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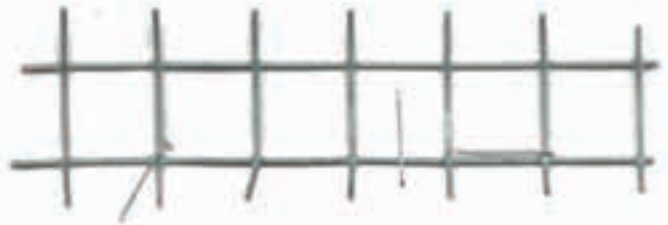
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Summer Smith
Manatee County Reporter



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Equestrian hall of famers with proud Sarasota roots abound, and their monikers fill the National Museum of Polo in Lake Worth, Fla.

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By Rachel Steadway

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For decades, the only females found in the modern polo match were the mares being ridden by the male polo players. But that is not the case any longer.

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Gymkhana, a variety of games that can be used to help riders learn horsemanship, is a way to hone valuable skills while having fun.

By Lydia Kolbas

62 Polo Under the Palms

The Polo Under the Palms fundraising event is entering its fourth annual run in Lakewood Ranch in 2014 and this year, its local imprint will be more profound than ever.

By Abby Weingarten

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Breeding a mare is a wondrous process: thrilling, fulfilling, expensive – and one you'll not likely forget.

By Jaymie Klauber

80 Cover Artist: Elizabeth Dryden

There are very few artists in the world that can capture the majestic horse, much less the sport of polo. Elizabeth Dryden has successfully done both.

By Rebecca Woll

94 Titans of Triumph

What is that infinitesimal, elusive quality that makes legends immortal memories? Three horses' stories tell the tale.

By Helene Buckley

129 Off the Field

Spending a Sunday afternoon at the Sarasota Polo Club is arguable the best entertainment around, but there are six other days to account for.

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Being a mounted police officer is synonymous with authority, but that is not the only perk of this equine-centered style of law enforcement.

By Abby Weingarten





LOOK

WHO'S MOVING

This fall, Saks moves into its new home at The Mall at University Town Center, featuring more designers, menswear, a 10022-SHOE boutique and more.

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SARASOTA

welcome

Our 23rd polo season is already here and with that said – to all of our players, sponsors, season tailgaters and to all the many spectators that join us each and every Sunday – I would like to thank you for all of the support that you give to the Sarasota Polo Club.

While the 2013 matches ended in April, we have had a very busy off-season at the Club getting ready for what 2014 will bring. We have concentrated our efforts on the polo fields, working with (and sometimes against) Mother Nature, as we've had the wettest summer in recent memory. During the off-season we have also taken the time to make improvements in the gift shop, rearranging things to give everyone a little more space. The shop got a fresh coat of paint, as well as some new and exciting lines of clothing and gifts. Stomp on over at half time – or whenever you get a chance – and check out all the new items available to you.

Also new this year, for our spectators on the north side, we have added a “Polo Patio” that will offer beverages and a variety of food. Enjoy the new look and take advantage of this gathering spot to watch the match and meet new friends!

We would like to welcome back two of our preeminent sponsors this year. First, our championship field sponsor BMO Private Bank, as they proudly represent our signature field No. 1, referred to as the BMO field. Second, our long-term, dear friends at MGA Insurance Group, returning to the well-

received, renovated MGA Pavilion. Finally, we are proud to add Saks Fifth Avenue to the polo family as our new season tailgate contest sponsor. They will have a very busy season, judging from the themed events that we have planned for the season.

For those who want to take what they see and feel at a match one step further, we have our Sarasota Polo Academy, which offers a first-class, professional polo school that provides lessons for all levels of experience and for all ages. If you would like to get a little taste of what takes place on the fields during this thrilling sport, please call the Academy at the Polo office at 941-907-0000, and we will get you well underway. I can assure you, a one-time experience will not be enough.

All of our players, sponsors, spectators and guests have one thing in common: a deep passion for the game and a rightful respect for the horses. I look forward, as I'm sure all of you do, to thrilling, exhilarating and rousing fast-paced polo action that is lined up for the next 17 weeks.

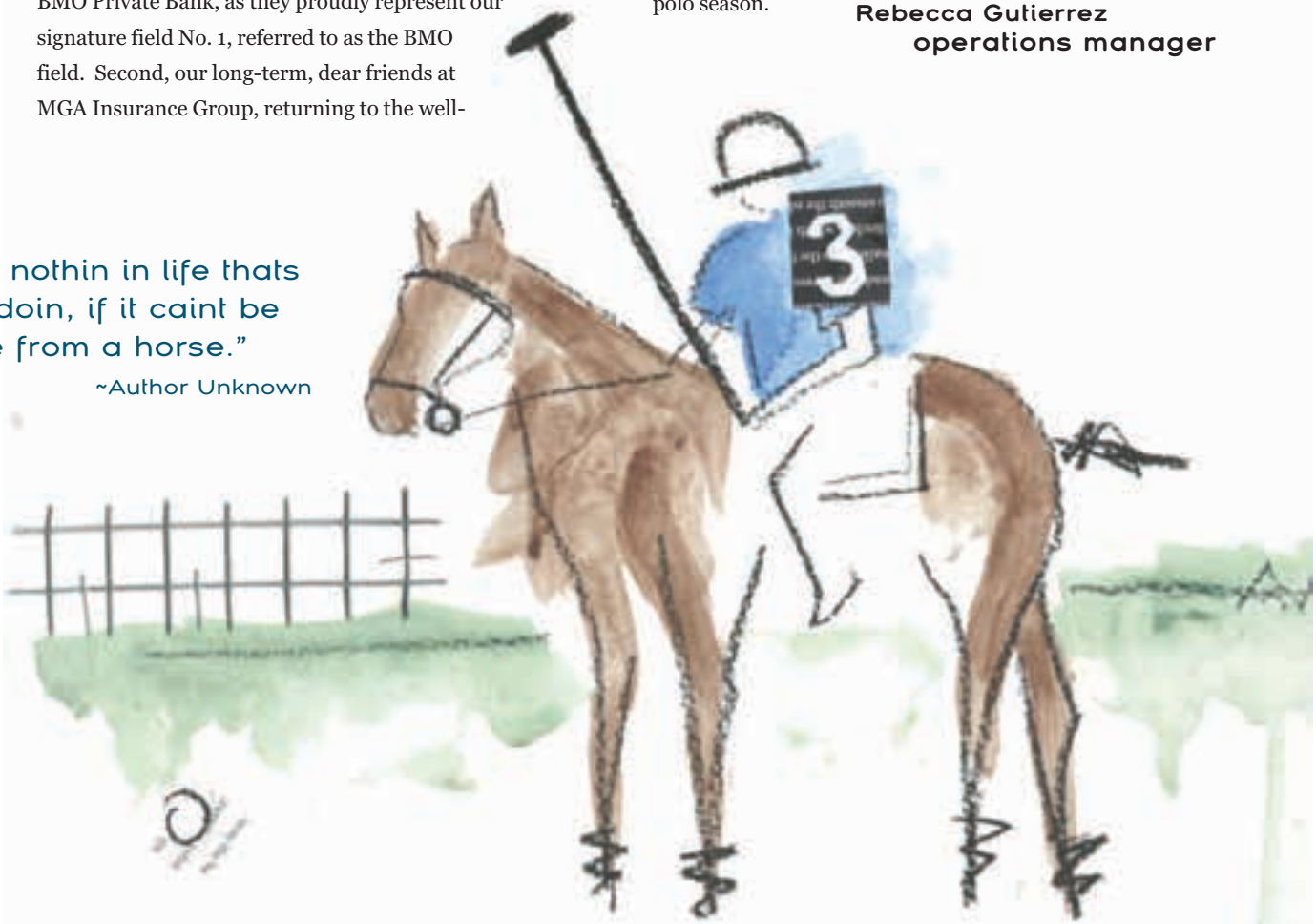
Please enjoy your 2014 polo season.

Rebecca Gutierrez
operations manager



“Theres nothin in life thats worth doin, if it caint be done from a horse.”

~Author Unknown



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Sarasota POLO

AT LAKEWOOD RANCH

2014 MAGAZINE

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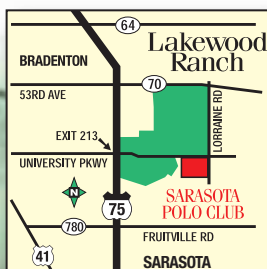
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2014
SCHEDULE

AT LAKEWOOD RANCH



December 2013

15 Lakewood Ranch Women's Club Cup

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22 Holiday Cup

HALF-TIME: SANTA ARRIVES VIA CLYDESDALES; PICTURES WITH SANTA IN THE CLUBHOUSE

29 New Year Celebration Cup

TAILGATE CONTEST: NEW YEAR'S BASH

January 2014

05 The Kitchner & Pierro/ IBusinessSolutions Cup

12 Bay News 9 Cup

TAILGATE THEME: GO TEAM USA

19 8 Goal Tournament

26 Rolls Royce Cup & Merrill Lynch

HALF-TIME: ALPHA DRESSAGE

February 2014

02 MGA Insurance Group Cup

TAILGATE THEME: TEAM SPIRIT

09 SMR Cup

TAILGATE THEME: BEST DRESSED WESTERN
HALF-TIME: SMR HORSE RACE

16 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Cup

HALF-TIME: ALPHA DRESSAGE

23 Suncoast Porsche Cup

HALF-TIME: PORSCHE PARADE

March 2014

02 Saint Stephen's School Cup

TAILGATE CONTEST: LITTLE SICILY

09 Ferrari of Tampa Bay

HALF-TIME: FERRARI PARADE

16 BMO Private Bank Cup

TAILGATE CONTEST: GO GREEN

23 MGA Insurance Group Cup

HALF-TIME: SOUTHCREEK FOXHOUNDS

30 Fidelity Investments, Sarasota

TAILGATE CONTEST: BEST DRESSED DOG

April 2014

06 The Observer Group Cup

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THE LONE RANGER

For the past 80 years, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, and their super horses, Silver and Scout, have been over-the-top western heroes, galloping to the rescue on radio, TV, and on the silver screen.

While Superman might leap tall buildings in a single bound, the Lone Ranger rides “a fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty ‘Hi yo, Silver!’” Such is the power of the Lone Ranger, that the William Tell Overture became more famous as theme music for a cowboy show than it ever was as opera music.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto debuted on Detroit radio in 1933. It was one of the programs that former Holmes Beach mayor Rich Bohnenberger, and millions of others, faithfully listened to each week. “It served the purpose of instilling truth, justice and the American way in kids, just like Superman,” Bohnenberger says.

Was there ever such a straight arrow as the Lone Ranger? Unlike other cowboys, he had no time for whiskey, poker, or bad women. But he did have time to speak to his young fans. An essential part of the TV series was Clayton Moore teaching the importance of doing the right thing. His homespun wisdom was as All-American as Davy Crockett’s coonskin cap or Abe Lincoln’s rail splitting. The Lone Ranger even had a creed, including encouraging youngsters to understand “that all men are created equal and that everyone has within himself the power to make this a better world.”

BY JAMES A. JONES JR.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARCHIVE PHOTOS, HULTON ARCHIVE & SILVER SCREEN COLLECTION



Clayton Moore (1914 - 1999) as The Lone Ranger and Jay Silverheels (1912 - 1980) as Tonto in TV's "The Lone Ranger," circa 1950.

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JAY SILVERHEELS as **TONTO**





The Lone Ranger even had a creed, including encouraging youngsters to understand “that all men are created equal and that everyone has within himself the power to make this a better world.”

Baby boomers knew the Lone Ranger best from the television series, which was telecast in black-and-white from 1949 to 1956, and in color in 1957. The story line essentially was that outlaws ambushed a group of Texas Rangers. All died. At least that’s what the bad men thought. Tonto stumbled across the ambush scene and found a badly wounded survivor, who he befriended and nursed back to health. Thus began the story of a remarkable crime fighting duo. The survivor became the Lone Ranger (whom Tonto usually referred to as “kemo sabe,” supposedly meaning either “trusty scout” or “trusted friend”), who wore a mask so that the bushwhackers might not know that one of the rangers had survived the ambush. Emphasizing the preciousness of life, the Lone Ranger used silver bullets, and shot to wound, rather than kill.

Left: Movie poster from 1958’s “The Lone Ranger,” where Moore and Silverheels reprised their roles as The Lone Ranger and Tonto.

The TV series starred Moore as the Lone Ranger in all but one season, when he was replaced by John Hart, reportedly because of a contract dispute. Jay Silverheels starred throughout as the noble and brave Tonto.

“They were 30-minute morality plays. Each one would teach a lesson in right and wrong,” says Joe Southern of the lessons taught by the Lone Ranger. Southern, who started The Lone Ranger Fan Club website – www.lonerangerfanclub.com – in 2003, is a 47-year-old journalist and blogger living in the Houston area. He watched the TV series in reruns when he was a child, and has embraced Lone Ranger values of faith, freedom, and family.

Moore and Silverheels reprised their roles in full-length movies, “The Lone Ranger” in 1956 and “The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold” in 1958. Over the years, the crime-fighting duo



Emphasizing the preciousness of life, the Lone Ranger used silver bullets, and shot to wound, rather than kill.

seemed to occasionally disappear and then mysteriously ride back into the public eye again.

The release of "The Legend of the Lone Ranger" in 1981 prompted a shootout worthy of the Butch Cavendish Gang, when the studio obtained a court injunction to prevent Clayton Moore, then 66, from wearing the Lone Ranger mask. Moore, who had not appeared in a Lone Ranger movie in decades and who was not in the 1981 film, had nevertheless continued to make public appearances, as popular as ever with the fans who had grown up with his TV series and movies.

It was a PR disaster for the studio, which ended up looking like the worst Buzzard Gulch villain.

In 2013, the first new Lone Ranger movie in 30 years, a high-budget production by Walt Disney Pictures and Jerry Bruckheimer Films, was released. Neither critics nor movie goers were particularly fond of the 2013 film, in part because some felt that the Lone

Ranger, played by Armie Hammer, was portrayed as something of a buffoon and second banana to Johnny Depp's Tonto. "What were they thinking?" critic Leonard Maltin wrote.

On the other hand, Maltin blogged that he liked The Lone Ranger fan site as developed by Southern. "How can you not love a site that automatically plays 'The William Tell Overture,'" Maltin said.

Southern is not unaware of the controversy the film created.

"Personally, I loved it. I didn't like some of the liberties they took with the story. But I was happy with the fact that we had the Lone Ranger back after 30 years," Southern said in a phone interview from Houston.

One concern that long-time fans might have had with the movie was Depp's take as Tonto, his face covered with paint and a bird on his head. Depp looked nothing like Jay Silverheels' version of Tonto. "It was Johnny Depp in another outrageous costume,"



Clayton Moore (1914-1999), U.S. actor, in costume, riding his horse, "Silver," alongside Jay Silverheels (1912-1980), Canadian Mohawk actor, in costume on his horse, "Scout," in a publicity still issued for the television series, "The Lone Ranger," U.S.A., circa 1950.





JAMES A. JONES JR.

In 2013, the first new Lone Ranger movie in 30 years, a high-budget production by Walt Disney Pictures and Jerry Bruckheimer Films, was released with mixed reviews.

Southern said, referring to the actor's turn in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. "It would have been better if he just took the crow off his head."

In the old TV series, each episode ended with the Lone Ranger and Tonto riding off into the sunset, as folks wondered: "Who was that masked man?" Fans might have wondered the same about the new movie.

Del Jacobs, a State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota professor and director of film and media studies, says he thought the new film took an interesting approach, telling the story from Tonto's perspective. The film introduced more humor than Lone Ranger fans were accustomed to seeing, and produced some spine-tingling excitement. "When the William Tell Overture kicks in, it is an electric moment," Jacobs says.

Left: Armie Hammer at the world premiere of "The Lone Ranger" at Disney California Adventure. June 22, 2013 in Anaheim, Calif.

But he understands that Lone Ranger purists, the aging baby boomers who grew up with the masked man, want their super hero served the way they remember him. After all, the Long Ranger program in the 1950s was "appointment TV," a program not to be missed, he says.

While there might have been disagreement about the plot and costumes, Silver drew accolades for his performance. There was no mistaking the white stallion's personality and intelligence. But Silver and Scout always had talent, Southern says. Examples: the ability to find the Lone Ranger in an emergency. In addition, Silver would buck-off any rider who was not the Lone Ranger.

The 2013 movie brought renewed interest to the Lone Ranger franchise, which over the years has produced a universe of cereal

Above: The The 2013 movie brought renewed interest in Lone Ranger merchandise like these collector figurines from Magnolia Antique Mall, Ellenton.

The 2013 movie brought renewed interest to the Lone Ranger franchise, which over the years has produced a universe of cereal box prizes and other merchandise.

box prizes and other merchandise. “Before the movie was in production, you were lucky to see 1,000 to 2,000 items on eBay. That has exploded with the new movie,” Southern says. A recent check of eBay showed more than 9,000 items for sale.

Lone Ranger memorabilia also rides again locally. Magnolia Antique Mall, 3411 U.S. Highway 301 N., Ellenton, has a selection of mounted Lone Ranger and Tonto figurines, dating to the 1950s, as well as vintage comic books. “That was a good show, and I love horses, too,” says Carolee Lee of Magnolia Antique Mall. “I think the Lone Ranger stood for something. He was a person who stood for good.”

Joe Berry, 55, of Bradenton may have the area’s largest collection of Lone Ranger memorabilia. He’s been collecting since he was two years old, and has a framed mask man puzzle he played with as a child, as well as Hartland horse and rider sets and Gabrielle collectibles that can sell for hundreds of dollars. Among his collection are original Silver and Scout figurine boxes. The Lone Ranger and Tonto are also included, but the horses received top billing. Berry was drawn to western memorabilia because of his love of horses, and estimates he has about 1,700 figurines.

“When you’re a kid, you’re into the Lone Ranger because he represented good and took care of the bad guy,” Berry says.

