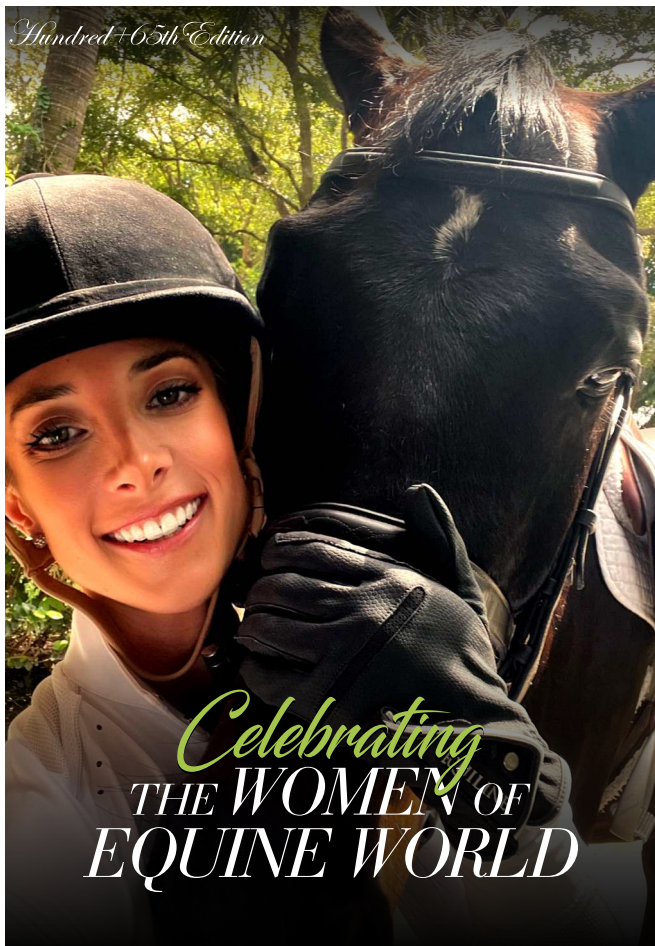


LA POLO

INTERNATIONAL

Hundred + 65th Edition



Celebrating
**THE WOMEN OF
EQUINE WORLD**



THE LEGEND OF CHAND BIBI & WOMEN PLAYERS

Women are beating stereotypes to be recognized for their sport, and are carving out distinctive niches for themselves.

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

Physician and rider Cindy Jones-Nosacek talks about riding not being a male preserve.



HAILEY FELDMAN: INFLUENCING WOMEN IN POLO

Sports and an influencer role merge together when the motivation is to succeed in all aspects.



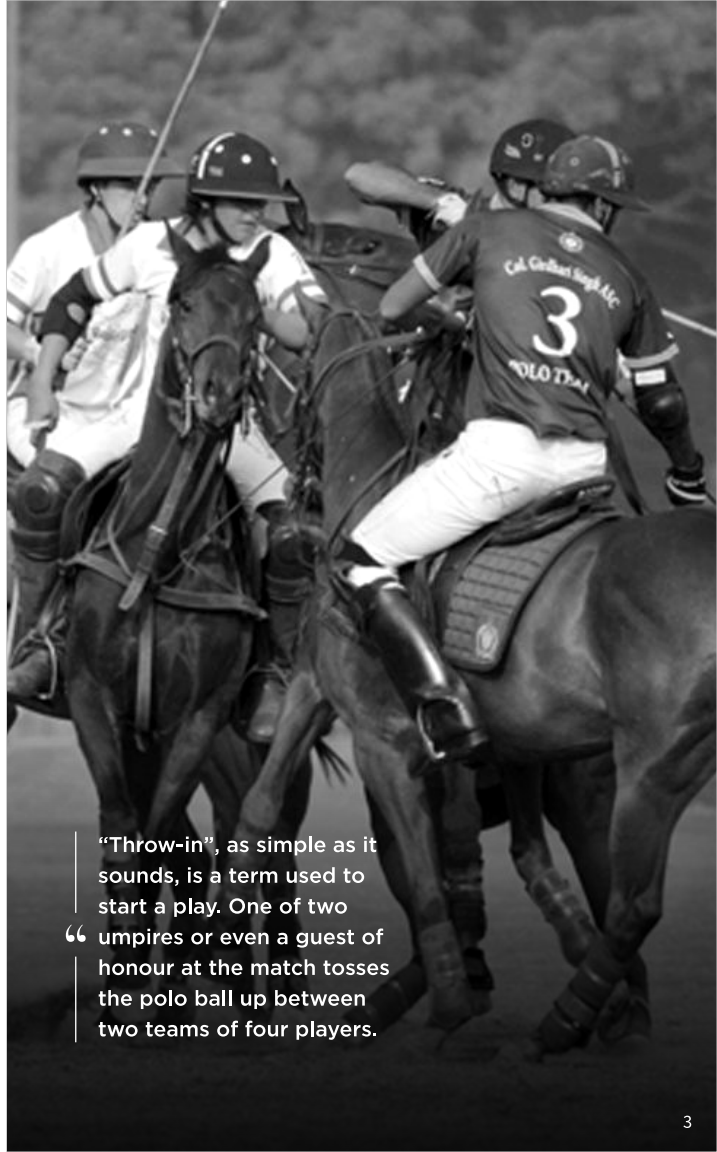
EVEN HORSES KNOW A WOMAN'S KIND HEART!

