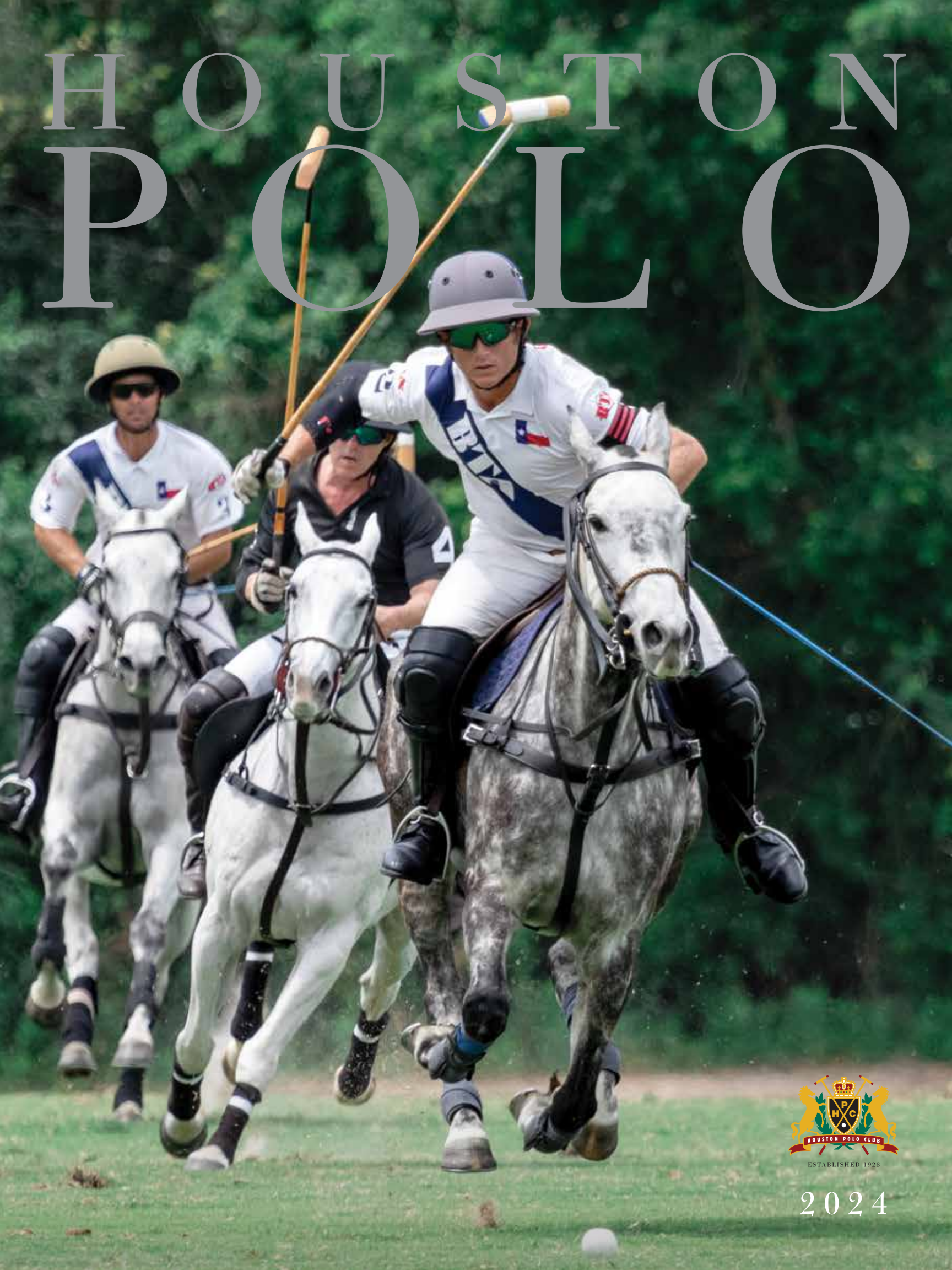


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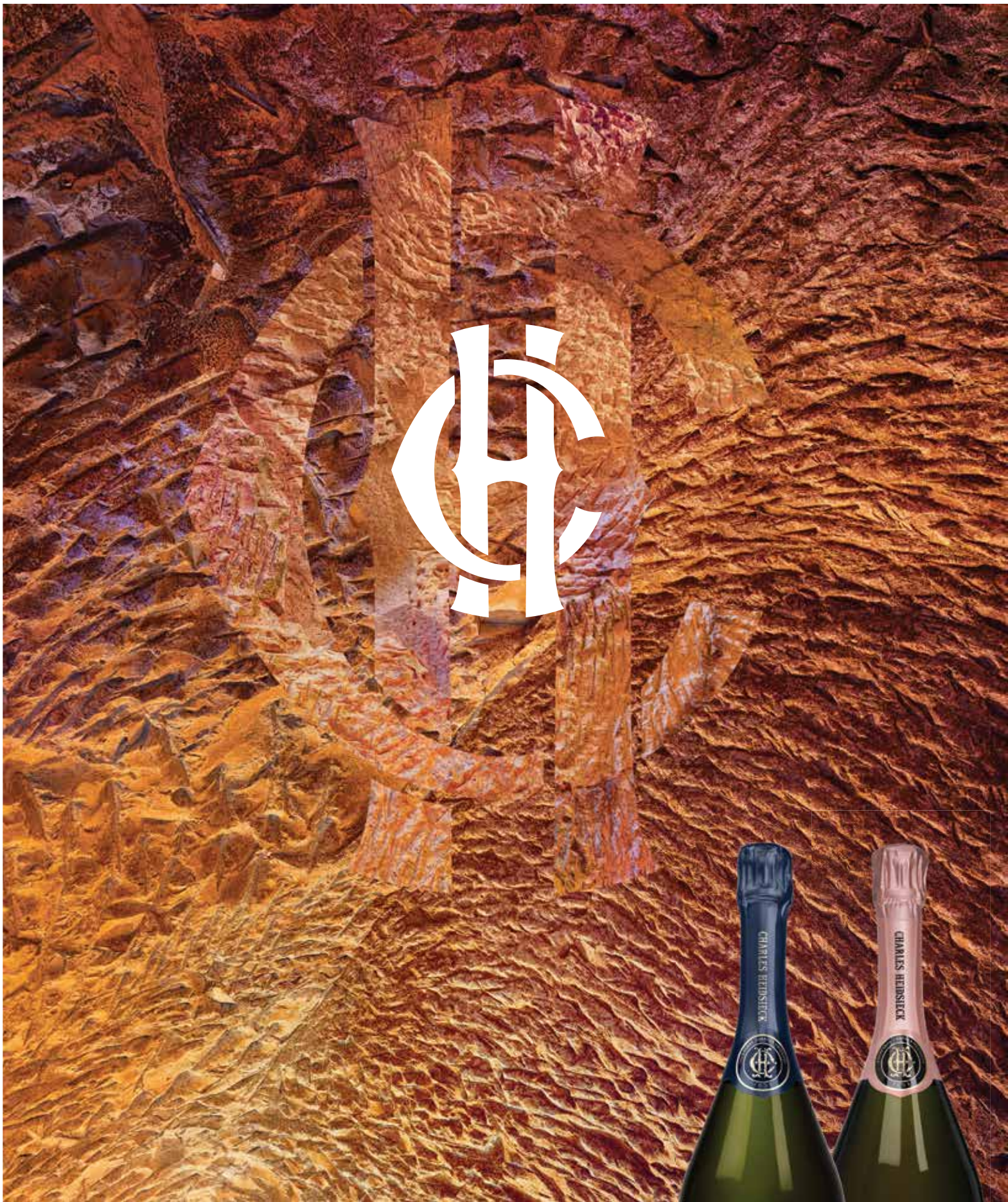
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HOUSTON POLO CLUB BOOK OF THE SEASON 2024

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



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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, in the heart of Houston. In 2023, 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 US Open Women’s Handicap, and the National Youth Tournament Series. This year also marks the 30th year of our ever-growing Women’s Championship Tournament.

The Houston Polo Club would like to acknowledge and thank all the corporate sponsors who 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

HOUSTON POLO

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WELCOME TO THE HOUSTON POLO CLUB

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



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BOX BY THE DAY

Box by the Day seats provide group seating for 2–20 guests. They 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.

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Annual Box Memberships include seating for 6 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.

