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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT




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 On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I welcome you to the Houston Polo Club.

The Houston Polo Club has a rich history dating back over 90 years to the late 1920s, when we opened our first fields at the corner of San Felipe and Post Oak Boulevard. Today, HPC is the largest polo club in the United States, per player. In 2017, 167 HPC and United States Polo Association members took the field to play the most exhilarating and oldest sport recorded in history.

The Houston Polo Club is a not-for-profit organization, and we invest members' and guests' dollars right back into our polo and riding programs here and throughout the southwest United States. Every year we look for new ways to serve the entire riding community and build the Sport of Kings in Texas. Our Polo

School develops new players, from the youngest enthusiasts to new mature players, to join our polo community. Houston Polo Club takes special interest in developing the next generation of polo greats through our dedicated Junior Polo, Interscholastic and Team USPA programs.

In addition to polo, the club offers full equestrian facilities, including onsite boarding, as well as English and Hunter Jumper riding lessons for children and adults. Our 26-acre setting provides the perfect environment for horse lovers to develop their riding skills.

To build a strong community, however, a club must offer its players the opportunity to get onto the field and grow their game. Over our spring and fall seasons, we host seven league levels ranging from beginner to 12 goal. In addition to league play, we host national-level USPA tournaments each season. Included are

the Southwest Regional Classic, the Masters Cup, the Western Challenge, the National Youth Tournament Series and the prestigious, ever-growing U.S. Open Women's Championship®.

The Houston Polo Club would like to acknowledge and thank the corporate sponsors that support us throughout the year. Without their generosity, we would not be able to bring you world-class, adrenaline-filled polo. With the support of our sponsors, players, and members, the Houston Polo Club will continue to grow with the goal of being the best polo club in the world.

Charles Fridge
Chairman and President of the Board of Directors

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WELCOME TO THE HOUSTON POLO CLUB

Established in 1928, the Houston Polo Club is ideally situated on 26 acres adjacent to the lush Memorial Park in the heart of the city. Every year, the Houston Polo Club welcomes more than 10,000 visitors and over 150 players to its metropolitan location, just inside West Loop 610.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY POLO!

Spring Season: April 1–June 10

Fall Season: September 9–November 11

Please consult the 2018 Polo Schedule on page 16 for tournament dates or go to our website: houstonpoloclub.com/schedule

Polo tournaments are played throughout our Spring and Fall Seasons, with final matches open to the public on Sunday afternoons. Purchase tickets online: houstonpoloclub.com/buy-tickets

HOUSTON POLO CLUB BOX SEATS

Becoming a Houston Polo Club Box Seat holder is a great way to spend quality time with family and entertain clients. You and your guests will be served by the professional waitstaff from our onsite concession, Ruth's Chris.

Box by the Day

- Grandstand Boxes are available by the day, based on availability.
- Large Grandstand Boxes can accommodate 8–20 guests.
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Book the Club

The Houston Polo Club is the perfect location to host corporate, private, fundraising, or social events. For more information about visiting the Houston Polo Club for a game or special event, visit www.thehoustonpoloclub.com or call 713.681.8571.





HOUSTON POLO CLUB 2018 SUNDAY POLO SCHEDULE

SPRING SEASON

APRIL

Games begin at 5 PM

- 1** Blue Bonnet Cup (Easter Sunday)
- 8** Van Conover Memorial Cup
- 15** Spring Classic
- 22** Officers Cup
- 29** Prairie Classic

MAY

Games begin at 5 PM

- 6** Land Rover Houston Central Cup
- 13** Ponies and Petals Cup
- 20** USPA Southwestern Regional Classic
- 27** Milagro Cup

JUNE

Games begin at 6 PM

- 3** Vaquero Classic
- 10** USPA NYTS Junior Tournament and Western Challenge Cup Final

FALL SEASON

SEPTEMBER

Games start at 5 PM

- 9** Fall Classic
- 16** Cowboy Cup
- 23** Intercontinental Cup
- 30** Texas Classic

OCTOBER

Games start at 4 PM

- 7** Houston Cup
- 14** USPA H. Ben Taub Memorial Cup
- 21** Harrison's Classic
- 29** Hendrick's Gin Cup

NOVEMBER

Games start at 2 PM

- 4** Harvest Cup
- 11** USPA U.S. Open Women's Championship Tournament

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POLO FAQ

Watching polo is thrilling—but it can also be very confusing! It is easy to get swept up in the adrenaline of the fast-paced play. Players and ponies pound up and down the polo field at speeds of up to 35 mph in an effort to drive what seems like an impossibly small ball through the goal posts at either end. What happens in between these goal posts can seem like barely organized chaos to the uninitiated spectator. Here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions we hear floating around the spectator boxes.

HOW BIG IS THAT FIELD?

It's huge. In fact, it is a little bigger than the size of nine football fields. Polo is played on a 300 x 160 yard (9-acre) field to accommodate the intense speed and pace of the game. Horse and player traffic can extend just outside of the low wooden border, but as soon as the ball leaves the field, it is out-of-bounds and stops play.

WHAT IS A GOAL?

In polo, the term “goal” can refer to two different aspects of the game. First is the kind of goal that indicates that **a point is scored**. A point is scored when a player hits the ball between the two goal posts at any height. The goal judge standing behind the goal confirms the point by waving the flag. After each goal, the teams will change directions in order to equalize playing conditions.

A second kind of “goal” refers to **a player's handicap rating**. Players in North America are assigned goal ratings by the United States Polo Association, based on their experience and skill on the field. Beginners are assigned a C (or -2) or B (-1) rating. From there, as skills improve, the players are rated from A (or zero) to the top rating, a 10-goal player. Players' goal ratings also determine the make-up of their teams. Opposing teams are equally matched by adding up the rating numbers of each of their players. For example, a team competing in a 4-goal tournament must have a total handicap of 4 when all players' ratings are added up (example: they could field two 0-goal players, a 3-goal player and a 1-goal player, to add up to a total of 4 goals).

WHO PLAYS ON A POLO TEAM?

One of the unique things about polo is the diversity that you can find on a polo team. For example, it is one of the only sports in the world in which men and women compete with each other and are rated on the same handicap scale. In addition, you can find players of all ages playing together on the field. Teams are put together by the patron, who is the sponsor of the team. The patron will hire pros to play on their team and help develop strategy and skills on the field.

The players each have a number on their jersey (from 1 to 4) that designates their position and strategy on the field. Player 1 is an offensive position that acts as the goal striker. Player 2 is also a forward, but will sometimes have to jockey back to defence. Player 3, often the best player on the team, drives the plays forward toward the goal. Player 4 is a defensive player whose main job is to prevent the opposite team from scoring.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A POLO PONY AND A HORSE RIDDEN IN OTHER EQUESTRIAN SPORTS?

Polo ponies are thoroughbreds or part thoroughbred and part quarter horse, selected for their agility, speed, endurance, and intelligence. It takes two to three years to train a green pony, whose polo careers can last over 15 years. The average polo pony stands 15.2 hands high, or 62 inches from the ground to the top of withers (the base of pony's neck). Their manes are roached (clipped short) and their tails are braided for their safety—so they don't get caught up in the play. Polo players should have a string of at least one pony per chukker (those ponies work hard out there!). New players at the club often lease ponies from the Polo School as they develop their skills.

