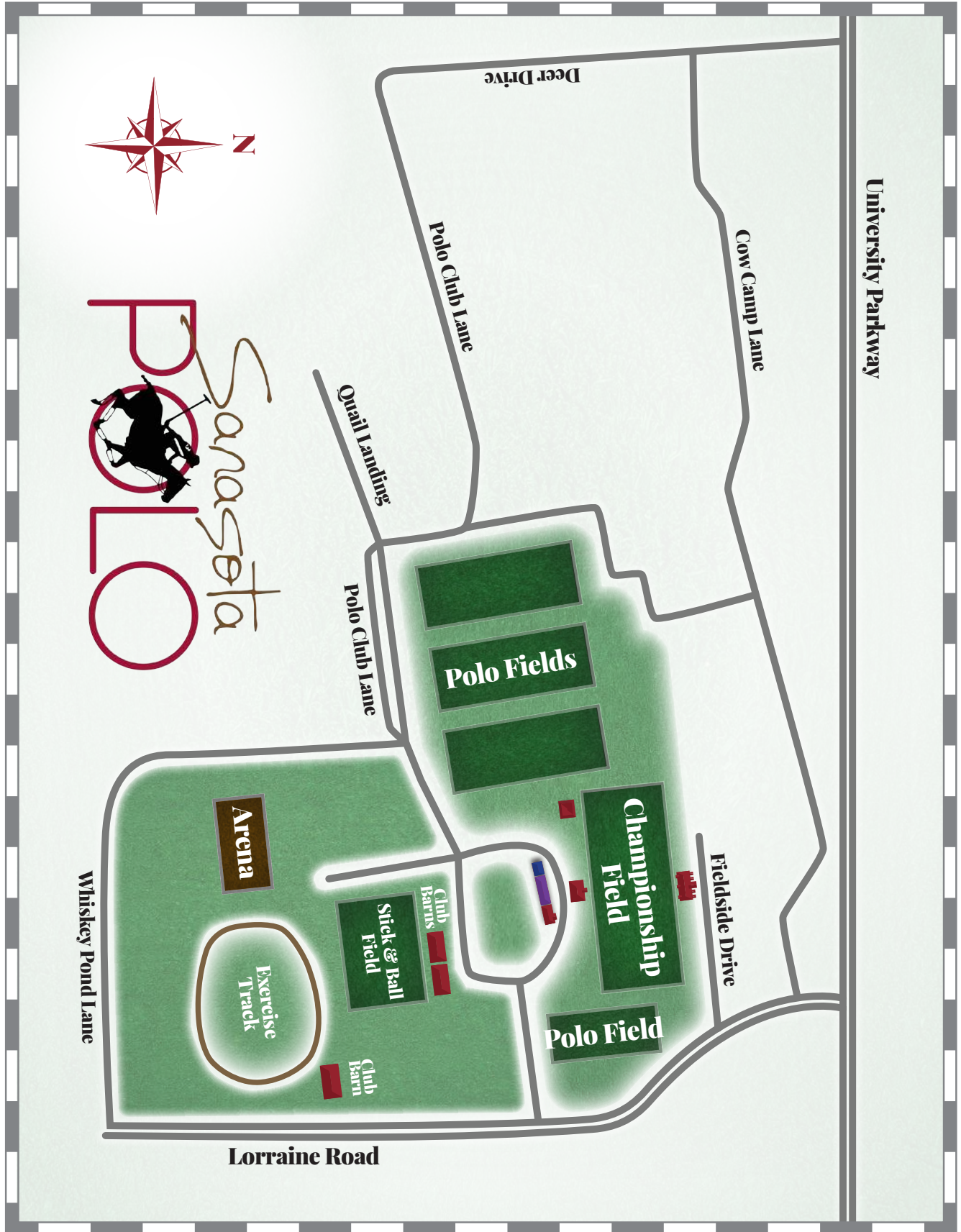
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Polo Compendium

A BRIEF HISTORY AND TRIVIA OF THE SPORT OF KINGS

30 Just like in other sports, polo players can draw a foul if they act in a way which the umpire deems dangerous to the play. Typically, a penalty shot is given to the opposing team. Depending on the severity of the foul, the penalty shot may be taken from several locations, with the closest penalty shot being awarded 30 yards away from the goal line.