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SUNDAY POLO SCHEDULE

SPRING SCHEDULE

April (Games start at 5 PM)

- 7 SPRING CUP presented by HOTEL GRANDUCA
- 14 USPA GENERAL GEORGE S. BROWN CUP presented by QR JETS
- 21 DOUGLAS ELLIMAN CLASSIC
- 28 USPA WESTERN CHALLENGE presented by DOS HOMBRES

May (Games start at 5 PM)

- 5 LONE STAR CUP presented by KETEL ONE
- 12 USPA REGIONAL CLASSIC SOUTHWESTERN presented by CHAMPAGNE CHARLES HEIDSIECK (Mother's Day)
- 19 VAQUEROS CUP presented by AMERICAN NATIONAL
- 26 USPA CONGRESSIONAL CUP presented by THE MACALLAN

June (Games start at 5 PM)

- 2 LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL CUP presented by FITZPATRICK GROUP
- 9 USPA NYTS TOURNAMENT presented by BILL FICK FORD

FALL SCHEDULE

September (Games start at 5 PM)

- 15 KINGS CUP
- 22 USPA H. BEN TAUB MEMORIAL CUP presented by MCCATHERN LAW
- 29 USPA KELEEN & CARLTON BEAL CUP

October (Games start at 4 PM)

- 6 INTERNATIONAL CUP presented by U.S. POLO ASSN.
- 13 TEXAS OPEN
- 20 THE MACALLAN CLASSIC
- 27 USPA CENTENNIAL CUP

November (Games start at 2 PM)

- 3 HOUSTON CUP
- 10 PENNY CUP
- 17 HOUSTON WOMEN'S POLO CHAMPIONSHIP (starts at 1:30 pm)



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POLO GEAR



PLAYER

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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:

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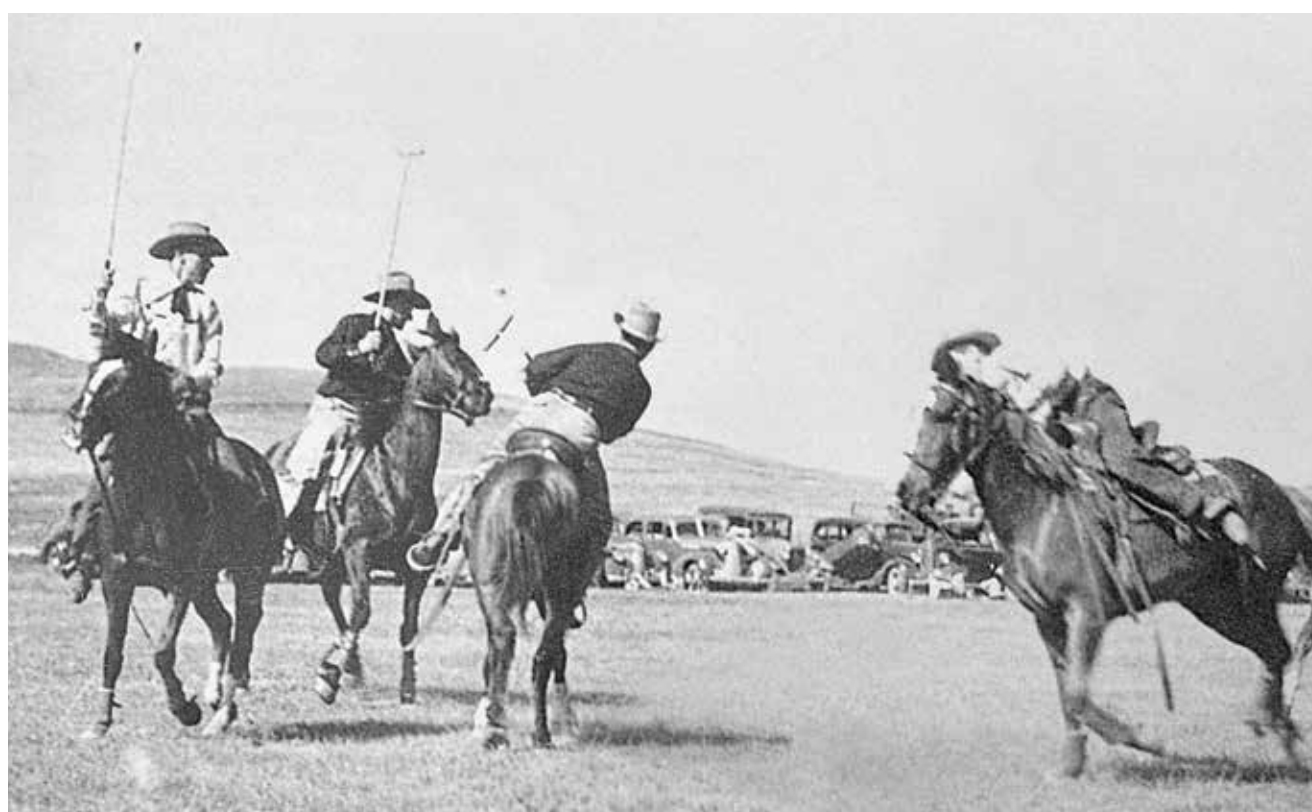
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POLO PONIES ON POST OAK

Adapted from an article by Mark S. Hinton, from the Archives



Cowboys on the field c. 1920s

Standing at the intersection of Westheimer and Post Oak, looking at the Galleria, Dillard's, and two supersize shopping centers, it is difficult to believe that if you were transported back in time to a Sunday afternoon in 1925, you would be in the country watching a polo match. But that would be the scene—because, in those days, this was the home of the Houston Riding & Polo Club (HR&PC). The polo field, clubhouse, stables, and grandstand were located where the Container Store, Storehouse, and Oshman's Sporting Goods stand today.

The Houston Polo Club's first location was near the intersection of Shepherd and Richmond. In 1921, two friends and horsemen (or maybe cowboys is a more accurate description), Will Cochran and George "Tiny" Dow, acquired sufficient acreage there to install a field. These men would play "pick-up" games on the weekends with their friends and anyone else who showed up

with a pony or two. All went well until a neighborhood lad was bopped with a ball. Cochran and Dow decided they needed to move the club further out of town to keep the local children out of harm's way. A search began for the right location. It was important that the field be well drained, so following a heavy rain, these gentlemen would saddle their horses and ride around the area west of town looking for a piece of property 300 yards long and 160 yards wide that had no standing water. It was not an easy task. They finally settled on a place known as "Green Pastures" at Westheimer Road and Post Oak Lane. The owners of this tract were the Voss brothers (for whom Voss Road is named). They had little reason to sell, so they were able to drive a hard bargain: Dow's final offer was \$555 per acre, a price he considered egregious. The Voss brothers accepted it, but Dow would complain loudly until the day he died about how the brothers had robbed him!



In 1925, the new facility opened for play. Dow and Cochran were far from certain that the project would succeed, so they took three steps to back up their bet. First, they added the name “Riding” to the title in hopes of attracting female members who would stable their horses and use the area’s riding trails. Second, they put rear and front doors on the stable stalls so they could use the barns for dairy cattle if the club failed. And finally, they invited a list of Houston’s “Who’s Who” to join. A number of old Houstonians became founders, including members of the Clayton, Pearson, Hogg, Peden, Pilot, Neuhaus, Sewall, Farish, and Dyer families. The most interesting founding member was Miss Minette Thompson, who became our city’s greatest female polo player of that era. Fortunately for Cochran and Dow, their fears were unfounded, and the club became a huge success. This was the Roaring Twenties and the dawn of the golden age of polo in America.

Americans were in love with polo, and none were more smitten than Houstonians. Cochran and Dow had succeeded in their venture. The HR&PC players competed in matches with teams from San Antonio, Dallas, and Kelly Air Force Base, as well as quartets from out of state.

The Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the resultant Great Depression hit the Houston



Riding & Polo Club hard. Members were forced to sell the facility at Westheimer and Post Oak, although the new owners allowed members to continue playing there for a while. Eventually, the matches were moved to Memorial Park. Despite the difficult times, Houston teams continued to show well in national contests. In 1933, in one of the most famous matches in polo history—known as East vs. West—the West team,



led by Houstonians Cecil Smith and Rube Williams, prevailed 12–6. In the late 1930s, Houston teams won the National Inter-Circuit and 12-Goal Championship Cup for five consecutive years.

The advent of World War II sounded the death knell for polo in the Bayou City. The game temporarily faded into history.

Fast forward 25 years to a gala charity event held in Houston’s newest “eighth wonder of the world,” the Astrodome. On that evening in 1965, 32,811 screaming fans packed the Dome to see the Texas polo team defeat Mexico 17–10, with proceeds from the gate going to Texas Children’s Hospital. Polo was reborn in the Bayou City.

Today, the Houston Polo Club is flourishing on its beautifully landscaped and wooded 26-acre location just west of Memorial Park. The club has over 150 playing members, hosts a polo school bi-annually, and more than 10,000 spectators attend matches during the season. It is the oldest polo club in Texas, having celebrated its 95th anniversary in 2023, and boasts the largest number of playing members in the USA. It continues its mission of nurturing the finest home-grown talent and attracting the best professional players in the country.