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

The primary focus in polo is the safety of the horses and of the players. The important rule is “right of way,” as designated by the “line” of the ball. Players can hit the ball from either side of their mounts (though they can only use their right hand to hold the mallet), and once the ball is in play, the “line of the ball” is established. The player who is closest to the ball with the narrowest angle has the right of way. Opposing players cannot cross the line too closely to the “on-line” player, nor can they approach the player at too sharp an angle, or they risk a foul and subsequent penalty. A foul is called by one of two on-field umpires, who must agree on its severity in order to award the appropriate penalty to the opposing team. In the case of a dispute between the umpires, there is a Third man on the sidelines who will determine the call.

GLOSSARY

Bump or ride-off: similar to a body check in hockey, a defensive move in which a horse's shoulder is pressed into the shoulder of an opposing player's horse in an attempt to drive him or her off the line of the ball.



Bump or ride-off



Players' positions are designated by the number on their shirt

Chukker: (also called a chukka) the period of play in polo. In a low- or medium-goal game, players have four 7½ minute chukkers in which to score, and in a high-goal game, there are six 7½ minute chukkers. Players have four minutes in between each chukker to change ponies.

Divot stomp: the important half-time role of spectators, who walk the field (usually with cocktail in hand) and replace the field divots kicked up by the ponies during play.



Half time divot stomp

Foul: any infraction of the USPA rules, ranging from dangerous riding to interrupting the line of the ball. The severity of the foul (rated from 1 to 9) depends on how dangerous the infraction was to the player or horse.

Hook: a defensive technique in which a player uses his or her mallet to interfere with an opponent's swing.

Neck shot: a shot that is hit under the pony's neck.

Penalty: a free hit awarded when a foul is committed.

Extra time: in the event of a tie at the end of the fourth chukker, a sudden death overtime chukker is played. The first team to score wins the match.



Hook

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READY FOR GAME DAY: PREPPING YOUR PONY



Polo ponies are amazing equine athletes and their game day performance is the culmination of endless hours of conditioning, care, training, and preparation by polo grooms and professional players. Here's what it takes to care for those incredible ponies you see on the field.

CONDITIONING

Polo ponies usually play two tournament games and one practice game a week during the polo season. In order to avoid strain and injury, polo conditioning commences four to six weeks prior to the

tournament season. Polo stamina and strength conditioning begin with exercising ponies twice daily on "sets." A polo groom or player completes a "set" by riding one pony and leading three or four others in a group. By exercising the ponies together on sets, grooms and players have enough time to exercise 8–10 ponies twice daily.

Once ponies have gained decent conditioning on sets, they commence "stick and ball" practise. This field-based training involves riding each pony individually while practicing the moves and skills required in polo games. At least once a week, each pony will participate in a 15–20 minute stick and ball session.

In the weeks immediately leading up to tournament games, players will take their ponies in practice games, where they fine-tune their mounts for tournaments, determine their pony order, and practise team strategy.

PONY CARE

In addition to exercise, a significant amount of ground work and handling is involved in polo. Most ponies eat three meals a day and, because they have small stomachs and very long intestinal tracts, they require 1–2 hours after a feeding before strenuous exercise. Ponies are fed hay and a mixture of grain and supplements, depending on their dietary needs and performance requirements.

Hours of hard work are involved in each pony's care. Ponies are groomed and bathed daily. Their manes and tails are trimmed, and a farrier will trim their hooves and re-set their shoes every 4 to 6 weeks.

GAME DAY

Before a game, polo grooms clean and double-check all of the tack and equipment used by ponies and players. On game day, a polo string may go for a light morning workout if they have an afternoon game, but the bulk of pre-game prep usually involves resting and organizing for the main event.

Ponies arrive at the field at least an hour before the game begins. Each pony's legs are then dressed in protective bandages or "polo wraps"—soft bandages that support their tendons and protect their legs during the game. A high-goal player will bring as many as 10 ponies to a tournament game: that's 40 legs to wrap before the game begins! Further leg protection is provided by tendon boots—more rigid leg protectors that are secured by a series of Velcro straps.



Polo grooms are experts at tacking and untacking ponies in short order, and they understand how the equipment must be tailored to each pony in their string. Once the game begins, there is as much adrenaline at the team trailer as there is on the field! Polo grooms work very hard to see the ponies perform their best on game day.

POST-GAME PONY CARE

After a pony has played, great care goes into ensuring that they comfortably recover from the physical exertion. They are cooled down, showered, and their legs are often wrapped with supportive bandages for the evening.

After a weekend of tournament polo, most ponies have a rest day or a day of very light exercise. At the end of the polo season, most polo ponies are given a restful vacation in large pastures. After a month or so, ponies are relaxed and happy to get back to the polo club and back in the game!



POLO GEAR



PLAYER

1. POLO Mallet: Polo mallets have bamboo or plastic shafts that are flexible and can make a complete arc under the pony's neck or tail.

2. HELMET: Hard, lined helmets protect the player's head from swinging mallets and balls traveling up to 100 mph.

3. BREECHES: Polo players always wear white breeches.

4. RIDING BOOTS AND KNEE PADS: Polo boots and knee pads provide protection for the player's lower legs and knees.

PONY

5. BANDAGES AND BOOTS: These protective wraps shield the pony's legs against contact with the ball or other ponies.

6. SADDLE AND BREASTPLATE: Polo saddles have little padding under the leg, allowing for maximum movement, and the breastplate prevents the saddle from slipping during the game.

7. DRAW REINS AND BRIDLE: This series of leather strapping, metal bit, and supports gives the player steering and stopping control.

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GAME ON



ASHVATH BHATIA

What made you want to learn to play polo?

Polo is a royal sport, and just seeing people like Cambiaso play—stretching back and losing the reins to hit the ball—made me want to try it. It's really incredible to see what they can do.

To me, horses are animals that are really special. Riding on them is like gliding above it all, but I also really like bonding with the horse. Last year, in January, my dog passed away. At that time, I was very low. I was irritated with everyone, always pushing them away. And then polo taught me how to love animals again. So the ponies really hold a special place for me.

What was your experience in Polo School?

I first started riding last spring in Polo School. The most difficult part for me was tacking up. I didn't know a thing about it at first, but by the end, I learned how to do it. I was also very scared to get up on the horse. It is much bigger than me, so it was intimidating. Once I got over that, it was pretty fun.

What are your aspirations?

I played Margarita League in the fall and am playing it right now. It is taking what we learned in Polo School and implementing it. It is a lot of fun. I want to continue in Margarita to build my skills, and then go on to 2-goal and 4-goal. I definitely want to play in interscholastic eventually. It will just take some training.

What types of people have you met in polo?

My favorite part of polo is definitely the community. Barlee, and everyone who taught me so far, has been very encouraging and loving. The people in the Polo School are very diverse. Polo has really helped me make friends, because when I moved to America about a year ago, I left my dog back, my grandma back, I left all my friends back in New Delhi, so I was starting from scratch. Polo helped me be social again.

