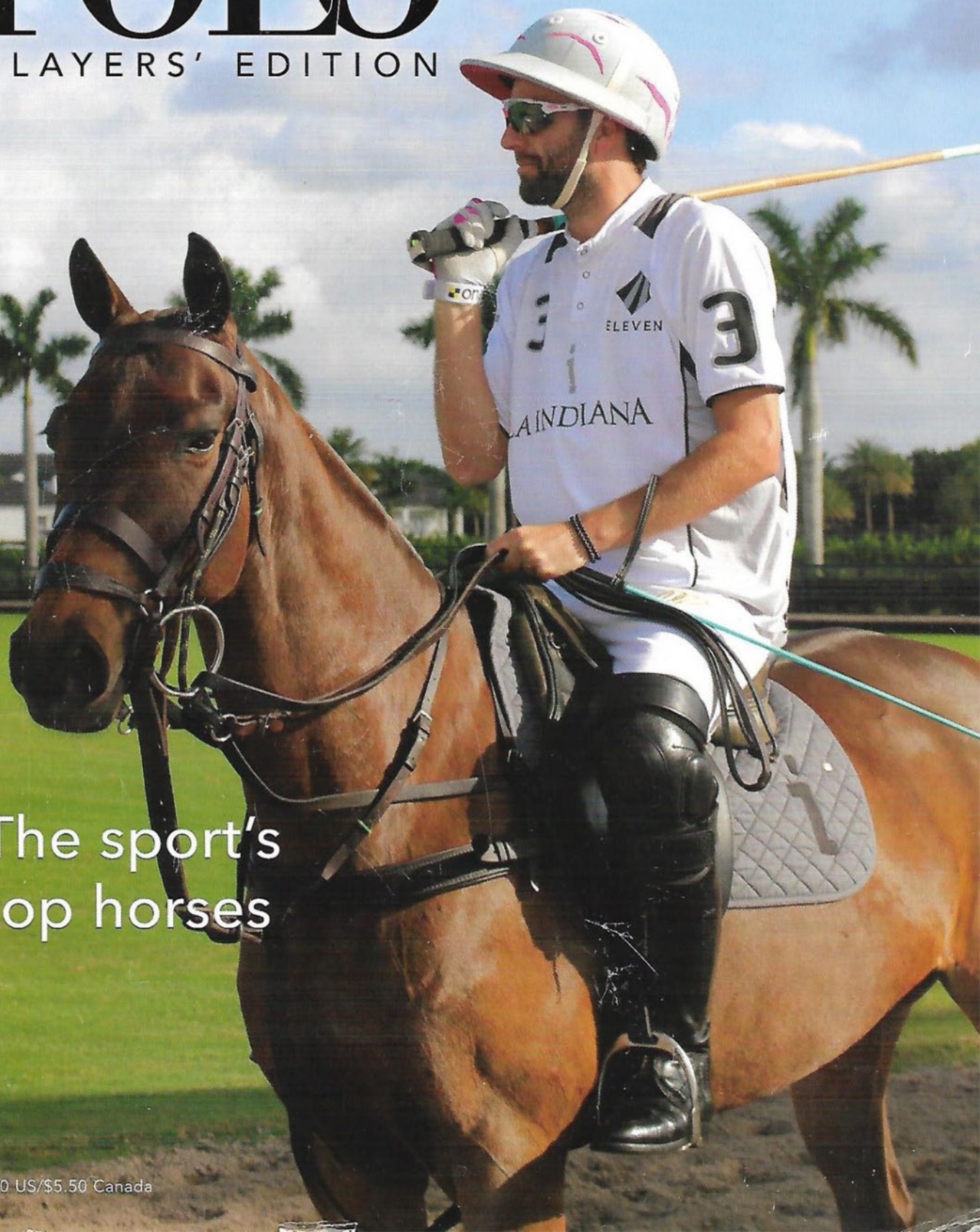


POLO

PLAYERS' EDITION

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The sport's
top horses

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Loryn Butterworth holds onto the ball while under pressure from Frankie Bilbao at The Villages Polo Club.