29 On average, a 1,000-lb. horse will eat approximately 29 pounds of hay a day.

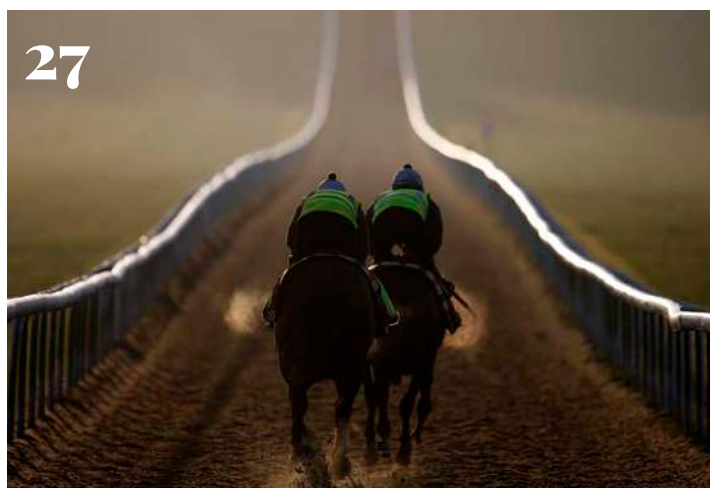
28 The first cup of the Americas, involving the United States and Argentina, was played in 1928 at Meadow Brook. 100,000 spectators were in attendance. The U.S. won, and won again in 1932, but Argentina has been victorious in every other meeting since.

27 The average speed a horse can gallop is 27 miles per hour (44 kilometers per hour).

26 The average number of teeth a horse has is 26. Within the first two weeks of life, foals erupt 12 baby teeth. By nine months of age, 12 more baby teeth have erupted. Canine (or bridle teeth) erupt at about 4-5 years in male horses. They also erupt in about 20-25 percent of mares and are usually smaller than those found in males.

25 Horses drink at least 25 gallons of water a day. Those in hotter climates, like Florida, or those in active competition, like polo, will likely drink much more than that.

24 Polo was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1936. In the Olympic Games held in Paris, France in 1924, Argentina won the first gold medal in the country's history.



23 Michael Jordan, one of the best basketball players ever, wore the jersey No. 23. His polo equivalent, Adolfo Cambiasso of Argentina, is currently ranked first in the world with a 10-goal handicap rating.

22 An adult horse's brain weighs on average 22 ounces, which is about half the weight of a human brain.

21 Horses' heights are measured in a unit known as "hands." One hand is equivalent to 4 in. The tallest horse on record is a Shire named Sampson, who was 21.2 hands tall.

20 The British are credited with spreading polo worldwide in the early 20th century. When polo arrived in the United States, polo changed to become a high-speed sport, differing greatly from the game in England, where it involves short passes to move the ball towards the opposing goal.

19 The world's largest horse is a purebred Belgian stallion named Brooklyn Supreme. He stood 19.2hh (6'6") at his withers and weighed more than 3,200 pounds. He is currently entered in the Guinness Book of World Records.

18 The first polo club was established in the town of Silchar in Assam, India, in 1833.

17 The smallest recorded horse is Thumbellina, a miniature horse standing at 17 in. (4.25 hands) tall.

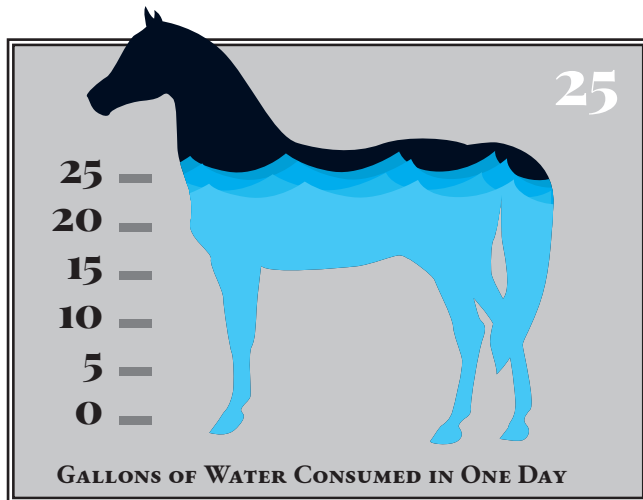
16 Polo is played professionally in 16 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Iran, India, New Zealand, Mexico, Pakistan, Jamaica, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

15 The game of polo has had a strong presence in the northwestern areas of present-day Pakistan (including Gilgit, Chitral, Hunza, and Baltistan) since at least the 15th century.

