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A photograph of Brooks Ballard, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a light-colored pinstriped suit jacket over a light blue shirt. She is standing next to a brown horse, holding its bridle. The background shows a polo field with a white fence and trees.

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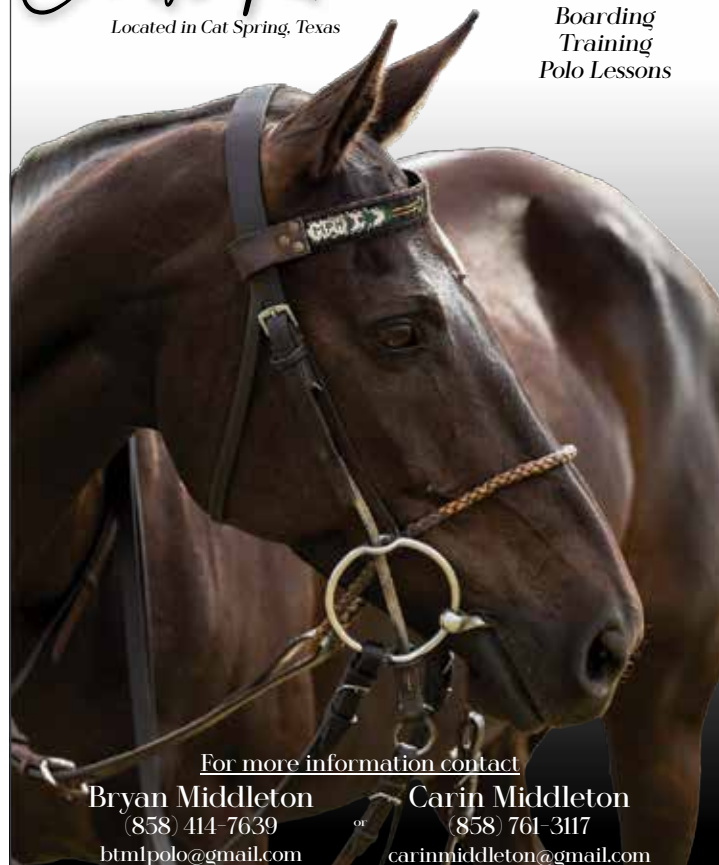
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HOUSTON POLO CLUB BOOK OF THE SEASON 2023

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Board of Directors, our amazing staff at the Houston Polo Club, and the entire HPC family, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family.

Founded in 1928, the Houston Polo Club has continued to grow and is now the largest polo club in the United States. We have had a rich history of strengthening family values while competing in the exhilarating “Sport of Kings” ever since we opened our fields at the corner of San Felipe and Post Oak Boulevard.

Today, HPC is situated on 26 beautifully landscaped and wooded acres in Memorial Park, the heart of Houston. In 2022, 150 HPC family members competed on our fields throughout the Spring and Fall seasons.

The Houston Polo Club is a not-for-profit organization. All membership and guest fees are directed toward serving our HPC family and supporting HPC riding programs, not only in Houston but throughout the United States. Every year, HPC looks for new ways to serve and build the sport of polo. HPC's Polo School and Step-Up programs develop new players, no matter their age, and assist them in joining our polo community. HPC takes a special interest in developing the next generation of polo competitors through our Junior Polo, Interscholastic, and Team USPA programs.

In addition to polo, HPC offers full equestrian facilities, including on-site boarding, as well as English and Hunter Jumper riding lessons for children and adults. Our facility provides the perfect environment for horse lovers to develop their riding skills.

In building a competitive membership, a club must offer its players the opportunity to get onto the field and develop. Over our Spring and Fall seasons, HPC hosts six league levels ranging from beginner to 12 Goal. In addition to league play, we host national-level USPA tournaments, including the Regional Classic Southwestern, the Delegate's Cup, and the National Youth Tournament Series. This year also marks the 29th year of our ever-growing Women's Championship Tournament.

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

Thank you,

Nick Stefanakis

Nick Stefanakis
President of the Board of Directors

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WELCOME TO THE HOUSTON POLO CLUB

Welcome to the largest polo club, per membership, in the United States and the world. Established in 1928, the Houston Polo Club is ideally situated on 26 acres in the heart of Houston. Every year, the Houston Polo Club welcomes thousands of members and spectators to its gorgeous metro location to view and play world-class polo.

TICKETS

Red Oak Lawn/General admission tickets provide open, covered seating and tables for all attendees. Sit under covered seating in the cantina/tented area or, for those who want partial sun, you can enjoy seating under one of our gorgeous umbrella tables. Walk-up concession and premium bar service are provided by The Lymbar and Cordúa Catering.

BOX BY THE DAY

Box by the Day seats provide group seating for 2–20 guests that are perfect for entertaining clients, family, or friends while watching the world's most exhilarating sport. All boxes are serviced by professional waitstaff. Reserve online at houstonpoloclub.com/buy-tickets.

ANNUAL BOX HOLDERS

Annual Box Memberships include seating for six to current-year spring and fall Sunday matches, a personalized box sign, invites to HPC social events, and HPC private league matches. All boxes are serviced by professional waitstaff, and call-ahead ordering is available. Food and drinks are not included. Box Memberships are based on availability.

PRIVATE GROUP EVENTS

HPC has the perfect fieldside event space for **corporate entertaining, private parties, and fundraising**. With its central Houston location and lush surroundings, the Houston Polo Club is a unique and ideal spot for your private or corporate event.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY POLO!

Spring Season: April 9–June 11

Fall Season: September 17–November 19

Reserve your seats online:
houstonpoloclub.com/buy-tickets



For booking/information on any of our individual or group ticket options,
email events@thehoustonpoloclub.com

SUNDAY POLO SCHEDULE

SPRING SCHEDULE

April (Games start at 5 PM)

- 9 CHAMPAGNE CHARLES HEIDSIECK CUP (Easter Sunday)
- 16 USPA GENERAL GEORGE S. BROWN CUP
- 23 C. BALDWIN CURIO CLASSIC
- 30 USPA WESTERN CHALLENGE presented by KETEL ONE

May (Games start at 5 PM)

- 7 LONE STAR CUP presented by DOS HOMBRES
- 14 USPA REGIONAL CLASSIC presented by AMERICAN NATIONAL (Mother's Day)
- 21 J. TALASEK HOMES CLASSIC
- 28 LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL CUP presented by THE FITZPATRICK GROUP

June (Games start at 5 PM)

- 5 VAQUEROS CUP
- 11 USPA NYTS TOURNAMENT presented by BILL FICK FORD

FALL SCHEDULE

September (Games start at 5 PM)

- 17 KINGS CUP presented by GUINNESS
- 24 ROSE CUP presented by MATHILDE CHAPOUTIER

October (Games start at 4 PM)

- 1 LEWIS JEWELERS CLASSIC
- 8 INTERNATIONAL CUP presented by US POLO ASSN
- 15 TEXAS OPEN presented by ENGEL & VÖLKERS HOUSTON
- 22 THE MACALLAN CUP
- 29 HALLOWS CUP

November (Games start at 2 PM)

- 5 HARVEST CUP
- 12 PENNY CUP
- 19 HOUSTON WOMEN'S POLO CHAMPIONSHIP presented by QR JETS (starts at 1:30 pm)

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A TIME TO CELEBRATE



Members of the Houston Riding & Polo Club raise a championship toast (c. 1930).