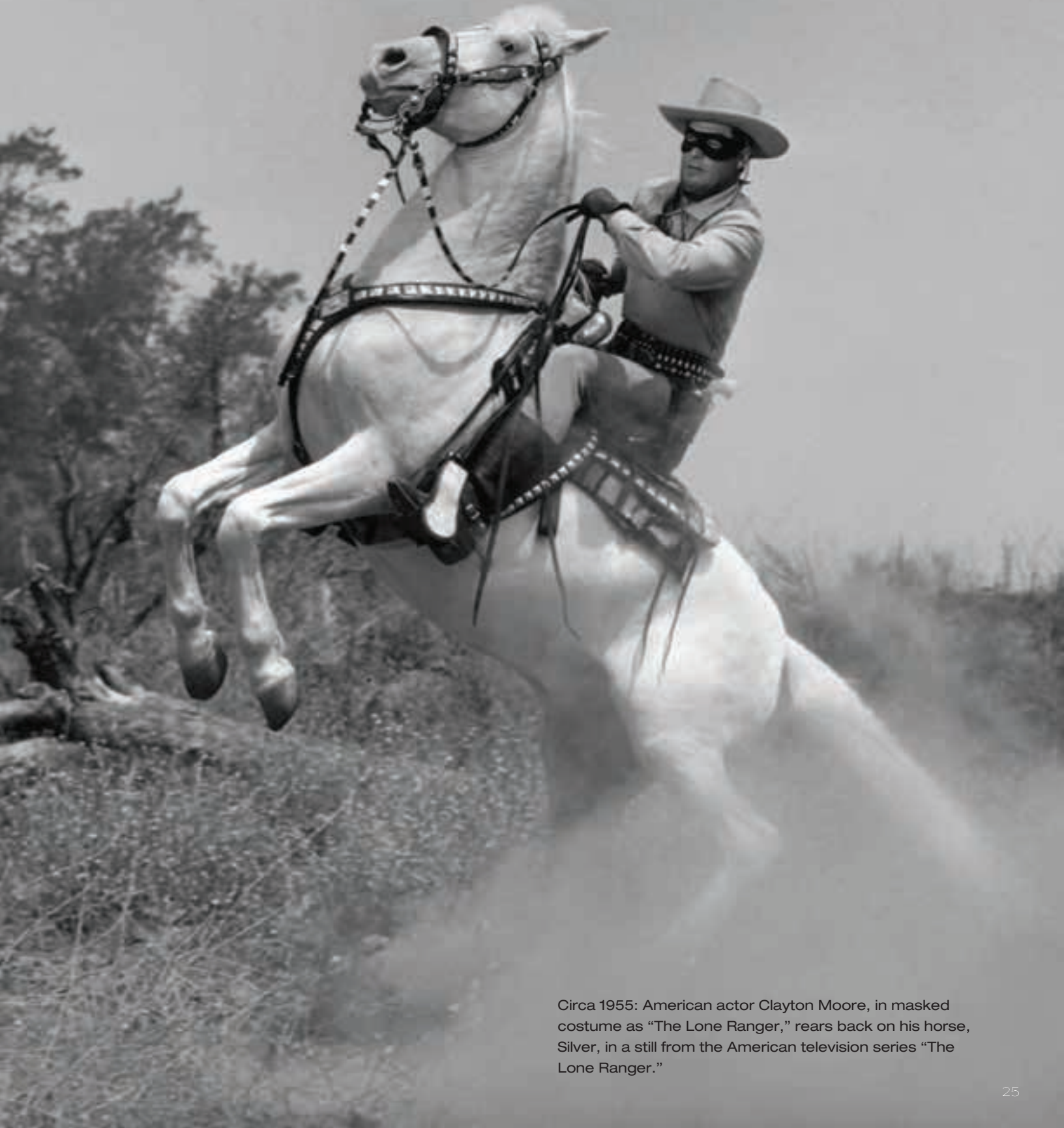
Among the lessons the Lone Ranger quietly taught was racial respect through his friendship with Tonto. “He was so far ahead of his time,” Berry says.

Thanks, kemo sabe, for all the life lessons and the thrills, too. **SPC**

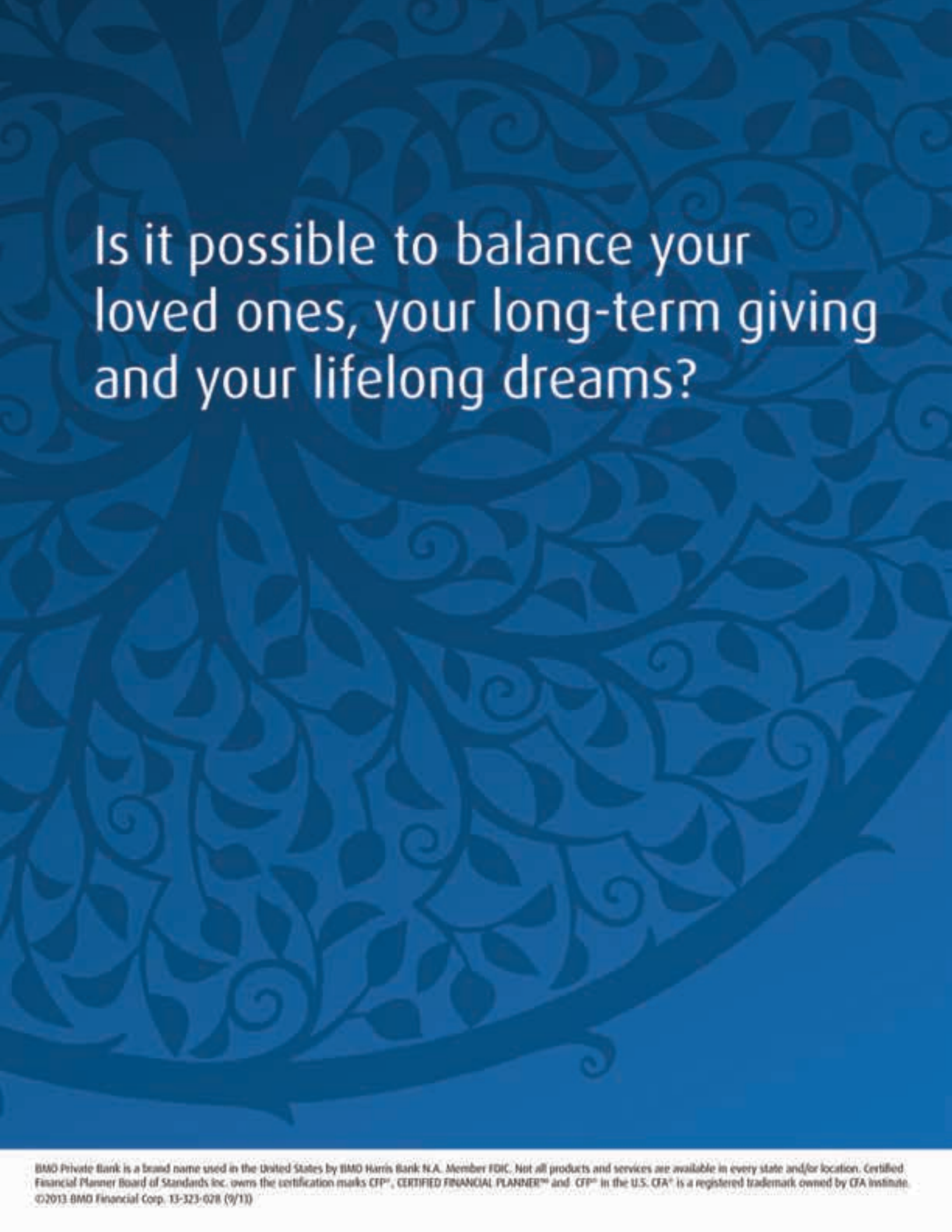
Left top: Joe Berry with the original boxes for Silver and Scout figurines; Middle: Twenty-year-old pen knife set released on the 60th anniversary of the Lone Ranger; Bottom: A bobble-head Lone Ranger and Silver from Golden Books.



THE LONE RANGER



Circa 1955: American actor Clayton Moore, in masked costume as "The Lone Ranger," rears back on his horse, Silver, in a still from the American television series "The Lone Ranger."



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Sarasota POLO HALL of FAME

Equestrian hall of famers with proud Sarasota roots abound, and their monikers fill the National Museum of Polo in Lake Worth, Fla.

New inductees are added annually to the museum's prestigious hall – an honor that not only preserves the athletes' legacies for future generations but also warms the hearts of their living relatives. The Lake Worth locale is the only destination in the world with a trove of polo tributes and trophies.

It is an honor to recognize legends. Brenda Lynn (the museum's director of development), George J. DuPont Jr. (executive director) and Martin S. Cregg (chairman) spearhead the effort. They help run

BY ABBY WEINGARTEN

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF POLO AND HALL OF FAME

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF POLO and HALL OF FAME



POLO HALL OF FAME

For those curious about the sport's past, present or future, the Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame is a rich repository for the story of American polo. It is also the only museum of polo in the world.





Sarasota Polo Club attracts some of the greatest names in polo, including Roy M. Barry, Lester "Red" Armour, III, Merle Jenkins and George Alexander who have been inducted into the Polo Hall of Fame.

the non-profit museum, which they believe is "a rich repository for the story of American polo" with its historic documents, artwork, books, films and recordings.

"For me, it is an extraordinary privilege to be part of the museum, partly because we're the only museum of polo in the world. My joke is that we're the only one in the universe, unless they play polo on planets we don't know about," says Lynn, a former Arabian horse breeder who joined the museum in 1998.

"We're preserving history. When we talk to the families of the polo players, who often come to our gala to accept awards on a relative's behalf, we can see how much it means to them and how it gives them a real sense of pride."

THE VISION

Envisioned in 1978 by four polo players (Philip L.B. Iglehart, H. Jeremy Chisholm, Leverett S. Miller and George C. Sherman Jr.), the museum first took shape at the Kentucky Horse Park before moving to the current, larger site in Lake Worth. New exhibits are added to the museum yearly, and some of the most popular displays spotlight polo ponies, prominent horses, female athletes, 10 goal players, the Westchester Cup and arena polo. Observers can even learn about the origins of the sport, which date back to 2,600 years ago in Asia.

A multimedia theater screens polo videos, and the library contains books, journals and statistical records. The hall holds artifacts from the Rumsey, Mills, Sanford and Milburn families; a silver filigree



Barry, second from left, winning U.S. Open 1976.

ROY M. BARRY Elected March 3, 1995

Barry's projection of seemingly effortless talent helped win him recognition. "While a nine goaler, he, with but a few others, held the mantle of America's best," his bio reads. "Barry was the first family of polo for two decades, and Roy, more than any player of this time, personified the unique American style of polo in his day.

His shining moments were in representing his country twice in America's Cup against the invincible Argentina, and two victories, playing number three, against Britain in the Coronation Cup. He was also part of the U.S. team against Mexico for the Comacho Cup. Roy's ability and composure under fire earned him, amongst others, three U.S. Open Championships, two Gold Cup and Butler Handicap titles each, as well as 20 goal and North American Cup titles."



Any person who has contributed to the game in an extraordinary and honorable manner whether by dedication to the sport or by ability and record as a player is eligible for election.



1995

LESTER "RED" ARMOUR

Elected February 26, 1999

His Hall of Fame bio touts Armour as "heralding the second flowering of American polo." Armour, it says, "rode mightily in the saddle, delighting the throngs of polo's new fans. An aggressive nine goaler and powerful hitter, he anchored U.S.A.'s international teams in two Cups of the Americas, two victorious Camacho Cups, one heroically so, and a Coronation Cup. Eager to help nurture a new generation of players and give to his sport, it says, Armour "gave generously gave of his time, and took an active role in the USPA, including a Governorship and Chairmanship of the Handicap Committee."

Always a serious contender, Armour has a U.S. Handicap, two Gold Cups, three Silver Cups and a North American Cup to his credit, along with countless other leagues and matches coast to coast.

ball from the maharaja of Jaipur; and a 19th century trophy designed by English silversmith Paul Storr. There are paintings by Howard Everett Smith, Ludwig Koch, Imogen (Muntz) Collier, G.D. Rowlandson, F.B. Voss and Paul Brown, as well as bronzes by Alexander Pope, Charles Cary Rumsey and Frederic Remington.

THE ELECTION PROCESS

Every year, icons are inducted into the hall (one posthumous, one living, two Iglehart winners and two horses). Even foreign players who have contributed to United States polo, such as Gonzalo Pieres, Gonzalo Tanoira and Julian Hipwood, have been included in recent years.

The Hall of Fame's 25th Annual Awards Gala and Induction Ceremony, considered "the Academy Awards of polo," will take place in 2014 on February 14th and is expected to draw upwards of 400 attendees. To suggest an honoree, an application must be requested and submitted to the museum, along with a biographical resume of the candidate and reasons for the recommendation. A nominating committee, named by the board of directors, chooses the final inductees.

According to the Museum and Hall of Fame's website, "any person who has contributed to the game in an extraordinary and honorable manner whether by dedication to the sport or by ability and record as a player" is eligible for election. Foreign players may be inducted if they have made significant contributions to polo in the United States.



Any person may be recommended for election to the Polo Hall of Fame by anyone in the polo community and the entire polo community is urged to participate in this process.

Any person may be recommended for election to the Polo Hall of Fame by anyone in the polo community, the site says. All recommendations are to be submitted to the Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame in writing, “accompanied by a biographical resume of the candidate and the specific reasons for such recommendations.” The name of any person not elected in the year of recommendation may be resubmitted. The entire polo community is urged to participate in this process.

The nominating committee is named by the board of directors and consists of one or more of its own members, of its officers and other individuals as it may choose. The committee’s duties involve studying and researching the relative merits of the persons recommended in order to reduce the list to a workable level “commensurate with the number of individuals to be elected to the Hall of Fame,” and to submit its selections to the board of directors for election. The nominating committee itself also has the right to recommend additional nominees for induction.

The board of directors of the Hall of Fame makes its selections based on the recommendation of the nominating committee.

“We are lucky to be connected to polo clubs throughout the U.S. that help us gather nominees,” Lynn says. “Sarasota Polo, in particular, is a great club and it attracts some of the greatest names in polo.”



MERLE JENKINS

Elected February 18, 2011

SPC’s Merle Jenkins, a Philip Iglehart Award recipient, was the founder of the Detroit Polo Club in 1962 and an avid supporter of intercollegiate polo, sponsoring the Michigan State University and University of Michigan polo clubs. He served as a USPA Governor from 1973-1979 and 1984-1988 and as Secretary from 1988-1991, and was the CEO of USPA Properties, Inc. from 1981-2003. He was the first USPA Promotion Committee chairman, formed in 1977. In the early 1980s he thought the best chance of success for the USPA was to market trademarks of the USPA and to rely on the image of the sport as the prime marketing tool. He and his committee undertook USPA trademark licensing and formed USPA Properties Inc., whose objective was to develop a marketing program for USPA trademarks that would produce a stream of income. Jenkins served for 32 years on the USPA Safety Committee, was instrumental in initiating the first tests of polo helmets and developing the first USPA committee to formulate standards, testing and certification of helmets coming on the market.



Sarasota Polo Club also has a legacy of inducted Hall of Famers, who may have not been members at SPC, but their relatives are or have been.



GEORGE ALEXANDER

Elected February 17, 2012

The recipient of the Philip Iglehart Award. For well over 30 years, Alexander dedicated his life to the service of the sport of polo, serving as Central Circuit Governor, Governor-at-Large, USPA Secretary/Treasurer, USPA Executive Director, a member of the USPA Executive and chairman of the Constitution, Rules and Rules Interpretation, Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Committees, as well as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Polo Training Foundation. As patron of the Lake Run Team, he has competed throughout the Central, Mid-States and the Florida-Caribbean Circuits. "I've been playing for almost 40 years and I don't regret an hour or a dollar of it," says Alexander.

Alexander and his Clydesdales perform on Sundays during the Sarasota Polo Club season. "I've been playing for almost 40 years and I don't regret an hour or a dollar of it," says Alexander. "It was an honor to be recognized in the Hall of Fame."

The Sarasota Polo Club (SPC) has, in fact, four alumni in the Hall of Fame: Lester "Red" Armour, III was elected February 26, 1999; Roy M. Barry was elected March 3, 1995; Merle Jenkins, inducted 2011 and last, but by far not least, is the beloved George Alexander inducted in 2012. See side bars for details on these outstanding polo advocates.

THE SPC LEGACY

In addition to its hall of famers, the SPC also boasts "legacies" of inducted players. Bennie Gutierrez, father of SPC player Mark Gutierrez and father-in-law of the Club's polo operations manager, Rebecca Gutierrez, was inducted in 2003. Michael Phipps, a 1994 inductee, is the late great-uncle of Jennie Phipps, a SPC property owner. SPC player Joe Wayne Barry boasts a large family history, with inductees Joe Barry (1999), Harold Barry (1991), Bill Barry (2006), and Roy Barry (1995). Winston F.C. Guest (1991) and Raymond Guest (2006) are represented at SPC by homeowner and player Raymond and daughter and player Kelsea Guest. Robert A. Uihlein's (2001) sons Robin and Jamie, grandsons James P. and Augie Uihlein, and granddaughter Kiley, have all played at SPC. Robin, in fact, is one of the founders of the Sarasota Polo Club, which was established in 1991.

A beloved community jewel, the Sarasota Polo Club has garnered four hall of famers with just more than two decades under its belt. The next 20 years holds the promise of many more! **SPC**



Every year, new and exciting exhibits are added to the museum that are of interest to players and fans of the sport. There is truly something for everyone.

The Museum is open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and on Saturdays during the season only, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Admission is free; donations are appreciated.

The museum is a source of growing pride in the community as a place for research and study about a sport that has defined a special segment of our American heritage.

Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame

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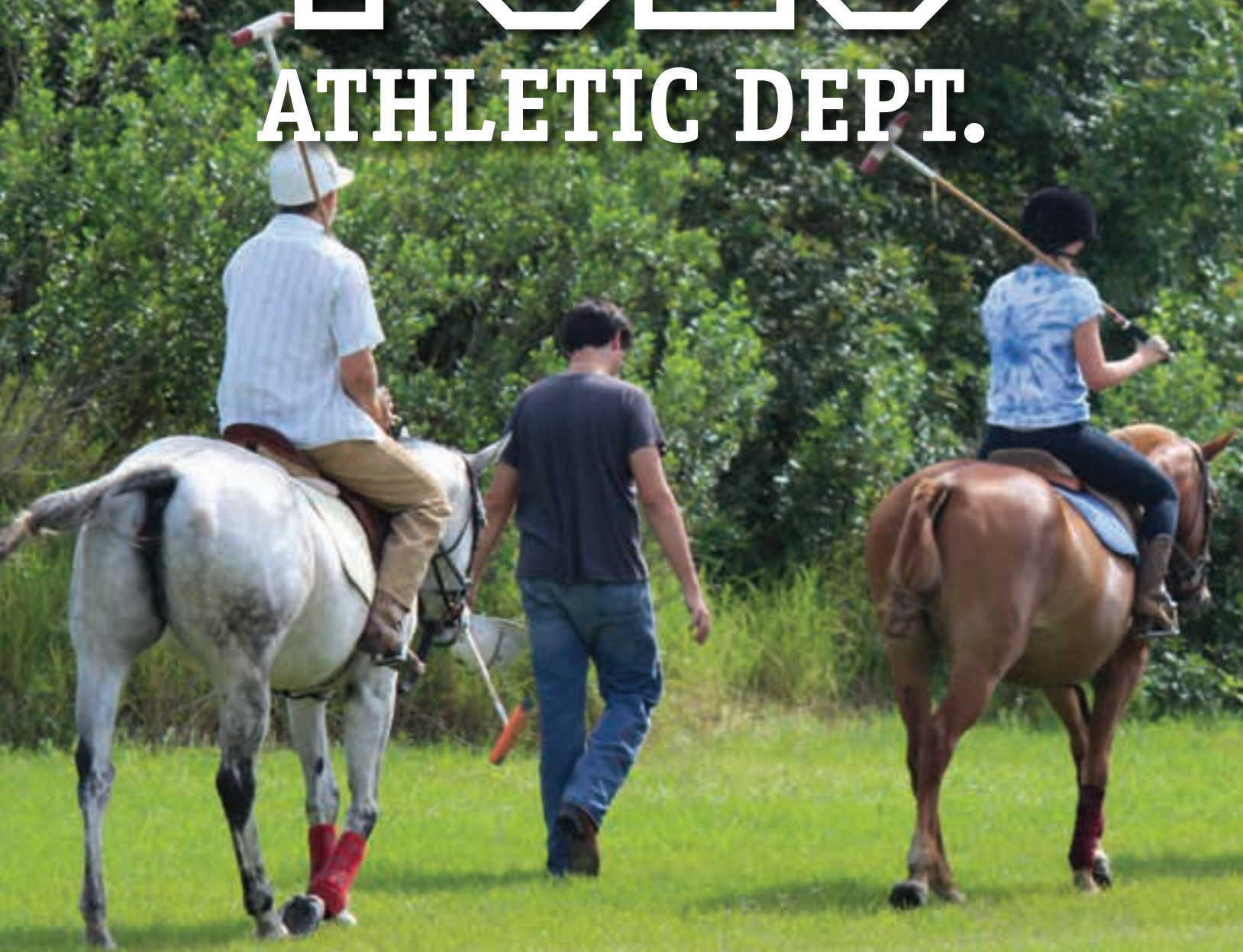
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OUT-OF-DOOR POLO ATHLETIC DEPT.