In equine sports, women have held their ground for a long time.

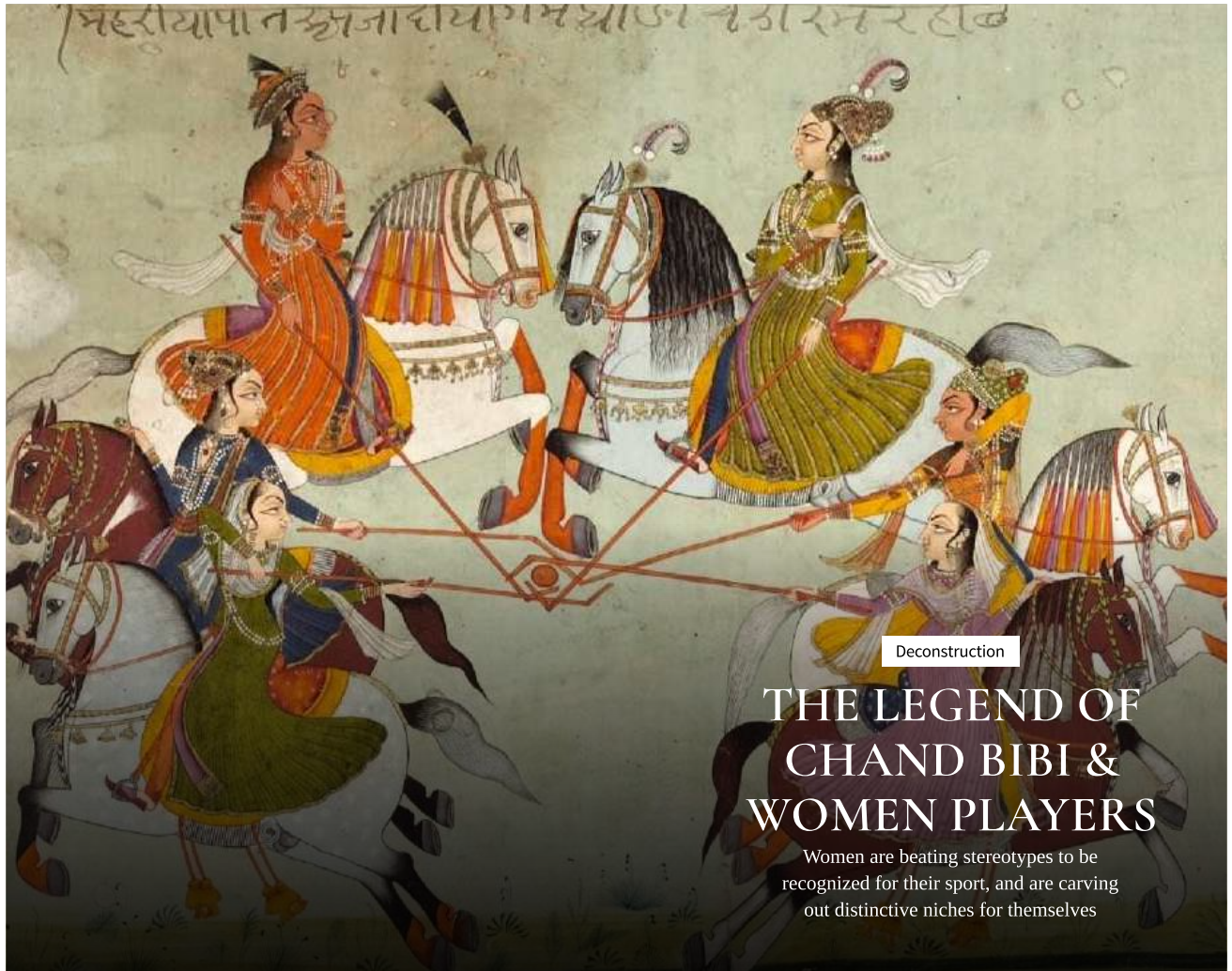


AND THEY GOT IT FROM POLO

Polo has been an inspiration for some legendary fashion brands.



“Throw-in”, as simple as it sounds, is a term used to start a play. One of two umpires or even a guest of honour at the match tosses the polo ball up between two teams of four players.



Deconstruction

THE LEGEND OF CHAND BIBI & WOMEN PLAYERS

Women are beating stereotypes to be
recognized for their sport, and are carving
out distinctive niches for themselves

Image credit: Allahabad Museum



Image credit: The Allahabad Museum

The expression “history repeats itself” comes to mind on seeing the painting of Chand Bibi, renowned for her bravery and gallant horsemanship. In the picture, women are riding the horse backward, demonstrating their free-spiritedness, which was previously reserved for princes and sultans, not women. In an article, Monica Saxena, Indian women’s polo team captain, said women players in India are treated by male players often with courteousness, but that does not translate into respect for their Polo skills. She added that they must play like their male counterparts, beat them at it, and do so consistently, or else they will be referred to as “girls” and not Polo players.

Monica Saxena, Sanya Suhag, Dr Manisha Rao, Jetholia Thongbam, and many others, have carved out a niche for themselves in the world of Polo. They made sure that the stereotypes around women polo players didn’t hold them down.

Another striking feature of the painting is that women wore headdresses, and their horses were elegantly decorated. This demonstrates how important aesthetics were to them. From the past to the present, you can link the dots. Rinaa Shah, the country’s first professional female polo player, is also its first equestrian accessory designer. Equine accessories are a prime example of what happens when aesthetics and sports collide—it can