The Houston Riding & Polo Club – 1930 (l to r) C. Coyle, Jay Floyd, Tiny Dow, C. Wilkerson, R. Randolph, George Brown, Unknown, Unknown, Harry Cullen, W.S. Farish, C.W. Manford, Captain George, Nick Crow, Slate, Will Cochran, Dick Small, Duke Colter, Bob Farish, Steve Farish.



Texas Sports Hall of Famer Cecil Smith (left to right) Cano Gracida, Charles Smith, Cecil Smith, Mary Smith, Will Farish, and John Armstrong (c. 1990)



J.M. Chittin, Charlie Armstrong, "Horse" Jonsie, Jack Taper.

Will Cochran and George "Tiny" Dow started the Houston Riding & Polo Club on a plot of lands called Green Pastures at Westheimer Road and Post Oak Lane in 1928, during the heyday of American polo. After faltering for a couple of decades during the Great Depression and after World War II, polo caught its stride again in the 1960s, and the club has been going strong at its Memorial Park location ever since. Some of the greatest American players have called Houston their home field, including Polo Hall of Famers Carlos Gracida, Memo Gracida, Sunny Hale, Cecil Smith, Tommy Wayman, Julio Arellano, and Michael Azarro.

We invite all of our members, patrons, pros, fans, and sponsors to join us in celebrating another season of bringing the best in American polo to the Houston Polo Club.



The Hobby family (c. 1960s)



Dawn and Tommy Lee Jones (c. 1990)



The Hobby family (c. 2000)

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SPECTATOR'S GUIDE

Polo is one of the only sports in the world in which men and women of all ages compete on the same teams and are rated on the same handicap scale. Teams are put together by the patron, who is the sponsor of the team. The patron will hire one or two pros to play on their team and develop both strategy and the team's skills on the field. Each team has four players, each of whom brings a string of polo ponies (4–10 horses) to each game. Matches are divided into 7-1/2-minute periods of play, called chukkers. Low- and medium-goal games have four chukkers, and high-goal games have six.

RULES

The rules of polo focus on the safety of the players and ponies. The most 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 by its trajectory. The player who is closest to the ball with the narrowest angle has the right of way. Opposing players cannot cross the line too close to the “on-line” player, nor can they approach the player at too sharp an angle, or they risk a foul and subsequent penalty. The severity of the penalty depends on how dangerous the infraction was to the horse or player.

ON THE FIELD

The players can use safe strategies to interfere with the opposite team's handling of the ball. For example, a hook is a defensive technique in which a player uses their mallet to interfere with an opponent's swing. A ride-off (also called a bump) is 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 them off the line of the ball.



Ride-off



Line of the ball

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. 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.

6. BANDAGES AND BOOTS:

These protective wraps shield the pony's legs against contact with the ball or other ponies.

7. DRAW REINS AND BRIDLE:

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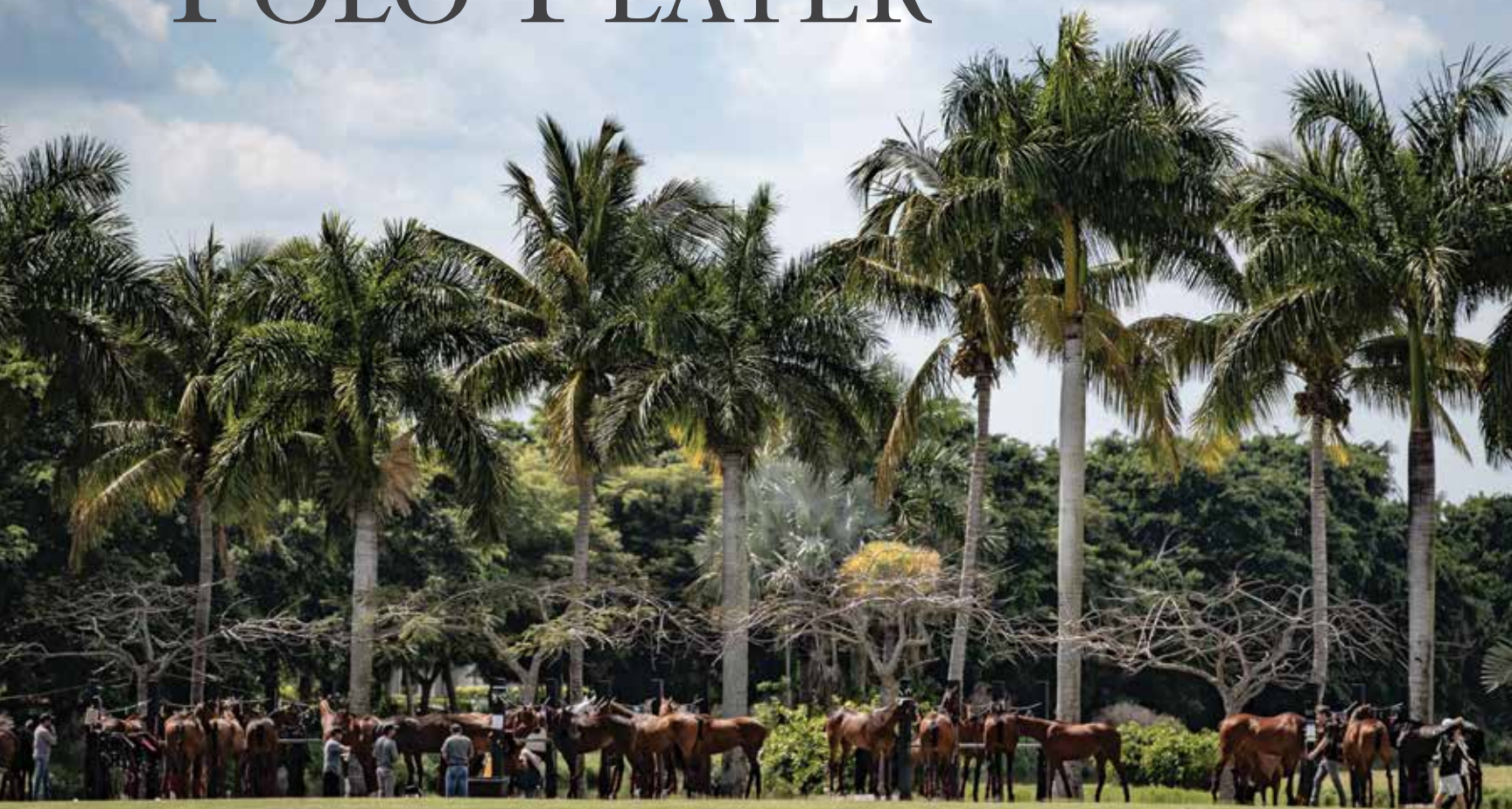
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POLO FOR ALL SEASONS: THE TRAVELING POLO PLAYER