BY RACHEL STEADWAY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY REBECCA GUTIERREZ



When teenager Colby Elliott learned that his school was offering a new hands-on polo program for the fall of 2012, he rushed to enroll.

The 18-year-old was one of seven students in the inaugural group, which had grown out of a partnership between the Out-Of-Door Academy (ODA) and the Sarasota Polo Club's Sarasota Polo Academy. In October, athletes picked up where they had left off for the summer, and Elliott and his equestrian friends delightedly got back in the saddle.

"I've always enjoyed watching polo matches and riding horses, so when the Sarasota Polo Club came to my school and wanted to start a team, I was like, 'Why not?' And it has been so awesome," Elliott says. "I had so much fun last year. We played and learned at the same time. It's not like we were sitting and going over the rules; we were playing and going over the rules as we went. I really liked that."

Every Monday for two hours, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Elliott rode one of four horses: Ice, Tic Tac, Rowana or Snickers (the latter was soon replaced by Encanta). When Elliott's friends were on the horses, he was on the ground, practicing with a foot mallet. Though he had played tennis and fenced for years, Elliott's only previous experience with polo was viewing it on TV. It has quickly become one of his most cherished after-school pastimes.


"I love riding horses and being out with them. You learn so much and you get to know a whole different side of riding," says Elliott, who learned alongside five other high schoolers and one middle school athlete. "It's totally worth the experience and I would definitely recommend it."

That was exactly what the founders hoped for when they imagined the program. The ODA, which is an independent college preparatory school, had already offered 16 other sports, such as volleyball, golf, football, sailing, soccer, tennis, baseball and lacrosse. The club wanted to give athletes of all ages and skill levels an opportunity to learn polo at its onsite academy.

It made sense for the two schools to join forces, considering the club, with its 130 acres of manicured grounds and nine world-class polo fields, is right in the ODA's backyard. Many ODA students were used to attending public polo matches with their families on Sunday afternoons during season, so they were already accustomed to the property.



“We played and learned at the same time. It’s not like we were sitting and going over the rules; we were playing and going over the rules as we went. I really liked that.”



“I love riding horses and being out with them. You learn so much and you get to know a whole different side of riding.”

“This was the first time ever that we decided to jumpstart a scholastic program and it went very well, I have to say. We were hoping to get up to three students and we were pleasantly surprised with the initial interest,” says Rebecca Gutierrez, the polo operations manager at the club. “I believe all of the kids who started the program will be coming back and moving up a level.”

As the program progresses, there will be three levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. The students will also be able to compete interscholastically as the Sarasota Polo Academy.

“We’re trying to teach them not just how to play polo but also basic horsemanship skills, tacking up the horses, giving them baths and doing tasks around the barn,” Gutierrez says. “We’re trying to give them a healthy after-school sport, and it’s a great team sport so there is a lot of camaraderie. This is an altruistic way to give young people something really fun and challenging to do in their off-time.”

Brett Timmons, the athletic director at the ODA, says polo is the ideal sport for students who excel by learning at their own pace.

“Students can learn camaraderie and teamwork through polo and it’s fun for them. They don’t have to worry about getting hit with a baseball or basketball. They can just enjoy nature and play the

game,” Timmons says. “We are right near the polo grounds so it was a no-brainer to offer this to students who didn’t want to participate in the other sports we offer. It gives kids who love being around horses an opportunity to compete and be a part of a team, and to learn a sport that serves them well in years to come. The kids who tried it thought it was an awesome experience.”

So did the instructors.

Megan Flynn, head instructor of the Sarasota Polo Academy, says the ODA program has been great so far. “The students have embraced the challenges that polo presents and as is typical of most newcomers to polo, they have fallen in love with the sport,” Flynn says. “The Academy plans on introducing junior tournaments each month, in addition to its weekly team practice that will prepare the students for interscholastic team play against other junior teams in Florida – and possible out-of-state as well.”

Flynn thinks it’s a great lesson in responsibility and patience, especially for young people. “Polo really gives students a little more responsibility than other sports. They can’t just show up and put their shoes on and get on the field; they have to take the time to brush their horses and get them all ready. Afterward, they have to untack their horses, hose them off and generally learn how to properly care for their mounts.”



There is further potential beyond high school polo for the ODA students, Flynn says, referencing the many U.S. colleges that offer intercollegiate polo programs. “My own college experiences opened up so many doors for me, creating lasting opportunities in my life both in and post college,” she says.

Fellow instructor Scott Lancaster has been involved in polo since 1986, both as a competitive player and as a teacher.

“New players bring such a fun energy to polo and they capture what it’s supposed to be about,” Lancaster says. “Their adrenaline is flowing. They have these big smiles on their faces that you can’t knock off. There is so much gratification when people are in the early stages of polo and they progress. We had two people in a crew of seven who were really good with the horses and the others expanded their comfort zone. It’s an exhilarating team sport. People find something new that they fall in love with and it’s contagious.”

Flynn agrees. She has traveled throughout the country, playing polo and training young horses through the United States Polo Association (USPA). There is nothing like introducing a newbie to polo and watching him or her light up with enthusiasm, she says.

For more information on the Out-Of-Door Academy’s Middle & Upper Schools, 5950 Deer Drive, Lakewood Ranch, call 941.349.3223 or visit oda.edu. **SPC**

Sarasota POLO ACADEMY

For more information on the
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1938 U.S. Open tournament at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Elaine McInerney, on left, rated 6 goals, Pogonip team of Santa Cruz, Calif., attempting to hook the mallet of Ann Jackson, rated 7 goals, captain of the Santa Barbara team.

Photo New York Times



WOMEN

in a field of men

"Polo is life, live it to the fullest, good bad and indifferent."

- Sue Sally Hale

Louise Hitchcock, deemed the "Mother of Women's Polo" and the birth mother and polo teacher of legendary polo player Tommy Hitchcock, builds the first good polo field and organizes polo, coaching, and practice sessions for young people. Her efforts make Aiken the prominent teaching venue for polo in America and organizes girls' and women's polo in Aiken.

1901



Louise Hitchcock is inducted posthumously into the Polo Hall of Fame in 1990

For decades, the only females found in the modern polo match were the mares being ridden by the male polo players.

But that is not the case any longer. Today, more and more women are enjoying the sport of polo as participants, not just as spectators.

Although the role of women in polo in this country pretty much mirrors that of women in other sports – that is, they were late entrants into it just as they were in basketball and soccer – the female sex has actually been involved with the game since its beginnings, centuries ago.

The exact location of polo's roots is debated, but it is generally believed to have begun in either Persia or the Iranian tribes of Central Asia. Some academics postulate that it dates back to as far as the 6th century BC; its

BY BARBARA ALEXANDER & LYDIA KOLBAS

BOOK EXCERPT BY COLLEEN MCINERNEY MEAGHER

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF POLO AND HALL OF FAME

January: Dorothy Deming Wheeler, "The Mother of California Polo," initiates the first Pacific Coast Women's Polo Association in California. She is elected chairman and contacts the United States Polo Association for help in how to expand its efforts to include women players from other areas by forming a national Women's Polo Association.

1922

February: The USPA responds to Dorothy Deming Wheeler's requests, denying the formation of a national Women's Polo Association on the grounds that polo is not a game for women and that women might easily do as much damage to a horse as good.

1934

Dorothy Deming Wheeler joins with eight clubs in California to form the Pacific Coast Women's Polo Association. They sponsor tournaments, assign female players handicaps on an adjusted scale.

"Polo is life, live it to the fullest, good bad and indifferent."

- Sue Sally Hale

written record is more than 2,000 years old, making it the oldest organized sport in man's history. Polo was originally a training game for cavalry units, usually the elite troops or the kings' guards. With up to 100 members per side it was, in effect, a miniature battle. In time, it became a Persian (Iranian) national sport for the nobility ... and women were included. In fact, there are references to the queen and her ladies engaging King Khosrow II Parv z and his courtiers in the 6th century AD! (This does rather beg the question, What happened during the interim to set women back until Title IX came along in the

1970s?)

Nowadays, most polo being played in the United States is in Florida, South Carolina (Aiken), Virginia, Texas, and California. Women account for about one-third of all United States Polo Association (USPA) registered players. That having been stated, women fall far short in achieving the handicap levels of their male peers. Polo players are individually handicapped on a scale of minus 2 (-2) to 10, where -2 is that of a novice and 10 is the rare, highest handicap of an elite professional; a player with a



Pansy Ireland, far left, played as P. E. Ireland

USPA responds...

THIS IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK:

Comin' Thru - The Golden Age of Women's Polo 1934-1941

by Colleen McInerney Meagher

On January 10, 1934, Dorothy Deming Wheeler, as the newly elected chairman, wrote to the United States Polo Association, the governing body of polo in New York, asking for guidance.

"Our responsibility in forming the first Women's Polo Association in California, and as far as I know the first in the United States, is one to which we should all give our most careful and serious consideration. What we do now will influence through precedence girls' polo for many years to come; so our plans now must not only take in the situation as of present, but the best developments of the game in the future."

"As for future plans, she wrote: "I do not see any reason why the methods that we (use) in California should not be carried to other Polo centers throughout the United States; and as soon as we have formulated our own plans, I think it would be nice to invite some of these Eastern clubs to join."

At the same time Dorothy expressed an interest to the USPA in playing women's exhibition games in the East.

continues next page

1935

Women are playing in "men's" clubs and a few have even joined the USPA using their initials instead of their names to hide their gender. Pansy Ireland has her gender revealed in a magazine and from then on, her name no longer appears in the USPA Blue Book.

1936

The Pacific Coast Women's Polo Association changes its name to United States Women's Polo Association. The USWPA adheres to the exact same by-laws and rules as the USPA, with only one exception—the penalty shots are shortened.

1937

The first women's U.S. Open tournament is played at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.



Sue Sally Hale plays 20 years disguised as a man, because the United States Polo Association would not admit women. She applied mascara to her lip to simulate a mustache, wore oversized shirts and pulled her hair up under her helmet. Hale competed under the name A. Jones, her real identity known only to her teammates at first, although it eventually became clear in the polo world that A. Jones was really Hale.



1950

After she began playing openly as a women, Sue Sally was sometimes threatened by male players. She told them "Gentlemen, better boys than you have tried." It was a tip from her stepfather: enrage them so much they lost control of their game.

Sue Sally Hale was inducted into Hall of Fame as an Iglehart award winner for outstanding lifetime contributions to the sport in 2004.

five-goal or higher handicap is generally a professional player.

Sunny Hale is the only woman to have been 5 goal rated, and there are only two women who can count victories in the U.S. Open. This is quite a prestigious accomplishment for them in a sport where, at the top levels, most teams comprise only men. (On the flip side, it means that only two women have broken through the gender barrier.)

Most women coming into the game are playing in the low-goal games, rarely more than 2 or 4 goal polo. What makes polo extraordinary and a real treat to watch here in Sarasota is that we have some homegrown stars who do play in intermediate-

goal games, at 8 or 12 goal polo (meaning that the sum of the handicaps of the team is 8 or 12).

Most tournaments are male-dominated. In an effort to draw more women into her beloved sport, Sunny Hale created the Women's Championship Tournament (WCT) in 2005. Last year, these tournaments were played in four states and had 19 teams participating. In August 2013, the International Women's Polo Association in England attracted 150 women, and their tournament recently celebrated its 20th year.

In large part, this sport grew in the United States due to the military. During the Spanish American War, horses played a major role in

Dorothy Deming Wheeler joins with eight clubs in California to form the Pacific Coast Women's Polo Association. They sponsor tournaments, assign female players handicaps on an adjusted scale.

1952

1972

Sue Sally Hale from Carmel, Calif. is officially admitted as the first woman into the USPA. To follow are: Murph (Elizabeth) Dailey from Mokulia, Honolulu; Jori Butler Richardson from Oak Brook, Ill. and Virginia Merchant, from National Capitol Park, Washington D.C. Although admitted, they are not necessarily welcome to play at all the exclusive clubs in the country.

1979

Official USPA recognition with the creation of the U.S. Women's Handicap and the first national tournament.

In answer to her thoughtful letter, the following is a partial reply from F.S. O'Reilly, Secretary and Treasurer, USPA on February 5, 1934:

"In answer to your question as to whether we approve of there being a Women's Polo Association, I cannot speak for the Executive Committee of this Association but I think the general opinion among players in the game is that it is not a women's game. However, that may be merely a matter of opinion and, of course, subject to debate but I have had players, who have tried to coach women, tell me that they did not get along very well. Whether there is any advantage, from the point of view of horse training, is, of course, entirely a matter of the skill of the rider. As you know they might easily do as much damage to a horse as good."

His diatribe continues:

"Of course, to have an exhibition of polo by women would be a novelty but my feeling is that for your best interests it should be something more than that. That is to say it should also be a good exhibition of the game. If it is not people will get bored to death and it will do your effort more harm than good."

It was obvious that O'Reilly was completely unaware of the high caliber of women's polo in California and the potential for all women polo players in the United States.

TO READ MORE, CONTACT THE AUTHOR:

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colleenm@calcentral.com
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Marjorie LeBoutillier was ranked at 8 goals in 1937. In that same year The New York Times said she was “generally recognized as the best woman player in the world,” and continued, “hereabout it is chiefly the exploits of Miss Le Boutillier, who plays and holds her own on men’s teams and who is popularly called the Tommy Hitchcock of women’s polo, that keep the women’s game in the public eye.”

U.S. Army, including Theodore Roosevelt’s storm up the hills of San Juan. Military leaders throughout history have held firm that horsemanship went hand-in-hand with leadership. Thus, polo was a natural and efficient method to train soldiers and officers in the art of war.

In the 1890s, teams from various posts traveled to compete against other forts. The U.S. Army joined the USPA in 1902, and two of the six original schools in the Intercollegiate Polo Association were military schools. Despite the fact that reliance on horses by the armed services declined in the years leading up to World War I, the Army continued to use polo as a training method for officers until the dawn of World War II.

Even though polo got a foothold in this country through the Army

– and men – there were major contributions to it from some key women, including Louise Hitchcock, who built the first decent polo field, organized polo coaching, and practice sessions for young people. These not only made Aiken the premier training center for all things polo during the 1920s, it also introduced polo to the United States.

There has been a varied smattering of women’s tournaments – challenges, cups, and other competitions – through the past 20 or so years, but none seemed to take hold as much as the WCT’s newer format. Hopefully, women will increasingly bring their talent and dedication to this exciting sport, resuming their centuries-old place as royal ladies on the field!

The next time you’re watching your favorite team race down the



1981

Naperville Women's Polo Club (NWPC) is organized by 20 women as the first and only USPA all women's club. Pictured from left: members circa 1989 Sandy Barbier, Barb Alexander, Chris Read and Pattie Green, mounted.

1987

The USPA creates the First Circuit Women's Challenges, and Naperville sponsors the first Central Circuit Womens' Challenge at Greene Valley Polo Club. In 1988, the venue is changed to Blackberry Polo Club when the Greene Valley Club disbands.

2005

Sunny Hale creates the Women's Championship Tournament (WCT) to act as a worldwide network for female players and to encourage women to take a stronger role in the game of polo.

2006

The chairman of the USPA announces that female players are the fastest growing segment of the organization's membership. Sunny Hale is named MVP of the 26 goal Hall of Fame Cup on a team which included 10 goaler Adolfo Cambiaso.

2013

The USPA has a special section of its web site dedicated to women. "As the fastest growing division of polo, women are taking charge and becoming queens in this 'Game of Kings.'

Not only have women created their own tournaments, but they are competing in several high-goal events with some of the highest rated male players in the sport."

The highest rated women in polo history are Sunny Hale and Claire Tomlinson, who have both obtained 5 goal ratings.

The Central Circuit Women's Challenge is still hosted by the Blackberry Polo Club. Sandy Barbier and Barb Alexander – winners of the first tournament in 1987 – continue to compete there. Barb Alexandar is also a member of the Sarasota Polo Club and still plays polo today. The Sarasota Polo Club hosts a women's tournament every polo season; for more information go to www.sarasotapolo.com.

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Gymkhana

games on horseback

Originally in 19th-century India and England,
a display of athletics and equestrian events...

Gymkhana is a variety of games that can be used to help riders from
beginners to advanced learn horsemanship. A way to learn valuable skills
while having fun, it often emphasizes children's participation.



Watching that first polo match is both exciting and impressive for virtually everyone who takes it in. How did these amazing athletes – the polo players on their magnificent ponies – learn to ride so masterfully and cultivate such a finely-tuned relationship with their mounts?

Many came up through the ranks from childhoods steeped in farming or ranching. They became familiar with animals and nature after many years of milking cows, herding cattle, mending fences, handling livestock, and growing crops.

But how did those not raised on a farm get their foot in the door of the polo world when there can seem to be so much involved with taking up the sport?

The horse, and the equipment and gear for horse and rider, are obvious requisites. Then one must learn the game, in addition to acquiring the horsemanship to play.

Although it was not the specified intent of these games when they were formed, they have turned out to be a perfect stepping stone for entrée into the polo club.