Polo is a way of life. The sport combines adrenaline on the field, the challenge of learning a new set of skills (or adapting your current skills to a new adventure), and the thrill of joining a warm and welcoming group of new friends. When you talk to polo players, the same themes keep coming up: the sense of community, the exhilaration of working on and improving your game, and the unique bond that you build with the ponies. Three new players share what to expect in that first year of learning polo—and what keeps them coming back for more!

Aanchal Bhatia on what polo has meant to her son:

"We moved to Houston from India a year ago to grow the family business. Ashvath had been at the American embassy school for nine years, and we wanted him to experience the world and be a global citizen. He was playing in a soccer club here, but the club was pushing him a bit too hard, and he just wanted to play for fun. Then, I met somebody at a conference who told us about the polo club right next to our house. Ashvath is so driven, and he is so committed to polo that he stopped soccer and all other activities. This is going to be the activity he focuses on. He found a real community that he was comfortable with at the Houston Polo Club. Once he goes into high school, he is really excited to start on his high school polo team."



WADE WHIDDON

How did you first discover polo?

A friend brought me to a polo match at the Houston Polo Club. I actually took riding lessons at the Houston Polo Club about 42 years ago. I love horses, but most of the riding I have done in the last 20 years has been trail riding in Colorado, which is very boring. I was looking for a new hobby. I also have a 9-year-old daughter who started to take riding lessons at age 7 at the polo club, and I was looking to find something I could do with her.

The first day I was at Polo School, I saw a mother and daughter playing polo, and it really kind of hit me that it's something that parents can do with their children—age isn't really a factor. I thought it was neat that I could play on a team with my daughter. I talked to the lady who was there with her daughter, and she said that all through junior high and high school, polo always kept them connected through different turbulent times growing up. I thought that was really cool.

What skills did you bring to it?

I have played sports all my life, but I needed more active things to do. It was more of a workout than I thought it would be too, which I consider to be one of its benefits.

What was your experience in the Polo School?

They run a really good program, and they keep safety in mind, but they make it fun. Even people that have never ridden a horse can learn the fundamentals before they take the next step. People with no experience or people with reasonable horse-riding experience can get in and enjoy it.

What are your aspirations?

I am going to play in the Margarita League next year. The people who run the Polo School program have a lot of great horses to lease, so I don't have to incur the expense of ownership to do it for a season. I like the fact that it's a good excuse to exercise a little bit, be with horses, and then justify the cocktail I plan to have after practice. After almost every polo class during the week, some portion of our class would stick around for two or three hours and just hang out.

What types of people play polo?

What was neat is the youngest person in our class was probably 9 and the oldest was probably 80, or close to it.

What would you tell someone who asked you about taking up polo?

It's a fun way to spend time with a horse, get exercise, and be part of a fun group of people who are doing neat stuff. Mostly, it's a great excuse to ride a horse.

**SASHA DAVENPORT****How did you first discover polo?**

Some good friends invited my boyfriend and me to a fundraising event at the club where I saw a flyer for a 2-hour clinic, and I thought: "I can handle two hours—and if I can't, I'll know right away it's not for me." Well, I did the clinic and it was awesome. Soon after, I got an email about polo school and I thought: "Ok, school is eight weeks, if I can't get through it, then I'll know playing polo is not for me." But, I made it through and had the best time! Playing polo is totally for me.

What skills did you bring to it?

Basically ZERO skills. I rode once in a summer camp in fourth grade a million years ago, so I only knew that I liked it and wish I could do more. I was anxious at first since there's so much to learn, but the

clinic prepares you for school, and other players in school are at a range of levels—so you're not alone. But it's tough—you're not just learning to ride and control a horse (which is enough for most sane people), you're also learning how to think and play the game, the rules and strategy of it all.

What was your experience in the Polo School?

I loved it. They have mapped it out so you advance steadily, starting with hitting and drills, chalk talks where you learn how to play, and finally moving up to play chukkers. Every day you learn something new. After Polo School, you can join the Margarita League and you can stay at this level as long as you like. If you're ready to buy a horse and really make a commitment to becoming a better player, there's 2-Goal.

What are your aspirations?

I'm in Margarita League now, and this might be where I top off talent-wise, but that's fine, because this is more than I ever thought I could do. But wouldn't it be dreamy if I could get really good and play high goal one day? I have learned that you improve by playing with people who are better than you...and there's no shortage of good players at the club.

What is the most addictive aspect of polo?

The adrenaline rush of taking a ball to the goal, while everyone is yelling, maybe missing that goal... but knowing the next time you better make it because you can't keep letting your teammates down! I'm kidding, but definitely the competitive team play is addictive, and the ponies are really something special.

What types of people did you meet in Polo School?

This sport does attract a certain personality, which to me, is a lot of fun. I'm a neuroscientist in the startup world, so it's really refreshing to meet people from different backgrounds, professions, and ages. Making friends was easy—the people who went to the clinic went to Polo School, and now we're in Margarita League together. We've been through something together (I won't be dramatic and say 'war')...but it pretty much makes us friends for life!

What would you say to someone who asked you about taking up polo?

I grew up in the city, not with horses, so in a million years I didn't think I'd have this opportunity! But it's one of those hobbies you can really sink into. Take the clinic, because you will have more fun than you think; you're going to learn something, not just about the sport, but about yourself. For professional people who are working all the time: it's a much-needed break. This is the one thing I do where I am not thinking about work at all. Even if I am just stick-and-balling or warming up the horse, I'm not thinking about deadlines—I am just there, being in one of those moments that they always tell you should be in.

Even if you think that you can't keep it up because you can't commit the time or you can't afford to buy a horse, you should still do it, and see how it goes. It's a real opportunity to learn something about yourself, develop skills, make friends, and think differently about new things. Do it because you can always say, "Hey, I've played polo! And it's a lot more fun, and harder than it looks, and here's why..." and you'll have a long list of reasons. I promise.



LEARN TO PLAY

POLO CLINICS

Interested in playing polo, but not sure where to start? The Houston Polo Club offers **2-hour polo clinics** to introduce you to the sport and prepare you for the 8-week Polo School (once you are hooked)!

In addition, Houston Polo Club offers **private corporate polo clinics** as a great way to strengthen your corporate team and have fun together in a team-building environment.

No previous riding experience is needed to sign up for a clinic! The Polo School will even provide the horses, tack, and helmets.

POLO SCHOOL

Polo School is an 8-week program run by polo pro and Head Instructor Mark Prinsloo, who works closely with Barlee Flanders, Senior Polo and Riding Instructor, to teach riders and players of all levels the fundamental skills they will need to play the Sport of Kings:

- Proper horsemanship
- Game strategy
- Swing instruction
- Practice in the hitting cage
- Classroom discussion
- Video viewing
- Foot mallet experience

Spring Polo School: April 17–June 9

Fall Polo School: September 11–November 3

Polo school runs twice a week:

Tuesday, 6–8 pm, and Saturday 9–11 am

Price: \$3,250 for ages 10–17; \$3,500 for adults 18+

(includes horse rental)

STEP UP LEAGUES

The next step after Polo School isn't a leap: it's one step at a time to build your skills and passion for the sport!

Margarita League: The Margarita league allows each player to grow and learn at their own pace. Played on a smaller field, teams consist of one instructor and two players, who receive individual coaching on the field. Horses are available to lease for Margarita league players.