Pony lines at the National Polo Center – Wellington (photo by Global Polo Entertainment)

Winston Churchill is famously quoted as saying that “a polo handicap is a passport to the world.” Indeed, considering the logistics of transporting a string of ponies, it is incredible how mobile polo pros, players, and patrons are. Between Houston’s spring and fall seasons, there is an entire diaspora of polo players that hitch up their horses and hit summer and winter seasons around the country.

BI-COASTAL WINTERS POLO IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Wellington, Florida, has long been the seat of high-goal and international polo for the winter season in the United States. In 2022, the United States Polo Association (USPA) acquired the property formerly known as the International Polo Club Palm Beach, renaming it the **USPA National Polo Center – Wellington (NPC)**. The NPC showcases first-rate facilities, with five fields, a Grandstand, restaurants, a Clubhouse, and a social club that includes a gym, pool, and tennis courts.



National Polo Center (photo by Running Iron Creative)



10-goaler Facundo Pieres in front of a packed stadium during the Gauntlet of Polo's 2022 U.S. Open Polo Championship (photo by David Lominska)

In addition to several high-goal tournaments, the NPC hosts the Florida Circuit 16-Goal series, which consists of four tournaments played across multiple clubs between January and April. The biggest tournaments of the season, however, are three high-goal tournaments that make up the Gauntlet of Polo®: the C.V. Whitney Cup, the USPA Gold Cup, and the U.S. Open Polo Championship. It is a three-month polo battle of champions!

Season highlights: The Gauntlet of Polo®, a series of high-goal tournaments that run throughout the season.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

California has a thriving polo community, with over 25 USPA-recognized clubs—and the Coachella Valley offers a unique desert polo destination. The Coachella Valley is home to dozens of incredible golf courses, and when the season ends, the Eldorado Polo Club's fields transform into the grounds of the Coachella Music & Arts Festival and the Stagecoach Music Festival.

Nestled in the Coachella Valley, Eldorado is the premier West Coast polo club for the January–March polo season. The club offers polo at all levels—from beginner, 2-Goal, and junior leagues to 4-, 6-, 8-, and 12-Goal tournaments. Competitive tournaments include the USPA Spreckels Cup and the Pacific Coast Governor's Cup.

“Our whole family played at Eldorado last winter,” says 3-Goal pro Bryan Middleton. “I played 4-Goal, Carin played 8-Goal, and our daughter played every weekend in the kids’ polo league. The fields are great and you can’t beat the weather!”



Eldorado Polo Club (photo by Kerri Kerley)

Season highlights: The USPA Rossmore Skins Tournament, the biggest 12-Goal tournament of the year, offers a cash prize for every chukker won.



Photo courtesy of Air Horse One®

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Contact Todd Riemenschneider (toddr@qrjets.com) at QRJets for more information about chartering a plane for you and your string.

SUMMER IN WYOMING

Polo is hosted on both sides of the beautiful state of Wyoming at four major polo clubs, as well as some smaller private fields. The state offers unique polo destinations—as well as an abundance of outdoor activities for the entire family. The Wyoming polo season starts in June and runs until late August.



Friday Night Lights at Big Horn Polo Club (photo by Christina Canfu, Tequila Sunsets Photography)

On the northeast corner of Wyoming, in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains, lies Sheridan, Wyoming. Sheridan's heritage is steeped in both Western horsemanship and polo—which first came to the area in 1893. Two polo clubs are located just outside of Sheridan in a small town called Big Horn. The clubs—**Big Horn Polo Club** and **Flying H**—are owned by the Johnston family and separated by a fence. The clubs work together, hosting matches/practices on alternating days.



Old-style bronc riding on the polo field at Don King Days (photo by Christina Canfu, Tequila Sunsets Photography)

Big Horn Polo Club hosts lots of friendly low-goal polo games—great for introducing new players (and ponies) to the game. Every Friday night, pop your tailgate and bring dinner for the Friday Night Lights game. Sunday polo matches are free and open to the public.

“Big Horn is one of the most well-rounded places to play polo for players and horses of all levels,” says polo pro Steve Krueger. “If you get tired of playing polo, you won’t get bored since there are plenty of other outdoor activities to do.”

Season highlights: Winkler Memorial Tournament and Don King Days—a multidisciplinary weekend of steer roping, old-style bronc riding, polo, and blacksmithing held over the Labor Day weekend.

The Flying H Polo Club hosts higher-goal polo, with 12–14 Goal weekly tournaments. Each sponsor brings a pro (the pair’s goal rating must add up to 6 goals), and each week the sponsor/pro pairs are switched to different teams. This fosters an incredibly unique environment of learning from different players and pros and a chance to compete with patrons and pros from all over the country.

Season highlights: Goose Creek Cup, a 20-Goal tournament paired with a fundraiser for the City of Sheridan.

On the west side of the state, just south of the Bridger-Teton National Forest, the **Jackson Hole Polo Club** is situated on Melody Ranch at the foot of the Teton mountain range. Those travelling from Houston will recognize Mark Prinsloo, Director of Houston’s Polo School, Step-Up, and Interscholastic programs—who also runs training programs at the Wyoming club. The club’s 4- to 8-Goal leagues run in July and August, attracting players and pros from all over the U.S. for their summer

season. In addition to weekly polo, join in on the extracurricular fun: the polo community loves to organize cookouts, trail rides, and Snake River rafting excursions together.