Gymkhana describes an event in which horses and riders display skill and aptitude in various races and contests, including speed pattern racing and timed games. These events often emphasize children's participation and the phrase is often synonymous with "games on horseback."

At the Sarasota Polo Club (SPC), it was discovered that there are many families with an interest in combining the development of their children's riding skills and family fun, so the club began hosting Gymkhana games one Saturday a month during the season. It is quite the affair!

Before the event itself, the kids practice in anticipation of getting their "ponies" ready for the classes, which include barrel racing, keyhole race, keg race, flag

BY LYDIA KOLBAS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS







With the goal of being fun and teaching horsemanship and sportsmanship, the games are designed to help build children's confidence and partnership with their horses

race, and pole bending. In addition, very creative organizers may add an egg-carrying contest, a costume-theme, or some other amusing and imaginative match.

With the overarching goal of being fun and teaching horsemanship and sportsmanship, Gymkhana games are designed to help build children's confidence and partnership with their horses. Through controlled actions and tight teamwork between horse and rider at speed, the youngsters quickly become comfortable in the saddle and establish a solid seat. (SPC offers a variety of classes that permit riders to compete at the speed level they are comfortable with.)





The pony seems to take
to heart his role of
of trusted steed and companion to
his budding equestrian.

For young children and beginners, a good Gymkhana pony is gentle, good-natured, and steady. As the rider's expertise is honed and the keenness for proficiency grows, a more talented equine partner is often sought. The ideal Gymkhana horse must have the speed of a race horse, the turning quickness and agility of a cutting horse, and the responsiveness of a stock horse. (Note: Oftentimes the animals in Gymkhana, as in polo, are referred to as "ponies." Technically, a pony is a small horse that measures 14.2 hands or less, or 58 inches, at the withers. In both sports, however, these "ponies" are technically horses.)

Gymkhana Day offers a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. There's the sense of camaraderie and friendly competition, the excitement of the contests, and, quite frequently, a barbeque hosted by one of the parents. Plus, for the kids, there's the opportunity to win trophies,



GYMKHANA

ribbons, and candy-coated treats for themselves, as well as for their mounts. In a time when family outings are becoming increasingly rare, the SPC Gymkhana is a great way to bring together siblings and their parents.

Currently, the games are organized by folks who have kids participating. Preparing the arena and setting up the various games requires many volunteer hands. While doing all the prep work, the adults have almost as much fun as the kids do.

Bending poles is one of the most common games today. A line of about four or five poles are set up, and the horse and riders have to weave in and out of them as fast as they can, turn round the last one, and bend back to the finish line. The egg and spoon race is another favorite. The participants each get an egg on a spoon and have to go from the start to the other end (usually around the last bending pole), and back as fast as they can without dropping the egg.

And the horses seem to love the day too! Or so we'd like to believe when we hear of a polo pony who normally races up and down the polo fields, but who is calm and patient on Gymkhana Day, merrily trotting around the arena while his young rider places flags, steers around barrels, or concentrates on not dropping his egg. The pony seems to take to heart his role of trusted steed and companion to his budding equestrian. It's quite a precious transformation to see a fiery polo pony turn into an equine teddy bear. And it's a heartwarming sight to witness a child's glee in his accomplishments and his love for the four-legged partner he achieved them with. **SPC**



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POLO

under the palms

For nearly a decade, the polo-loving Uihlein family has been dedicated to fighting cancer, with a kind of empathetic fervor that only comes from firsthand experience.

Their “Polo Under the Palms” fundraising event is entering its fourth annual run in Lakewood Ranch in March, and this year, its local imprint will be more profound than ever. Under the umbrella of the Uihleins’ newly formed Little Owl Charities Inc., the soiree (which has generated \$950,000 since 2011) will now benefit both the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas and the Center for Building Hope (CBH) in Lakewood Ranch. It is a gratifying move for the Uihleins as well as a major boon to Sarasota-Manatee’s cancer support network.

“When my husband, Jamie, was diagnosed with tongue cancer in 2004, friends encouraged us to seek a second opinion at MD Anderson in Houston. We did and never looked back,” says Mary Uihlein, who co-runs the benefit and the Little Owl nonprofit with her husband, Jamie Uihlein; son, James Uihlein; and daughter-in-law, Christie Uihlein.

“The CBH is a local facility that focuses on the emotional issues confronting patients and their families who have already been through cancer treatment,” Mary Uihlein says. “After leaving a treatment facility, it is so important to have this kind of support to continue the healing process.”

The Uihleins’ aim is to champion organizations like the CBH and MD Anderson so that all families – in Lakewood Ranch and elsewhere – may receive stellar support when confronted with cancer. To that end, “Polo Under the Palms” at the Sarasota Polo Club invites patrons to watch a United States Polo Association (USPA) sanctioned tournament, have dinner, participate in a silent auction and dance. The 2014 event will be held on March 8. Individual tickets are \$175 and sponsorships are available for up to \$15,000.

BY ABBY WEINGARTEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS



good things

can come from bad places

Jamie Uihlein, reluctantly having his photo taken at the Polo Under the Palms, is a 10-year cancer survivor and his journey and life-threatening battle with tongue cancer was the Uihlein family's inspiration for starting Polo Under the Palms.



The Uihlein family from left: James, Christie, Mary and Jamie are the force behind Polo Under the Palms, which has raised almost \$1 million dollars since 2011 in its mission to fight cancer.

Last year, more than 300 attendees helped raise \$150,000 for the cause. The turnout pleased Jamie Uihlein, who was initially diagnosed with stage II tongue cancer, but currently has a clean bill of health, thanks to MD Anderson's care. He serves on MD Anderson's Board of Visitors, and is one of numerous patients from Florida to have benefited from the Texas-based center.

Many Florida doctors often consult with MD Anderson doctors through televised sessions, and this partnership enables Florida patients to have more than one oncologist review their diagnoses and treatment plans. Still, even with MD Anderson's strong link to Florida, the Uihleins felt the need to bring the cause even closer to home.

"My mother-in-law and I created Polo Under the Palms as our way to give back to MD Anderson. MD Anderson is near and dear to our hearts. My father-in-law has been cancer free for 10 years because of the exceptional care he received there," Christie Uihlein

explained. "The response from our local community has been amazing and this support prompted us to make some significant changes in order for us to show our appreciation. The creation of Little Owl Charities, Inc. opens the door for us to include, along with MD Anderson, local cancer organizations of our choosing.

"We are extremely happy to welcome The Center for Building Hope in Lakewood Ranch as a very deserving beneficiary in 2014!"

The staff members at the CBH were elated when they heard about the addition. Their organization offers free programs for cancer patients, caregivers and family members through a network of community-based centers, hospitals, oncology practices and other nonprofits. There are educational workshops available that utilize the "patient active" concept, in which people affected by cancer can learn vital skills to regain their sense of control. These initiatives are designed to enhance treatment by focusing on the emotional, psychological and educational aspects of wellbeing.

Last year, more than 300 attendees helped raise \$150,000.

The mission of Little Owl Charities, Inc. is to raise money for and boost awareness of organizations that pursue advances in research, education and treatment of cancer.

Jenny Alday Townsend, the vice president of business development at the CBH, says her team looks forward to the “Charity Bar Night Polo Edition” on March 6 at the Polo Grill and Bar. All of the proceeds from this gathering will benefit the CBH, as will a portion of the revenue from the main event two days later at the Polo Club.

“We’re honored to be selected as one of the benefiting charities and the exposure helps us expand our mission,” Townsend says.

“The charity bar night raised \$5,000 in 2012. We’re hoping to do that if not more this year, and that’s just a kickoff fundraising event before ‘Polo Under the Palms.’”

Michelle Brault, the development director/events at the CBH, is as thrilled as Townsend.

“We’re in the same neighborhood as the polo field, so we’re very fortunate to be working with someone in our backyard and introducing what our center does to the attendees at the polo match,” Brault says. “We want to spread the word about our free programs and services. There were so many beneficiaries they could have chosen but we are honored that they chose us.”

James Uihlein, on the grey horse, competes each year in the Polo Under the Palms. This year will be a 12 goal USPA sanctioned match which is open to the public and will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014.





It's hard not to have a good time when you are gathering around good people, good food, good music and a good cause.

The Uihleins also made a significant choice when they picked the name "Little Owl" for their budding nonprofit, and there is a story behind it.

"Uihlein translates loosely to 'Little Owl' in German, and my husband's polo team is also called Little Owl," Christie Uihlein says. "When we created Little Owl Charities, we left it open to benefit charities of our choosing. In the future, if we wanted to include an additional one we could, and we like that freedom."

Mary Uihlein says fundraising has been a rewarding experience for her family, and she looks forward to the growth and giving potential of Little Owl Charities.

"It's an honor to give back to institutions that have given so much to us," Mary Uihlein says. "Raising local awareness about the far-reaching tentacles of MD Anderson is so important to us and the ability to support charities locally is huge."

For more information on the Center for Building Hope, 5481 Communications Parkway, Lakewood Ranch, call 941.921.5539 or visit centerforbuildinghope.org. **SPC**

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WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARE EXPECTING A Foal

You are about to embark on a wondrous process: thrilling, fulfilling and expensive.

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Do make sure you are breeding your mare for the experience, and not with thrift in mind (as in getting a free horse). Consider – besides the often costly affair of actual breeding – the vet bills, buying feed ... more vet bills, for which you get nothing in return except love for three years before riding enters the picture. Release any notion that this will be more economical than buying a horse.

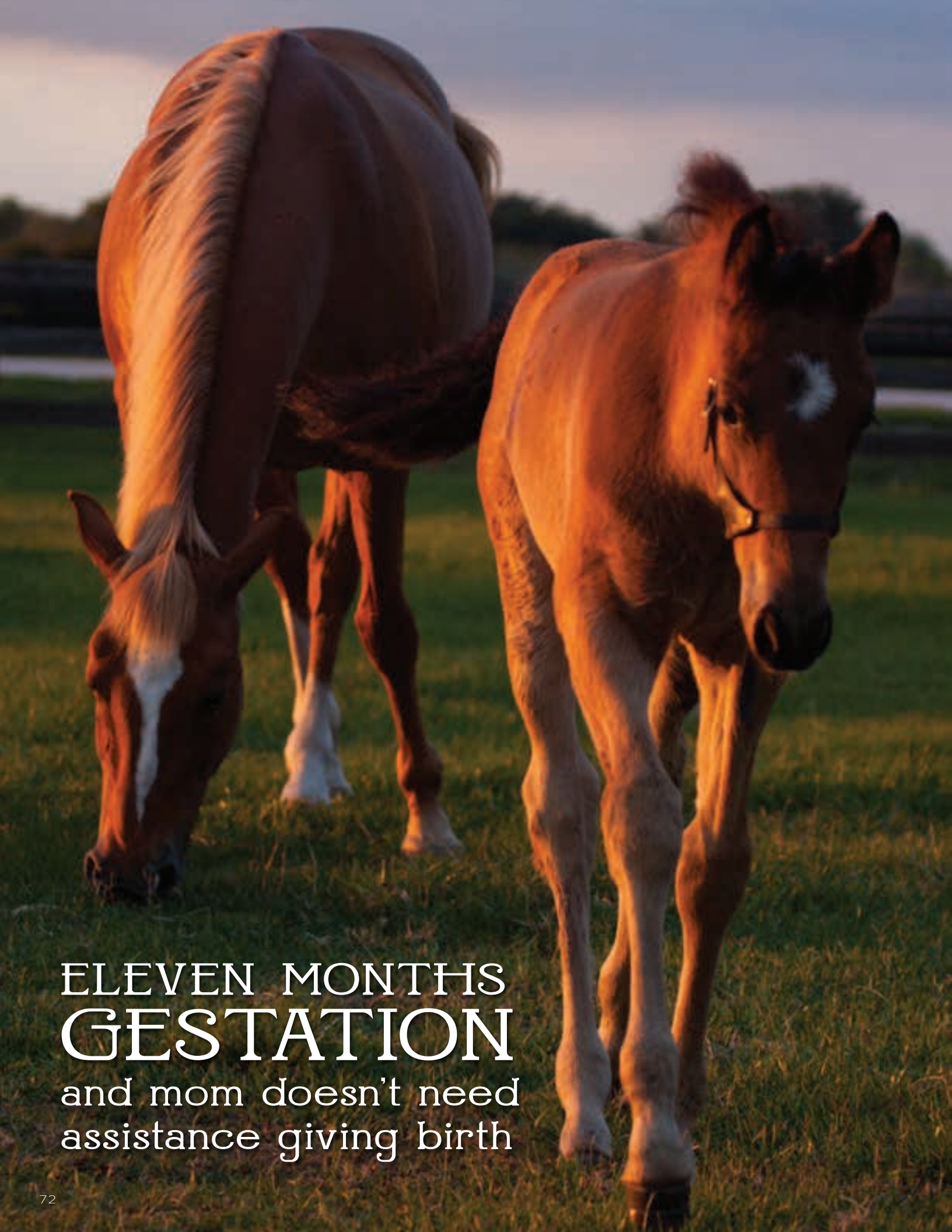
Choose your best mare: conformation, color, flash, athleticism. Congeniality factors in. Selecting a people-friendly mare simplifies the entire affair for both you and veterinarian. (In my case, many wondered why I picked Paula, a mare who lives to resent and avoid humans.) Then you must choose the “baby daddy,” whose accessibility is not unlike a Match.com bachelor. Breeders have



BY JAYMIE KLAUBER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARC ELLIS

websites. And as the parental arranger of this coupling, you have high standards, surely seeking a harmonious outcome. You might want to jot down the criteria that must be met. Note: female owners may find themselves listing qualities they'd like in a man ... must be at least 15 hands tall with shiny hair and a kind eye, enjoys long walks on the beach

Don't be shy about negotiating stud fees. A breeder might reduce fees, knowing he can make it up in volume. Stallions (not unlike aforementioned bachelors) have a nearly unlimited supply of semen. Thus they are high-strung, horny, and often unruly. In fact most barns and equestrian centers of any riding discipline do not keep stallions.



ELEVEN MONTHS
GESTATION
and mom doesn't need
assistance giving birth

If you want to save wear and tear on your sensibilities, there is the option of artificial insemination. Herein you can find an impressive stallion online or by referral, and arrange that when your mare goes into heat, his sperm will be “collected” (a process better left to the imagination) and Fed-Exed to your vet, who then inseminates the mare. This can be more costly, and robs you of the in-depth uncut version of the adventure.

Fortuitously, in the spring of 2012, there happened to be a well-mannered stallion at the Sarasota Polo Club that one of the pros was playing in polo. I went to check out the stud, whose name was Ice Man. I found him appealing, and haggled with the pro/owner as to the stud fee, eventually reaching an agreement. We shook hands on the deal, although most breeding of registered breeds is formalized by paperwork. In this case, we would be creating a hybrid (well, mutt of sorts), hoping for a highly athletic cross of his American Thoroughbred and my Argentine Thoroughbred. No money changed hands: interestingly, you need not pay until you have a live foal.

Determine when you’d like your mare to “drop” the foal, and count back 11 months. Yes, 11 months gestation period, which can seem an eternity. Then off you go to the vet for a negative uterine culture, and a shot to bring your mare into “season.” While some mares are quite obvious about being in heat (tails held high in the air, exposing themselves unashamedly, indiscriminately – even around geldings), with others it is hard to tell. Thus, the inducing injection provides a clearly defined time frame. The vet will need to examine your mare a few times, check the uterus to see how far into the heat she is, and if she is ovulating.

At the optimal time, I rode Paula over to the stallion’s barn. As his name would suggest, Ice Man is not a romantic. No candlelight, no enticing whispers, no nibbling at her forelock. Simply straightforward: slam, bam, thank you ma’am: the Ice Man cometh. It was powerful though, wondrous, actually – nature working its birds and bees magic, as we’ve seen on the Discovery Channel ...

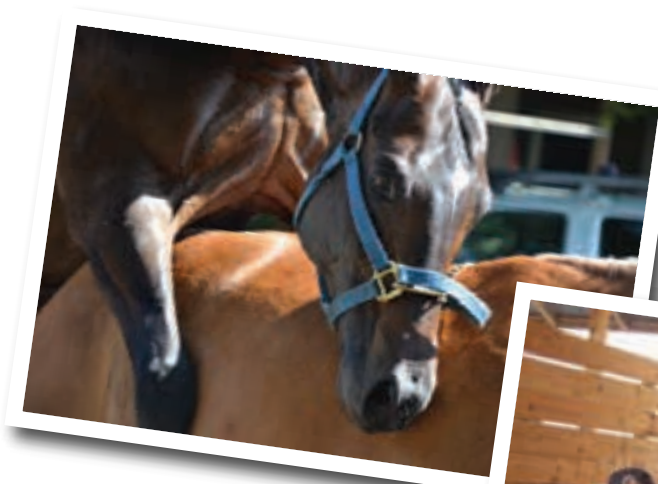
Four mornings we rode over for a quickie, and walked home, back to the barn. Paula seemed fine with it, but I felt somewhat uneasy, as if it were the walk of shame following a one night stand.

Within two weeks, my vet, Dr. Bill McGinty, could verify Paula’s pregnancy. He offered a fundamental timeline covering the next 11 months, until the bundle of joy would arrive. We planned a few visits for vaccinations and occasionally ultrasound or palpating. It was unnerving to learn that the vet need not be present for the blessed event. Over time I asked Dr. McGinty dozens of questions; he patiently offered standard answers, always adding the caveat, “that is, if your mare read the book.”

It seems Paula had indeed read the book: everything was on course. As her due date approached (11 months, five days after conception), I had to tackle the fear surrounding the actual birth (!), and figure out how to

handle it. I now had just one month to research this phenomenon, its uniqueness compelling me toward obsession. Every book and all online information includes a list for a “birthing kit,” so I gathered all the items, hoping I would not have to use them, because many are required only in an emergency/unusual situation. But in due diligence I prepared.

Two weeks before the due date, I purchased a baby monitor and began confining Paula in her double-wide stall (she was rather double-wide herself at this point) at night, which is when 95% of mares have their foals. Exercising restraint by not scoffing at my 24-hour surveillance plan, the laid-back Dr. McGinty said I could just leave her in the paddock and one morning I would find her baby beside her. But I wanted to witness the miracle and be involved in case help was needed.





On the first Saturday in March, the coldest night of the year, fixated on the baby monitor, I saw Paula pawing and sniffing the ground, and pacing her stall. My advice: rather than awaken your disinterested spouse, immediately phone a horse friend. Claudia came right over. We wrapped Paula's tail with vet wrap and washed her "private area." Soon, she lay down and quickly, with a certain grace, sent forth her foal. Thankfully, it was "by the book."

Coincidentally, the owner of stallion Ice Man was staying in my barn apartment for the weekend, so came to help, lending his vast experience. Paula actually had done all the work, but he helped to clear the placenta, then guided me to sit down right beside the baby boy, who appeared black, wet, and all legs. Paula licked her baby while I "imprinted" on him, rubbing and touching him all over his body, in his mouth, nose and ears so he would know me forever and be unafraid of humans in the future. Imprinting is essential to establish your relationship with the foal, but it is important that you allow the mare and foal to bond.

