

POLO

PLAYERS' EDITION

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Iconica Triumphs in Texas Women's Open



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Arden's Fine Jewelers' Ava Hinkson, Paige Boone, Nick Johnson and Frankie Bilbao won a weekly 8-goal series at The Villages.



The Villages Insurance's Ava Hinkson, Paige Boone, Nick Johnson and Frankie Bilbao won their second 8 goal.

national Cup, with Gracida's sons Carlitos and Mariano playing on opposite teams. Mariano played on the Aspen Valley team with Michael Bickford, Nick Manifold and Sugar Erskine, while Carlitos saddled up for Grand Champions, playing alongside Pablo Pulido, Brandon Phillips and Kris Kampsen in a four-chukker match.

The match got started with Manifold trading goals with Phillips in the first chukker. Mariano "Nano" Gracida scored the next three tallies, including a Penalty 2, to put Aspen Valley ahead, 4-1. Pulido cut the difference to 4-2 at the half. Grand Champions focused on defense in the second half, successfully shutting down all of Aspen Valley's drives in the third but was unable to get any closer. In the final period, Bickford found the mark. Carlitos Gracida converted a Penalty 2 but time ran out with Aspen Valley ahead, 5-3.

Nano Gracida was MVP, while Michael Bickford's Lolo was Best Playing Pony.

ARDEN'S TRIUMPHS IN THE VILLAGES 8 GOAL

Arden's Fine Jewelers came away the winner in a weekly 8-goal series at The Villages Polo Club in The Villages, Florida, Nov. 1. Four teams competed in the event over two days.

Arden's (Ava Hinkson, Paige Boone, Nick Johnson, Francisco Bilbao) took on Galaxy Home Solutions (Miguel Lis Planells, Roberto Narvaja, Horacio Lizaso, Francisco Llosa) in the final. Galaxy began with a two-goal handicap and Llosa added to it for a quick three-goal lead. Bilbao put Arden's on the board a minute later. Johnson caught fire later in the chukker, scoring three goals in less than three minutes to give Arden's the lead, 4-3. Llosa leveled the score early in the second, but Johnson and Bilbao struck to take back the lead, 6-4. Llosa and Johnson swapped goals in the third to end the half with Arden's ahead, 7-5.

Bilbao and McCabe sandwiched goals around one from Lizaso in the fourth, increasing Arden's lead to three, 9-6. It was a difference Arden's would maintain throughout the remainder of the game. Lizaso scored in each of the last three chukkers but each goal was matched by the opponents, giving Arden's the 12-9 victory. Johnson led the scoring with six goals.

In the consolation, UnitedHealthcare (Winship Rees, Lord Lyall, Charley Quincoes, Stuart Campbell) topped Citizen's First Bank (Cameron Smart/Paul Wadsworth, Hunter Jelsch, Jack Kiely, Eden Ormerod), 12-10. Quincoes led the scoring with nine goals.

The Arden's players switched into The Villages Insurance jerseys the following week but the result was the same. The Villages Insurance prevailed over Galaxy Home Solutions (Miguel Lis Planells, Chavelo Briones, Horacio Lisazo, Francisco Llosa) in the final. The Villages jumped right out in the first with Johnson scoring twice and Bilbao following with one of his own. Lisazo put Galaxy on the board to end the first, 3-1. Johnson and Bilbao matched a pair of goals by Llosa in the second and goals from Llosa and Lisazo in the third, ending the half with The Villages ahead, 7-5.

Bilbao turned up the heat scoring three times, including a pair of penalties, and passed to Boone for another tally, while holding Galaxy to two, increasing its lead, 11-7. Bilbao kept up the pressure with two goals in the fifth, but Galaxy rallied with a pair of goals from Lisazo and one from Briones. Bilbao struck again in the final period, but Galaxy shut the team down and began chipping away at the deficit. Lisazo scored two in a row and Llosa closed the gap to just one but with only four seconds left, the team ran out of time and The Villages hung on for the narrow 14-13 win. Boone was named MVP and Lisazo's Something Special was Best Playing Pony.

In the consolation, UnitedHealth-



Arden's Lord Lyall, Paige Boone, Charly Quincoces and Nick Johnson won the last 8 goal of the season at The Villages Polo Club in Central Florida.



Galaxy's Lauren Proctor-Brown, Monica Blazevic Miguel Lis-Planells, Irene Lis-Planells and Francisco Llosa

care (Jason Cashin, Lupe Castro, Charly Quincoces, Stuart Campbell) edged Citizen's First Bank (Ken Williams, Liv Berube, Tony Vita, Eden Ormerod), 9-7.

The following week saw three teams competing for the Arden's 8 goal. The teams played off over two days with the scores carrying over to the second day. In the first matchup, Texas SBA (Jamie Demericas/Ava Hinkson, Loren Butterworth, Nate Berube, Francisco Bilbao) faced Fross & Fross (Liv Berube, Winship Rees, Eden Ormerod, Stuart Campbell). Texas SBA started with a one-goal handicap, which Ormerod negated in less than a minute with a Penalty 4. Bilbao sunk a Penalty 3 to keep the slight edge. Ormerod converted a Penalty 2 early in the second, but Bilbao respond-

ed with a Penalty 4 conversion. Liv Berube found the uprights with the first field goal to level the score at 3-3 at the end of the second. Nate Berube and Bilbao tallied in the third to take a 5-3 lead at the half.

Liv Berube hit the mark early in the fourth but Bilbao responded. Campbell scored to keep it close, 6-5. Bilbao increased the lead with back-to-back goals but Campbell scored again to cut the deficit. Campbell wasn't done, shooting through three goals in the final period added to one from Liv Berube while Texas SBA was silenced. Fross & Fross' first-time lead came when it mattered most, the last three minutes of the match, as it took the win, 10-8.