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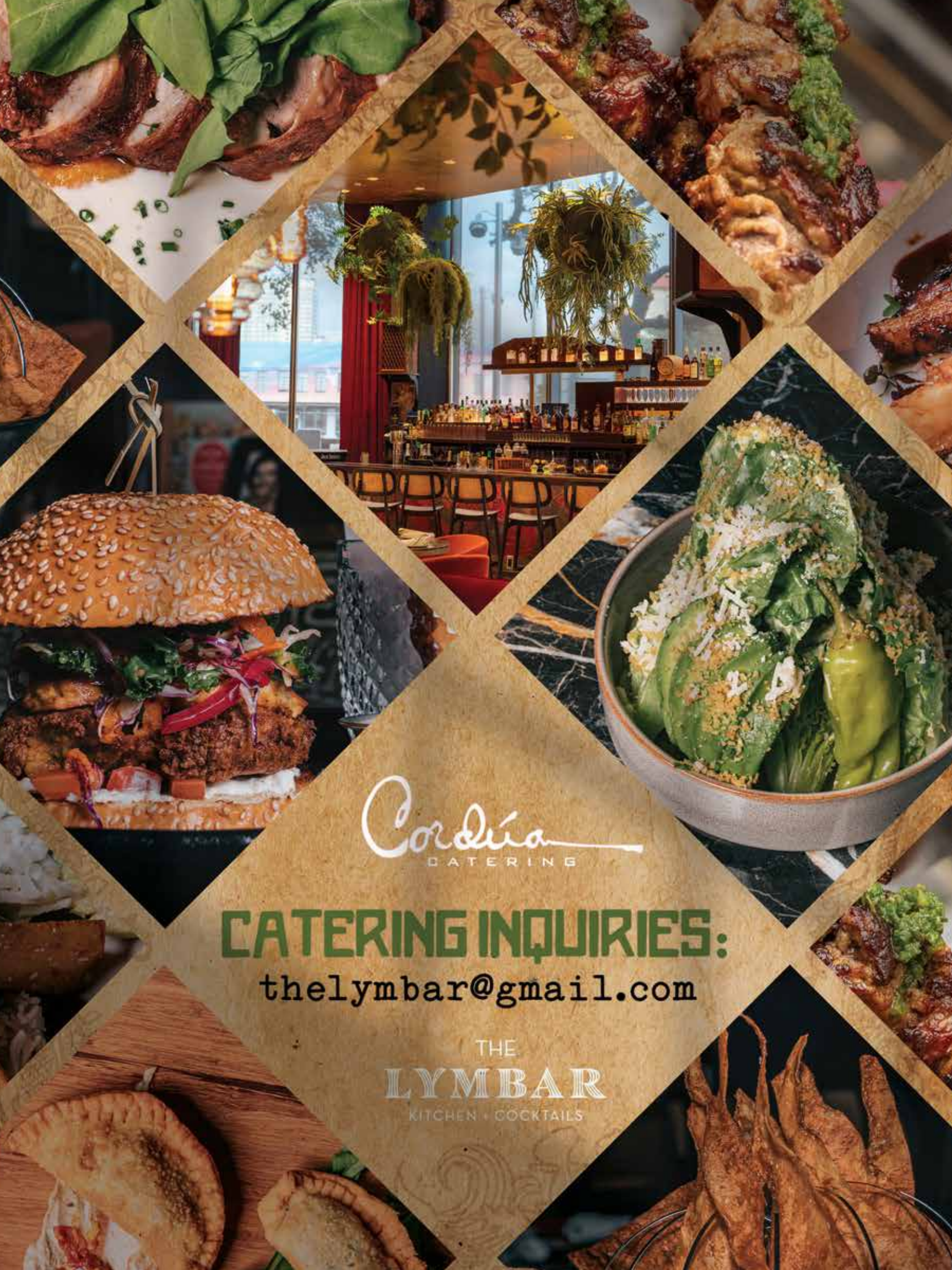
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POLO TOP 10



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

USPA

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), 1–3 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.

4

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 goalposts 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 is judged on a scale of 1 to 9, based on how dangerous the infraction was to the horse or player.

6

PLAYER POSITIONS

On the field, player positions are represented by the numbers on their polo jerseys—from one to four. Player 1 plays an offensive role 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.



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 hard wood 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 booking a corporate box to entertain clients and reward employees. Join the Divot Stomp: a long-held polo tradition that takes place during halftime. Spectators are invited onto the field to replace pieces of turf dug up by the ponies during play. A great complement to the Divot Stomp is a 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 40 for the 2024 Polo School schedule.

| | |
|---|--|
| PONIES BY THE NUMBERS | 15 YEARS the length of a healthy polo pony's career |
| 6-10 number of ponies played by each player in a high-goal game | 60-64 INCHES (15-16 HANDS) average height of a polo pony from the ground to the withers |
| 6-7 YEARS to raise, break, and train a polo pony | 1,000 lbs average weight of a polo pony |



The Pacesetters: Polo & Property

Carson Brown, Betty Crain, and Cindy Case are a trio of polo players who are fierce competitors on the field—and in Houston's luxury real estate market. As real estate professionals, they are passionate, relentless advocates for their clients. It is this same spirit that brought these three Douglas Elliman agents to the Houston Polo Club to play polo. Their diligence and drive make these three a force both on and off the polo field.

Carson Brown

Carson has been a real estate professional for 7 years. She has worked with Douglas Elliman for 4 years, since they arrived in Houston. She started at the Houston Polo Club Polo School in 2019 and will be playing in the Margarita League in the fall.

“To be in real estate you need to have a sense of aggressiveness, paired with discipline, confidence and strong commitment to your business/craft. All of these are attributes to a polo player and being successful at the game.”

How were you introduced to polo?

I started riding at the polo club with Barley at age 7! The polo club has been a bit of a staple in my life as we were sponsors for years growing up.

What is your favorite polo memory?

My favorite polo accomplishment was winning our class in the Bayou City Cup Women's Tournament in November 2021.

What is your favorite pony?

My favorite pony is a paint horse named Apache. Funny enough, I learned to play polo on a paint horse named Paint-Tom. He is a massive paint that was given to our instructor, Mark Prinsloo, by a man named Tom— hence the name!

What makes Houston Polo Club special?

The Houston Polo Club is special because it is right in the heart of Houston. From a real estate perspective, that is pretty impressive, considering how large it is! It will also be 100 years old in just 4 years.

Betty Crain

Betty has been a real estate professional since 2013 and has worked for Douglas Elliman since 2020. She started playing polo at Houston Polo Club in 2014 and is excited to play in the 2-Goal League in 2024.

“It is very special that the Houston Polo Club has beginner leagues where one doesn't need to own a horse. It helps people dip their toes into the sport and see if they like it without the commitment of owning.”

How were you introduced to polo?

Paige Flanders introduced me to polo by inviting me to a clinic in Argentina. I went and absolutely loved it. The clinic was my “polo school,” so when I came back, I went straight into the Margarita League.

What is your highest polo accomplishment?

My biggest accomplishment was winning MVP in the Bayou City Cup in 2019. I scored the winning goal right before the buzzer.

What is your favorite pony?

I love switching around and riding different horses. I think it makes me a better rider.

How is selling real estate like playing polo?

They're both incredibly competitive and social.

Cindy Case

Cindy has been a real estate professional for 20 years, following a career in advertising and marketing. She started playing polo 3 years ago and will be playing in both the Margarita League and the 2-Goal League in the 2024 season.

“Each game of polo is a different challenge. Much like my role as a professional Realtor, the process of guiding each client from our first meeting to a successful conclusion is different and can have its own challenges. Each of my clients has different desires and needs that need a tailored approach, just like each game is different. Ultimately, the goal for both is to win: to win the game and achieve the best outcomes for each of my clients.”

How were you introduced to polo?

It was serendipity! First, a friend, Sandra Wilder, invited me to share a Sunday game box with her. Shortly thereafter, Tammy Beeson, the HPC Executive Business Director, invited me to join Polo School. My first response was: “No way! I don't even know how to ride a horse.” Tammy told me that Polo School is for people of all ages and riding skills and assured me I could do it. I followed Polo School with over 100 private lessons, predominantly with Flanders Polo & Riding Lessons. It has been the most challenging and the most fun thing I think I've ever done.

What is your favorite pony?

I love them all! If I must name one, Pedro has a very special place in my heart since he's the horse I first learned to ride on. I'll never forget the fear and exhilaration of learning to go from a trot to a canter and learning techniques such as stops and turns on Pedro.

What is your favorite polo memory?

My best memory is of graduating from Polo School. I forged many new friendships and felt that I had truly achieved something great in having challenged myself so much. My favorite accomplishment is that I was awarded MVP at the fall 2023 Bayou Cup Ladies' Tournament.

What makes Houston Polo Club special?

HPC is a very special place, almost magical. Just being able to play on such beautiful grounds with all the horses located in the center of this busy city is quite amazing. Getting to know and see all the activities of people who come to take lessons or play—as well as the trainers and grooms and the amazing staff that make it all happen behind the scenes—is a true delight and a joy to behold.