14 Any horse shorter than 14.2 hands (58 in. tall at the withers) is considered a pony.

13 On May 13, 1876, the Jerome Park Racetrack in Westchester County (now Bronx County) was the site of the first American outdoor polo match.

12 It takes an average of 12 months to re-grow an entire horse hoof from start to finish. That's why it's so important to take care of their feet!



11 The human heart weighs about 11 oz., and is about the size of a clenched fist. A horse's heart typically weighs close to 11 lbs., and is about the size of a basketball.

10 Argentina is notably the country with the largest number ever of 10 handicap players in the world.

9 The mallet head is generally made of a hardwood called tipa and is just over 9 in. long.

8 The number of chukkers in a polo match varies, but the maximum number is 8. The minimum number is 4.

7 In Manipur, polo is traditionally played with 7 players on each team. The players are mounted on the indigenous Manipuri pony. There are no goal posts; a goal is made simply by hitting the ball over the end line of the field. Players strike the ball with the long side of the mallet head, not the end. Players are not permitted to carry the ball, although blocking the ball with any part of the body except the open hand is permitted.

6 Polo ponies reach their peak of athleticism and training at the age of 6. However, without any accidents, polo ponies have the ability to play until they are 20 years old.

5 Cowboy polo, which is played almost exclusively in the western United States, involves teams of five riders on a dirt surface. Teams of three riders are required for beach and snow polo.

4 The player who wears the No. 4 jersey is the primary defense player. They are allowed to move anywhere on the field, but they usually try to prevent the other team from scoring.

3 The player who wears the No. 3 jersey is the tactical leader, and must be a powerful hitter to feed balls to player Nos. 2 and 1. Player No. 3 must also be a solid defenseman. Typically, player No. 3 wields the highest handicap of the team, and tends to be the overall best player of the team.

2 The player who wears the No. 2 jersey plays an important role in offense, either running through and scoring themselves or passing to player No. 1 and getting in behind them. Defensively, player No. 2 will cover the opposing team's No. 3.

1 The player who wears the No. 1 jersey is the most offense-oriented player. Defensively, player No. 1 will generally cover the opposing team's No. 4. ●

ARTIST PROFILE

The Art of the Journey

By Dan Guttenplan

Cover Artist Oladejo-Lawal's Passion for Painting Started in Nigeria

As a child growing up in Nigeria in the 1970's and 1980's, Said Oladejo-Lawal developed a passion for painting. From an artistic talent perspective, he began to separate himself from his peers in elementary school, although a career as an artist was not viewed as practical by Nigerian citizens at that time. "I took fine arts with distinction, but there was peer pressure in Nigeria from my friends who wanted to be accountants, lawyers, and business administrators."

While Oladejo-Lawal's high school teachers encouraged him to take a more traditional path as he considered his options for college, his father pushed him to follow his heart. "My dad bought me foam (sheets) for art, and I bought myself a foam (sheet) for accounting."

Luckily for the readers of the Sarasota Polo Club Magazine, Oladejo-Lawal followed his father's advice and pursued a college education and career in fine arts. He was selected among a pool of applicants to design the cover of this publication. "When I was young, I said childishly, 'I want to be an artist,'" Oladejo-Lawal said. "Right now, I'm painting as I talk."

Oladejo-Lawal's lifetime pursuit of creating art may have never come to fruition had he not been denied his first choice of majors at Yaba Higher College in Lagos, Nigeria. He weighed the advice of his father and friends and decided to choose the more traditional path of applying to the school of accounting. When the list of accepted applicants was posted, he was disappointed to find that his was not included. However, his cousin applied to

"My art is a window into my heart and soul."



Royal Polo, Said Oladejo-Lawal
Acrylic on Canvas

the art school and, while he was not admitted, he found Oladejo-Lawal's name on the list. "It's one of the best tech schools in Nigeria, so that set me on the path to do what I'm doing now."

Oladejo-Lawal would follow in the footsteps of his father, who was an industrial painter and also did some interior design work on the side. In 2009, he moved his family to the United States to pursue his passion. "We came with the idea that I [would] paint professionally." He created a studio in the back of his Columbus, Ohio home which he shares with his

wife, 17-year-old son, and 15-year-old daughter.

Oladejo-Lawal's work is available on his website at lawalsaid.com. "My art is a window into my heart and soul – the instrument that gives a journey into my insight and feeling about all that is around me...It's a way to make my opinion known about important things in life all around me." ●



Cover Artist Said Oladejo-Lawal



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