



Welcome to the PTF Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2014

We hope you enjoy the second issue of the PTF Quarterly Newsletter. Founded in 1967 to help grow the sport of polo with an emphasis on youth, the PTF continues this mission through its many projects.

Jr Polo Championship

The Jr Championship is formatted as a Jr Open where the players organize and enter as a team and play on the flat. The Championship is divided into two tiers: the Jimmer Newman for 0-6 goal teams and the George Oliver for 6-12 goal teams. Although the players make their own teams, all teams must have a minimum of two registered players.



George Oliver Memorial Winners!! Joaquin Panelo, Wesley Finlayson, Mimi Gracida Boyle, Juancito Bollini and Grant Ganzi

The inaugural championship, held during the US Open Finals week at the International Polo Club, was a huge success with two action packed finals that showcased the talent of the younger generation and gave promise of a bright future for polo. *Continued on page 2*

Interscholastic Clinic

Join Danny Scheraga and Lou Lopez at the University of Virginia Polo Club for the annual Interscholastic Clinic and Tournament.

The Clinic encompasses Skills & Drills, Penalty Shots, Arena Strategy, Chalk Talk, Tack 101, Riding for Polo, Horse Care, Chukkers, and concludes with a fun mini tournament between all five teams!!



INTERNSCHOLASTIC CLINIC & TOURNAMENT

August 7th - 9th 2014

Only 15 spots available!!

Entry Fees

\$650 (horses provided)

\$450 (provide your own horse)

Dinner provided Thursday
Lunch and Dinner provided on Friday

Clinic Includes:

Riding for Polo, Skills & Drills, Penalty Shots, Arena Strategy, chalk Talk, Tack 101, HorseCare & Chukkers!!!!

To register, or for more information, please email: vpolo@aicl.com

To download the entry forms go to: www.vapolo.org

PARTIALLY SPONSORED BY
THE POLO TRAINING FOUNDATION



Don't miss out on this exciting 3 day event!!
Entry forms can be downloaded at www.vapolo.org.



Jr Polo Championship

Jimmer Newman Memorial

The Jr Polo Championship kicked off with the Jimmer Newman Memorial on Thursday April 17th at the International Polo Club.

Even with the constant drizzle of rain throughout the entire match, spectators lined the field to catch a glimpse of the next generation; and they were not disappointed. The game was fast and action packed from start to finish.

The underdogs Pony Express, a 2 goal team of Benjamin Daniels, Justin Daniels, Jonny Lavine and Wesley Bryan, came out fighting against Casablanca's stronger 4.5 goal team of Matias Gonzalez, Michael Bellissimo, Juancito Bollini and Grant Ganzi.

Never more than a one goal spread, both teams battled until the last chukker. Pony Express's Wesley Bryan, down by one goal, converted a penalty 2 to tie the game. Benjamin Daniels on the Best Playing Pony "Blue," took the ball from his own 60 yard and ran 240 yards, making the goal that put Pony Express ahead for the first time.



Jimmer Newman Memorial Winners!! Matias Gonzalez, Juancito Bollini, Michael Bellissimo, Grant Ganzi with Cale Newman

Even though Benji had a second breakaway, a bad bounce gave Casablanca their break. Juancito Bollini, Matias Gonzalez and Michael Bellissimo were all quick to score three back to back field goals and secure the win for their Casablanca Team.

Juancito Bollini was named the Most Valuable Player, while Justin Daniels was awarded the Nelly Loeb Sportsmanship trophy.

George Oliver Memorial

On Friday April 18th, the second level of the Championship was held. The George Oliver Memorial for 6-12 goal teams was one of the most exciting games of the season.

7CHUKKERPOLO.COM, a 7 goal all American team of Lorenzo Merlotti, Matias Gonzalez, Alejandro Gonzalez and Marcos Alberdi lined up against the 7 goal Casablanca team of Grant Ganzi, Juancito Bollini, Joquin Panelo and Wesley Finlayson.