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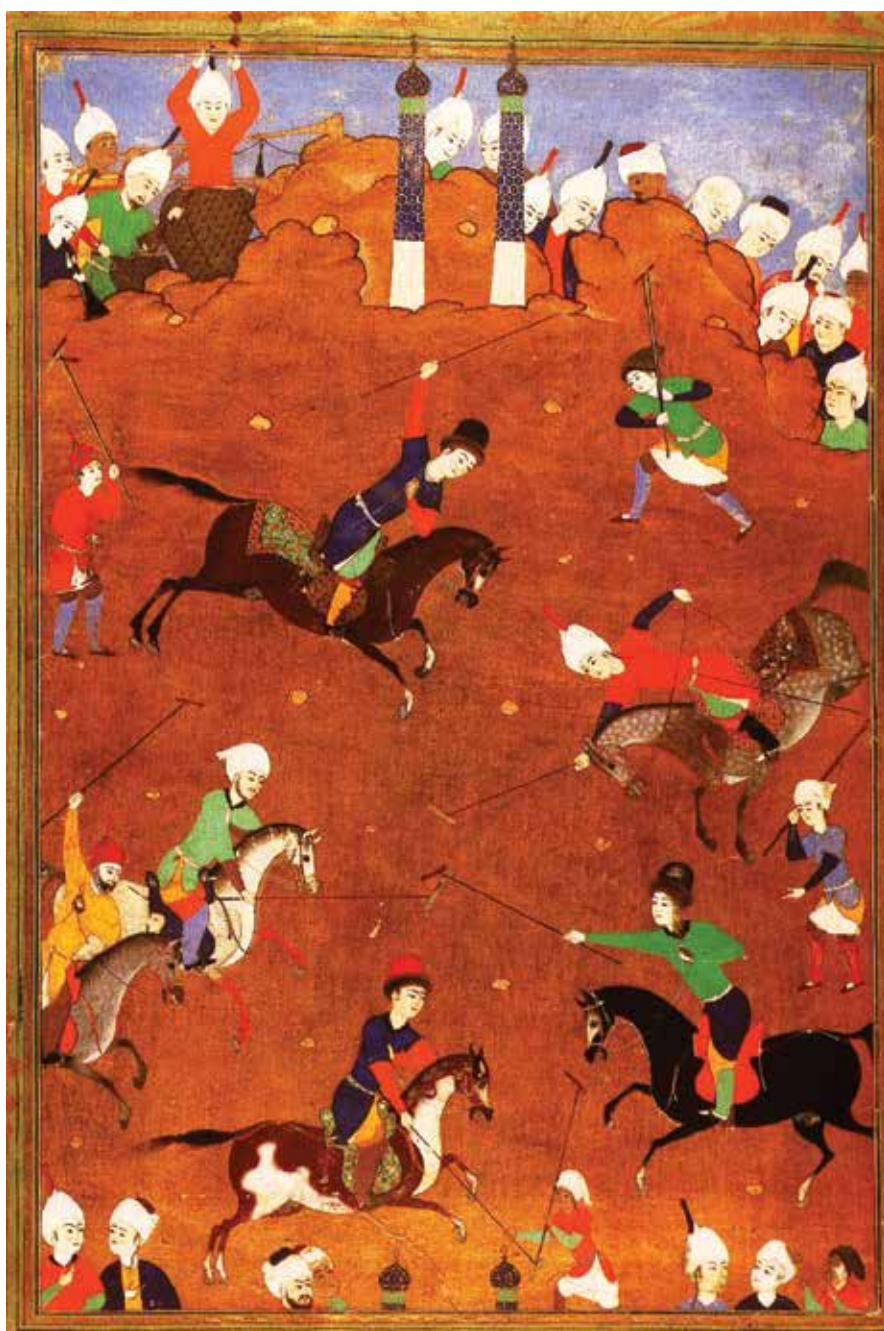
Horsing Around

with Polo Trivia

By John Tasdemir



Each Sunday, the fans are as much a part of the game as the players on the field. They bring the excitement, cheers, and passion for the game. The sidelines at Houston Polo Club are always abuzz with activities, booths, food, and friends. A fan favorite every Sunday is the QR Jets prize giveaway. Spectators can submit their polo-related questions, and if you stump our long-time announcer, Marty Salinas, you can win yourself a QR Jets gift bag. We love giving away prizes, so here is the deep knowledge you need to know to trick Marty!



Polo in Persia, c. 1300, from a page from a saray album, Tabriz

Origins

Polo was first played in ancient Persia, around the 6th century BC. It later spread to other regions, including Central Asia, India, and eventually Europe. The modern form of polo as a sport evolved in Manipur, India, in the 19th century. British military officers stationed in India during the colonial era adopted and adapted the local version of polo. Polo became popular among the British community, and the sport's popularity spread. Soon polo clubs were established not only in India but also in other parts of the British Empire. Jolly good!

Phraseology

Each period of play in polo is called a chukker. It is believed that the term “chukker” originated in Persia, where the Chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), native to Persia, would nest in the scraps (divots) left on the field after polo matches. Before each period of play, the players would walk the field to shoo away the birds—hence “chukkers.” The birds would quickly return to their nest after each period. Frustrated with their persistence, the players ultimately turned this practice into what is now known as the Divot Stomp!

Lefties no more

According to the USPA rule book, polo must be played with the mallet in the right hand. The one exception: if you happen to be a lefty who started playing and was registered with the USPA prior to January 1, 1974, then you get a pass! If you spot someone playing with the mallet in their left hand, get their autograph, because that someone has been playing for a long time! The reason everyone must play with the mallet in their right hand is for safety. Imagine two horses coming at each other with the opposing players going for the same ball—one with the mallet in their right hand and one with it in their left. Train wreck!

Argentines dominate

Polo was introduced to Argentina in the late 19th century by British ranchers and army officers. It quickly gained popularity, and the Argentine players adopted a distinctive, fast-paced style of play. Over time, Argentine players have become known for their exceptional horsemanship, teamwork, and skill. The combination of a strong equestrian tradition, suitable climate, and terrain for breeding high-quality horses—along with their passionate polo culture—has contributed to Argentina's dominance in the sport. Dale!

Polo fields are REALLY big

At 300 yards by 160 yards, a polo field could comfortably house nine football fields, 20 Boeing 747s, two Nimitz-class aircraft carriers (if you include the safety zones), 210 blue whales, 12,000 people standing side by side, or two of Houston's tallest buildings—the JPMorgan Chase Tower. Collectively, the eight players on the polo field will travel over 120 miles during the match. Whew!

The Olympics

Polo was once an Olympic sport, but it has not been part of the games since the Berlin Summer Olympics of 1936. A few challenges that polo faced were the limited number of participating countries, logistical issues (you try packing up your team's collective string of 40 horses for a trip to Berlin!), and the considerable cost associated with mounting all the players. The Federation of International Polo is going to host an international match during the 2024 Summer Olympics to test the viability of rekindling the sport. How exciting would that be?



NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT SERIES 2023

Presented by Bill Fick Ford



The NYTS qualifiers give our talented young (under 19) 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 National Youth Tournament Series (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 2023 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.



Winning team: Vintage Polo
Judah Altic, Kelsey Bray, Julian Martinez, Joe Bob Lequerica, presented by USPA Governor-at-Large Steven Armour



Tournament All-Stars
Alec Felhaber, Will Mudra, Kelsey Bray, JB Long, Joe Bob Lequerica, Lily Lequerica, Uma Villanueva, presented by USPA Secretary Chrissy Beal

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT 2023

Presented by Bill Fick Ford



Intermediate Winning Team: WC Tractor: Alice Russo, MC Akins, LJ Williams
MVP: MC Akins



Walk Trot Winning Team: American National: Charlotte Kampshoff, Eli Hall, Santos Villanueva; **MVP:** Triston Kampshoff



Lead Line 1: BTA: Shirley Krueger, Gael Munoz, Clementine Barry



Lead Line 2: HPC Gold: Christopher Payan, Russell Melnar, Evelyn Wroe, Rex Middleton



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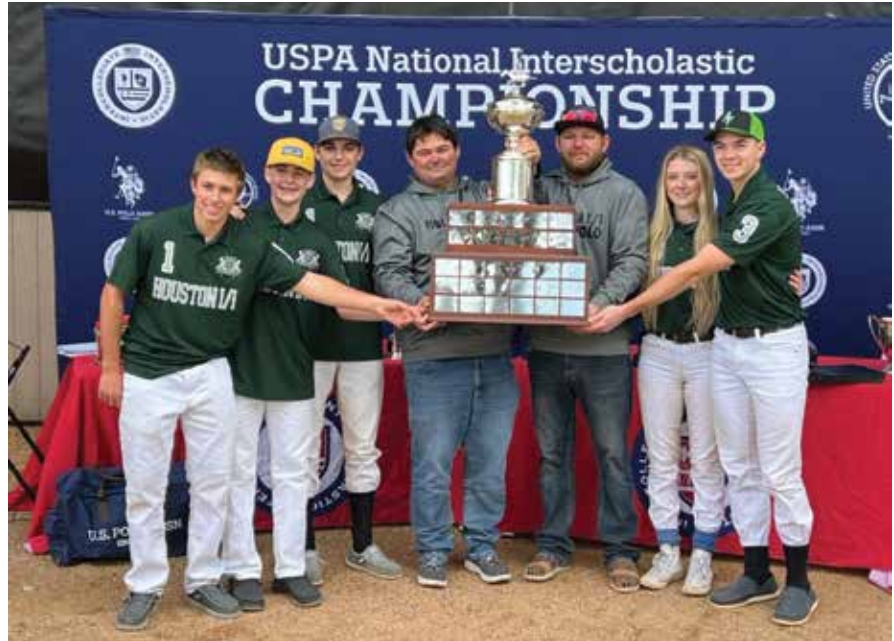
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2023 NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC CHAMPS!

Houston Polo Club's Interscholastic team successfully defended their championship title at the 2023 Open National Interscholastic Championship, held at the Brookshire Polo Club in March 2023. The team played hard on the offensive from the first throw-in, winning handily in a 21-6 victory over California natives Lakeside. Will Mudra was recognized as a Championship All-Star at the event and received the Horsemanship Award.