“The mountain air up on Melody Ranch is clear, and the polo community is really close and supportive,” says Mark Prinsloo. “The facilities on the ranch are top-notch—with boarding for over 200 horses and polo fields at the base of the mountains. In addition to great polo, there is a very active social life before and after the matches.”

Season highlights: USPA King Crown Officer’s Cup the last weekend in July



White water rafting on the Snake River (photo courtesy of Jackson Hole Polo Club)

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Spring Polo School

April 15–June 11

Fall Polo School

September 20–November 12

*School is in session twice a week:
Tuesdays (6–8 pm) and Saturdays (9–11 am).*

What Will I Learn?

Proper polo horsemanship
Game strategy
Swinging instructions
Rules of the game
Line of the ball

Sign Up & Receive These Perks:

2 Tickets to all 2023 Spring Sunday Polo Matches
Invites to 2023 HPC Spring Social Events
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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!

The Margarita League: Each team has one instructor and two players, who receive individual coaching and grow at their own pace.

2-Goal League: With three players and an instructor per team, this league focuses on building up riding and stick-and-ball skills.

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

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TOO HOT TO TROT

In each adrenaline-fueled polo game the skilled equine athletes carry players from one end of the field to the other, pivoting on a dime, running to goal, fearlessly riding other ponies off the ball, and responding to the split-second changes in the game. We celebrate our equine athletes at Houston Polo Club—not just part of a string, part of the family.





INTERSCHOLASTIC POLO

With files from the U.S. Polo Association



2022 Open National Interscholastic Champions: Ashvath Bhatia, Lance Stefanakis, Joe Bob Lequerica, Will Mudra, and Judah Altic. Pictured with Coach Mark Prinsloo (photo by David Murrell)

Mark Prinsloo has spent 15 years building Houston Polo Club's Interscholastic program—and the 2022 team came together to go all the way to the top, winning the club's first Open National Interscholastic Championship with a score of 10–7 over Aiken Polo Club.

"Last year, we fought and lost in the last chukker. Because of that, we were even more determined to win this year. We dedicated ourselves to working harder, as a team and as individuals," said Lance Stefanakis. "It took waking up a few hours earlier every day, practicing a few more times every week, and having a collective mission to win a National Championship."

His teammates were equally elated at the win. "Houston has been trying to win a national title for a while now; it means a lot to my team and coach to win on home turf. I'm very blessed to have people I have around me constantly motivating me and my team," said Will Mudra. A jubilant Judah Altic added, "It was amazing to be a part of Houston Polo Club's first National Championship. It will live with me forever!"

A celebratory Ashvath Bhatia noted the hard work and close bond of his Houston teammates: "We worked constantly to become champions, and we finally did it!"

Houston Polo Club's Interscholastic program serves kids from grade 6 to grade 12 who live within a 100-mile radius of the club. Many of the young players start at the middle school level and grow their skills to compete at the high school level. Will Mudra returns to the 2023 Open team, playing with Lily Lequerica and Joe Bob Lequerica, with Judah Altic and Thomas Tejera serving as alternates.

"The Interscholastic program is about team-building and learning," says Coach Mark Prinsloo. "It's about life, really. Sometimes, a kid won't make the main team, but they have to learn that in life, you don't always get what you want. So, it's not just polo; it's not just about winning—it's about having fun. We've been successful, so now winning is a big part of it. A lot of pressure gets put on these young players, but in the end, it's still about having fun and enjoying polo, your friends, and the team camaraderie more than anything."

If your child is between the ages of 12 and 17 and is interested in playing polo, a great place to start is in Polo School, where polo players of all levels can learn the basics of riding, stick and ball, strategy, and field play (see page 37 for details).

For more information about the Houston Polo Club's Interscholastic League, email us at playpolo@thehoustonpoloclub.com.



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NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT SERIES 2022

Presented by Bill Fick Ford

The NYTS qualifiers give our talented young players a chance to compete at the national level. Qualifiers are held at polo clubs across the United States during the summer months. NYTS All-Stars are announced at each qualifier, and each All-Star is in contention for being selected for the NYTS Championship, held each year in the fall.

The 2022 NYTS qualifier division, presented by Bill Fick Ford, had four teams competing for spots on the NYTS Championship

team. All-stars are selected at each NYTS qualifier based on their horsemanship, sportsmanship, playing ability, current handicap, and team ability. Seven of our young players qualified as 2022 All-Stars.

The club would like to thank Bill Fick Ford for their generous sponsorship of the 2023 Houston Polo Club Junior Tournament and NYTS Qualifier.



Advanced Winner: *Rocking P*

Judah Altic, Bridget Price, Joe Bob Lequerica, Cole Felhaber, pictured with USPA SW Circuit Governor Paul Jornayvaz, USPA Governor-at-large Steven Armour, USPA Governor-at-large Chrys Beal



Tournament All-Stars

Lily Lequerica, Bridget Price, Francesca Felhaber, Joe Bob Lequerica, Lance Stefanakis, Will Mudra, Tomás Tejera pictured with USPA Governor-at-large Steven Armour, USPA Governor-at-large Chrys Beal, USPA SW Circuit Governor, Paul Jornayvaz



JUNIOR TOURNAMENT 2022

Presented by Bill Fick Ford



Leadline: Traveller's Rest and BTA
Felicitas Lezcano, August "Gus" Orthwein, Shirley Krueger, Evelyn Wroe (not pictured: Clementine Barry)



Walk/Trot Winning Team: St. Regis
Bradie Kimbrough, Charlotte Kampshoff, Tristan Kampshoff
MVP: Bradie Kimbrough



Intermediate Winning Team: Tonkawa
Ripley Middleton, Ava Seward, Tate Seward
MVP: Danny Fulkerson





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POLO TOP 10

1 POLO'S ROOTS

Originally referred to as *Choughan*, meaning “mallet,” polo was played as far back as 2,500 years ago in the ancient Persian Empire, where it was used as a training game for military cavalry units. The Sport of Kings spread and evolved from old empires to new continents primarily by way of colonization and military rule, traveling to India in the 15th century, where it was the national sport for two centuries.

In the second half of the 19th century, army officers, tea planters, and civil officials in British India took to polo and brought it back to England. In 1859, Lt. Joseph Sherer played his first game and helped to establish the oldest active club in the world: Calcutta Polo Club. Polo historian J.N.P. Watson refers to Sherer as “the father of Western Polo.” The first polo match in the United States took place at Dickel’s Riding Academy in New York City. In 1876, the first formal American polo club was established: Westchester Polo Club in New York.