2-Goal League: Moving up to three players and an instructor per team, this league focuses on building up riding and stick-and-ball skills. Players are encouraged to start buying their own string of ponies in this league.

Club League: Two sponsoring players play with two professional polo players who guide and coach the learning players in technique and strategy.

For more information about Polo School programs, email us at playpolo@thehoustonpoloclub.com.





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Olivia Uechtritz (16) carries
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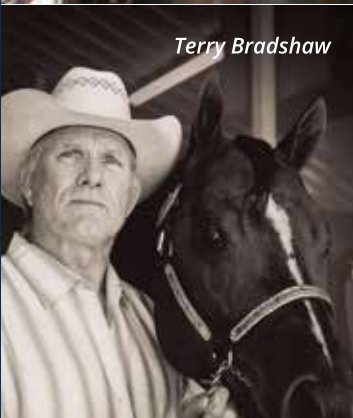
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NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT SERIES

The National Youth Tournament Series (NYTS) is a national tournament series recognized by the USPA that serves as a qualifier for the National Championships. Houston Polo Club held its 2017 NYTS tournament June 8–10, hosting six teams of polo players under the age of 19 playing at the NYTS (advanced) level. The NYTS gives the young players of the Houston Polo Junior Polo program an opportunity to showcase their skills.

In addition to the advanced level play, seven teams made up the Intermediate, Walk Trot and Lead Line levels. The different levels ensure that kids are playing at a level appropriate to their ability and help them grow and learn from their peers.

The NYTS advanced final was between two strong Houston teams, Rocking P and Horsegate. The teams paraded around the boards of the field, and an energetic crowd cheered on the young players as they lined up to start the game. Each team had a set of siblings: Lance and Sloan

Stefanakis on Horsegate and Grayson and Bridget Price on Rocking P. Rocking P came out with a strong offense against a flat-footed Horsegate, winning the first two chukkers 4 to 0 as the teams took a quick half time break. Horsegate's team captain, Sloan Stefanakis, attempted to pull his team back into the game scoring two unanswered goals in the third chukker. However, Grayson Price proved to be too quick for the Horsegate defense, sneaking in another goal in the 4th chukker to win the game 5–2.

All players in the tournament showed outstanding sportsmanship and incredible skills on the polo field. HPC is looking forward to hosting a bigger and better NYTS tournament in the spring 2018 season!

For details about registering for the 2018 National Youth Tournament Series, to be held June 8–10, please contact Amanda Snow, snow@uspolo.org.



USPA NYTS All-Stars

Chino Payan, Vaughn Miller Jr., Anson Moore, Valentino Echezarreta, Sloan Stefanakis, Grayson Price, Courtney Price, Milo Dorigna



Intermediate Winners

Vintage Polo: Danielle Price, Lily Lequerica, Tate Seward, Joe Bob Lequerica



Walk Trot

Sand Farm: Clare and Mimi Bogart; HPC Blue: Ava Seward and Sydney Ronin



Lead Line

Sealy Tractor: Alexis Wall, Ripley Middleton, Jose Ramirez Jr.; HPC Gold: Brock Fly, Raquel Russo, Ainsley Middleton; Russo's NY Pizzeria: Alice Russo, Vincent Russo, Rocco Russo





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INTERSCHOLASTIC POLO AT HPC



While the polo fields rest and recover during the winter months, Houston kids take to the arena to enjoy our Interscholastic Polo program. Children of all levels learn riding skills and get to enjoy tournament polo competition, from beginners to the varsity team. Teamwork is what matters most in polo, and these kids are learning to pull together and work as a team to achieve their goals. The experiences they are sharing will be memories of a lifetime.

The action is fast and furious in arena polo. The arena ball is larger than the outdoor ball, comparable to a small soccer ball. It bounces off the solid arena walls at all angles, causing the game to change direction constantly. You become a heck of a horseperson competing in indoor polo. You learn quick that the better you ride and control your horse, the better a player you are.

There are 37 polo clubs across the nation participating in Interscholastic (high school and junior high) tournaments. As an extension to the Interscholastic programs, there are 28 universities across the nation with Intercollegiate polo teams, including University of Texas, Texas A&M, Harvard, University of Virginia, University of Connecticut, University of Colorado, and University of California Santa Barbara, just to name a few.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Scott Wood, owner of ERG Polo Farm in Brookshire, Houston kids have a world-class arena to practice and play in. The ERG arena also hosts the Interscholastic Regional tournaments.

The 2017 Houston Boys' team dominated the Interscholastic Regional tournament and advanced to the National Finals Tournament held at the University of Connecticut. They played a hard-fought semi-finals game that saw Grayson Price make an amazing two-point shot to tie the game and usher in a win in the penalty shootout. The Houston Boys' team advanced to the National Finals Game where they narrowly lost to Maryland.

"The kids are working so hard this year," says Coach Mark Prinsloo. "They want to practice more than we have days for. Their commitment level is very high and they are having fun."

All four Houston Boys' and Girls' teams have had a very successful 2018 Winter Season. The Houston Girls' Team made the Regional Finals and narrowly lost by 1 goal, to go to Nationals against an all-senior team from Wisconsin. As a young team, they have great things in store for their future. The Houston Boys' A Team had a big win in the Regional Finals against rival team Prestonwood from Dallas. Houston Boys will advance to the National Finals at UVA. The excitement in the stands at the ERG arena in Brookshire was deafening! The whole Houston Polo Club cheers on these kids and their efforts.

"Indoor Interscholastic is so good for the kids because they have to work very hard in the game," explains Coach Prinsloo. "There are no pros on the field hitting them the ball like in outdoor polo. It's up to them."



Dani and Bridgette Price are 13 years old and play on both Houston Girls' team and Houston ERG Girls' team.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Who is your favorite polo player?

Dani: My brother Grayson. It's intense to watch and I always want him to win.

Bridgette: Hazel Jackson, an English 2-goal woman's player. I want to be just like her.

What is your favorite part of playing a polo game?

Dani: Working and competing with people I'm close to.

Bridgette: Playing well with my teammates and knowing I did a good job, win or lose.

How old were you when you first rode a horse?

Dani: Four years old. My sister and I used to race around the round pen!

Bridgette: The first time by myself, four years old.

How did you get inspired to play polo?

Dani: We went to a lot of polo games and my Dad played. One day they handed me a mallet and I was like COOL!!

Bridgette: My family played, and when I tried it I fell in love!

Want to get involved and let your child enjoy a team sport and develop a love for horses? Contact the Houston Polo Club for details.

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THE LONG GAME: AN INTERVIEW WITH SLOAN STEFANAKIS



Horses have always been central to the Stefanakis clan, but it wasn't until he attended polo school with his grandfather, that a flame was ignited in Sloan. He has been working diligently at his game, playing with his family's Horsegate team as well as in the Interscholastic program at Houston Polo Club. Those years of practice and play culminated in a stellar year for Sloan in 2017. In the spring, Sloan captained the Houston A Interscholastic Team to a regional win, securing their spot at the Interscholastic Open Nationals at Cornell University.

What have been the polo highlights of the last year for you?