Juancito Bollini and Alejandro Gonzalez

Just like the previous day, the two teams battled back and forth countering goal for goal. By the fourth chukker, all 8 players had scored at least once each but the Casablanca team finally pulled ahead by one with a minute left on the clock.

7CHUKKERPOLO.COM took the ball from the throw-in and rushed to goal. But with the Casablanca team quick to defend a battle ensued and with only 6 seconds on the clock, the whistle blew for a penalty 6 in favor of 7CHUKKERPOLO.COM.

Matias Gonzalez teed up the ball for a nail biting penalty shot. With the spectators holding their breath, Matias shot to goal. Again, the whistle blew, the crowd collectively exhaled and the umpires called another penalty 6. Barely yards off the boards, Matias took another shot at a possible tie-breaker but couldn't overcome the angle, ending the final chukker at 7 to 6 for the Casablanca Team.

Matias Gonzalez was awarded both the Most Valuable Player and Best Playing Pony Awards for his efforts, while Lorenzo Merlotti was awarded the Nelly Loeb Sportsmanship trophy.



1st Annual Polo College Fair

Jennifer McLeavy

On April 1st and 2nd, the Polo Training Foundation and the Patagones Polo Club co-hosted the 1st Annual Polo College Fair at Patagones Polo Club in Wellington, FL.

The event kicked off to a great start on Tuesday evening with all six coaches taking part in an IPC Lecture Series at the Mallet Grille. The attendance was spectacular, ranging from College bound players to Middle school players. It was an amazing opportunity for the coaches to emphasize the importance of good grades. College Polo is a great way to play polo whilst getting an education, but the education is the priority.



Danny Scheraga & Chris Vining with Coaches: David Eldridge, Lou Lopez, Mike McCleary, Heather Lake, Jon Nicholson & Clyde Waddell

On Wednesday, a 3 chukker game kicked off the Polo College Fair, where parents and players mingled with the coaches discussing the programs at their respective schools.

The inaugural event was such a huge success among the players, parents and coaches that the Polo Training Foundation is preparing to make it an annual event that will rotate locations between the North, South, East and West of the United States.



If you are interested in hosting a Polo College Fair, contact Jennifer McLeavy at floridajrpolo@yahoo.com.

The Future of Polo

We hope you are enjoying our quarterly newsletters covering a few of our many projects as the PTF continues its mission to help grow the sport of polo with an emphasis on youth. The PTF accomplishes this mission through:

- Academic Scholarships for Intercollegiate Polo Players
- Clinics for young and old players
- Virginia Polo Center summer high school clinic and tournament
- Florida Junior and Youth Polo
- Eldorado Junior Polo
- International Junior Exchanges
- Mack Jason Leadership Program keeping Intercollegiate Alumni in polo
- Intercollegiate, Interscholastic, Umpire, and Volunteer recognition awards

We need your support both as volunteers for our projects and financially. The PTF needs to raise \$400,000 annually. Please consider making a donation at one of the club levels on the enclosed PTF pledge envelope.

Your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated and put to good use helping to grow polo.



Danny Scheraga with the 2014 Avendano Memorial Leadliners

The PTF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your gift is tax deductible to the extent that the law allows.



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PRESORTED STANDARD



PTF Polo Party

2014 Florida Awards Dinner & Fundraiser

The 2nd annual PTF Polo Party was a fun filled evening of awards, dinner and dancing at the beautiful International Polo Club. The guests of honor were six future polo players, ranging from 10 to 18 years old, who were awarded either Sportsmanship Awards or the Most Improved Player Awards for the season.



Over 170 people came to honor the award winners and support the PTF. As the event is also a fundraiser, a silent auction and a live auction helped to raise \$25,000 for the future of the PTF and the Florida Junior & Youth Programs.

2014 Award Winners

Alyssa Tranchilla – Most Improved Junior
Mackenzie Weisz – Most Improved Junior
Michael Bellissimo – Most Improved Youth
Malia Bryan – Junior Sportsmanship Award
Jack McLean – Junior Sportsmanship Award
Connell Erb – Youth Sportsmanship Award