2 UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION

The United States Polo Association (USPA) is the governing body of polo in North America. Originally founded in 1890, the USPA is responsible for sanctioning polo clubs and tournaments; managing and publishing rules and handicap ratings; and organizing, promoting, and supporting polo across North America.

3 ON THE FIELD

Polo fields measure 300 x 160 yards—slightly larger than nine football fields! Each team of four players is made up of a patron (who sponsors the team and hires polo pros), polo pros, and players. There are also two mounted umpires on the field and a referee (called the Third Man) on the sidelines in case a third set of eyes is required to make a call.

1 GOALS, SCORES, AND HANDICAPS

There are many uses for the term “goal” in polo. On the field, a goal is scored each time a ball fully crosses between the goal posts at any height. Every time a goal is scored, the teams switch directions to equalize playing conditions.

The second common use for the term “goal” refers to a player’s handicap or goal rating. Players are rated between –2 (or C) and 10, with a 10-goal player being the very best in the world. Club-based rating committees decide the handicap of each player based on playing ability, horsemanship, team play, horses, and knowledge of the game.

Players’ goal ratings are used to build equal teams. The handicap of a team is the sum total rating of all of its players, and the final score of a match is adjusted according to discrepancies in the two teams’ handicaps. For example, if you are attending a 4-goal match, teams are composed of players whose sum goal rating equals four.

5 SAFETY FIRST!

Polo is a high-intensity, high-speed sport. With ponies pounding down the field, it quickly becomes clear why most rules are in place to protect the ponies and players. When a foul is called by one of the two umpires on the field, the severity of the infraction and the resulting penalty are judged on a scale of 1 to 9, based on how dangerous the infraction was and the location of the ball on the field at the time of the infraction.

6 PLAYER POSITIONS

On the field, player positions are represented by the numbers on their polo jerseys—from one to four. Player 1 primarily assumes an offensive position on the field and is responsible for neutralizing the opposing team’s Player 4—their primary defense. Player 2 is the mover and the shaker, a transition player who backs up Player 1 and aggressively seeks to move the ball upfield. Player 3 is the quarterback, who focuses on game strategy, field advantage, and moving the ball. This player is often the highest-rated player on the team. Finally, Player 4 is primarily responsible for guarding the goal and preventing the opposing team from scoring.



7 PONIES

Polo ponies are thoroughbreds or thoroughbred-quarter horse crosses selected for their agility, speed, endurance, and intelligence.

PONIES BY THE NUMBERS

6–10

number of ponies played by each player in a high-goal game

6–7 YEARS

to raise, break, and train a polo pony

15 YEARS

the length of a healthy polo pony’s career

60–64 INCHES (15–16 HANDS)

average height of a polo pony from the ground to the withers

1,000 lbs

average weight of a polo pony

8 STICK AND BALL

Though it may look like a high-end croquet set, the polo mallet and ball are specialized for the high-speed nature of the sport. The mallet is a flexible shaft with a hardwood head, ranging in length from 49 to 54 inches, depending on the size of the horse. For safety reasons, all players hold the mallet in their right hand and use the side of the mallet head to hit the polo ball. The outdoor polo ball was at one time made of willow or bamboo but is now made of solid, hard plastic measuring 3 to 3½ inches in diameter.

9 SPECTATOR PARTICIPATION

While the high-speed action remains on the field, there is a lot of fun to be had on the sidelines! Polo is a very social sport, with many ways for non-athletes to be involved. Join us on the sidelines to watch polo every Sunday. Heighten your experience by buying a corporate box to entertain clients and reward employees. Join the crowd on the field for the Divot Stomp. In this long-held tradition, spectators are invited onto the field at halftime to replace pieces of turf dug up by the ponies during play. A great complement to the Divot Stomp is a tall glass of Champagne!

10 GET IN THE GAME

When you get tired of sitting on the sidelines, it’s time to check out Houston Polo Club’s Polo School. Polo players come from all backgrounds—some bring riding experience; others bring a great golf swing. Regardless, the adrenaline of combining horsemanship with hand-eye coordination hooks hundreds of players each year. Lessons can be a rigorous start to your polo career or a casual weekend pastime for family and friends. No matter your level, interest, or ability, no one ever regrets their first polo lesson, and rarely do they show up for just one! See page 37 for the 2023 Polo School schedule.



2022 HOUSTON WOMEN'S POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Presented by Don Julio and QR Jets

By KC Krueger, with contributions from the USPA



The 2022 Houston Women's Polo Championship, presented by Don Julio and QR Jets, closed out the Houston Polo Club's year on a high note. Eighty-five women from around the world came together in Houston to compete over five days at four different levels of play: the Texas Women's Open, the U.S. Open Women's Handicap, the Farish Cup Invitational, and the Bayou City Cup Invitational. Women

of all ages from the United Kingdom, Argentina, and all over the United States made new friends, shared plenty of laughs—and, most importantly, played some exciting polo. This week was made possible thanks to the generosity of private field owners; support from corporate sponsors; tons of effort by family members, friends, and grooms; and most importantly—the horses!

U.S. OPEN WOMEN'S HANDICAP

Four teams competed at the highest level: the 16–20 Goal U.S. Open Women's Handicap tournament. The exhilarating final of the U.S. Open Women's Handicap featured a head-to-head battle between QR Jets (Grace Mudra, Lily Lequerica, KC Krueger, Sarah Wiseman) and BCI/Alliant (Cara Kennedy, Sophie Grant, Maddie Grant, Anna Winslow-Palacios). Assembling at Tonkawa's Wilson field, the captivating showdown was the second of two tight contests between the two teams. Falling just short to BCI/Alliant 8–6 in bracket play, QR Jets turned to strategy and discipline to prevail against their familiar foes in a back-and-forth rematch to clench the coveted title, winning 7–5.



Winner: QR Jets: Sarah Wiseman, KC Krueger, Lily Lequerica, Grace Mudra, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets



MVP: Sarah Wiseman



BPP (Professional): Don Juan, played by Maddie Grant



BPP (Amateur): Theresa, played by KC Krueger

"It's taken a lot of organization building—it means the world, and it felt particularly special in front of a home crowd," said KC Krueger. "BCI/Alliant was a very hard team to beat; we had to work hard and play as a team. I'm very proud of the young girls—Sarah's a great captain, and Shane's a great coach!"