2017 was my sixth or seventh year playing Interscholastic, and it was a

really big deal going to nationals. We had been to nationals one time before, but this is the first time that we really had all of the guns going in and felt confident. The semi-final in Santa Barbara was my favorite game, because it was a weird game: we were down, then Grayson Price made a crazy shot from the back corner of the field for a two-point goal. It was surreal. Grayson is confident, but he is quiet. He doesn't say very much, except when he really needs to. I was about to hit that ball, and he yelled at me to leave it. I left the ball and looked back, and I swear it took ten minutes of my life watching that ball sail down the field. That goal took us into overtime and we won. That was the biggest moment. That catalyzed us going to the finals.



While Houston lost to Maryland in the Interscholastic Championship Final, Sloan was recognized as one of four Open National Interscholastic Championship All Stars and was chosen by the Polo Training Foundation (PTF) as the 2017 Male Interscholastic Player of the Year. (pictured with Danny Scheraga, PTF Executive Director)

What is next for you?

I set up my school year to be able to dip my toes in the water, work a bit, do some online classes, and travel. I played in Santa Barbara and Argentina. Ariel Mancebo, our polo manager, showed me around and we played in any practice we could get into. It was so much fun. Words can't describe it.

I just moved to Dallas and have been practicing with Southern Methodist University since I came here. I am going to SMU this summer semester, and I wanted to get acquainted with the Intercollegiate team, the coaches, and the horses.

What are you finding is the biggest difference between Interscholastic and Intercollegiate polo?

They are just different levels of play. In Interscholastic, at the regional level, you can get away with one player maybe not playing so well—until you get to the national level, which is very team-oriented play. But every player on an Intercollegiate team needs to be playing immaculately to win. So it's a learning process trying to figure out that glue. There are nine guys all competing to be on that first-spot team. We're all trying to figure out who is going to be captain, who is going to be riding which horse and playing what positions.

The guys here are super, super nice. I was nervous coming into a new situation, but I am really happy with how all the practices are going, and really confident that I am going to be able to do well.

What advice would you give to a young person who is just starting out and wants to play competitively one day?

When I first started playing, I was a pudgy little 12 or 13-year-old getting on a horse, and we would lose by 20 or 30 points. The first two years, we would just get destroyed. We were practicing against much better teams, but we had to persevere and go into the next game. Polo has a lot to do with physical ability, but the mental aspect is even more important because there is a horse under you, and you have to be making a lot of conscious decisions that have to become second nature. There are so many different variables. It's not a sport that you can pick up in a year and be extremely proficient. It's something that you have to be doing over a long period of time. There are going to be a lot of times that you are not going to be able to play well, but you have to look past that to your main goal, and keep barreling through it. If you really want it, just keep going, because it will pay off.

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DISCIPLINED: LEARN TO RIDE AT HPC

ENGLISH RIDING PROGRAM

Houston Polo Club's English Riding program is run by Riding Director Merrily Quincoces and her Assistant Riding Instructor Amy LeRoy. Riders that come into the program are a diverse group. Riders from ages 6 to 65 join the program to learn, train, and compete at all levels. While some are brand-new riders who have always wanted to learn, many of the adults entering the program, explains Merrily, "look up and suddenly it's been 20 years, and they think: I need to get back on a horse."

For Merrily, teaching younger riders is about building character in all parts of their lives: "When we take on a child, they are going to be in our program sometimes five days a week if they get really competitive, and we know them from 6 to 17 years old. It's really nice relationship, and something we take great pride in and preserve in the program. That's why I absolutely love to teach. Just watching those kids grow up and to see their confidence grow through riding, especially in young girls—that's the reason you do it."

The English Riding program is geared toward show jumping competitions. Of course, you do not need to own—or even lease—a horse to ride at the Houston Polo Club (though Merrily will guide you through the process if you decide to get serious). If you are not interested in showing, and just want to come to the club to ride and spend time with horses, there are school horses available for free for members.

Jane Dinney has been a riding member of the Houston Polo Club for seven years, after reaching out as a beginner. "I have to admit that, after the first lesson, I was hooked. Merrily's adult program allows riders of different levels to ride and grow together, and equally important, enjoy the comradery and friendship that grows from the bond that we share. Together, Merrily and her assistants have created a comfortable and secure riding environment that allowed me to acquire the confidence to face the challenges of learning how to ride."

After a year of riding in the English program, Merrily encouraged Jane to try the polo program. "We encourage people to try both the English and polo programs," says Merrily. "I have had some adults ride with me and I have said to them: 'You need a let-your-hair-down sport, and that is polo!' We guide people to whatever direction they want to go."

Jane enrolled in Polo School, moved to the Margarita league, and finally 2 goal. "Playing polo forced me to acquire new riding skills, and get comfortable riding different horses at greater speeds and in crowds. Training with Barley Flanders elevated my confidence, improved my riding technique, and provided an enjoyable polo experience."

While she enjoys polo, Jane's passion lies with the English Riding program at HPC: "Both me and my mare Brooklyn appreciate the easy opportunity to ride and the on-site, 24/7 care and the personal attention we receive from the grooms and staff. We have established friendships that will last us a lifetime."

For information about the English Riding program, call 832.567.3202, or email ridinglessons@thehoustonpoloclub.com.



When you sign up for riding lessons, you will need:

- A certified riding helmet
- Riding breeches, jodhpurs or jeans
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Use of the school horses is included in the fees for riding students and riding members of Houston Polo Club.

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Paige Luplow has grown up at the Houston Polo Club, playing polo, riding, and instructing with her mom Barlee Flanders at the Polo School. After college, while preparing for graduate school, she saw a need for an all-round program to meet the needs of existing HPC members and their families. Through her company, Flanders Polo and Riding Lessons, she has tailored a program that has helped grow HPC's riding membership and prepared many students for polo school and beyond.

Most of the students that come into the Flanders riding program have little to no riding experience and are unsure what kind of riding they want to pursue. They teach to a balanced seat model that trains new riders to ride correct technique and build their confidence so that they may pursue any of the four disciplines offered: polo, English, Western, and vaulting.

"I have been so blessed to learn from wonderful instructors. My mom, Barlee, Mark Prinsloo, Daren Livingston and many others. Each of them had different backgrounds and teaching styles. That inspired me to build a team of instructors from all different backgrounds," explains Paige. "We can all teach to each discipline we offer, but we all have our own strengths/equestrian passions as well. So, if there is a student who wants to go further in one area or another, we have the right instructor for that."

Paige's school caters to a lot of youth, but she has found that parents often catch the bug after watching their kids build their skills: "Those kids start riding and before you know it, their parents are signed up for polo school!"

To build a lifelong love of riding, sign up for your first lesson at www.flanderspoloandriddinglessons.com or call 713.817.5116.