Fross & Fross then faced Arden's

(Paige Boone, Lord Lyall, Charly Quincoces, Nick Johnson). Ormerod and Campbell swapped goals with Boone and Quincoces in the first and the teams were silent in the second. Quincoces and Johnson tallied in the third while Fross & Fross was unable to break Arden's defense. Arden's led 4-2 at the half.

Fross & Fross mounted a comeback in the second half, shutting down Arden's in the fourth while Rees found the goal, but Arden's shot back in the fifth with Quincoces and Johnson combining for a trio of goals. Meanwhile, Fross & Fross was limited to a Penalty 3 conversion from Campbell for a 7-4 Arden's lead. Liv Berube and Ormerod kept pace with Johnston in the final period, but the damage was done and Arden's took the 9-6 win.

Arden's then faced Texas SBA. After giving Texas SBA a handicap goal, Arden's wasted no time in getting ahead. Boone scored, then Quincoces and Johnson combined for five goals before Texas scored its first two field goals. Bilbao matched goals by Boone and Quincoces in the third, ending the half with Arden's sporting an 8-5 advantage.

Arden's kept up the pressure in the second half, holding Texas scoreless in two of the three periods while tallying three times. Demericas and Berube hit



Texas SBA's Nate Berube puts in a valiant effort to stop Arden's Nick Johnson, with Charly Quincoces closing in.



Horsegate's Shane Rice, Toto Collardin, Sloan Stefanakis and Lance Stefanakis won the 10-goal Houston Cup.



Marcy Taub presents Bill Fick Ford's Vaughn Miller Jr., Jimmy Seward, KC Krueger and Mason Wroe the H. Ben Taub trophy.

the mark in the fifth, but it wasn't enough and Arden's took the win.

With wins in both of its matches, Arden's settled at the top. Fross & Fross was runner-up while Texas SBA took third place.

The same weekend, The Villages Insurance (Agatha Herrera, Cruz Bilbao, Mateo Bilbao, Francisco Bilbao) narrowly edged Fross & Fross (Tom Fross, Lupe Castro, Luis Castro, Chavelo Briones), 9½-9, in the Arden's Fine Jewelers Family Feud final to close out the season. Frankie Bilbao used all of his players, feeding the ball to them to carry to goal. Mateo Bilbao struck first, adding to the team's half-goal handicap. Luis Castro put Fross & Fross on the board and Fross followed with another. Mateo Bilbao closed out the chukker with his second goal. Cruz Bilbao and Herrera took over in the second, scoring two apiece while Fross & Fross was held to one from Lupe Castro. Cruz Bilbao scored a pair of goals in the third, which were matched by Fross & Fross' Lupe Castro and Briones. Mateo Bilbao increased the gap three minutes into the fourth. Trailing 9½-5, Lupe and Luis Castro took control, hammering in four goals in three minutes to cut the difference to a half goal but time was not on their side and The Villages took the win.

In the consolation, Galaxy Home

Solutions (Irene Lis-Planells, Monica Blazevic, Miguel Lis-Planells, Francisco Llosa) edged United Healthcare (Sue Doyle, Jamie Demericas, Lauren Proctor-Brown, David Eldredge), 4-1½.

SOUTHWEST

HORSEGATE CELEBRATES SEVERAL WINS IN TX

The Houston Polo Club in Houston, Texas, held a full schedule despite starting out dodging inclement weather from numerous storms that hit the surrounding area. Four 10-goal and three 6-goal events kept the players busy.

The 10-goal tournaments got underway with the Houston Cup final on Sept. 20. Horsegate (Lance Stefanakis, Sloan Stefanakis, Toto Collardin, Shane Rice) met Kanthaka (Phillip Kampshoff, KC Krueger, Mason Wroe, Guille Usandizaga) in the final.

With Tropical Storm Beta creeping up in the Gulf, the game was played at high noon.

Usandizaga kicked off the scoring but Collardin answered. Wroe converted a Penalty 4 but Lance Stefanakis scored three in a row. Usandizaga and Wroe combined for three goals to take back the lead, 5-4, at the half.

There seems to have been some strategy changes during the halftime break, and it worked. Horsegate's Collardin and Rice amassed three of their own while holding Kanthaka scoreless to take back the lead, 7-5. Stefanakis wrapped goals around one from Kampshoff in the fifth and Rice swapped goals with Wroe to keep Horsegate on top, 10-7. Sloan Stefanakis increased the lead early in the sixth. Usandizaga responded but Collardin found the mark. KC Krueger's Penalty 2 brought Kanthaka closer as time was winding down. Usandizaga got in one more goal before time expired with Horsegate on top, 12-10.

Lance Stefanakis was MVP and Rice's Furiosa was Best Playing Pony.

Bill Fick Ford (KC Krueger, Vaughn Miller Jr., Mason Wroe, Jimmy Seward) downed Tonkawa (Jeff Hildebrand, Lance Stefanakis, Toto Collardin, Nacho Badiola), 9-4, in the 10-goal H. Ben Taub final, Oct. 9. Collardin scored the first goal, countering a one-goal handicap given to Bill Fick Ford. Wroe handled a Penalty 4 but Badiola responded. Miller got the last word, ending the chukker with Ford out front, 3-2. Collardin scored a lone goal in the second to level the score, 3-3. The third chukker was limited to a Penalty 4 from Wroe, ending the half with Ford narrowly ahead, 4-3.

Seward and Badiola traded goals in

Texas SBA[®] Polo Team



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Team Owner

Texas Small Business Association[®]



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