Paul Wadsworth comes in on the nearside, but Sergio Arias has his mallet ready for the hook at The Villages.

FLORIDA

UNITEDHEALTHCARE TOPS PRO POOL TOURNAMENT

With the most goals, UnitedHealthcare topped the 6- to 8-goal Pro Pool Tournament at The Villages Polo Club in The Villages, Florida, Oct. 11.

Three teams competed in a round robin over two days, with scores carrying over from the first day. Citizen's First (Ava Hinkson/Mateo Bilbao, Paige Boone, Nick Johnson, Charly Quincoces) carried a 5-3 lead over United Healthcare (Wadi Gomero-Cure, Lord Lyall, Tony Vita, Stuart Armstrong) into Day 2. Vita struck first but Boone responded to maintain the difference. Vita struck again and Campbell followed with one of his own. Hinkson got on the board but Lyall answered. Quincoces got in the last word, with Citizen's holding on to a slight edge, 8-7. Hinkson and Boone traded goals with Vita and Campbell to keep the difference one, giving Citizen's the win, 10-9.

In the second round, The Villages Insurance (Loryn Butterworth, Miguel Lis Planells, Sergio Arias, Francisco Bilbao, Hunter Jelsch) led United Healthcare, 5-4, but United Healthcare turned the tables, with Vita and Campbell combining for three goals while The Villages

Insurance came up empty. United Healthcare kept the momentum into the second chukker with Gomero-Cure, Lyall and Campbell tallying while The Villages Insurance was held to one from Lis Planells. Bilbao cut the deficit with a pair of goals early in the sixth but Vita put the final nail in the coffin with a goal at the 1:33 mark. United Healthcare won, 11-8.

Citizen's First was leading The Villages Insurance, 6-5, to start the final round. Quincoces traded goals with Bilbao, then Boone traded goals with Arias in the first chukker to keep the difference just one. Bilbao and Boone swapped goals in the second but The Villages took control in the third. Arias scored just a minute into play to knot the score, 9-9. The Villages Insurance did not want to lose any ground, so it successfully turned back all of Citizen's drives, and with just under three minutes left, Lis Planells scored the golden goal to give The Villages Insurance the 10-9 edge.

Though The Villages had won the battle, it hadn't won the war. The teams each had 1-1 records, so in round robin play, you go to gross goals. United Healthcare led with 20, while Citizen's was first with 19 and The Villages Insurance had 18.

The next week, another three teams played off in a round robin. Galaxy

Home Solutions (Paul Wadsworth/Ava Hinkson, Paige Boone, Horacio Lizaso, Frankie Bilbao) topped Arden's (Sergio Arias, Roberto Narvaja, Nick Johnson, Hunter Jelsch), 9-7. After trailing Arden's 4-1 going into the third chukker, Galaxy began chipping away at the deficit, taking a 6-4 lead in the fifth and holding on to the difference to the end. Hinkson led Galaxy with a game-high five goals.

Galaxy faced Fross & Fross (Miguel Lis Planells, Lord Lyall, Santiago Bermudez, Charly Quincoces) in the second round. It was a tight game throughout, with Galaxy narrowly leading 7-6 at the half. Fross & Fross began with a two-goal handicap and Lis Planells added to it a minute into the match. But Wadsworth and Lizaso knotted the score by the end of the chukker. Hinkson traded goals with Lyall and Bermudez in the second, giving Fross & Fross a slight edge, 6-5. Galaxy added a pair of goals in the third that went unanswered.

Lyall and Quincoces wrapped goals around one from Wadsworth in the fourth, leveling the score, 8-8. The teams traded goals in the fifth and again in the sixth, ending the match tied, 11-all.