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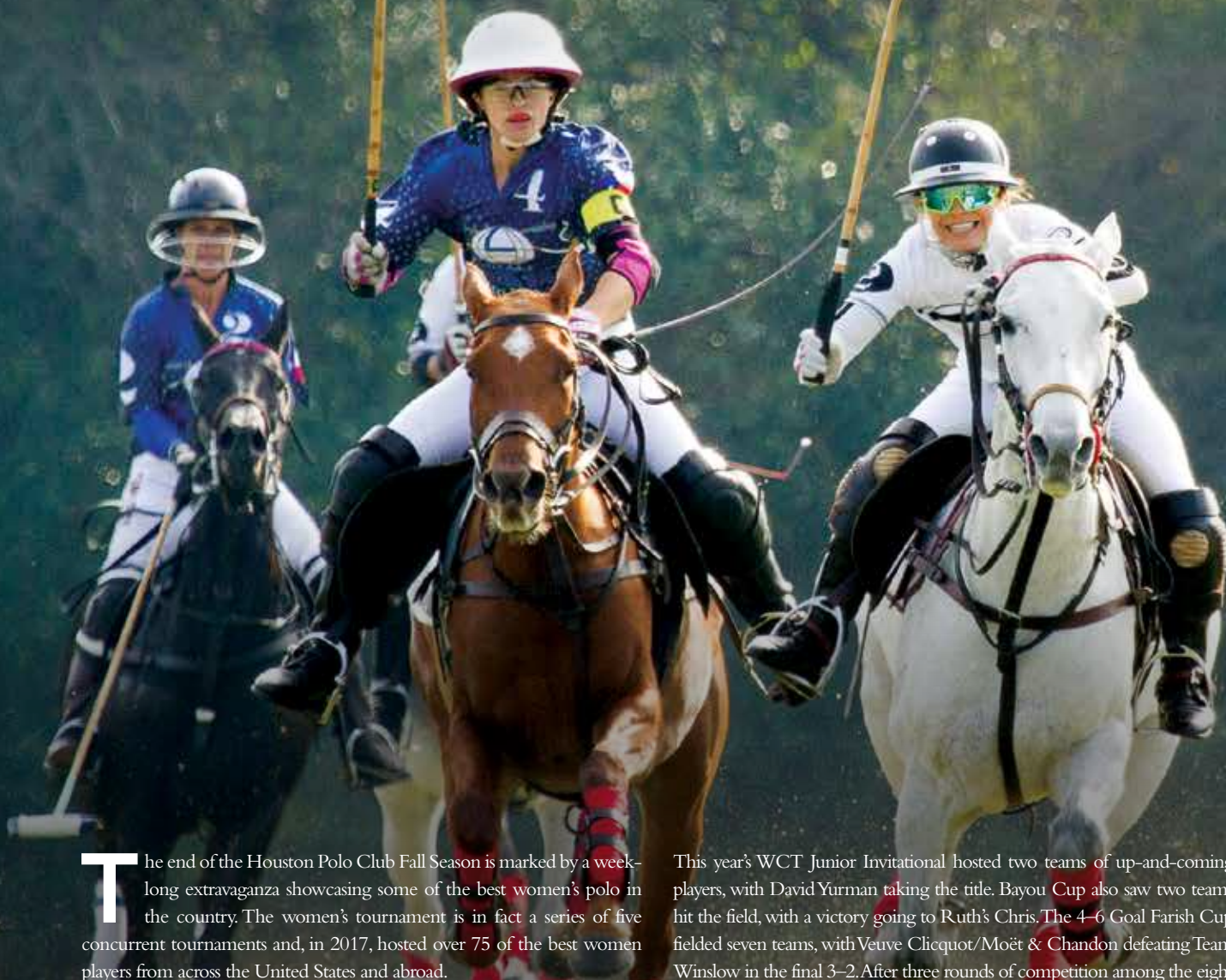
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U.S. OPEN WOMEN'S POLO CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

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The end of the Houston Polo Club Fall Season is marked by a week-long extravaganza showcasing some of the best women's polo in the country. The women's tournament is in fact a series of five concurrent tournaments and, in 2017, hosted over 75 of the best women players from across the United States and abroad.

The tournaments are played at five levels: the USPA Women's Open Championship (20–26 Goal), the USPA Women's Handicap (10–14 Goal), the Farish Cup (4–6 Goal), the Bayou City Cup, and the WCT Junior Invitational. In addition to exciting multi-level polo matches, the week is marked by fun social events, including the Meet the Players party at the St Regis to launch the tournament, a players' dinner, and a Saturday night Flanders Field Margarita and Tailgate contest.

This year's WCT Junior Invitational hosted two teams of up-and-coming players, with David Yurman taking the title. Bayou Cup also saw two teams hit the field, with a victory going to Ruth's Chris. The 4–6 Goal Farish Cup fielded seven teams, with Veuve Clicquot/Moët & Chandon defeating Team Winslow in the final 3–2. After three rounds of competition among the eight teams in the USPA Women's Handicap tournament, Saturday saw the final that pitted Texas Monthly against La Herradura. Texas Monthly came out on top, squeaking by with a 6–5 win, with the MVP going to Lia Salvo.

Sunday brought the main event: the USPA Women's Open Polo Championship tournament final. Sunday's final was a rematch between the 2016 finals competitors Lockton/Rocking P and runner-up San Saba. The spectators that flowed through the gates were rewarded with an incredible game that ran into overtime with five adrenaline-filled chukkers.



The first chukker started off with the teams neck and neck: Lockton/Rocking P's Hazel Jackson was the first player to find the goal, then San Saba's Lia Salvo and Hope Arellano responded with a goal apiece to take a brief lead. Lockton/Rocking P's Kristy Outhier tied up the score 2-2 before the horn marked the end of the first chukker. At the start of the second chukker, Jackson converted a beautiful penalty over her opponent's heads to take the lead. However, San Saba's Dawn Jones and Sarah Wiseman scored to take back the lead, heading into half-time with a score of 4 to 3.

The teams played evenly in the third chukker, as Outhier and Salvo both converted penalty shots for their teams. Lockton/Rocking P trailed 5-4 entering the final period, but an expert goal by Jackson out of the bowl-in within the first seconds of play equalized the score 5-all to send the finals into overtime.



The teams regrouped and came out on the field for sudden-death overtime. Jackson was the first to take control, moving the ball down the field for her team, narrowly missing a shot on goal. San Saba took the knock in and they had speed on their side. The team quickly advanced the ball down the field, and after a break in play, Jones managed to recover the ball with a back shot. Teammate Hope Arellano finished the game with a winning goal, winning the U.S. Open Women's Polo Championship™, and setting a record as the youngest player to score the golden goal in the history of the tournament!

This win was a special moment for tournament MVP Lia Salvo, and not just because it was her second title of the week, coming on the heels of her team's win in the Handicap Tournament: "I have played this tournament for six years and never won it. I am really happy; this is a big day for me. I love coming to Houston. This is the first time I have worn the San Saba shirt and I am really happy with how the team functioned."



Team owner Dawn Jones beamed following the inaugural win for San Saba. "It is a real honor to have the win under the San Saba name," said Jones. "It is a tiny little town under the 'X' in Texas and I know our neighbors are going to be pretty excited about it. Tommy [Lee Jones] and I are really honored to be here; we love the game of polo. I was happy to be here with Maureen Brennan and Goose Creek a few years ago, but it means so much more under the San Saba name. I have to say again, we all loved Sunny Hale and she was with us last year and would have been on this team today. We all did this for Sunny and it means a lot for San Saba and for Sunny Hale."

Briton Lottie Lamacraft reflected on her first tournament in the U.S.: "I absolutely love it here in the U.S. It has been amazing. For me personally, all we have in England is 18-goal for ladies and a few international tournaments, so to be able to play at a higher level of ladies' polo was fantastic."