2022 USPA WOMEN'S CHALLENGE

The 8–12 Goal USPA Women's Challenge hosted eight teams. After an exciting day of semi-final games played out, Chandler Ranch and Spiritless were set to play the final. The final of the USPA Women's Challenge was an explosive game between the two undefeated teams. Spiritless started the game with a .5-goal lead due to the handicap difference, but Chandler Ranch's Tiamo Hudspeth was the first to score. Chandler Ranch had a 3–2.5 lead going into halftime, but Spiritless used the break to regroup and managed to hold Chandler Ranch scoreless in the second half. Spiritless's Cara Kennedy was the sole scorer of the second half, solidifying her team's 4.5–3 win!



Winner: Spiritless: Jenna Davis, Grace Mudra, Kaile Roos, Cara Kennedy, presented by Diageo's Dustin Ipson



MVP: Grace Mudra



BPP (Professional): Indigo, played by Tiamo Hudspeth



BPP (Amateur): Peanut, played by Cara Kennedy

"Leading up to women's week, we got the opportunity to play a 6-goal practice game, which helped us be quicker and tighter on a man," said MVP Grace Mudra. "This also allowed us to get to know each other to create plays that worked for us and gain trust with one another."

2022 FARISH CUP INVITATIONAL



Winner: Texas SBA: Jamie Jackson, Cindy Madole, Grace Burgert, Caroline Lile (not pictured: Liz Cunningham)



MVP: Grace Burgert



BPP: Fatima, played by Uma Villanueva

2022 BAYOU CITY CUP INVITATIONAL



Winner: Comerica: Jamie Jackson, Raeann Magill, Grace Harrison



MVP: Jamie Jackson



BPP: Appy, played by Jamie Jackson, owned by Mark Prinsloo

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As a polo player herself, Cindy Case not only understands the equestrian community, but she also knows real estate. Whether you're looking for a new home in the city or a sprawling equestrian estate, Cindy has the skills to overcome challenges when representing her clients and achieving their goals.



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PROFILE: CODY ELLIS

Hailing from Johannesburg, South Africa, Cody Ellis has been playing polo for 18 years—7 years as a pro. In the 2022 season, this 4-goal-rated pro was the player to watch on Houston's polo fields. In his fall season playing in the 12-Goal and 6-Goal leagues, in addition to being named MVP in the Texas Open, Fall Classic, and Livingston Memorial, Cody's string earned three Best Playing Pony awards. His teams made it to all three 12-Goal finals in the Fall League. Cody also competed in the 2022 Gauntlet of Polo in Florida—a 3-month competition consisting of three tournaments, the C.V. Whitney Cup, the USPA Gold Cup, and the U.S. Open Polo Championship. Cody's team, Park Place, took home the coveted C.V. Whitney Cup.

When did you get started in polo?

I started playing polo when I was 10 years old. Polo has always been part of my family.

How did you start playing at Houston Polo Club?

I was working with Sugar Erskine at ERG, and through him, I developed relationships with people in Houston. I spend most of my spring and fall seasons at HPC because it's a great club with very competitive polo. It has a big community of people who are always willing to help each other out.

Where do you play in the winter/summer?

I play in Wellington, Florida, in the winter, and I have played summers in Michigan and Tennessee. In 2022, I got the opportunity to play in Spain.

Do you have a favorite pony in your string?

All of my horses have good hearts for the sport, and they respond well to me for every play. I cannot choose a favorite because they all are good in their own special ways.

What was your highlight of the 2022 season at Houston?

Winning the Texas Open with Whitehall in the 12-Goal league. I was awarded Best Playing Pony and MVP in that tournament as well.

What is your career highlight up to now?

Winning the C.V. Whitney with Park Place in Wellington, Florida, as part of the Gauntlet of Polo.



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MEET THE PROS



Alvaro Ara, 4
Argentina

Mike Azzaro, 4
San Antonio, TX



Nacho Badiola, 5
Argentina



Jorge Cernadas, 4
Dallas, TX



Toto Collardin, 5
Argentina



Matt Coppola, 5
Wellington, FL



Cody Ellis, 4
Johannesburg, SA



Sterling Giannico, 4
Aiken, SC



Jeff Hall, 6
Sealy, TX



Steve Krueger, 5
Pattison, TX



Pipe Marquez, 6
Columbia



Robert Orthwein, 4
Sealy, TX



Shane Rice, 4
Bellville, TX



Francisco Rodriguez
Mera, 5 Argentina



Nico Saenz, 5
Columbia



Miguel Torres, 4
Navasota, TX



Santi Torres, 6
Wellington, FL



Whistle Uys, 4
Wellington, FL



Marcos Villanueva, 4
Fulshear, TX



Mason Wroe, 4
Cat Spring, TX



Santi Zubiaurri, 5
Argentina

NAME	RATING	HOMETOWN
Harrison Azzaro	3	San Antonio, TX
Chad Bowman	2	LaGrange, KY
Nick Cifuni	3	Sealy, TX
Tommy Costello	2	Scottsdale, AZ
David Crea	1	Pattison, TX
Duilio Diaz	2	Argentina
Nicolai Galindo	3	Thermal, CA
Tiamo Hudspeth	1	McFaddin, TX
CJ Lequerica	1.5	Sealy, TX
Sheila Lequerica	1	Sealy, TX
Troy Lequerica	1	Sealy, TX
Drew Luplow	2	Pattison, TX
Ariel Mancebo	1	Hempstead, TX
Bryan Middleton	3	Cat Spring, TX
Carin Middleton	A.5	Cat Spring, TX
Billy Mudra	2	Bellville, TX
Martin Munoz	2	Brookshire, TX
Chino Payan	1.5	Chapel Hill, TX
Audry Persano	1	Wharton, TX
Mark Prinsloo	2	Pattison, TX
Karen Reese	1	Sealy, TX
Ignacio Saenz	3	Brookshire, TX
Jimmy Seward	3	Pattison, TX
Hernan Tejera	2	Victoria, TX
Jesse Weaver	1.5	Houston, TX

PROS IN ACTION





WINNER'S CIRCLE 2022



USPA H. BEN TAUB MEMORIAL (12 GOAL)

Presented by Bentley Houston

Winner: BTA: Mason Wroe, Kelly Beal, Steve Krueger, Whistle Uys

Runner Up: Old Pueblo: Leigh Anne Hall, Duilio Diaz, Cody Ellis, Jeff Hall



USPA MASTER'S CUP (12 GOAL)

Presented by Lockton

Winner: Rocking P/San Saba: Grayson Price, Santi Zubiaurri, Harrison Azzaro (sub), Ignacio Saenz (sub), Dawn Jones (not pictured: Marcos Villanueva)

Runner Up: Old Pueblo: Leigh Anne Hall, Duilio Diaz, Jeff Hall, Cody Ellis



TEXAS OPEN (12 GOAL)