So within three hours of Paula sniffing and pawing the floor, there was her beautiful baby boy, Ice Ice Baby, son of Ice Man, on his feet and nursing. And we humans actually managed to get a few hours' sleep that night.

A word to the wise – from the newly wise: BE CAREFUL in the stall with momma and baby, and avoid having too many people nearby ogling and cooing at baby while in the stall. If momma starts to spin around and encircle the foal, get the hell out of the way. Fast. Faster than I did, when momma, protecting her baby, dealt me a double barrel kick. After that first day, though, Paula was happy to let me assume some of the responsibility and keep Baby entertained while she enjoyed her time to eat and rest. Ice Ice Baby has been friendly, playful and kind from the get-go. I feel gratified and exuberant when he whinnies upon seeing me, and runs to greet me in the paddock. Oh, what a feeling!

Over the next five months Baby grew, loved, romped, and of course, ate and contributed his share of fertilizer to agriculture. As is demonstrated by most horses, he could often manage a mishap and sustain injury requiring treatment. (Note: Your fretting over it

does not promote healing). On the brighter side, a colt then becomes accustomed to handling, which includes first encounters with the farrier, and other close-up care such as deworming, wrapping, brushing, and a clipper trim. Ice Baby was a rock star through everything; his personality the polar opposite of his unsociable mother. I believe I've seen Paula actually roll her eyes disdainfully when observing her offspring consort with humans, being a sappy love kitten at that. Thankfully he inherited his daddy's cordial temperament.

As Baby grew we could tell he would lose his baby coat, that lighter color fluff, and become a beautiful bay colt – and as summer approached his gorgeous black legs, mane and tale accented his silky copper-brown coat. Handsome and shiny, that boy; a true beauty, as really all horses are.

As for weaning ... They say that nursing can be hard on the mare and make her tired and cause her to lose weight. This is not always the case. Paula and Baby both grew larger. But finally I determined

it was time to wean baby from momma. Now, here is where you've got to appreciate technology and social media: I posted an ad on local Craigslist asking if someone else had a mare and foal they wanted to separate (wean). Sure enough, a pleasant young woman – a Sarasota sherriff with a ranchette off East Fruitville – contacted me and we set up the “exchange.” I had anxiety about separating momma and baby, having heard and read horror stories about both of them crying for days on end. I waited for a weekend that hubby would be out of town, as I knew that kind of horse related stress/drama would drive him nuts too. Then we set the plan in motion. On the weekend of Ice Baby's five-month birthday, I went to my new friend's ranch and picked up her beautiful mare and cute

Appaloosa filly (four-month-old baby girl) and brought them to my ranch. Hold-





MARE AND FOAL BOND IS ESSENTIAL

just as imprinting establishes
a human bond with the foal

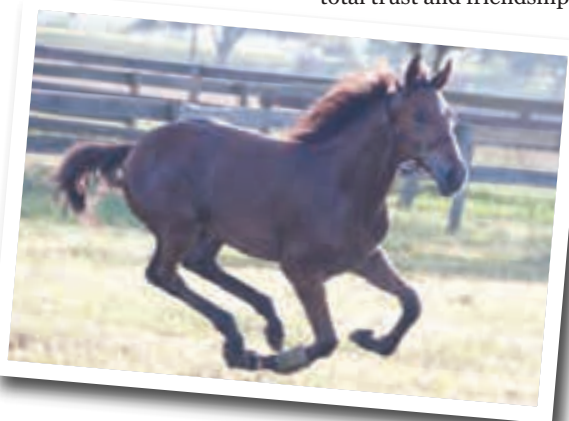


ing the mares outside a paddock, we introduced the youngsters inside the fence line, letting them run and play for a while.

We then moved the babies into the double stall together and quickly loaded the mommas into the trailer, which proved a challenge through their prancing, dancing, and dramatic whinnying. A neighbor brought them over to her ranch and turned them out together while I stayed at home attempting to calm the babies who, astonishingly, were trying to climb the walls and leap out of the stall, crying and crying for their mothers. My friend had it a bit easier, having only to deal with one night of the mommas crying out, which soon settled into peaceful acceptance, perhaps glee at their freedom; now able to eat, and rest as their milk dried up. I endured three days of crybaby antics, which finally subsided, as the babies too seemed to get over it. They became more independent with each passing day. We maintained this arrangement for a month before trading back, the sheriff welcoming the return of her cute Appaloosa baby,

and me receiving Paula, who, despite our personality differences, I missed very much.

I keep momma and baby in different stalls and paddocks, but now they are friends, as Baby is with all the others in the herd. As my more experienced friends had told me, he is much more fun without momma around, and we do many things together, throughout which he is slowly being trained. We take long walks in the Polo Club, he gets baths and treats ... and we love to cuddle. A special intimacy I am happy to share ... I often enter his stall and sit beside him while he is lying down. He places his head and neck across my lap and falls back to sleep. We are both rapturous in the total trust and friendship horses rarely show to humans.



Now seven months old, Ice Ice Baby recently accompanied me to the beach, where we leisurely swam along together. It was his first trip in the trailer and first time swimming. True to his affable nature, he was a perfect angel. How lucky I am. We had a blast!!! **SPC**

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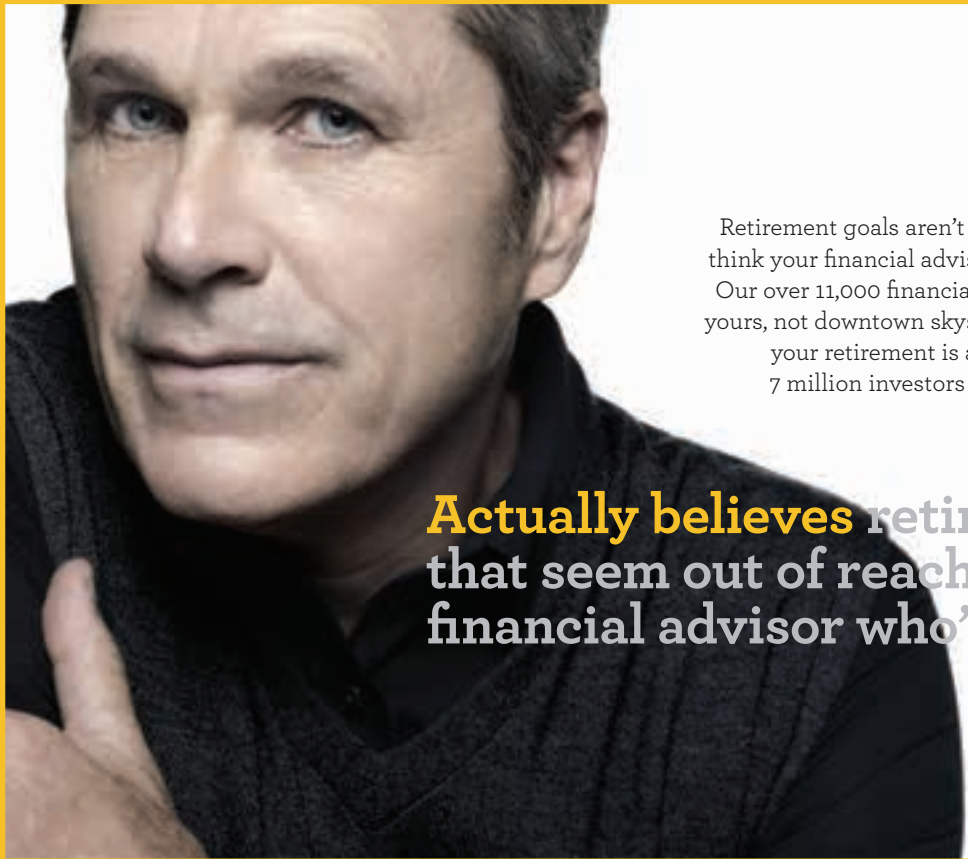
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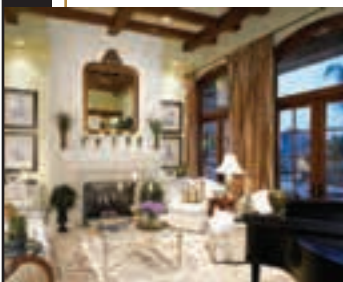
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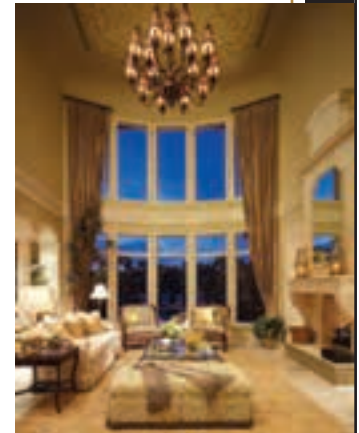
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Finding an artist to adorn the cover of the
Sarasota Polo Club magazine
is like trying to find a needle in one of
Van Gogh's Haystack paintings.

There are very few artists in the world that can capture
the majestic horse, much less the sport of polo.
Elizabeth Dryden has successfully done both.

Her work is bold and expressive. She gives color a voice.
Her use of strong, expressive strokes and mixed media give her work
depth, yet her style keeps them beautifully simplistic...

elizabeth
dryden

BY REBECCA WOLL



CALLING HERSELF A "BARN RAT" AS A KID, SARASOTA POLO MAGAZINE'S 2014 COVER ARTIST, ELIZABETH DRYDEN, HAS ALWAYS HELD A DEEP LOVE, RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR HORSES.

Dryden grew up in Dallas and subsequently returned after living in Arizona, Washington and Kentucky. Much of her artwork is mixed media, in which she combines layers of paint and programs from horse races to imbue her work with strata of meaning. Animals are often the subjects of Elizabeth's work; many times horses.

Dryden works as an artist, spokesperson and lead artist for DecoArt, while also managing her pet portrait business, "Pawtraits." She shows her fine art internationally and continues to paint and create new work in her studio.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST KNOW THAT YOU HAD TO CREATE THROUGH ART?

When I was little I was very expressive, but I always seemed to have trouble putting what I was feeling or trying to say into words. Every time I created a drawing or a painting, I would get a very positive reaction when I gave the piece to whomever I was trying to speak to. The excitement I received in return for the piece made me forget what I was trying to say in the first place, so it all worked out. As an adult I still struggle, sometimes subconsciously. I often don't realize what I am voicing in my work until I see the message unfold in the completed piece. For example, in the "Birds of a Feather" series, I was going through a divorce. I didn't realize that the work I was doing was about my life and the feeling of being trapped or caged. After I completed the series and analyzed the connection between each piece, I noticed they were each voicing this common theme. I took the concept a little further and applied it to people in general, and that the idea of being "caged" didn't have to be from a relationship, it could be from a number of different life struggles. For example, where you live, finances, friends or family, sickness, addictions, anything in life that keeps you from being able to "fly" to your fullest potential.

The idea of how something, anything, can be interpreted so differently by each individual person intrigues me. We all have different life experiences, we have our own opinions, and our own values and beliefs – therefore we each have our own idea of reality. My art is my own reality and the way I see things. It's a language I use to say what I can't express in words.

YOU PRIMARILY CREATE ART WITH ANIMALS AS THE MAIN SUBJECT OF THE COMPOSITION. WHY DO YOU USE ANIMALS TO CONVEY YOUR PHILOSOPHY ON LIFE?

Animals are great subjects to use to portray certain messages because most of them are already symbols, representing certain concepts of their own. For example, horses often represent strength, a free spirit, and beauty while birds can represent freedom or even death (ravens). I like to attach emotional or subliminal messages to the animals to help communicate my message to the viewer. For me, people are difficult to use as subjects because audiences are fast to stereotype the "person" and miss the underlying meaning of the piece. Animals relay a message that the audience sees.

WHAT DREW YOU TO MIXED MEDIA?

I was originally drawn to using mixed media while at the Keeneland (Ky.) racetrack watching some of the races one spring. I remember flipping through the horse programs and reading the funny horse names and statistics and thought the combination of numbers and names were intriguing. I also think the look of newspaper within a work of art gives it variety of texture and a literary feel – combining an additional form of communication besides the painting itself. I began playing with this media in my horse paintings, and it added a new element of horse-related material to the piece.

On several commissioned racehorse paintings, I was given the actual horse's programs from either Churchill Downs or Keeneland Racetrack to incorporate that particular horse's information within the piece, making it a more personalized painting.

I LOVED HORSES, AND TAKING LESSONS WITH MY MOM AND SISTER WAS A BONDING EXPERIENCE THAT SOON BECAME MY PASSION. I RODE EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL, AND ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS I WOULD STAY AND MUCK STALLS FOR A FREE PRACTICE RIDE AT THE END OF THE DAY. I WAS ONE OF THE "BARN RATS" AND COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF HORSES.



I WOULD GO TO THE RACES AT KEENELAND AND CHURCHILL DOWNS AND WAS COMPLETELY FASCINATED BY THE BRIGHT-COLORED JERSEYS, GLISTENING BRIDALS, TANNED SADDLES, AND BOLD-HUED JOCKEY UNIFORMS.

Elmer Dyer

**YOU PRIMARILY WORK ON CANVAS WITH PAINT;
DO YOU CREATE OTHER TYPES OF ART AS WELL?**

The only other work I have done other than mixed media/paint on canvas was the life-sized horse sculpture, “Le Coeur de Cheval” (The Heart of the Horse), which was on display in downtown Lexington, Ky. during the 2010 FEI Altech World Equestrian Games. The sculpture has since been bought by Mt. Brilliant Farms in Lexington. The piece explores the idea of a horse being classified as an object or a “mechanical machine” (used for money in the racing business, work as they helped shape America before cars plowing fields, for transportation, etc.) and a living, breathing, feeling being.

WHO WERE YOUR ARTISTIC INFLUENCES?

I began to really appreciate art history in college and fell in love with Van Gogh’s use of visible brush strokes and interesting texture in his work. It was an amazing experience to see a few of his works in person at a show in the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. I remember being speechless and almost moved to tears standing in front of one of his Haystack paintings. I must have stood there for at least 15 minutes just looking at every little detail.

I am also very influenced by Paul Klee and his childlike outlined forms and bold usage of lines in his paintings. I love how just a simple black outline can communicate a message as clearly as written words. I use lines in my work to add a simplicity factor, while leaving the rest of the work more complex.

Gustav Klimt is another artist whose work is very inspiring to me in his use of bold and bright colors and iridescent gold leaf. I love to add gold or silver to my work to give them a different look when the light hits them from a different angle. It seems to give the painting a little touch of magic.

**YOU USE A LOT OF IRIDESCENT PAINT
IN YOUR WORK. WHY?**

To me, the iridescent colors bring out a “pop,” or a majestic glimmer when the light hits the painting in a certain way. They are colors that go beyond what a normal color can do, adding exaggeration or magic to the painting; it can make the painting feel like it is encompassing you.

**HOW DID LIVING IN KENTUCKY AFFECT YOUR
WORK AS A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST?**

Living in Kentucky was a fascinating experience for me. I grew up in Dallas riding in equestrian competitions, doing jumping and



dressage. I loved horses, and taking lessons with my mom and sister was a bonding experience that soon became my passion. I rode every Wednesday after school, and on Saturdays and Sundays I would stay and muck stalls for a free practice ride at the end of the day. I was one of the “barn rats” and couldn’t get enough of horses.

Art always came naturally to me and during my continuous day-dreaming sessions in school of being back at the horse barn, I was constantly drawing horses. I got pretty good at this particular subject and began getting asked by my fellow city classmates to draw horses on their book covers or notebooks so they could color them in. My horse drawings became a “hot commodity” in the classroom.

Fast forward to my mid-20s when I married a horse vet and moved to Lexington. I was introduced to a totally new world of horses: Racing and polo. I was reacquainted with the passion I so loved in my youth. I would go to the races at Keeneland and Churchill Downs and was completely fascinated by the bright-colored jerseys, glistening bridals, tanned saddles, and bold-hued jockey uniforms. And the horses were so different than the typical Texas quarter horse I was always used to seeing and riding back home. These were almost like an entirely new animal to me. Unbe-



lievably sleek and lean, full of pent-up energy and life, with breathtakingly defined muscles. These Thoroughbreds were ready for action.

I was once again very intrigued and began a series of paintings on horses, using all of the beautiful new imagery I was surrounded by.

WHAT ABOUT HORSES IS CAPTIVATING TO YOU?

Horses are magnificent animals in their abilities to perform, run, work and play, and each has its own expressive personality. They have helped shape our country, are strong and courageous animals, yet also have feeling and compassion. I have always been drawn to their beauty and their free spirit.

SOME OF YOUR HORSE PAINTINGS HAVE BOLD LINES AND COLORS WHILE OTHERS SEEM MORE ETHEREAL. HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT FEELING A PAINTING IS GOING TO TAKE ON?

When I am painting, I usually visualize how the subject and composition is going to look in my mind and I may even sketch out a

rough drawing on paper (which looks like chicken scratch to anyone else who sees it). I try to let the painting take on its own personality and mood as I go. Each piece is usually a puzzle that reveals itself to me as I go, and often the finished piece is a surprise to me as well.

THERE IS HUMOR IN MANY OF YOUR PAINTINGS WHILE OTHERS EXPLORE SERIOUS DIALOGUES. HOW DO YOU USE COLOR AND COMPOSITION TO CREATE THIS SPAN OF EMOTION?

Color is a very vocal element in art. I believe that it is what communicates the feelings or mood of most art. I like my work to be very bold and expressive, so I choose strong colors. I want to be the voice of my work. I also incorporate the use of strong visual lines to support the boldness in my composition in combination with bright color.

For my darker, more serious pieces, I tend to set the mood using darker colors — choosing black as a background, while outlining in lighter colors. I find that these different elements in painting are like using my nouns and adjectives to form the message I am trying to communicate with the viewer.

HOW DO YOU WORK WITH CLIENTS WHO COMMISSION PAINTINGS FROM YOU?

I try to keep the process fairly simple by asking a few basic questions: what is the desired size, background color, and subject? From there we can work with several emailed images of a desired pet or horse with pricing based on size. I try to be quick with my orders and have them completed and shipped out within 2-4 weeks, depending on the size. I want the client to be 100% happy with the outcome before shipping, so when completed I always send several images to make sure everyone is happy. I take pride in each painting I create and want the client to be thrilled with the end result. **SPC**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ELIZABETH DRYDEN
VISIT WWW.ELIZABETHDRYDEN.COM**



HORSES ARE MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS IN THEIR ABILITIES TO PERFORM, RUN, WORK AND PLAY, AND EACH HAS ITS OWN EXPRESSIVE PERSONALITY. THEY HAVE HELPED SHAPE OUR COUNTRY, ARE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS ANIMALS, YET ALSO HAVE FEELING AND COMPASSION. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DRAWN TO THEIR BEAUTY AND THEIR FREE SPIRIT.