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THE WINNER'S CIRCLE 2017

TEXAS OPEN (12 GOAL)



Winner: *Eureka* Grayson Price, Rene Campos, Geronimo Obregon, Jorge Cernadas, Alvaro Ara, Cesar Ara

MVP: *Jorge Cernadas*

Runner Up: *BTA* Kelly Beal, Shane Rice, Steve Krueger, Mason Wroe

H. BEN TAUB MEMORIAL CUP (12 GOAL)



Winner: *BTA* Steve Krueger, Mason Wroe, Shane Rice, Kelly Beal

MVP: *Shane Rice*

Runner Up: *ERG* Scott Wood, Marcos Alberdi, Tomy Alberdi, Michel Dorignac

USPA KELEEN & CARLTON BEAL CUP (12 GOAL)



Winners: *Tonkawa* Jeff Hildebrand, Cody Ellis, Matt Coppola, Tommy Biddle

MVP: *Matt Coppola*

Runner Up: *BTA* Steve Krueger, Mason Wroe, Shane Rice, Kelly Beal

USPA REGIONAL PRESIDENT'S CUP (8 GOAL)



Winner: *BTA* Chrys Beal, Drew Luplow, Alejandro Gonzalez, Steve Krueger, with Carty Krueger

MVP: *Alejandro Gonzalez*

Runner Up: *Pegasus/Propaganda* David Andras, Nick Cifuni, Mason Wroe, Paul Hobby



THE WINNER'S CIRCLE 2017

USPA NATIONAL CUP (8 GOAL)



Winner: *BTA* Drew Luplow (filling in for KC Krueger)
Steve Krueger, Alejandro Gonzalez, Chrys Beal

MVP: Alejandro Gonzalez

Runner Up: *Listo Polo/Rocking P* Carl Price,
Kelly Plato, Marcos Villanueva, Ignacio Saenz

USPA OFFICER'S CUP (8 GOAL)



Winners: *Pegasus/Propaganda* Sheila Lequerica (subbing for
David Andras), Nick Cifuni, Mason Wroe, Paul Hobby

MVP: Mason Wroe

Runner Up: *BTA* Chrys Beal, KC Krueger,
Alejandro Gonzalez, Steve Krueger

USPA DELEGATE'S CUP (8 GOAL)



Winners: *Pegasus/Propaganda* David Andras,
Nick Cifuni, Mason Wroe, Paul Hobby

MVP: Mason Wroe

Runner Up: *BTA* Chrys Beal, Kelly Beal,
Matt Coppola, Steve Krueger

LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL (8 GOAL)



Winners: *ERG* Valentino Echezarreta, Milo Dorniac
(subbing for Scott Wood), Michel Dorniac, Marcos Alberdi

MVP: Cody Ellis

Runner Up: *Tonkawa* Jeff Hildebrand,
KC Krueger, Cody Ellis, Matt Coppola

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE 2017

USPA GOVERNOR'S CUP QUALIFIER (4 GOAL)



Winners: *Listo Polo/Taco Bell* John Tasdemir, Grace Burgert, Ignacio Saenz, Luis Echezarreta (subbing for Martin Munoz)

Runner Up: *BCI/Shanghai* Cara Kennedy, Chad Bowman, Neil Osburg, Steve Armour

USPA SOUTHWEST GOVERNOR'S CUP (4 GOAL)



Winners: *Listo Polo/Taco Bell* Ignacio Saenz, Martin Munoz, Grace Burgert, John Tasdemir

Runner Up: *Central Texas Polo Association* Marlon Pimienta, Gustavo Galvan, Javier Insua, Ariel Rodriguez

USPA PLAYER'S CUP (4 GOAL)



Winner: *Sullivan Group* Cody Ellis (subbing for Mark Prinsloo), Trevor Niznik, Sarah Prinsloo, Joanie Jackson

Runner Up: *No Le Hace* George Georgiades, Joe Mack Stimmel, Nicolas Gomez, Carolyn Stimmel

PENNY CUP (4 GOAL)



Winners: *SpecOil/Dunbar Capital* Emma Tooth, Nick Dunbar, Bryan Middleton, Kristy Outhier

Runner Up: *Cat Spring/The Plank Co's* Kendall Plank, Ray Stainback, Billy Mudra, Chino Payan



THE WINNER'S CIRCLE 2017

U.S. OPEN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP (20-26 GOAL)



Winners: *San Saba* Hope Arellano, Dawn Jones, Lia Salvo, Sarah Wiseman.

MVP: Lia Salvo

Runner Up: *Lockton/Rocking P* Courtney Price/Athena Malin, Lottie Lamacraft, Hazel Jackson, Kristy Outhier

U.S. OPEN WOMEN'S HANDICAP (10-14 GOAL)



Winners: *Texas Monthly* Bridget Price, Grace Mudra, Lia Salvo, Carolyn Stimmel

MVP: Lia Salvo

Runner Up: *La Herradura* Meghan Gracida, Courtney Asdourian, Sheila Lequerica, Mia Bray

NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT SERIES



Winners: *Rocking P* Anson Moore, Grayson Price, Carter Nix, and Bridget Price

All Stars: Chino Payan, Vaughn Miller Jr., Anson Moore, Valentino Echezarreta, Sloan Stefanakis, Grayson Price, Courtney Price, Milo Dorignac

Runner Up: *Horsegate* Lance Stefanakis, Grace Mudra, April Galindo, Sloan Stefanakis



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NOVEMBER 14 - 18

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DECEMBER 13 - 16

2019

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FEBRUARY 3

WEEK 2 FEBRUARY 5 - 10

WEEK 3 FEBRUARY 12 - 17

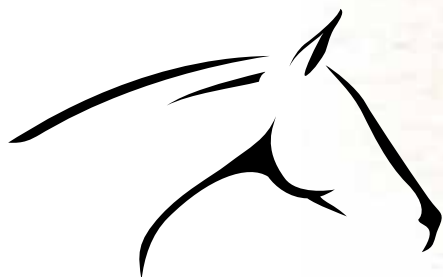
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WEEK 2 MARCH 27 - 31