“Something that I think sets us apart from the rest of the teams is our amazing chemistry and camaraderie. Will, Joe Bob and I all grew up together playing polo and being friends. And it shows in the polo arena. We weren't scared to talk to one another about a play we think we should have done differently, and we weren't offended or put down by a teammate's critiques.”

—Lily Lequerica



2023 Open National Interscholastic Championship Team: Tomas Tejera, Judah Altic, Joe Bob Lequerica, Lily Lequerica, Will Mudra, with Coach Mark Prinsloo and Assistant Coach Shane Rice.



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THE MAN BEHIND THE SPORT:

MARK PRINSLOO

With contributions from Esther Kane, Colleen Marks, and John Tasdemir

If you are new to the sport of polo and looking to learn, one of the first people you will meet at Houston Polo Club is Mark Prinsloo. Mark has a special talent for sparking an interest in the sport and then fanning that spark so that young and new players can evolve into skilled players, enthusiastic patrons, and the pros of the future. Mark is notoriously modest—preferring to spend his time on the field with his students—so a profile of this backbone of our polo community has been a long time coming.

Mark Prinsloo grew up in a polo family in a small town in South Africa. At first, he resisted the family legacy, choosing the rugby pitch over the polo field. But polo has a way of getting under your skin, and he eventually succumbed. By age 21, Mark was a 2-goal player who was curious about life across the Atlantic. He traveled to the United States to work for Richard Kimber, a 5-goal player, in Tulsa, Oklahoma—and eventually took a spot on Reed Oppenheimer's team when Richard got injured.

In addition to playing in Tulsa, Mark schooled 16 green horses, mowed the polo fields, expanded the Tulsa polo school program, and repaired anything that needed fixing at the club. In short order, Mark distinguished himself as a hard worker (on and off the field) and a

talented polo instructor. His sense of humor and no-nonsense manner became the hallmarks of his teaching style. When Mark decided to expand his resume, his good friend Daren Livingston, manager of the Tulsa Polo Club at the time, got him a job with David Ragland in Norman, Oklahoma, where Mark played for the following 5 years.

When Daren Livingston was hired to manage the Houston Polo Club in 1998, club membership was waning, and they needed to bring in new players for the club to survive. Daren called up his friend Mark to help him turn the club around. Mark arrived in Houston in 2000 and started an intensive 2-month polo school in the fall and spring, all while continuing to play in leagues and tournaments as a 4-goal professional. Barlee Flanders, who has taught at the club for years, assisted Mark in building the polo program.

The Polo School project was so successful that Mark started a new league called the Margarita League, which was a “step up” from the Polo School. Eventually, the Margarita League had so many players that the club started a 2-goal league to help players “step up” to the 4–6-goal level. Hence, the “Step Up” Polo School Program was conceived. In addition to being a great teacher, Mark has a talent for putting riders on horses that suit them. Currently, Mark has 38



horses in his teaching string. Without this infrastructure, the Step Up Program couldn't exist. And without the Step Up Program, the Houston Polo Club would not hold its place today as the largest polo club in the United States, per USPA membership.

HPC currently has 150 registered USPA members. In addition, former students of Mark's helped the larger Houston polo community flourish, with fields at Pecan Acres, Brookshire, and Traveler's Rest polo clubs. Today, 85% of the sponsors playing at the Houston Polo Club have come through one (or more) of the programs developed and taught by Mark! He has helped to connect sponsors with professional players from across the country, many of whom have planted roots in the Houston area over the years. In fact, the community in and around Houston is so strong and flourishing that, today, the Houston area boasts 18 private polo fields.

In addition to the club's Polo School, Mark is a mentor to the young players coming up in the club. In 2012, Mark started the Interscholastic Program for Houston-area kids. He designed the program to teach kids about polo, but also about teamwork, friendship, and life. His approach



is wildly successful—both in its popularity and in skill building—and coaching Houston's Interscholastic teams has become Mark's passion. Under his guidance, the Houston Interscholastic team has won the Open National Interscholastic Championship for the last 2 years running. He spends countless hours reviewing game tapes, drawing out plays, and dragging the polo arena. Along with taking care of the kids and being a great coach, Mark has made Interscholastic polo fun, which is why it is so popular in Houston.

"The Interscholastic program is about team building and learning," he says. "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 them, but in the end, it's still about having fun and enjoying polo, your friends, and the team camaraderie more than anything."

Mark's tireless efforts have not only grown the Houston Polo Club, but you can also see his influence across the sport in America. In 2001, at the behest of Tim Kelly and Hernan Tejera, Mark went to Jackson Hole to see if the club was a good fit for a summer program during Houston's off-season. Summers in Houston can be brutally hot—too hot for polo. Jackson Hole proved to be the perfect location for Mark to extend his polo season and provide instruction to new players. For the past 22 years, Mark has offered polo instruction through the Jackson Hole Polo Club. People fly in from all over the country to spend a week or two playing in Mark's one-of-a-kind summer program.

Mark Prinsloo has created a legacy to be proud of at the Houston Polo Club. For 24 years, he has been a devoted teacher, coach, and pro who has given his time and care to our polo community. If you have had the good fortune to play with Mark or be coached by him, you know that, despite his humility, he is the force that keeps Houston's polo not just moving forward, but flourishing.

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April 13–June 4

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- Rules of the game
- Line of the ball

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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.

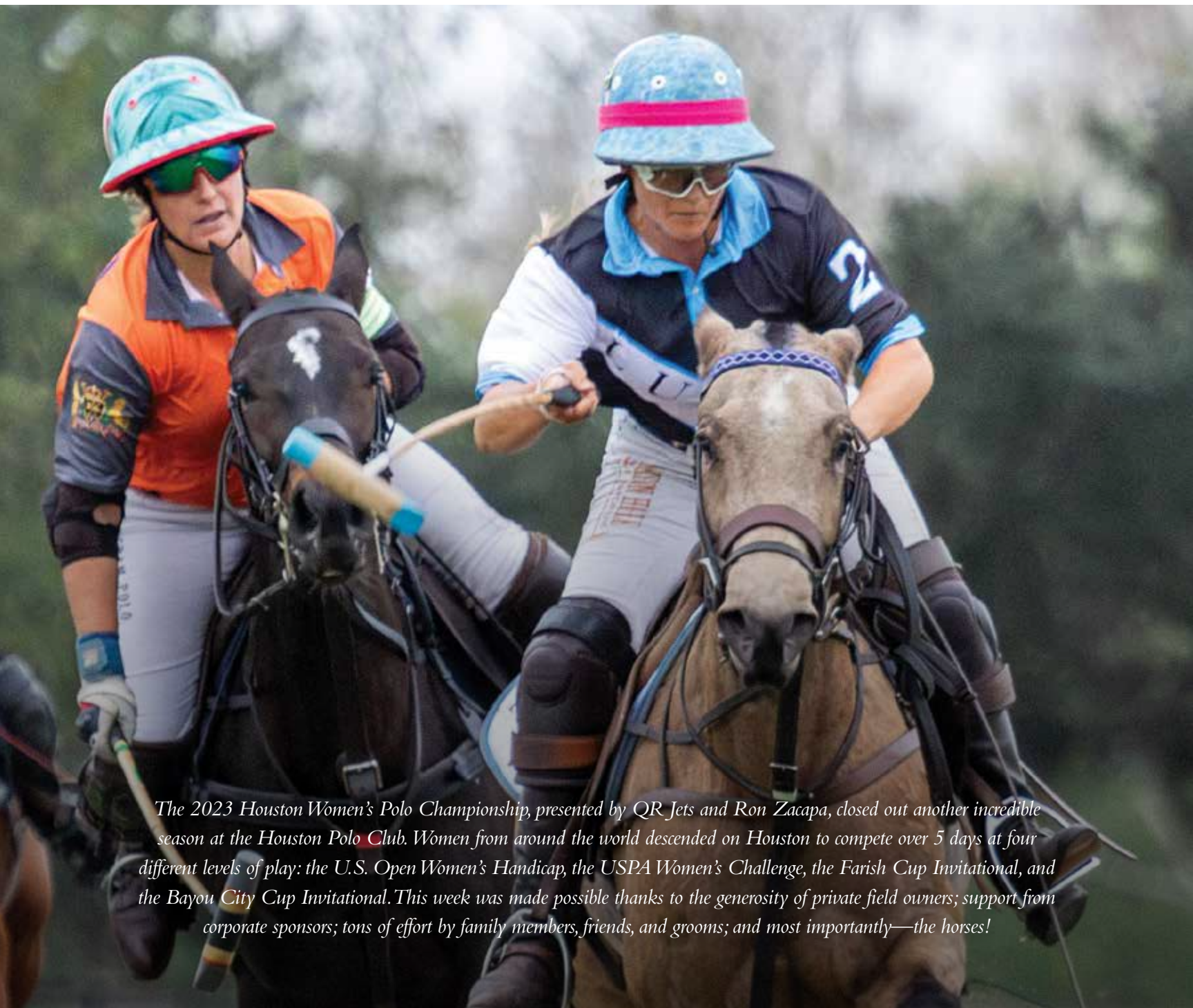
2-Goal League: With three players and an instructor per team, this league focuses on building up riding and stick-and-ball skills.