Presented by Engel & Volkers Houston

Winner: Whitehall Ranch: Bill Lane, Cody Ellis, Sterling Giannico, Miguel Torres

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



USPA OFFICER'S CUP (8 GOAL)

Presented by J. Talasek Homes

Winner: ML Bar Ranch/W-S: Jenny Vargas, Fox Benton, Abby Benton, Robert Orthwein, Cody Ellis

Runner Up: BTA/Propaganda: Kelly Beal, Steve Krueger, Nick Cifuni, Charles Fridge

WINNER'S CIRCLE 2022



LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL CUP (8 GOAL)

Presented by Don Julio

Winner: ML Bar Ranch/Team Tejas: Mason Wroe, Cody Ellis, Charles Fridge, Abby Benton, Fox Benton

Runner Up: BTA/Tonkawa: Kelly Beal, Steve Krueger, Jeff Hildebrand, Jimmy Seward



USPA MASTER'S CUP (6 GOAL)

Winner: BTA/Vintage Polo: Chrys Beal, Lily Lequerica, Steve Krueger, KC Krueger

Runner Up: Rocking P: Marcos Villanueva, Chino Payan, Grayson Price, Bridget Price



USPA DELEGATE'S CUP (6 GOAL)

Winner: Island Time Polo/Sullivan Group: Michelle Agrons, Joanie Jackson, Nick Cifuni, Cody Ellis (not pictured: Elle Seybold)

Runner Up: Kanthaka: Sylvia Kampshoff, Philipp Kampshoff, Joao Aranha, Marcos Villanueva



USPA KELEEN & CARLTON BEAL CUP (6 GOAL)

Winner: Corazon Polo Team/LWR Polo: Mike Azzaro, Fabian Vela, Harrison Azzaro, JB Langlais

Runner Up: BTA: Chrys Beal, Lily Lequerica, KC Krueger, Steve Krueger



WINNER'S CIRCLE 2022



TEXAS STANDOFF (PRO AM)

Winners: Khedive/Tres Zopilotes: Tient Florey, David Wersbe, Karen Reese, Marcos Villanueva



PREMIER CUP (PRO AM)

Winners: Kanthaka: Eloris Snyder, Ismael Yontob, Sylvie Kampshoff, Mark Prinsloo



PATRIOT'S CUP (PRO AM)

Winners: Cat Spring/Crows Nest Ranch: Brandey Heckerth, Ray Stainback, Jimmy Seward, Billy Mudra



FALL FANDANGO (PRO AM)

Winners: Bearsden/JM Ranch: Chad Bowman, Cindy Madole, Carol Farnsworth, Mason Wroe



SPRING CHICKEN CUP (2 GOAL)

Winners: Baylor Stratos Int. Health: Judah Altic, Liz Lary, Jose Lezcano, Tammy Beeson



SPRING CLASSIC (2 GOAL)

Winners: QR Jets: Sarah Daniel, Mark Prinsloo, Shuman Majumder, Joe Holzer



FALL CLASSIC (2 GOAL)

Winners: QR Jets: Kim Hillin, Allison Riordan, Santi Hernando, Caroline Lile, Shuman Majumder



LONE STAR CUP (2 GOAL)

Winners: The Macallan: Mark Prinsloo, Cliff Vrielink, Katie Graham, Eduardo Pigretti

MVP AWARDS



Texas Open:
Cody Ellis, Whitehall Ranch



USPA Master's Cup:
Harrison Azzaro, Rocking P/San Saba



USPA H. Ben Taub Memorial:
Steve Krueger, BTA



Blue Bonnet Cup:
Steve Krueger, Propaganda/San Pedro Ranch



Fall Classic:
Cody Ellis, Brookshire Polo Club



Sunday 12-Goal League:
Pipe Marquez, Tonkawa



Sunday 12-Goal League:
Nico Saenz, Propaganda



Sunday 12-Goal League:
Joaquin Arguello, Whitehall Ranch



Lewis Jewelers Classic:
Bobby Gerry, La Elina



USPA Officer's Cup:
Steve Krueger, BTA/Propaganda



Livingston Memorial:
Cody Ellis, ML Bar Ranch/Team Tejas



Penny Cup:
Mike Azzaro, Corazon Polo Team/LWR Polo



BEST PLAYING PONIES OF 2022



USPA H. Ben Taub Memorial: Evita, played by Cody Ellis, pictured with Kat Rizeakos, presented by Kitch Taub



USPA Master's Cup: Niebla, played by Dawn Jones



Texas Open: Ginger, played and owned by Cody Ellis, pictured with Kat Rizeakos and groom, Elias Canel



Livingston Memorial: Vulcan, played by Steve Krueger, pictured with groom, Martin Maldonado, and presented by Kristen Vago from Diageo and Scott Moore from Bentley of Houston



USPA Officer's Cup: Buckwheat, played by Cody Ellis, pictured with Kat Rizeakos and Katelyn Virnau, and presented by Shannon Galvin and Ashley Aguilar from American National



J. Talasek Homes Cup: Salute, played by Mason Wroe, pictured with Olivia & Evelyn Wroe and Lytha Wendt, presented by Marxli Mettauer from Bentley of Houston



Cowboy Cup: Goose, played by Shane Rice, pictured with grooms David and Brujo, and presented by Max Malikov from Bentley of Houston



USPA Master's Cup: Sasha, played by Marcos Villanueva, pictured with daughter Uma and grooms, Pancho, Javi and Jose



USPA Delegate's Cup: Nena, played by Cody Ellis, pictured with Kat Rizeakos



USPA Keleen & Carlton Beal Cup: Optimo, played by Steve Krueger, pictured with Kelly Beal and Martin Maldonado



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Flanders Polo and Riding Lessons had incredible growth and success over the past year. We are so grateful to our clients and staff. Thank you for making 2023 another fantastic year!