The last round pitted Fross & Fross against Ardens. Fross & Fross again started with a two-goal handicap and



The Villages Insurance's Liv Berube and Texas SBA's Courtney Asdourian tangle in the Women's Tournament at The Villages Polo Club.



Pumpkin Spice lines up against eventual winners Hocus Pocus' Kelli Newton, David Myrick and Fawn Rinalduzzi at OC Polo.

Lyll and Bermudez added to it with three quick goals. Narvaja put Arden's on the board at the one-minute mark. Lyll and Bermudez traded goals with Arias and Johnson in the second to maintain a four-goal difference. Arias and Johnson chipped away at the deficit with two unanswered goals, ending the half with Fross & Fross ahead, 7-5.

Lyll scored in the fourth, but Arias and Narvaja leveled the score at 8. The teams battled for control in the last seven minutes with neither team reaching the goal until the last two minutes when Bermudez and Quincoces struck to give Fross & Fross the 10-8 win.

Fross & Fross and Galaxy both had a win and a tie, but Fross & Fross had 21 gross goals to Galaxy's 20, putting Fross & Fross in first place.

Santiago Bermudez was named MVP and Lord Lyll's Gloria was Best Playing Pony.

The following week, three teams played off in the club's women's tournament, played in a round-robin format. Fross & Fross went 2-0 to take the title.

In the first round, Fross & Fross (Ava Hinkson, Loryn Butterworth, Maddie Grant, Paige Boone) took on Texas SBA (Mary Phipps, Kelly Beck, Kylie Sheehan, Courtney Asdourian). Texas began with a half-goal handicap but struggled to reach the goal. Meanwhile, Butterworth struck twice for Fross & Fross in

the first chukker. Texas SBA stopped the bleeding in the second and Asdourian found the uprights, but Grant matched the goal. Boone scored in the final chukker and a pair of goals by Grant insured the win for Fross & Fross by a wide 6-1½.

Texas SBA faced The Villages Insurance (Jewel Gregonca, Louisa Huber, Sophie Grant, Liv Berube) in round two. Huber and Grant quickly overcame the half-goal handicap given to Texas SBA in the first. Asdourian shot back with a trio of goals to take the lead. Grant answered with just under a minute remaining and Gregonca gave The Villages Insurance a 4-3½ lead in the third. Huber traded goals with Asdourian in the last period to keep it close until Grant scored and Huber tallied for the third time to give Villages Insurance the win, 7-4.

The last round was a virtual final, with each team sporting a win. Hinkson struck first to put Fross & Fross on the board, but Gregonca and Berube had the answer for The Villages Insurance. Hinkson and Maddie Grant kept up the pressure with each scoring two over the next 14 minutes while The Villages Insurance was silenced, giving Fross & Fross the 5-2 lead. The Villages Insurance fought back in the last chukker stopping all of Fross & Fross' drives. Meanwhile, Berube hit the mark to

bring the team within two with 2:36 left. Time was quickly slipping away but the team wouldn't give up. Sophie Grant split the uprights to come within one, 5-4, but with just 23 seconds remaining, that would be as close as the team would get and Fross & Fross took the trophies.

PACIFIC COAST

HOCUS POCUS SECURES USPA ARENA CHALLENGE

Wrapping up the end of an exciting series of tournaments, the USPA Arena Challenge Cup recently took place at OC Polo in Silverada, California, Oct. 18-25.

Four strong, determined teams came together to demonstrate incredible teamwork, creative costuming, and athletic polo ponies as they fought to claim the tournament championship for their respective charity.

In the final, the two teams represented charitable organizations Surf & Turf Therapy and Polo Pony Rescue. SoCal Self Storage added \$500 and \$250 to donations so the charity of the winning team received \$2,000 in prize money donation and the second place team received \$1250.

Now let's meet those teams. In the

Texas SBA[®] Polo Team



Jamie Demérics
Team Owner
Texas Small Business Association[®]



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