Divot Stomp Your Way to the Gift Shop

The Sarasota Polo Club's gift shop has various men's, women's and children's clothing, polo mallets and balls, magnets, toys and gifts, including this year's 2014 commemorative *Sarasota Polo Magazine* poster and T-shirt.

Don't forget to pick up a set of SPC Tervis Tumblers to keep your drinks cold and in style on the sidelines. Gift shop is open every Sunday during season or by appointment and is located behind the pavilion.

Prices vary



tack shop



2014 Commemorative Art

A limited number of posters signed by artist Elizabeth Dryden are available at the gift shop as well as magnets, T-shirts and Tervis Tumblers featuring the 2014 cover artwork.

Prices vary



Sterling Silver Jewelry

Custom designed sterling silver horse and polo-themed jewelry can now be found in the Sarasota Polo Club gift shop.

A must for every polo player and fan!

Prices vary



Sarasota Polo Club Gifts

A variety of custom Sarasota Polo Club accessories are available to adorn your home, car and tailgate spot. Chairs, hats, clothing, insulated bottle holders, water bottles, toys, fuzzy equine friends and so much more!

Prices vary



ryan gilbertson

player and Wildcat patron



ERIC NALPAS

Ryan Gilbertson was born in Bloomington, Minn. and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College. Ryan founded Northern Oil and Gas, an oil exploration company focused on drilling in North Dakota, in 2006. In addition, he has founded several related infrastructure businesses in the oil fields of Montana and North Dakota. Ryan is the chairman of the Total Depth Foundation, a charitable organization he formed focused on local, high-impact giving. Ryan can usually be seen with his No. 1 fan, 5-year-old son Holden, right by his side.

What was your earliest experience with polo?

I saw a match about eight years ago at the Twin City Polo Club just outside of Minneapolis. I loved the athleticism and competitiveness of the game.

What first attracted you to polo?

The challenge of learning something new attracted me to polo because I had not ridden horses much before. Once I began playing, the adrenaline rush of the game became my favorite part.

What impressed you most at your first game?

The speed and intensity of the game as well as the sportsmanship and camaraderie after the game.

What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?

The people of the Sarasota Polo Club are the best in the country. The focus on American players and a great group of guys and gals makes it especially fun.

What is your favorite polo tradition?

My favorite personal tradition is my son Holden always joining me on the stage after a tournament game. I hope he always does!

Who do you most admire in the polo world?

I admire the families who have played and supported polo for many generations, especially the Uihleins, who founded and built the Sarasota Polo Club.

What is the one thing that is a "must bring" when you come to a polo game?

A well-stocked cooler and a great group of friends.

What's always in your cooler?

Coors Lite and ice for all my aching body parts.

What's your après polo place?

The tailgate sidelines, cooking good food.



ROD MILLINGTON

matt & lisa walsh

polo fans and 2014 media sponsor

Matt and Lisa are native Midwesterners — Lisa from Missouri “a” and Matt from Missouri “ee” — who moved to Miami in 1980. What they thought was going to be a five-year “fling” in Florida has turned into 33 years. In 1995, they purchased The Longboat Observer, and since then they have expanded to

operate seven other weekly newspapers and six websites in Sarasota and Manatee counties and Plant City, Palm Coast and Ormond Beach, Fla. The Walshes love the outdoors of Florida and Colorado — as long as there is air-conditioning or a fireplace nearby.

What was your earliest experience with polo?

When we moved here in 1995 and learned of Lakewood Ranch, a lot of people began telling us about the Sunday polo matches. So we checked it out.

What first attracted you to polo?

The whole atmosphere — horses racing up and down the field and the relaxed, casual, friendly feeling that permeates the whole atmosphere.

What impressed you most at your first game?

The sound of the hooves as the horses race by.

What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?

It's a fun place for everyone — kids, families and friends.

What is your favorite polo tradition?

The award ceremonies after each match.

Who do you most admire in the polo world?

Jaymie Klauber.

What is the one thing that is a “must bring” when you come to a polo game?

An expectation that you come to relax and have fun.

What's always in your cooler?

Ice.

What's your après polo place?

Polo Grill and Bar.

sherri spanos

*polo club events and
promotions manager*



ERIC NALPAS

Although she joined the Polo family in February of 2013, Sherri is not new to the Ranch. She began her relationship with Schroeder-Manatee Ranch at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club as the receptionist, eventually becoming food and beverage manager. She later moved to the University Parkway Information Center, where she became the Realtor liaison for LWR Communities. Sherri knows both the company and the community from all angles!

What was your earliest experience with polo?

My great-grandmother was from London and would tell me how Prince Charles was a wonderful polo player. I had seen pictures of him on a horse with some stick; I was so young I didn't know how exciting the sport was. I had no idea what the game was until last season when I saw my first match.

What first attracted you to polo?

Curiosity; what the sport was all about. Also the fact that something so exclusive and fun was right here on Lakewood Ranch!

What impressed you most at your first game?

The power of the horses as they gallop by. I remember closing my eyes just to listen to the horses. Just like a person when they work-out, you can hear them take their breath while they are exerting so much energy.

What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?

Now that I am working with not only the team patrons but also the members, I am really enjoying getting to know the people that live and breathe this sport. They all have so much passion for polo and our club.

What is your favorite polo tradition?

Stomping the divots, of course!

Who do you most admire in the polo world?

The horses ... their strength and endurance are amazing.

What is the one thing that is a "must bring" when you come to a polo game?

Sunscreen! I forgot a few times last season – what a mistake on a beautiful day.

What's always in your cooler?

I actually am very lucky with my job that I walk the sidelines, greeting the tailgate members and sponsors, and am offered some amazing food from their coolers!

What's your après polo place?

Since my day starts very early getting the property in order for the match and any events we may have, my home is the most favorite venue to head to!



ERIC NALPAS

marilyn & peter lane

tailgaters and polo club residents

Marilyn and Peter Lane met in Boston and moved to Sarasota 35 years ago. Peter is currently in real estate and a developer, and Marilyn is an interior decorator. Their daughter, Erika, lives on her farm in the club. She fell in love with the sport of polo and

brought her family to the Sarasota Polo Club. Erika played polo for 10 years. She manages the family's real estate, is a residential real estate agent, and teaches riding lessons.

What was your earliest experience with polo?

In 1999, watching our daughter, Erika, play.

What first attracted you to polo?

The camaraderie, our love for horses and the excitement.

What impressed you most at your first game?

Well, our first game was the U.S. Open finals, so there was much to be excited about.

What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?

We love the horse community and our wonderful friends and neighbors.

What is your favorite polo tradition?

Tailgating with our close friends and sharing Sunday polo.

Who do you most admire in the polo world?

The 10 goal polo players: their horsemanship and athleticism is unparalleled.

What is the one thing that is a "must bring" when you come to a polo game?

My signature brownies.

What's always in your cooler?

We don't worry about that, we rely on Jack Shelton's cooler ... just kidding!!!! Water, wine and beer.

What's your après polo place?

Fieldside at Uihlein's, and Wildcats' delicious barbecues.

A white horse is captured in mid-air, running over a rustic wooden fence. The horse's front legs are tucked up, and its hind legs are pushing off. The background is a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills and trees under a bright sky. The overall tone is warm and cinematic.

SNOWMAN

A DISGARDED FARMHORSE

TITANS *of* TRIUMPH

SNOWMAN, SEABISCUIT & SECRETARIAT

WRITTEN BY HÉLÈNE BUCKLEY

As the first glamorous Blackglama mink ad in 1968 asked, “What becomes a Legend most?” Comparisons come easily to mind and are irresistible. What is that infinitesimal, elusive quality that makes legends immortal memories? It is an element that transcends the ordinary into the extraordinary; an unshakable belief in conquering impossible odds.

But horses do not ruminate on these thoughts while munching carrots. It is we humans who think this, which makes horses the exemplars – paragons – because of something called “heart,” or in the parlance of Snowman’s world of power jumping, “bottom.”

SNOWMAN

In 1956 a mild-mannered, flea-bitten plow horse was literally a whisker away from death. Harry de Leyer, a riding instructor at the exclusive Knox School for girls in Long Island, N.Y. arrived late at the New Holland horse auction. The 22-year-old Dutch immigrant was in search of a lesson horse. It was obvious the best of the bunch were sold. Only the dregs remained, destined that night to the slaughterhouse to grind their flesh into dog food

OCTOBER 1959: Snowman began winning prestigious classes only two years after he was bought off the slaughter truck, including the 1958 show jumping Triple Crown — the American Horse Shows Association Horse of the Year, Professional Horsemen's Association Champion and champion of Madison Square Garden's Diamond Jubilee. Snowman was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 1992.

SEABISCUIT

THE UNDERSIZED UNDERDOG

and hooves into glue. Quickly looking over these death row inmates, de Leyer caught the glimmer in the eye of one dilapidated horse that resonated in the very core of his soul. He bought the depleted animal for \$80 out of a ramshackle truck. Even its appearance evoked a sense of pending doom, with filthy clapboards nailed together on the sides to barricade the tragic horses.

Like his improbable superstar, de Leyer was quietly tolerated by his employer. Being new to the United States and with no posh credentials to show for it, he built his reputation on his innate rapport with horses and quickly earned the respect of his pupils. He taught them more than how to ride, but how to perform under pressure, which endeared the ingénues to him. When the school term closed, de Leyer moved his few horses to his own small farm for the summer. Supporting a growing family without the income from lessons, a decision had to be made. The plain, unacknowledged Snowman got the short straw. No sooner had de Leyer sold Snowman to a kindly doctor, did he deeply regret it. So did the horse. A few weeks and \$160 later, Snowman began repetitive visits to his short-lived home several miles away. De Leyer was convinced that the good doctor neglected to latch the fence gates securely. The bewildered man was adamant he had done so on each of Snowman's expeditions, and all the pasture fences were in one piece. De Leyer suggested he tie a rubber tire to Snowman's lead line. The horse could still move around, but wouldn't get far, and the soft rubber was harmless if it bumped his legs.

On Snowman's final escape, he presented himself to de Leyer with his lead rope, his tire, and a chunk of fence trailing behind. It was at

that moment de Leyer knew Snowman was a diamond in the rough. Just like the symbolism of the stone, they would never leave each other again. He was a champion only wanting a chance. De Leyer gave him that chance and Snowman gave his heart in return.

The unlikely pair exploded onto the blueblood-dominated world of show jumping, taking the championship from the tried-and-true of equine aristocracy. That included the U.S. Equestrian Team, as well as Europe's crème de la crème in November of 1958 at the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden. Soaring over seven-foot jumps left the snobby social set in undeniable disbelief. The \$80 plow horse had heart.

SEABISCUIT

In a similar vein, a detailed biography of Seabiscuit tells the epic "biscuit" story. Son of the obstinate and volcanic Hard Tack and nephew of War Admiral, Lauren Hillenbrand reveals the horse's titanic struggles in his historic career. Often carrying a weight of 138 pounds – unthinkable today – the barely 15 hand, knobby-kneed inelegant looking Thoroughbred took it all in stride. Jockey Red Pollard never gave up on Seabiscuit, proving his worth when they won the 1940 Santa Anita Handicap.

But it was one match race in 1938 that is inexorably associated with Seabiscuit. A family feud like no other, owner Charles Howard dogged the War Admiral camp led by Samuel D. Riddle, to test the Man O'War bloodline. The East Coast darling was already a proven hero. The question was, could the 1937 Triple Crown winner take Seabiscuit as a serious threat?

NOVEMBER 1, 1938: Seabiscuit in action with jockey Charles Kurtsinger in what was dubbed the "Match of the Century," a winning race vs. War Admiral at Pimlico Race Course.

Photo by Jerry Cooke/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

TITANS OF TRIUMPH



THE ONE-IN-A-BILLION SECRETARIAT

The answer was a four-length irrevocable “yes.” Seabiscuit established a Pimlico track record for the mile and 3/16 in one minute, 56 seconds and 3/5.

Snowman and Seabiscuit share a common enigma. Though different disciplines of equine sports, they suffered ridicule because of their confirmation and pedigree. Pollard was just as physically out of place because of his height as Seabiscuit was with this short, ungainly look. Snowman was a physical wreck, taken for granted and abused; but his mind was sharp, his shoulders strengthened by years of a pulling a plow, and his spirit full of confidence and desire.

SECRETARIAT

A titan for sure, and certainly not lacking in pedigree, was Secretariat. Vying for the Kentucky Derby’s coveted Run for the Roses and Maryland’s Black-eyed Susans, it was Secretariat first, then Sham in hot pursuit, in the first two legs of the Triple Crown. What a powerhouse Sham was to bear up under the colossal might of Secretariat. Even Penny Tweedy, Secretariat’s owner said, “I had great respect for Sham and felt really sorry that he happened to race the same year as Secretariat.” Credit must be given to any horse tough enough to keep up with the “Super Horse” as *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Newsweek* dubbed him. He was the first cover horse on all three magazines in the same week.

It was in that June of 1973 a singular moment was witnessed in Thoroughbred racing. It was the 105th running of the Belmont Stakes, the last and longest race of the Triple Crown series. It was also when two Belmont Stakes ran on the same day, on the same track, and at the same post time.

In one race, the order of finish was Twice a Prince, My Gallant, Private Smiles, and Sham, a disappointing but understandable last.

In the other race was Secretariat. The chestnut colt was in another time zone. It was unquestionably the most astonishing performance in flat racing history with a win of 31 lengths. No horse has broken his record of a mile-and-a-half in two minutes and 24 seconds.

Were there other Thoroughbreds who won more races?

Certainly but not like the 1,175-pound, 16 ½-hand, Bold Ruler colt whose heart weighed 14-17 pounds, with a 25-foot stride, and a custom-made girth of 75 inches.

Perhaps the equine gods begged forgiveness for doling out Seabiscuit’s unfortunate runty look by reincarnating him as Secretariat. As for Snowman? Maybe Bellerophan flew on Pegasus again.

It would be nice to think so. **SPC**

JUNE 9, 1973: Secretariat with Ron Turcotte, winning the Belmont Stakes by an unfathomable 31 lengths to clinch the 1973 Triple Crown. Secretariat was the first Triple Crown winner since 1948.

Photo by Jerry Cooke/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images





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The Lane Family
M. Lane Interiors / Lane Plazas
Vinnie Meyer / Texas Polo



thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

polo lingo

The following are some basic definitions to add to your polo watching enjoyment.

Back Shot

Can be hit from either side of the horse.

Chukker

There are six chukkers in a polo match, each one lasting seven-and-a-half minutes. Between each chukker, players change horses.

Divot Stomping

An activity that involves spectators in 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

Means that the same horse may be played again in a later chukker.

NEAR-SIDE
NECK SHOT



RIDING OFF



Field

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

Game

Consists of four or six chukkers, depending on the number of available horses, the level of play, or the nature of the tournament.

Goal

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 goalers can go up in half point increments.

Hook

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

Knock-In

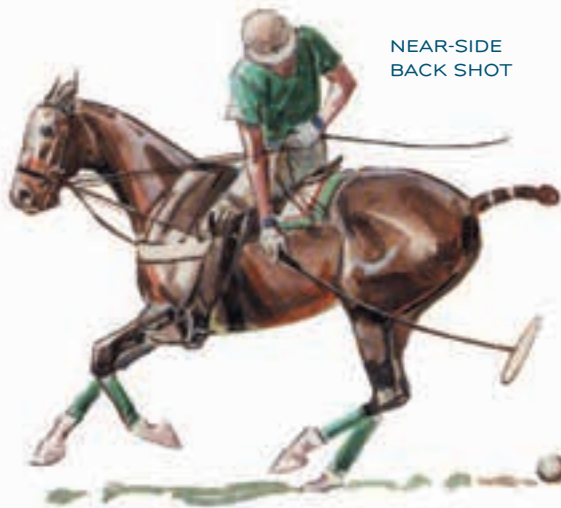
Should a team, in an offensive drive, hit the ball across the opponents' backline, the defending team resumes the game with a free hit from their backline.

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 hardwood 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
BACK SHOT

Penalty

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

Occurs when two riders attempt to push each other off the line of the ball.

Tail Shot

Hitting the ball behind and under the horse's rump.

Third Man

A 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 or referee. They also monitor safety for the players and horses.



OFF-SIDE
NECK SHOT

Near-Side Shot

Made from the left side of the horse. Near-side can 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.



TAKE THE MAN!
(LEAVE THE BALL)

the game

polo basics

Polo players use a mallet, also known as a “stick.” They are made of bamboo cane and the head is made of tipa wood. The head is beveled on one end to allow a full swing, flush to the ground. They vary in length from 48 to 54 inches, and are highly flexible. The ball used today is made of plastic and is 3.25 inches in diameter and weighs approximately 3.5 ounces. Originally, the ball was made of bamboo root, but was changed to plastic for consistency. All players use English saddles as opposed to Western saddles.

THE FIELD

A full-size boarded polo field measures 300 yards by 160 yards. This vast size is necessary for eight polo horses to have room to gallop, stop and turn. Depending on the ability of the player, a struck ball can travel up to 150 yards. The players’ jerseys are numbered from 1 to 4. Numbers 1 and 2 are the forwards, No. 3 is the quarterback, and the No. 4 is the defense, and is usually called the back.

THE GAME

Matches are monitored by two mounted umpires and a referee, also called a third man, who is seated on the sideline mid-field. The two umpires consult with one another after each infringement, and impose a penalty only if they agree. If they do not agree, they confer with the referee.

Polo matches are divided into six periods or “chukkers.” Between chukkers, there is an interval of four minutes to enable players to change horses, and at half time, between chukkers three and four, the players are given 10 minutes to rest and strategize.

Each chukker is $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes long and the clock is only stopped by the umpire’s whistle. The first horn is blown at seven minutes, warning that the players have 30 seconds left in the chukker, and the second horn is blown to end the chukker, unless a goal is scored or the ball goes out of bounds.

If the score is tied after the sixth chukker, the teams will come out again after a 10-minute break and play “sudden death”: the first team to score wins the match.

Any time a ball crosses the line between the goal posts, it is considered a goal, and it makes no difference whether a horse or a mallet causes the ball to go through. The goal posts are eight yards apart and, for safety reasons, are collapsible upon impact. The goal posts, like American football, continue up from the posts to infinity; therefore as long as the ball crosses over that 8 yard line, regardless of how high, it is a goal. To equalize wind



The laws of the polo field are as unique as the sport.

and turf conditions, the teams change sides after each goal.

The team that scores the most goals wins the match. Each player is given an individual handicap from minus 2 to 10 goals, with minus 2 as a novice, and 10 being the very best. Only 0 and 1 goalers can go up in half point increments. The handicap of a team is the sum total rating of its players.