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



2023 HOUSTON WOMEN'S POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Presented by QR Jets and Ron Zacapa



The 2023 Houston Women's Polo Championship, presented by QR Jets and Ron Zacapa, closed out another incredible season at the Houston Polo Club. Women from around the world descended on Houston to compete over 5 days at four different levels of play: the U.S. Open Women's Handicap, the USPA Women's Challenge, the Farish Cup Invitational, and the Bayou City Cup Invitational. 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

The U.S. Open Women's Handicap featured four teams playing at the 16–20 goal level. The final featured a fierce battle between Lugano Diamonds (Audry Persano, Tiamo Hudspeth, Dayelle Fargey, and Kendall Plank) and defending champions QR Jets (Lily Lequerica, Madison Jordan, KC Krueger, and Sarah Wiseman). Lugano Diamonds took the title with a final score of 6–5.



Winner: Lugano Diamonds: Audry Persano, Tiamo Hudspeth, Dayelle Fargey, Kendall Plank, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets, Denise Lynne from Lugano Diamonds and Kristin Vago from Diageo



MVP: Madison Jordan, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets and Kristin Vago from Diageo



BPP (Professional): Moxie, played by Tiamo Hudspeth, owned by San Ysidro, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets and Kristin Vago from Diageo, pictured with Austin and Bradie Kimbrough and grooms Emily Christensen, Jenny Rutherford, and Rylie Rutherford



BPP (Amateur): Rubia, played by Madison Jordan, owned by Ignacio Saenz, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets and Kristin Vago from Diageo



USPA WOMEN'S CHALLENGE

The 12-goal USPA Women's Challenge fielded eight teams in a competitive 3-day tournament. After an exciting day of semifinal games played out, the final saw American National and Bearsden battle it out. American National took the title with a 3.5–3 win at the final horn.



Winner: American National: Audry Persano, Tiffany Orthwein, Karson Bizzell, Winnie Branscum, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets, and Shannon Galvin and Ashley Aguilar from American National



MVP: Audry Persano, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets



BPP (Professional): Silver Bullet, played by Audry Persano, owned by Chino Payan, presented by Brooks Ballard from Engel & Völkers Houston



BPP (Amateur): Pandora, played by Tiffany Orthwein, pictured with Ian Kosky and presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets

FARISH CUP INVITATIONAL



Winner: Downtown Rotary Club: Sarah Daniel, Carolyn Stimmel, Holly Vu Fulkerson, Christina Cantu, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets and the Downtown Rotary Club crew

BAYOU CITY CUP INVITATIONAL



Winner: Ron Zacapa: Lisa Dueck, Crystal Cassidy, Teran Smith, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets



MVP: Carolyn Stimmel, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets



MVP: Cindy Case, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets



BPP: Greta Van Fleet, owned and played by Elise Markell, presented by Todd Riemenschneider from QR Jets



BPP: Dragon, played by Carolyn Stimmel, owned by Paige Luplow, pictured with Will Flanders, presented by Dana Dailey from Danalyn Designs



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WINNER'S CIRCLE 2023



USPA WESTERN CHALLENGE (12 GOAL)

Presented by Ketel One

Winner: Brookshire Polo Club

Will Mudra, Vaughn Miller Jr., Milo Dorignac, Toro Ruiz

Runner Up: Old Pueblo

Leigh Anne Hall, Duilio Diaz, Sterling Giannico, Jeff Hall



J. TALASEK HOMES CUP (12 GOAL)

Presented by J. Talasek Homes

Winner: Eureka

Rene Campos, Jack Kiely, Jorge Cernadas, Mason Wroe

Runner Up: Brookshire Polo Team

Scott Wood, Toro Ruiz, Duilio Diaz, Sterling Giannico



USPA REGIONAL CLASSIC SOUTHWESTERN (12 GOAL)

Presented by American National

Winner: Brookshire Polo Club

Megan Flynn, Vaughn Miller Jr., Milo Dorignac, Toro Ruiz (not pictured: Scott Wood)

Runner Up: BTA

Kelly Beal, Steve Krueger, Whistle Uys, Mason Wroe



USPA KELEEN & CARLTON BEAL CUP (12 GOAL)

Presented by Lewis Jewelers

Winner: BTA

Cody Ellis, Steve Krueger, KC Krueger, Joao Aranha

Runner Up: Eureka

Rene Campos, Jorge Cernadas, Santi Zubiaurre, Nick Cifuni

WINNER'S CIRCLE 2023



USPA H. BEN TAUB MEMORIAL (I2 GOAL)

Presented by Cam Studio

Winner: BTA

Mason Wroe, Steve Krueger, Joao Aranha, KC Krueger

Runner Up: Tonkawa:

Jeff Hildebrand, Juanse Olivera, Jack Kiely, Nacho Badiola



LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL CUP (I2 GOAL)

Presented by The Fitzpatrick Group

Winner: Brookshire Polo Club

Scott Wood, Vaughn Miller Jr., Milo Dorignac, Toro Ruiz

Runner Up: Old Pueblo

Leigh Anne Hall, Duilio Diaz, Sterling Giannico, Jeff Hall



TEXAS OPEN (I2 GOAL)

Presented by Engel & Völkers

Winner: Tonkawa

Santi Zubiaurre, Jack Kiely, Juanse Olivera, Joe Bob Lequerica, Lily Lequerica

Runner Up: Propaganda

Paul Hobby, Nick Cifuni, Martin Ravina, Fran Mera



USPA CENTENNIAL CUP (I2 GOAL)

Presented by American National

Winner: BTA

Mason Wroe, Steve Krueger, Joao Aranha, KC Krueger

Runner Up: Old Pueblo

Leigh Anne Hall, Duilio Diaz, Cody Ellis, Jeff Hall



WINNER'S CIRCLE 2023



GENERAL S. BROWN CUP (6 GOAL)

Winner: *Island Time Polo/Plank Companies*
Joe Wayne Barry, Tommy Alberdi, Kendall Plank, Michelle Agrons

Runner Up: *C-Bar Thoroughbreds/Patagonia Grill*
Nick Dunbar, Carin Middleton, Vaughn Miller Jr., Bryan Middleton



USPA MASTER'S CUP (6 GOAL)

Winner: *BTA*
Chrys Beal, KC Krueger, Joao Aranha, Jimmy Seward
Runner Up: *Island Time Polo/Plank Companies*
Michelle Agrons, Kendall Plank, Joe Wayne Barry, Tommy Alberdi



USPA GOVERNOR'S CUP (6 GOAL)

Winner: *BTA*
KC Krueger, Uma Villanueva, Joao Aranha, Jimmy Seward (not pictured: Chrys Beal)

Runner Up: *La Portola*
Mark Urdahl, Will Mudra, Martin Munoz, Ignacio Saenz



USPA DELEGATE'S CUP (6 GOAL)

Winner: *C-Bar Thoroughbreds/Patagonia Grill*
Carin Middleton, Nick Dunbar, Vaughn Miller Jr., Bryan Middleton

Runner Up: *Roxstars*
Roxy Mounter, Anson Moore, Sloan Stefanakis, Shane Rice

WINNER'S CIRCLE 2023



BAYOU BOWL (PRO AM)

Winners: Cinco Canyon Ranch
Bryan Middleton, Hernan Tejera, David Marks, Tomas Tejera



FALL FANDANGO (PRO AM)

Winners: Bearsden
Joe Wayne Barry, Audry Persano, Debbie Shelton, Carol Farnsworth



HARVEST CUP (PRO AM)

Winners: Cat Spring
Billy Mudra, Hernan Tejera, Ray Stainback, Katie Graham, (Not pictured: Tomas Tejera)



PATRIOT'S CUP (PRO AM)

Winners: Bearsden / Crow's Nest Ranch
Joe Wayne Barry, Jimmy Seward, Carol Farnsworth, Brandy Heckerloth



WC TRACTOR SAUNA CUP (2 GOAL)

Winners: WC Tractor
Liz Lary, Jesse Weaver, Ann Brewer, Eloris Snyder



AUTUMN CLASSIC (2 GOAL)

Winners: American National
Jesse Weaver, Liz Lary, Clayton Whittet, Marshall White



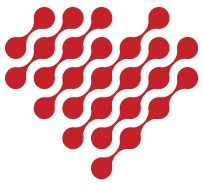
FALL CUP (2 GOAL)

Winners: J. Talasek Homes
Martha Hirsch, Jesse Weaver, Eduardo Pigretti, John Brittain, Lucy Bailey



LONE STAR CUP (2 GOAL)

Winners: Don Julio
Judah Altic, Jesse Weaver, Eduardo Pigretti, Marshall White



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MVP AWARDS



USPA Centennial Cup: Cody Ellis, Old Pueblo, presented by Ashley Aguilar and Shannon Galvin from American National



Texas Open: Santi Zubiaurre, Tonkawa, pictured with Shirley and Carty Krueger and Ava Seward



Livingston Memorial Cup: Toro Ruiz, Brookshire Polo Club, presented by Tammy Livingston



J. Talasek Homes Cup: Jack Kiely, Eureka, presented by Justin Talasek from J. Talasek Homes



USPA Regional Classic Southwestern: Mason Wroe, BTA



Sunday 12-Goal League: Fran Mera, Propaganda, pictured with Fran Jr., presented by Brooks Ballard from Engel & Völkers Houston