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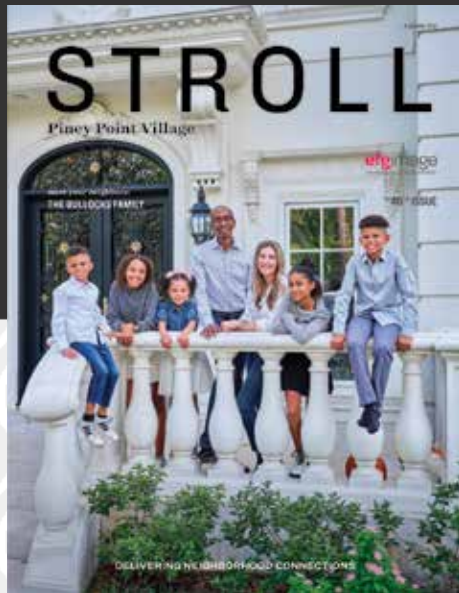


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MEET THE PLAYERS



Michelle Agrons, B



Judah Altaic, B



Anne Andras, B.5



David Andras, A.5



Steven Armour, A.5



Lucy Bailey, B.5



Brooks Ballard, B



Chrys Beal, A



Kelly Beal, A.5



James Beeson, B



Tammy Beeson, B



Abby Benton, B.5



Fox Benton, B



Belinda Brewer, B



Kenneth Brewer, B



John Brittain, B



Will Brown, A



Cindy Case, NR



Crystal Cassidy, A

MEET THE PLAYERS



Joe Chandler, B.5



Nick Dunbar, A



Carlin Dunphy, NR



Carol Farnsworth, B.5



Joe Fitsimons, A.5



Charles Fridge, A.5



George Georgiades, NR



Brandey Heckeroth, B



Martha Hirsch, B



Kim Hillin, B



Paul Hobby, A.5



Joe Holzer, B



Joanie Jackson, A



Dawn Jones, 1



Philip Kampshoff, 1



Sylvia Kampshoff, A



Tim Kelly, A



Cara Kennedy, B.5



KC Krueger, 2



Bill Lane, A



Joe Bob Lequerica, A





MEET THE PLAYERS



Lily Lequerica, A



Liz Lary, B.5



Shuman Majumder, B



Roxy Riggs Mounter, B.5



Isabel Muncey, B



Tatiana Pauwels Lutornski, NR



Eduardo Pigretti, B



Kendall Plank, A.5



Grayson Price, 1.5



Allison Riordin, B



Troupe Roland, NR



Richard Rolland, NR



Marshall Rosenberg, B



Elle Seybold, B.5



Jenny Sharrock, B



Debbie Shelton, B.5



Wesley Sinor, 1



Teran Smith, NR



Eloris Snyder, B



Ray Stainback, A.5



Lance Stefanakis, 1



MEET THE PLAYERS



Nick Stefanakis, B



Justin Talasek, NR



John Tasdemir, A



Tomas Tejera, B



Emma Tooth, B.5



Julie Tooth, B



Cliff Vrielink, B



Marshall White, NR



Chris Williams, A.5



Keaton Wolf, NR



Victoria Goldstein
Principal | AIA



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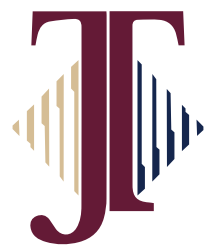
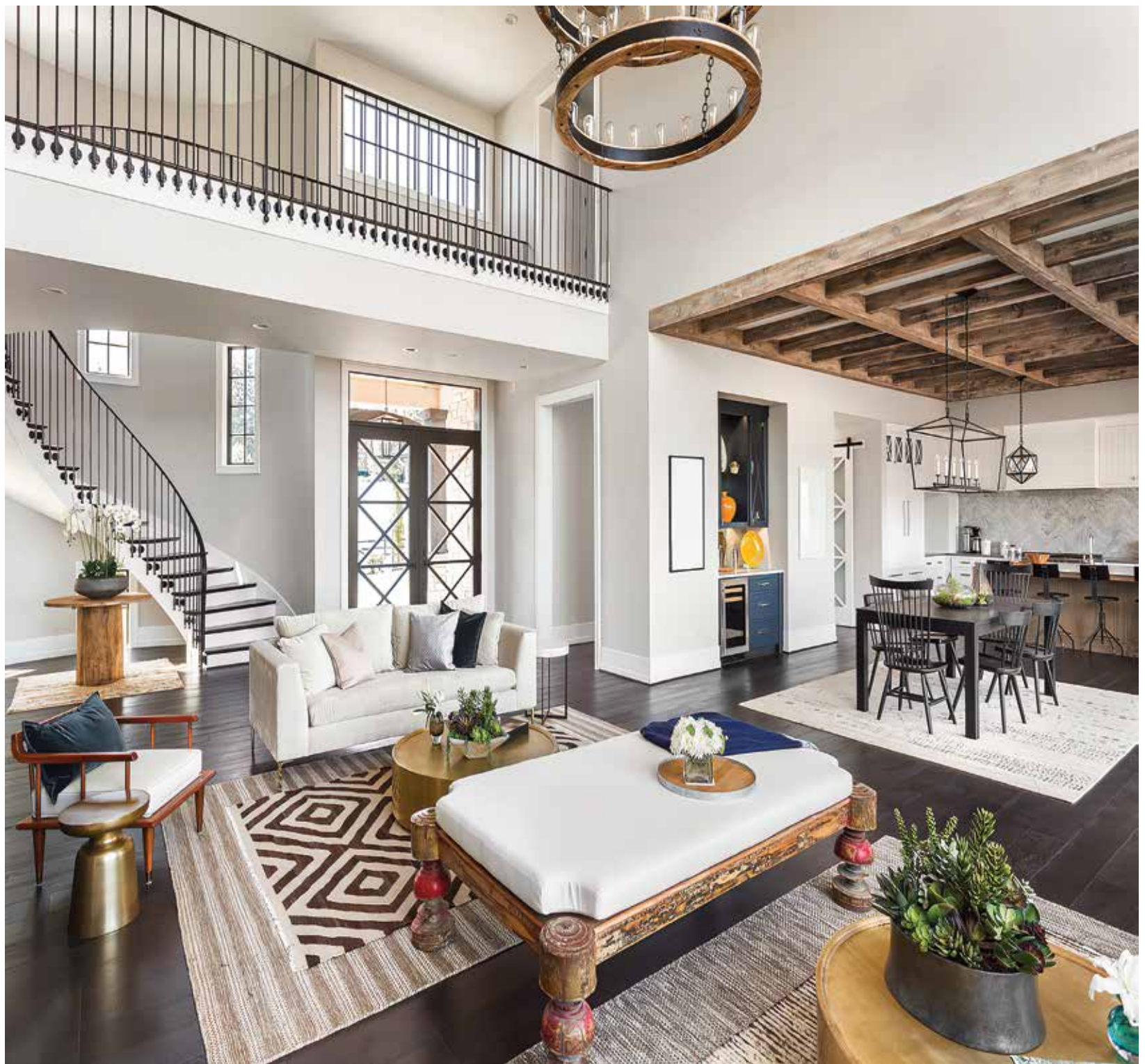
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