WEEK 3 APRIL 3 - 7



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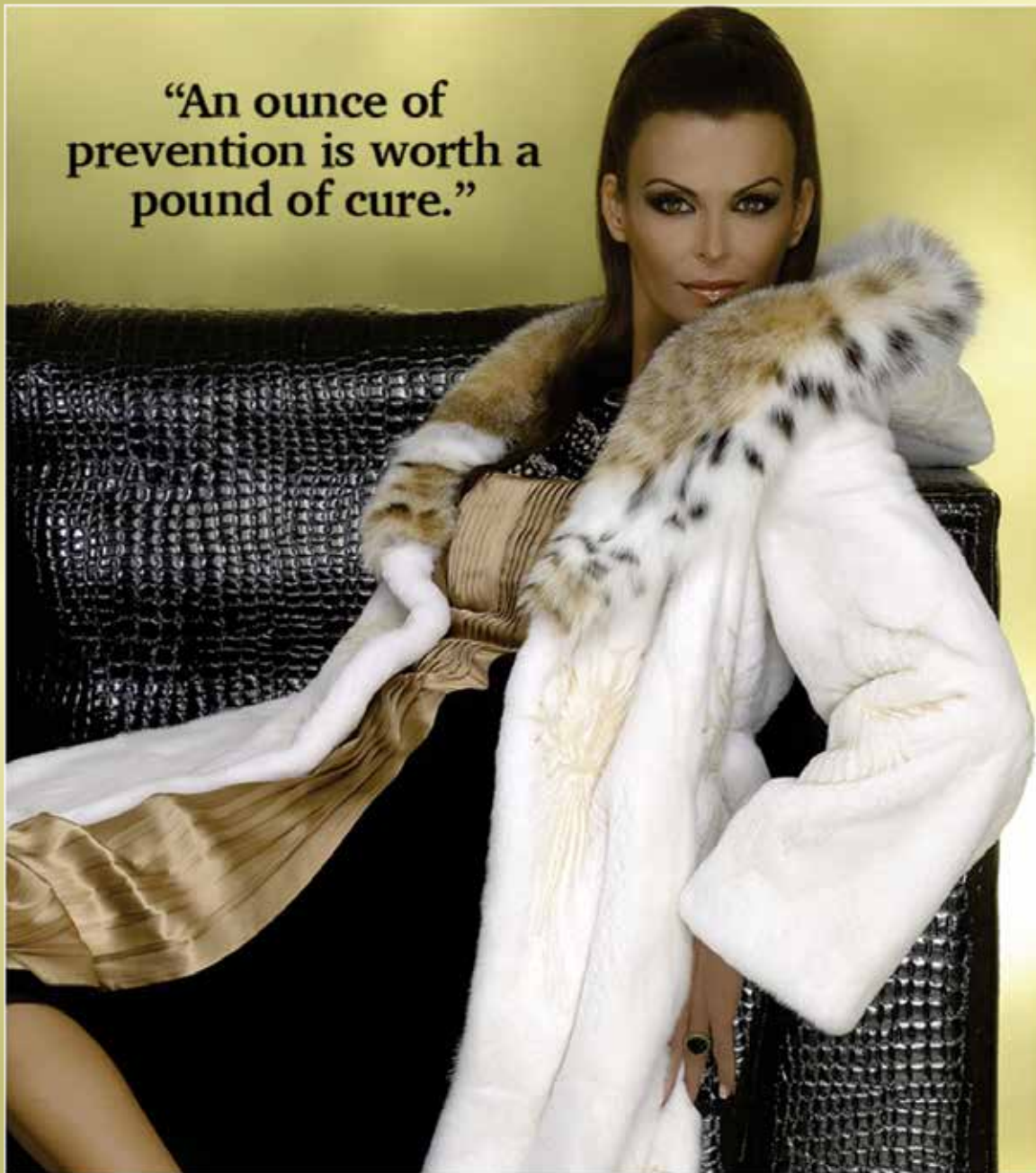
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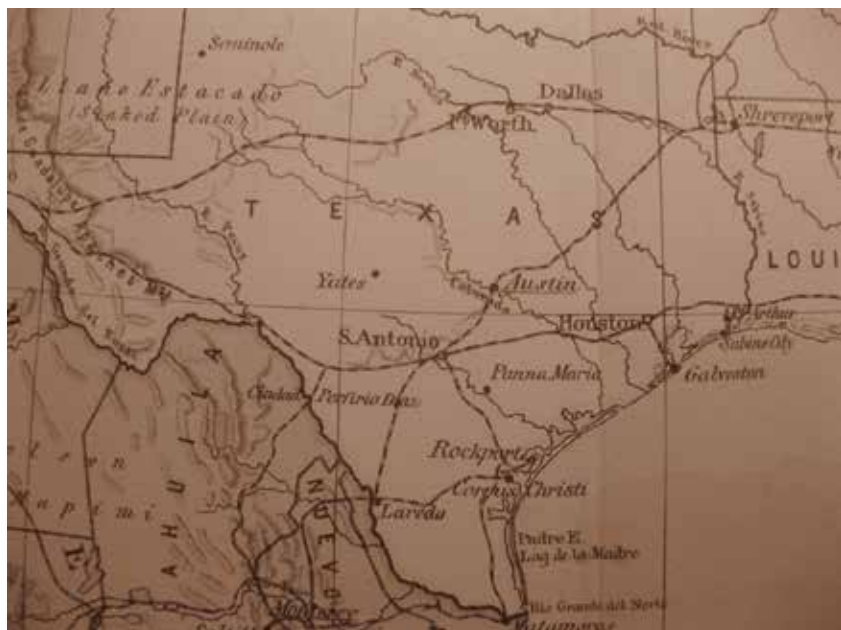
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NAME	RATING	HOMETOWN
Marcos Alberdi	4	Wellington, FL
Tommy Alberdi	4	Wellington, FL
Alvaro Ara	4	Parana, Argentina
Stewart Armstrong	3	San Antonio, TX
Joe Wayne Barry	3	Sealy, TX
Tommy Biddle	5	Wellington, FL
Chad Bowman	2	LaGrange, KY
Jorge Cernadas	4	Dallas, TX
Nick Cifuni	3	Nashville, TN
Matt Coppola	4	Wellington, FL
David Crea	1	Pattison, TX
Michel Dorignac	6	Wellington, FL
Luis Echezarreta	2	San Saba, TX
Valentino Echezarreta	2	San Saba, TX
Cody Ellis	3	Johannesberg, South Africa
Sugar Erskine	6	Wellington, FL
Taylor Freeman	2	Sealy, TX
Alejandro Gonzalez	3	Mexico City, MX
Jeff Hall	7	Sealy, TX
Tiamo Hudspeth	1	Mcfaddin, TX
George Krabbe	1	Stamford, CT
Steve Krueger	4	Pattison, TX
CJ Lequerica	1.5	Sealy, TX
Sheila Lequerica	A.5	Sealy, TX
Troy Lequerica	A.5	Sealy, TX



NAME	RATING	HOMETOWN
Drew Luplow	1.5	Pattison, TX
Ariel Mancebo	1	Hempstead, TX
Francisco Mera	4	Brookshire, TX
Bryan Middleton	3	Hempstead, TX
Carin Middleton	A	Hempstead, TX
Billy Mudra	3	Bellville, TX
Martin Munoz	2	Brookshire, TX
Chris Nevins	4	Cat Spring, TX
Trevor Niznik	2	Wellington, FL
Facundo Obregon	6	Wellington, FL
Geronimo Obregon	4	Wellington, FL
Neil Osburg	2	Clearwater Beach, FL
Robert Orthwein	4	Sealy, TX
Kristy Outhier	1.5	Utopia, TX
Chino Payan	A.5	Chapel Hill, TX
Mark Prinsloo	2	Pattison, TX
Carlos Ramirez	2	Brookshire, TX
Shane Rice	4	Sealy, TX
Ignacio Saenz	3	Brookshire, TX
Jimmy Seward	3	Hempstead, TX
Carolyn Stimmel	1	Hempstead, TX
Russell Stimmel	2	Midland, TX
Hernan Tejera	2	Victoria, TX
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Cody Woodfin	2	Wharton, TX
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