At the beginning of the game and after each goal is scored, the two teams line up in the center of the field. Numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are being paired off with their corresponding numbers of the opposing team and face the umpire. The umpire then bowls the ball in underhanded between the two teams. Once a player strikes the ball, the game opens up and the players are no longer marking their corresponding numbers, but now their opposite numbers. No. 1 marks the opposing back, the No. 2 the opposing No. 3, the No. 3 the opposing No. 2, and the back with the opposing No. 1.

When a ball crosses the sideline or goes over the sideboard, it is considered out-of-bounds and the umpire will bowl in another ball between the two teams, five yards from where the ball went out of play. Should a team in an offensive drive hit the ball across the opponent's backline, the defending team resumes the game with a free hit from their backline. No timeout is allowed for knock-ins or throw-ins.

THE PLAY

Dangerous riding is forbidden, such as bumping at a dangerous angle, zigzagging in front of a player riding at a gallop, pulling across another player's horse, or

even riding at an opponent in such a manner as to intimidate him. When riding-off or bumping an opponent, it is permissible to push with your shoulder with your arm close to your side: no elbowing is allowed. The angle of the bump should never exceed 45 degrees. The faster the horse travels, the smaller the angle must be.

A hook is an extremely effective defensive technique in which a player uses his mallet to interfere with his opponent's swing. This must be done from the same side as the ball or from immediately behind. A cross-hook occurs when the player reaches over the mount of his opponent in an attempt to hook, and is considered a foul. A player cannot strike at the ball across the legs or body of an opponent's horse.

The foregoing rules are obvious and easily understood but the most important rule of all is crossing, which is for the safety of the horses and players. Most penalties are a result of this infraction.

The majority of the horses being played are thoroughbreds. Each player uses an average of six horses per match and rides a different one in each chukker. There is a distinct partnership between a player and his horse. The better a horse has been schooled and the greater understanding with which it is played, the more successful the player/horse partnership will be. This will greatly add to the spectator's pleasure of watching polo.

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we salute our players

As a sport, polo is unparalleled, and the players are the true stars of the game, upholding its traditions.

Polo players are an unusual breed of athlete. Although these men and women come from all walks of life and are involved in a myriad of activities, for the most part, their outside time and energy is saved for the game they love most...polo.

They are avid and responsible horsemen and own from one to 20 horses whose care and maintenance is their chief concern.

Join us as we salute our players. It is through their dedication and commitment to the sport that Sarasota Polo is able to provide the residents of our area with one of the most exhilarating sports being played today, polo, the "Game of Kings!"







Polo players

are as unique among sportsmen
as polo is among sports



5 GOAL
Alan Martinez
 Columbus, GA



5 GOAL
Francisco Bilbao
 Argentina



4 GOAL
Joe Wayne Barry
 Marion, TX



4 GOAL
Stuart Campbell
 South Africa



4 GOAL
Jamie Mirikitani
 Lakewood Ranch, FL



4 GOAL
Eddy Martinez
 Columbia, GA



4 GOAL
Juan Martinez-Baez
 Mexico City, Mexico



4 GOAL
Shane Rice
 Poway, CA



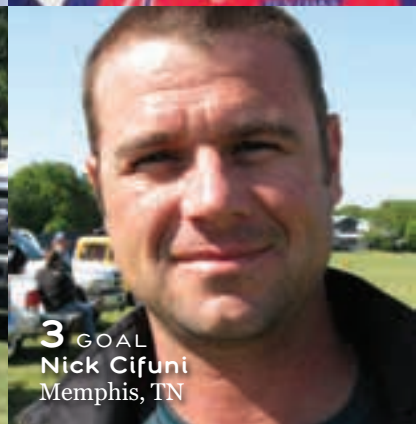
4 GOAL
Romulo Crespo
 Argentina



4 GOAL
Nicolai Galindo
 La Quinta, CA



4 GOAL
Joseph Stuart
 San Diego, CA



3 GOAL
Nick Cifuni
 Memphis, TN



3 GOAL
Gonzalo de la fuente
 Argentina



3 GOAL
Carlitos Galindo
 Windsor, SC



3 GOAL
Mark Gutierrez
 Aiken, SC



3 GOAL
Gilberto Junqueira
 Sarasota, FL



3 GOAL
Steve Krueger
 Argyle, TX

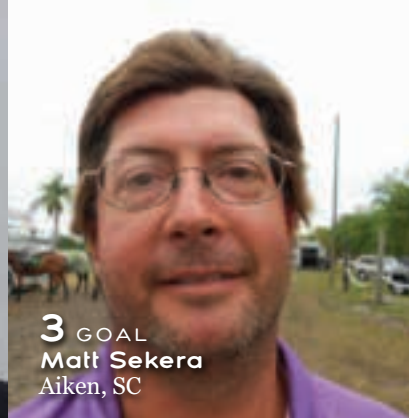


3 GOAL
Francisco Llosa
 Argentina





3 GOAL
Brent Mirikitani
Lakewood Ranch, FL



3 GOAL
Matt Sekera
Aiken, SC



2 GOAL
Luis Carrion
Wayzata, MN



2 GOAL
Alex Gooding
Woodycreek, CO



2 GOAL
Doug Hoskins
Wayzata, MN



2 GOAL
Jesus Ontiveros
Mexico



2 GOAL
Buck Schott
Lexington, KY



2 GOAL
Josh Shelton
Wichita, KS



2 GOAL
James P. Uihlein
Lakewood Ranch, FL



2 GOAL
Dennis Santana
Dominican Republic



1.5 GOAL
Trey Schott
Lexington, KY



1.5 GOAL
James Miller
Paris, KY



1 GOAL
Paige Boone
The Villages, FL



1 GOAL
Roger Redman
Hartland, MI



1 GOAL
Larry Robinson
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A RATED
George Alexander
Batavia, IL



A RATED
Linda Allard
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A RATED
Dana Aschinger
Lexington, KY



A RATED
Gerry Aschinger
Lexington, KY



A.5 RATED
Jon Luke Beck
Tallahassee, FL



A RATED
James Clarke
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A RATED
Mike Ferro
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A.5 RATED
Ryan Gilbertson
Wayzata, MN



A.5 RATED
Megan Flynn
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A RATED
Raymond Guest
Lakewood Ranch, FL



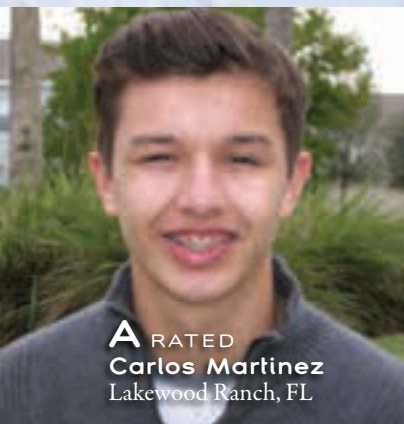
A RATED
Brent Hamill
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A RATED
Erika Lane
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A RATED
Claude LeClair
Pierretous, Quebec



A RATED
Carlos Martinez
Lakewood Ranch, FL



A RATED
Mark Mulligan
Frenchtown, NJ



A RATED
Teresa Mull
Wichita, KS



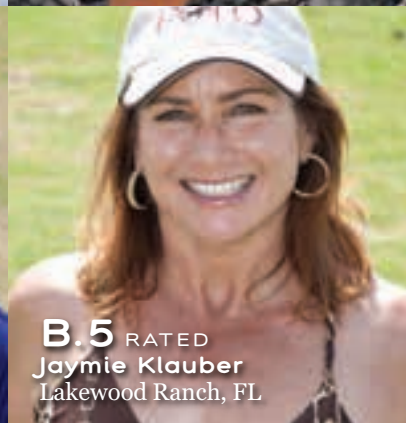
A RATED
Jack Shelton
Wichita, KS



B.5 RATED
Kelly Beck
Tallahassee, FL



B.5 RATED
Mike Beck
Tallahassee, FL



B.5 RATED
Jaymie Klauber
Lakewood Ranch, FL



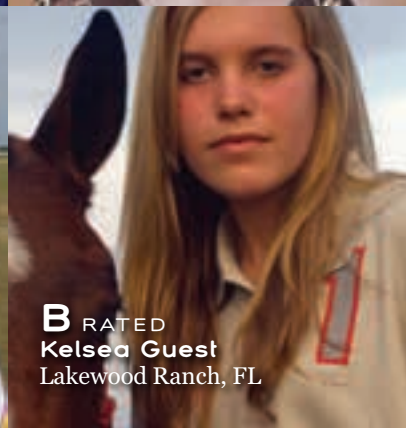
B RATED
Barb Alexander
Batavia, IL



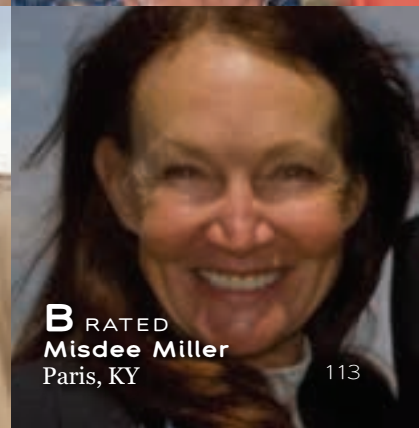
B RATED
Anneke Beck
Tallahassee, FL



B RATED
Bill Custer
Granville, OH



B RATED
Kelsea Guest
Lakewood Ranch, FL



B RATED
Misdee Miller
Paris, KY





2013 SEASON

winners' circle



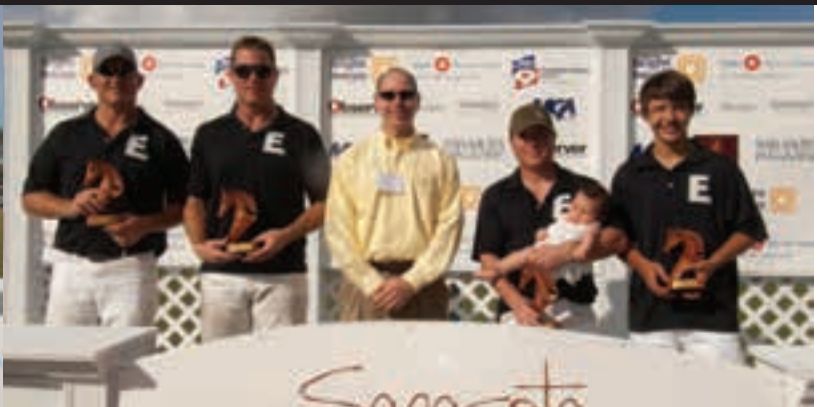
Saint Stephen's Episcopal School Cup:
ROBINSON FARMS
 Gilberto Junqueira, Francisco Llosa, Josh Shelton, Linda Allard



Holiday Cup: **HILLCROFT**
 Stuart Campbell, Josh Shelton, Luis Carrion, David Manuel



Lakewood Ranch Elks Club Cup TIE
HILLCROFT Campbell, Martinez – Baez, Miller, LeClair
WILDCAT Gilbertson, Carrion, Llosa, Hoskins



West Coast Florida Cup Presented by Prime Retirement Asset Management: **LITTLE OWL**
 Steve Krueger, Joe Wayne Barry, James P. Uihlein, Carlos Martinez



Band Weintraub Cup: **TEN OAKS**
 Shane Rice, Josh Shelton, Buck Schott, Jon-Luke Beck



Spirit Of America Cup: **HILLCROFT/REGENT**
 Kelly Beck, James Miller, Jamie Mirikitani, Stuart Campbell



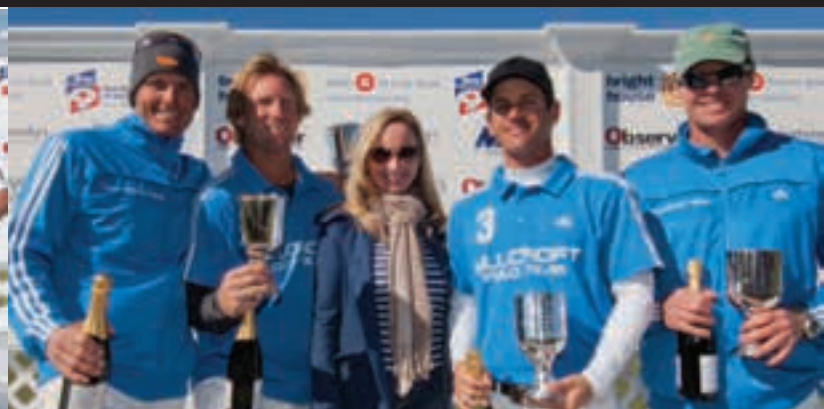
Premier Sotheby's International Realty Cup: **TITO'S**
Joe Wayne Barry, Steve Krueger, James P. Uihlein, Carlos Martinez



MGA Insurance Group Cup: **TEN OAKS**
Jon-Luke Beck, Josh Shelton, Buck Schott, Shane Rice



Gulf Coast Cup Presented by Suncoast Porsche: **TITO'S**
Joe Wayne Barry, James P. Uihlein, Steve Krueger, Alex Gooding



Sarasota Magazine Cup: **HILLCROFT**
James Miller, Francisco Llosa, Jamie Mirikitani, Stuart Campbell



Schroeder-Manatee Ranch Cup Presented by The Observer: **WILDCAT**
Ryan Gilbertson, Nicolai Galindo, Alan Martinez, Eddy Martinez



Wayne Brown Cup Presented by Bright House Networks: **TEN OAKS**
Jon-Luke Beck, Buck Schott, Brent Mirikitani, Shane Rice



2013 SEASON

winners' circle



BMO Private Bank Cup:

WILDCAT

Eddy Martinez, Ryan Gilbertson, Alan Martinez, Nicolai Galindo



USPA National Inter-Circuit Cup Presented by MGA Insurance Group:

WILDCAT

Alan Martinez, Ryan Gilbertson, Nicolai Galindo, Eddy Martinez



SMR Cup:

CUSTER CAPITAL

Carlos Martinez, Jonathan Lavine, Juan Martinez-Baez, Gilberto Junqueira



USPA Robert A. Uihlein Jr. Memorial Cup Presented by All Children's Hospital Guild:

WILDCAT

Eddy Martinez, Ryan Gilbertson, Alan Martinez, Nicolai Galindo



USPA Ringling Cup Presented by Maduro Cigar and Diamond Vault:

SIAANA

Mike Beck, Jason Pascarella, Teresa Mull, Francisco Llosa, Mark Gutierrez



USPA Polo under the Palms:

ACE SPORTING GOODS

James P. Uihlein, Alex Gooding, Steve Krueger, Joe Wayne Barry



USPA WCT Women's Tournament:
ROBERTSON FOUNDATION
 K.C. Beal, Brianna Galindo, Megan Flynn, Julia Schroeder



USPA Sportsmanship Cup: **TEN OAKS**
 Shane Rice, Brent Mirikitani, Buck Schott, Jon-Luke Beck



USPA Governors Cup: **TITO'S**
 Carlos Martinez, James P. Uihlein, Steve Krueger, Joe Wayne Barry



USPA Presidents Cup: **REGENT/TEN OAKS**
 Kelly Beck, Jon-Luke Beck, Shane Rice, Stuart Campbell



Lakewood Ranch 8 Goal: **TITO'S**
 Joe Wayne Barry, Steve Krueger, James P. Uihlein, Carlos Martinez



USPA Seniors PTF Tournament: **SERUTAN**
 Jack Shelton, Dennis Santana, Gerry Aschinger, Danny Scheraga

2013 SEASON year end awards



Best Offensive Player
SHANE RICE



Best Defensive Player
JOE WAYNE BARRY



Best Team Player
STEVE KRUEGER



Spirit Of Polo
JUAN MARTINEZ-BAEZ



Bobby Barry Memorial Award
SHANE RICE



Neil Chur Memorial Award
FRANCISCO LLOSA



Billy Linfoot Award
for most improved Player
CARLOS MARTINEZ



Sportsmanship
MIKE BECK
ACCEPTED BY JON LUKE BECK



Owen O'Hanlon Groom Award
LINDA MARTINEZ



best playing ponies

2013 SEASON



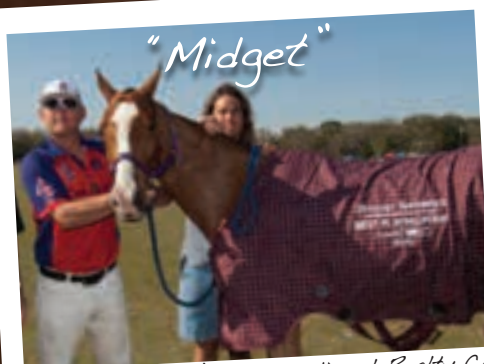
*Saint Stephen's Episcopal School Cup
Played by Doug Hoskins*



*West Coast Florida Cup
Played by Nicolai Galindo*



*Band Weintraub Cup
Played by Nicolai Galindo*



*Premier Sotheby's International Realty Cup
Played By Shane Rice*



*Spirit Of America Cup
Played by Francisco Llosa*



*Gulf Coast Cup Presented
by Suncoast Porsche
Played by Eddy Martinez*



*Sarasota Magazine Cup
Played by Francisco Llosa*



"Gambler"
USPA National Inter-Circuit Cup
Presented by MGA Insurance Group
Played by Nicolai Galindo



"Cheese"
BMO Private Bank Cup
Played by Joe Wayne Barry



"Moonshine"
Schroeder-Manatee Ranch Cup
Presented by The Observer
Played by Stuart Campbell



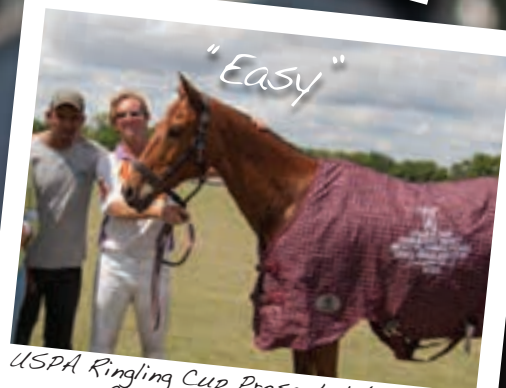
"Carinosa"
Schroeder-Manatee Ranch
Played by Juan Martinez-Baez



"Selena"
Robert A. Uihlein Jr. Memorial Cup
Presented by All Children's Hospital
Played by Joe Wayne Barry



"Pistola"
Wayne Brown Cup
Presented by Bright House Networks
Played by Steve Krueger



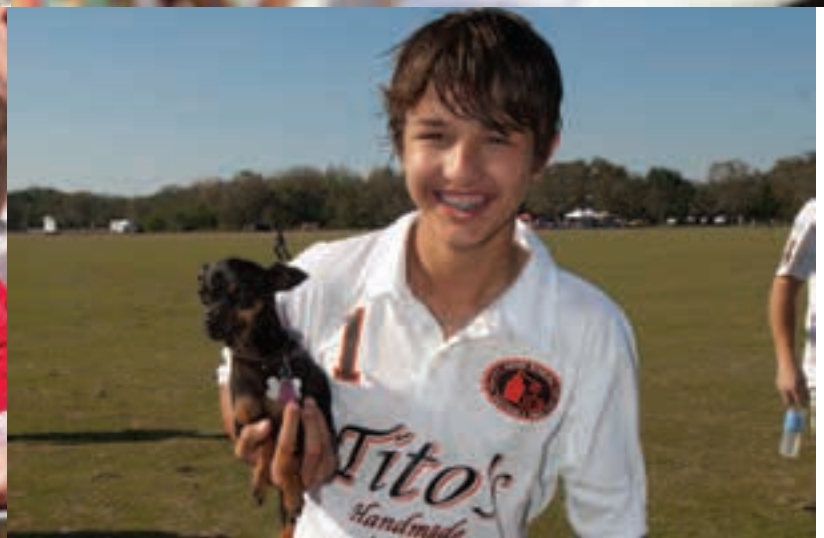
"Easy"
USPA Ringling Cup Presented by Maduro
Cigar and Diamond Vault
Played by Francisco Llosa



"Mc Coy"
MGA Insurance Group Cup
Played by Steve Krueger

The most talented polo player won't win without a good horse and the ability to understand it.