Sunday 12-Goal League: Nick Cifuni, Eureka, pictured with Charlotte Cifuni, presented by Cindy and Slade Lewis from Lewis Jewelers



Sunday 12-Goal League: Sterling Giannico, Old Pueblo, presented by Tatiana Lutomski and Morgan Smith from McCathern



Sunday 12-Goal League: Steve Krueger, BTA, pictured with Luciana and Mónica from Ketel One



Sunday 12-Goal League: Pipe Marquez, Tonkawa, presented by Halle Garrus from The Macallan



Sunday 12-Goal League: Jeff Hall, Old Pueblo, presented by Luke Jander from The Fitzpatrick Group



Sunday 12-Goal League: Scott Wood, Eureka, pictured with Rebekah Roseburg, Tiffany Charros and George Contreras from C. Baldwin Hotel



BEST PLAYING PONIES OF 2023



USPA Centennial Cup: Therma, played by Jeff Hall, owned by Leigh Anne Hall, presented by Alex Chavez with Engel & Völkers Houston and pictured with grooms Ramon and Danny



USPA H. Ben Taub (Professional): Angostura, played by Manu Villamil, owned by Nacho Badiola, pictured with Kitch Taub, Alex Chavez from Engel & Völkers Houston, and groom Luci



J. Talasek Homes Cup: Tarma, owned and played by Toro Ruiz pictured with groom Luciano Fenoccio, presented by Brooks Ballard with Engel & Völkers Houston



King's Cup: Barbara, played by Santi Zubiaurre, owned by San Saba, pictured with daughter Rosita, Dawn Jones, Gilo Zepeda, Jonathan Alvarez presented by Alex Chavez with Engel & Völkers Houston



The Macallan Classic: Lion, played by Alvaro Ara, presented by Alex Chavez with Engel & Völkers Houston, pictured with Halle Garrus from The Macallan, and groom Luciano Aranda



Bentley Houston Cup: Sasha, played by Marcos Villanueva, presented by Alex Chavez from Engel & Völkers Houston and pictured with daughter Uma Villanueva and grooms Tito and Jose



Livingston Memorial: Tarma, owned and played by Toro Ruiz pictured with grooms Luciano Fenoccio and Carlos Ramirez, presented by Tammy Livingston



USPA Keelen & Carlton Beal Cup: Angostura, played by Santi Zubiaurre owned by Nacho Badiola, pictured with Carty Krueger and groom Luci



USPA Western Challenge: Merengada, owned and played by Toro Ruiz, pictured with groom Luciano Fenoccio



USPA Regional Classic Southwestern: Don Ercole Demi Sec, owned and played by Toro Ruiz, pictured with groom Luciano Fenoccio



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MEET THE PROS



Tommy Alberdi, 4
Wellington, FL



Alvaro Ara, 4
Argentina



Nacho Badiola, 5
Argentina



Jorge Cernadas, 4
Dallas, TX



Cody Ellis, 5
Johannesburg, SA



Jeff Hall, 6
Sealy, TX



Jack Kiely, 4
Australia



Steve Krueger, 5
Pattison, TX



Pipe Marquez, 6
Columbia



Robert Orthwein, 4
Sealy, TX



Shane Rice, 4
Bellville, TX



Francisco Rodriguez Mera, 5
Argentina



Toro Ruiz, 7
Argentina



Miguel Torres, 4
Navasota, TX



Marcos Villanueva, 4
Fulshear, TX



Mason Wroe, 4
Cat Spring, TX



Santi Zubiaurre, 5
Argentina

| NAME | RATING | HOMETOWN |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Joaq Aranha | 2 | Brazil |
| Joe Wayne Barry | 3 | Cat Spring, TX |
| Chad Bowman | 2 | LaGrange, KY |
| Nick Cifuni | 3 | Sealy, TX |
| David Crea | 1 | Pattison, TX |
| Ignacio Deltour | 3 | Argentina |
| Duilio Diaz | 2 | Argentina |
| Nicolai Galindo | 3 | Thermal, CA |
| Maddie Grant | 1 | Maryland |
| 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 | Cat Spring, TX |
| Vaughn Miller Jr. | 3 | Dallas, TX |
| Billy Mudra | 2 | Bellville, TX |
| Grace Mudra | 0.5 | Cat Spring, TX |
| Will Mudra | 1 | Cat Spring, TX |
| Martin Munoz | 2 | Brookshire, TX |
| Chino Payan | 1.5 | Chapel Hill, TX |
| Audry Persano | 1 | Wharton, TX |
| Mark Prinsloo | 2 | Pattison, TX |
| Ignacio Saenz | 3 | Brookshire, TX |
| Jimmy Seward | 3 | Pattison, TX |
| Hernan Tejera | 2 | Victoria, TX |
| Matt Thake | 3 | South Africa |
| Jesse Weaver | 1 | Houston, TX |

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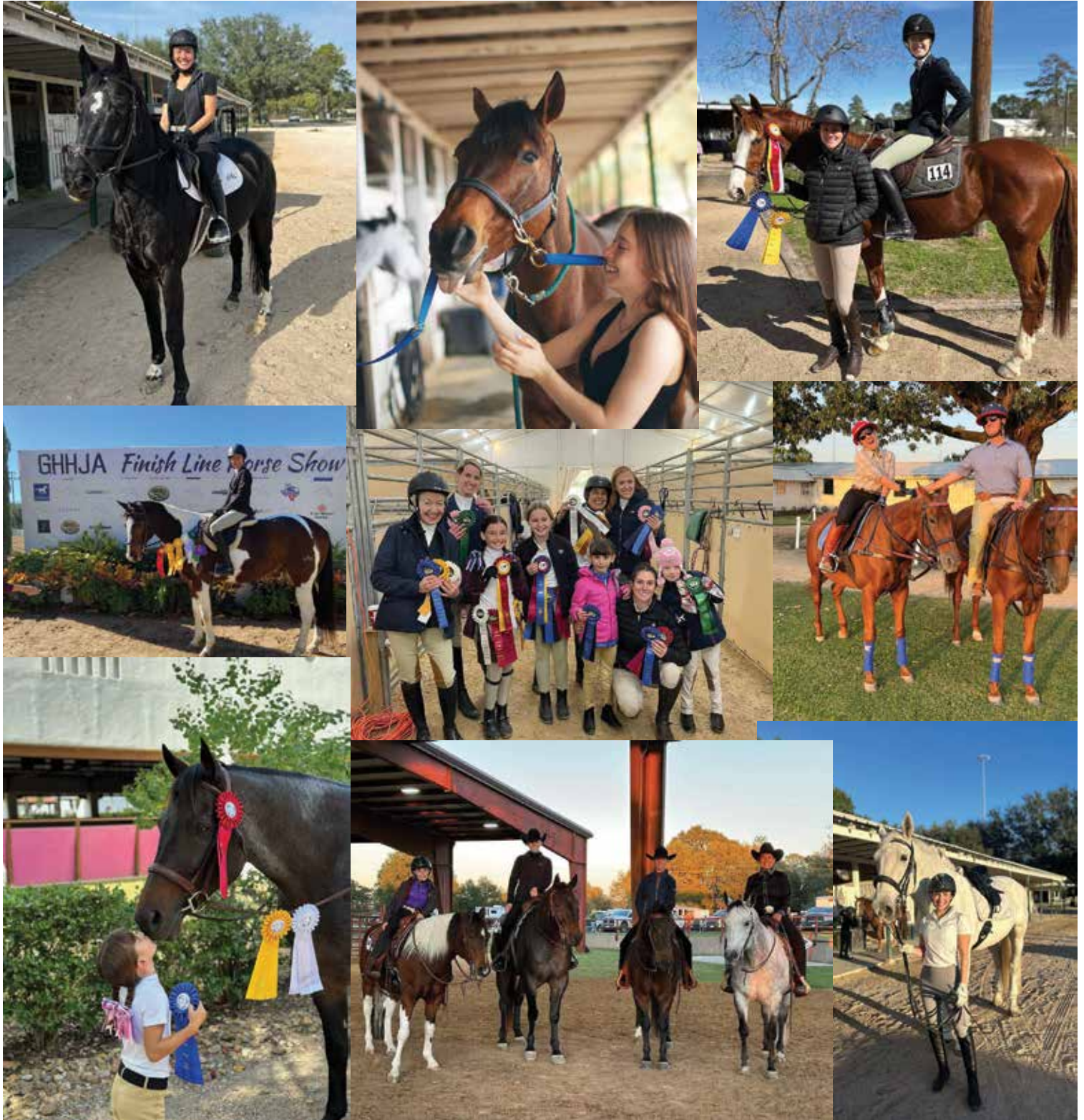


Etsy was rescued feral, untouched and in foal. She slowly learned to trust people while pregnant with Amos and continued her training after he was born. Both Etsy and Amos now have loving homes of their own.

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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!