Without their horses, these equine advocates would become spectators rather than players, something next to impossible after sampling the thrill of racing across an open expanse of field with a mallet in hand, astride one of the most powerful and swift animals in the world.







POLO

under the palms

Tickets on sale now!

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Sarasota Polo Club, Lakewood Ranch

3:00 pm	Gates Open
4:00 pm	Polo Match Begins
6:00 pm	Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres
7:30pm	Dinner & Dancing

Join us for a great event and a great cause.

Everyone is welcome! Please join us for an afternoon of polo and fun as we raise money for advances in research, education and the treatment of cancer.

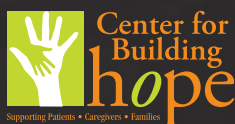
Since 2011 we have raised almost \$1 million. With your help we can continue to make a difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families everywhere.

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*Prices subject to change without notice.





What to do off the field

Spending a Sunday afternoon at the Sarasota Polo Club is arguably the best entertainment around, but alas, there are six other days to account for.

And even on Sunday, after hours of mallet swinging and sweating on the polo field, a respite – often involving a cold libation and a savory bite – is in order. The hub for all this and then some is Lakewood Ranch's Main Street.

Start by sipping aged scotch and indulging in toffee pudding at MacAllisters Grill and Tavern, or having cucumber martinis and miso-glazed Chilean sea bass at the Polo Grill and Bar. The respective golf and polo themes at these two staples make athletes and spectators alike feel right at home.

On the first Friday of each month, flock to the "Music on Main" celebration to watch live bands and DJs rock the closed-off streets.

Grab a peanut butter cupcake at Pastries by Design for that once-in-a-blue-moon splurge.

Arrive earlier in the day for a little indie retail therapy. Organic olive oils, balsamic vinegars and rare wines stock the shelves at Katy Rose Olive Oils. Baubles and adornments for jewelry projects come in varied hues at Knot Awl Beads. Bring your two-wheeler in for a repair and slurp a cup of joe while waiting at Village Bikes. There is American Shore Trading Company for skateboard and surfing apparel, Arts A Blaze Studio for home décor items and Vanessa Fine Jewelry for glittery accessories. Feel good about shopping locally – a movement the Lakewood Ranch community exalts.



Shop Local

Lakewood Ranch is teeming with one-of-a-kind inventory that cannot be found in big-box chains, and spending locally is good for the community.

You will want to explore other nearby paths, too, such as Boardwalk Loop and Rodeo Drive. Along Lake Osprey Drive is the Alamo Steakhouse and Grill at the Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch, where the Big Blue Sky Margaritas and American buffalo rib-eye steaks reign. On Natures Way is Country Pancake House and Restaurant for bacon-cheddar cheese or triple chocolate flapjacks.

The San Marco Plaza on Natures Way has WineStyles, which stocks 150 to 175 wines priced at less than \$25 (there is even a wine bar onsite for curious samplers). Also in this plaza is a free farmers' market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday, with merchandise from 35 local vendors of homemade soaps, pastas and produce.

Feeling a little more energetic? The Ancient Oak Gun Club is located in the Lakewood Ranch community off of State Road 64 East. The sporting clays club is nestled amongst sod fields, orange groves and natural stands of woods. There are 24 shooting stations on two separate courses, which are operated by a wireless, radio-controlled launching system that also offers a delay for the individual shooter and a 5-stand for shotgun shooting enthusiasts. The club is open to the public, but memberships are also available. All ages and skill levels are welcomed!

A brief drive west of Interstate-75 leads to Sarasota County's cornucopia of performing arts venues, galleries, museums, and opera and ballet companies.

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art houses gigantic paintings by Flemish Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens, as well as rotating contemporary exhibits. The adjacent Circus Museum captures the spirit of the "Greatest Show on Earth." Take the Private Places tour at the Ca' d'Zan (the former lavish residence of John and Mable Ringling) and walk the Venetian Gothic palace's hidden passageways.

The Historic Asolo Theater, site of the Asolo Repertory Theatre, is a stroll across Bay Shore Road from the museum. A tad further south on North Tamiami Trail is the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, a signature purple venue that has hosted everyone from Michael Bolton to the traveling cast of "Mamma Mia!"

There is the Sarasota Opera, the Sarasota Orchestra, the Sarasota Ballet and Fuzion Dance Artists for lovers of the symphony, song and dance. For more stage shows, book a reservation at Florida Studio Theatre, the Players Theatre, the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe and McCurdy's Comedy Theatre.

Cinephiles, catch a low-budget documentary at the annual Sarasota Film Festival in the spring. The Ringling International Arts Festival, a partnership with the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City, presents a weeklong extravaganza of visual and performing arts every fall.

Bradenton has the Manatee Performing Arts Center and an award-winning Manatee Players troupe that performs classics



Eat Local

Everyone wants to know where the locals eat, luckily Lakewood Ranch has international selections for all to enjoy.

like “Annie” and “Grease.” Close to the venue is the South Florida Museum, home to the oldest manatee in captivity (65-year-old Snooty), an all-digital Bishop Planetarium and a 60,000-gallon manatee aquarium. The first Saturday of most months is family night, with half-price admission.

The third Thursday nights of the month jam with live bands and vendors (every month except July and August) along Old Main Street in Bradenton during “Main Street Live!” The Downtown Bradenton Farmers’ Market is held here from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday from October to May.

Spring brings the De Soto Heritage Festival’s SeaFood Fest, pageants and riverfront parades. Beyond Main Street is the skate park, fishing pier, day dock and splash fountain. And inland is Village of the Arts – the prime district for café noshing, gallery hopping and a bohemian ArtWalk on the first Friday of the month.



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941.907.0400 \ Edstavernlwr.com

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Fast N Fresh

941.462.265 \ Eatfastnfresh.com

JPan

941.907.1290 \ Jpanrestaurant.com

MacAllisters Grill & Tavern

941.359.2424 \ Macallisters.com

Main Street Trattoria

941.907.1518 \ Mstrattoria.com

Paris Bistrot

941.388.0564 \ Bistrotfl.com

Pastries by Design

941.907.8222 \ Pastriesbydesign.com

Pinchers Crab Shack

941.922.1515 \ Pincherscrabshack.com

Polo Grill & Bar

941.782.0899 \ Pologrillandbar.com

Starbucks

941.373.1970 \ Starbucks.com

Station 400

941.907.0648 \ Station400.com

Lakewood Ranch Main Street SHOPPING

American Shore Trading Company

941.907.1122 \ Americanshore.net

Barbary Shoppe

941.907.6068 \ Barbaryshoppe.com

Chico's

941.388.0507 \ Chicos.com

Fannie May Chocolates

941.907.0282 / Fanniemaysarasota.com

Katy Rose Olive Oils

941.907.0306 / Katyroseoliveoils.com

Knot Awl Beads

941.907.8335 / Knotawlbeads.com

Main Street Bazaar

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Naples Soap Company

941.907.0870 / Naplessoap.com

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8306 Market Street
941-907-6657
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941-792-6071

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Urban Accents

941.907.1166 / Urbanaccents11.com

Vanessa Fine Jewelry

941.373.6311 / Vanessafinejewelry.com

Village Bikes

941.388.0550 / Villagebikes.com

Wish on Main

941.907.9125 / Wishonmainstreet.com

**Lakewood Ranch Main Street
ENTERTAINMENT**

Arts A Blaze Studio

941.306.5840 / Artsablazestudio.com

The Fish Hole

941.306.5891 / Thefishhole.com

Lakewood Ranch Cinemas

941.955.3456 / Filmsociety.org

Let's Create Art

941.361.1491 / Artlwr.com

**Lakewood Ranch Area
RESTAURANTS**

Alamo Steakhouse and Grill

941.782.4422 / Hlir.com

Country Pancake House

941.361.1117 /
Countrypancakehouse.net

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941.359.1900 / Johndoughtogo.com

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941.907.0589 / Luckypelicanbistro.com

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941.306.5804 / Winestyles.net

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941.745.5900 / Ancientoakgunclub.com

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941.953.4252 / sarasotaorchestra.org

Fuzion Dance Artists

941.345.5755 / fuziondance.org

Sarasota Film Festival

941.364.9514 / sarasotafilmfestival.com

**Ringling International
Arts Festival**

941.359-5700 / ringling.org

Florida Studio Theatre

941.366.9000 / floridastudiotheatre.org

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941.365.2494 / theplayers.org

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941.366.1505 / www.wbttsrq.org

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MOUNTED POWER



Power is staring down a criminal from the saddle of a 1,200-pound horse.

Just ask Sgt. Chris Laster at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). He will tell you that being a mounted police officer is synonymous with authority. But that is not the only perk of this equine-centered style of law enforcement.

"If you have a force of 10 mounted police officers, it's like having the equivalent of 100 foot officers. People call us sir or ma'am when they're looking up 10 feet at us on huge horses," Laster says. "And when you're writing somebody a ticket for speeding and the person's kids want to get out and pet the horse, it takes the edge off the situation. It's a completely different experience than being on foot, the way people treat you."

Laster is the SCSO's mounted unit supervisor and trainer of mounted operations, and has been teaching mounted police tactics nationally since 1995. He is currently an instructor with the Mounted Police Training Academy (MPTA) in Clermont, Fla., and is a senior riding instructor specializing in obstacles, equitation and mounted defensive tactics.

Patrolling on horseback has multiple advantages, Laster says. High visibility is one, considering civilians can spot mounted officers from greater distances, especially in large crowds. Approachability is another, as people are naturally drawn to horses and perceive officers on horseback as easier to address than those in automobiles.

Members of the public are less likely to talk back to mounted officers, whereas lone officers on foot may have to resort to force to achieve the same mediating results. The height advantage allows mounted officers to single out pickpockets and carjackers that foot officers might overlook in seas of people. Horseback riders patrol streets, parks, stadiums and school parking lots, in both metropolitan and rural areas. They survey the wilderness, and participate in search and rescue missions when car patrolling is not feasible.

The oldest continually operating mounted unit is Australia's New South Wales Mounted Police, which has been going

strong since 1828. The New York Police Department's mounted unit dates back to 1871. Cities around the U.S., including Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, Houston and Los Angeles, all have mounted units. The SCSO's unit is only 40 years old, and it began as an auxiliary of civilians who owned their own horses.

"The mounted patrol unit used to be used to augment things like patrolling the malls during Christmastime – basically just for special occasions," says Laster, who has been with the unit since 1994. "People still owned their own horses back then and it was still a privately-owned thing but operated under a tax-exempt nonprofit. We phased out the reserve/civilian side of that."

There are now eight officers and eight horses in the unit, and the members are all full-time deputies who are active in the community several days a week. The horses are kept at a 35-acre facility at 3445 Rustic Road in Nokomis, and every officer is trained to ride every horse.

The deputies run radar from horseback, write tickets and print out paperwork with equipment they carry in their saddlebags. They handle all the major events in the county, from Fourth of July parades to Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

“We search for missing persons, patrol parades, civic events, 35 mph streets and neighborhoods that have been experiencing daytime burglaries, and raise money for youth programs,” Laster says. “On typical days, we log onto our SharePoint software and see if there are any traffic complaints. We’ll work a neighborhood, go eat some-

become a great bridge between people and law enforcement.”

Laster and his team were present during the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Tampa in August of 2012, along with 48 other mounted officers from across the state. They were “in the saddle,” he says, for seven hours at a time on certain nights. The units witnessed marches comprised of 250-plus people, and Laster discovered some protestors piling up bricks to throw; he accosted them before they could attack.

burglars. The mounted patrol also works funeral details for law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty,” Bristow says. “People seem to react more calmly and with less resistance to the mounted patrol presence than they do to a line of police officers on foot.”

MCSO owns some of its horses and leases others from mounted patrol members. The agency-owned horses stay at the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch in East Manatee County, which allows the members of the mounted unit to introduce the children there to horsemanship and horse care.

“Everybody loves a horse, and a horse can be very intimidating or very calming depending on how we use it.”

where, work that district on horseback, and end our day at a school district.”

The deputies ride dressage and in pairs, with helmets, vests, gun belts, saddlebags and radar guns. They are on duty during pub crawls, at Sunday night drum circles on Siesta Key, and at block parties on St. Patrick’s Day, arresting perpetrators from horseback without ever hopping down from their seats.

“The biggest thing I enjoy is the reception from the public to the horses. Everybody loves a horse, and a horse can be very intimidating or very calming depending on how we use it,” Laster says. “When a patrol car drives through a neighborhood, people don’t want to come out. But when we walk through a neighborhood, horses

The mounted patrol unit from the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) was also at the RNC, according to Dave Bristow, the office’s public information officer. The members of the unit are certified law enforcement officers who serve on the team in a collateral duty capacity and train monthly.

The Rubonia Mardi Gras and Bradenton’s DeSoto Heritage Festival Grande Parade are always stocked with MCSO’s mounted officers, as are the mall parking lots during the holidays.

“A deputy mounted on a horse has an excellent vantage point to view a large area of a parking lot, and the presence discourages purse snatchers and vehicle

“I can say on behalf of the mounted patrol unit that this is an excellent resource used by law enforcement,” Bristow says. “The horses are well trained to handle the environments they work in, and they are highly effective in clearing areas of crowds in a non-adversarial manner.”

Like Laster says, the power is in the perch.

For more information visit:

Manatee County Sheriff’s Office
941-747-3011
www.manateesheriff.com

Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office
941-861-5800
www.sarasotasheriff.org

"Horses become a great bridge between people and law enforcement."



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When a family sets out to determine its charitable intentions, working with a philanthropic wealth advisor can help identify organizations and initiatives that match your family's interests and priorities. In addition, the advisor will work with you and your family to design a long-term strategy that significantly reduces your estate taxes, furthers the work of causes you believe in and efficiently manages the administration of your major gifts.

Following are several potential benefits of engaging in philanthropy that individuals and families may wish to

consider, in collaboration with their wealth advisors, as part of their financial and/or estate planning. In addition to the direct benefit to the recipient, philanthropy can:

- Leave a legacy in one's community and for one's family
- Identify and implement the most tax-efficient way of supporting

favorite personal causes

- Organize and focus charitable giving to increase impact
- Help pass on values and prepare children/grandchildren to be good stewards of family wealth
- Involve family members to create a family mission statement

Whether you ultimately decide to set up a private foundation, contribute to an existing community foundation or give directly to your favorite charity, take time to approach any philanthropic endeavor strategically, in concert with



your tax, wealth and estate planning advisors. Strategic philanthropy goes well beyond writing a check. It involves short- and long-term thinking, vision and multidisciplinary expertise to ensure that the selection of beneficiaries and structure and timing of the gift/s maximize tax and other financial benefits — ideally to donors and recipients alike.

“Planned giving” is one example of strategic philanthropy that can take the form of cash, appreciated stocks, life insurance, works of art, ecologically significant land, or other assets, and can be made in the donor's lifetime or as part of an estate plan upon death.

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Monica Christopher, BMO Private Bank, Vice President, Community Affairs with Carl Marks, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Executive Director of the Suncoast Chapter

by the nonprofits they support. Today's donors are savvy and want greater accountability and transparency in the organizations they have chosen. Watchdog organiza-

tions such as Charity Navigator and Guidestar, as well as the Better Business Bureau, are grading the nonprofit community and letting donors know who has a failing grade and who is at the top of the class — and it is all available online (www.charitynavigator.org and www.guidestar.org).

When deciding which nonprofit organizations to support, donors are becoming far more proactive — they want to know where an organization stands in the nonprofit ratings war and why. Progress toward an improved rating speaks volumes to how a recipient organization may spend its dollars, now and in the future. Philanthropists appreciate the challenges nonprofits face today, but they are also eager to determine if the organizations they care about are being good stewards of their resources.

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Giving from the heart is a wonderful gesture that can have unspoken impact and create a legacy for community and family. Combining that desire to do good with a well-advised and strategic plan for philanthropy can maximize the value and meaning of giving for donor and beneficiary alike, for generations to come. And, isn't that what charitable giving is all about? ■

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MGA Insurance Group has assisted individuals, businesses, contractors and associations with their insurance needs in Lakewood Ranch, Bradenton, Sarasota and nationwide since 1990. "We compete so well in the marketplace because we provide first-hand knowledge of the national, regional and local insurance trends that directly affect our clients," says MGA founder and President, Lou Marinaccio.

MGA is a family-run business where wife Ann Marie serves as CFO, and daughter Lori Ann as COO. "We are family; but more importantly, we come together in times of opportunity and at every crossroad because we are Team MGA," Marinaccio says.

A respected insurance consultant for major domestic and international corporations, Marinaccio has worked in the insurance field since the early 1980s and is an industry veteran who continually adapts to the complex and ever-changing insurance business with great success. "MGA has been able to assist many businesses in Florida because of its national relationships. By maintaining business in all 50 states and U.S. territories, we provide a smooth transition for companies opening multiple locations nationwide," says Marinaccio.

His introduction to the corporate world began with various assignments with the General Electric Company in Connecticut. General Electric eventually promoted Marinaccio to division manager before he left in pursuit of opportunities in the insurance industry with companies like Allstate and Prudential, where he served in various senior management positions. After a number of years with both national companies, Marinaccio went on to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities made available to him and founded MGA.

MGA Insurance Group continues to play a major role in the philanthropic area, lending financial support to such charities as SMART, Lakewood Ranch Community Fund, Rotary Club and others. "I get great satisfaction in sharing my personal and professional time and resources helping businesses and entrepreneurs 'master their trade,'" says Marinaccio. He was integrally involved in the creation of the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance (LWRBA), a dynamic advocacy group for small and large businesses with a membership of over 600 strong. Currently serving as a board member, Marinaccio will continue in his efforts to assist in the growth and development of the Lakewood Ranch business community.

LAST CHUKKER



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