MEET THE PLAYERS



Michelle Agrons, B



Christine Agrons, B



Gemma Allman, A



Judah Altic, B



David Andras, A.5



Steven Armour, A



Lucy Bailey, B.5



Brooks Ballard, B



Chrys Beal, B.5



Kelly Beal, A.5



James Beeson, B



Tammy Beeson, B



Fox Benton, A



Belinda Brewer, B



Kenneth Brewer, NR



John Brittain, B



Will Brown, A



Rene Campos, A



Cindy Case, B



Crystal Cassidy, A



Jana Conkwright, B



Betty Crain, B



Nick Dunbar, A



Joe Fitzsimons, A



Sukey Forbes, B



MEET THE PLAYERS



Charles Fridge, A



Asa Gangjee, B



George Georgiades, A



Leigh Anne Hall, A



Brandey Heckerth, B



Martha Hirsch, B



Paul Hobby, A.5



Joe Holzer, B



Joanie Jackson, A



Logan Johnson, A



Dawn Jones, 1



Tim Kelly, B.5



Cara Kennedy, A



KC Krueger, 2



Joe Bob Lequerica, 1



Lily Lequerica, A.5



Liz Lary, B.5



David Marks, A



Kyle Parker, NR



Tatiana Pauwels Lutomski, NR



Eduardo Pigretti, B



Kendall Plank, A



Roxy Riggs Mounter, B.5



Allison Riordin, B



Richard Rolland, NR

2024 SEASON



Marshall Rosenberg, B



Carlin Saunders, B



Helen Sellers, NR



Olivia Sellers, NR



Debbie Shelton, B.5



Wesley Sinor, A.5



Teran Smith, B



Eloris Snyder, B



Ray Stainback, A



Nick Stefanakis, B



Sloan Stefanakis, 1.5



Marit Stout, B



Hank Stout, B



John Tasdemir, A



Tomas Tejera, B.5



Emma Tooth, A



Julie Tooth, B



Mark Urdahl, A



Cliff Vrielink, B



Marshall White, B



Clayton Whittet, B



Chris Williams, A.5



Keaton Wolf, B



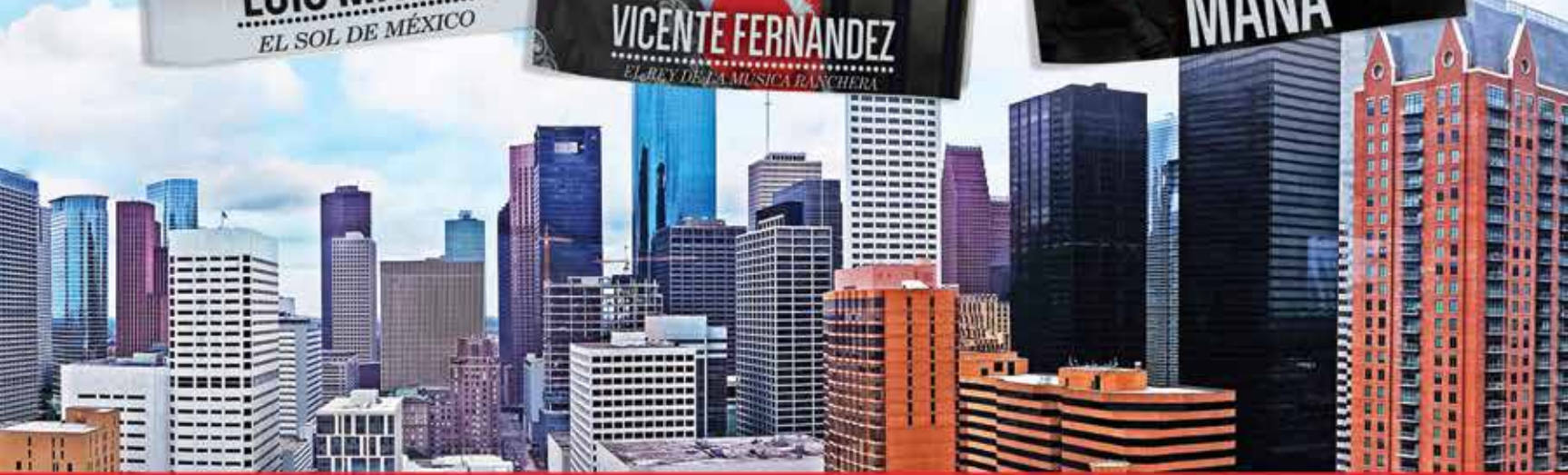
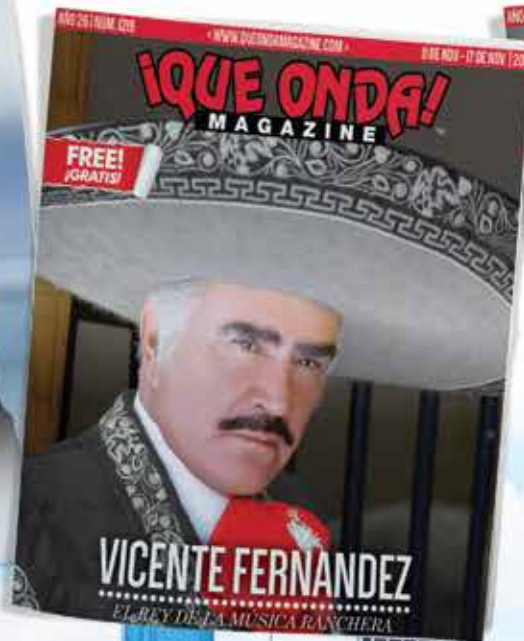
Scott Wood, A



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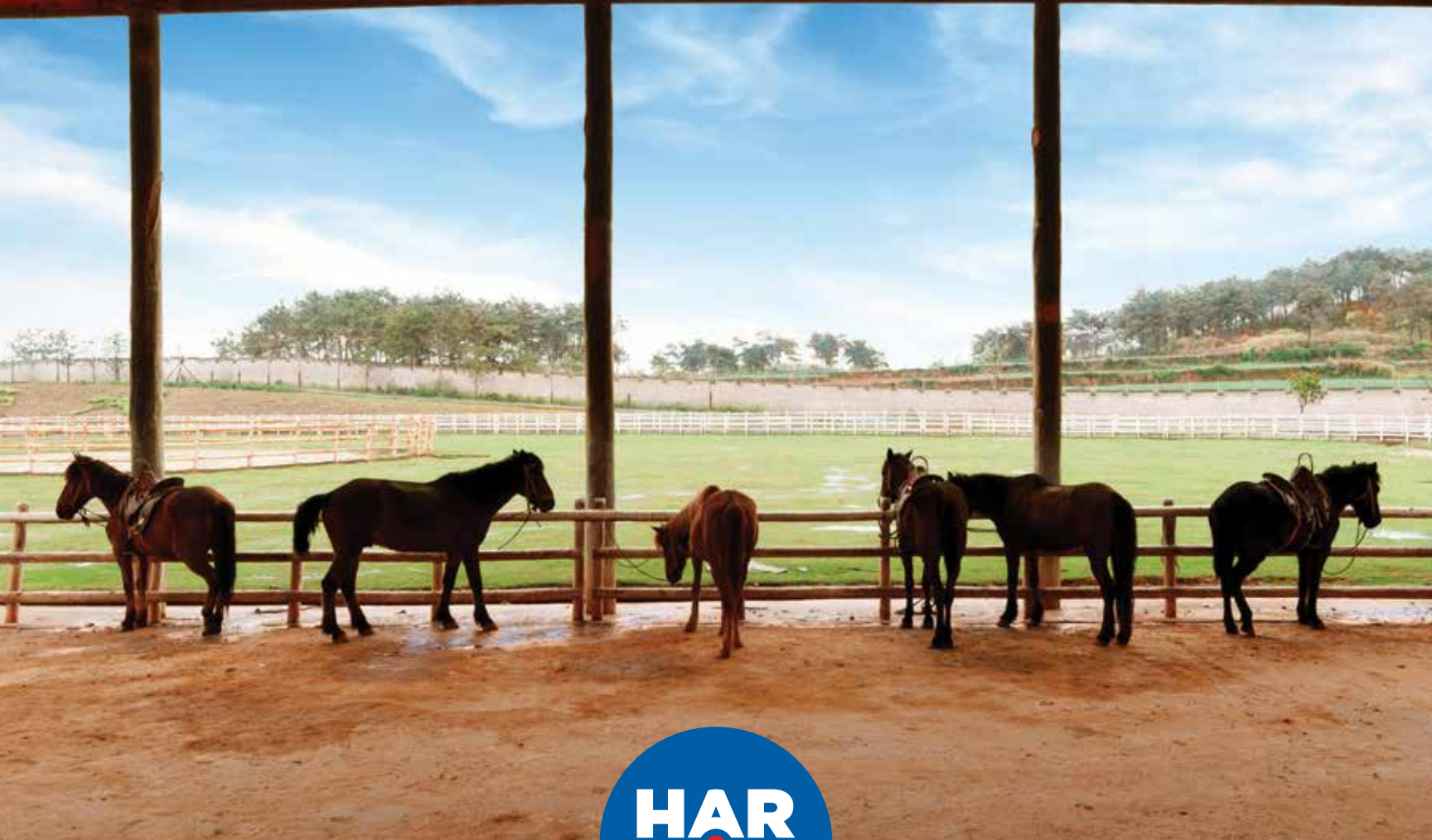


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