result in the birth of a whole new industry. Shah said in one of the interviews to The Post: “Some beautiful memories come to mind, most notably when I designed shoes for global stars like Goldie Hawn, Natalie Portman, and Naomi Campbell. The other memory that comes to mind is when I sponsored a Polo Game in Jaipur and played with 50 men players, and I was proud to be the only woman in the tournament.”

Manipur recently held India’s only women’s polo tournament in Imphal, where four women polo teams, from the USA, UK, Argentina and Egypt participated, along with the Manipur team and the Indian Polo Association’s women’s team. The competition was won by the Great



Image credit: Livemint

Britain team, but it was Polo that emerged triumphant, in holding up a level-play field for women. Today Manipur is appropriately known as the mecca of Polo.

GD Anderson, a feminist writer, aptly observed: “Feminism isn’t about inspiring women. Women are still powerful; the challenge is to change how the rest of the world sees them.”

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Interview

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

Physician and rider Cindy Jones-Nosacek
talks about riding not being a male preserve.

Image credit: Catholicheard



Image credit: Gary and Cindy Jones-Nosacek

The equine sector has been historically connected to men and masculinity, despite the attempts at feminization of the equine industry. Women are owners and caretakers of horses, with some studies putting women horse ownership at 90 per cent compared to men, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. Physician and rider Cindy Jones-Nosacek talks about the pervasive presence of women in the horse industry in literature. “I loved the freedom of horseback-riding cowboys and cowgirls. Read books like *Black Beauty*. And the heroines in historical romance novels rode horses.” But more than anything, she believes it is the pleasure of making a “1200 lb animal jump over a fence—gelded.” She says the strength exhibited while

commandeering a huge stallion is a major reason for the fondness of ponies amongst women.

A retired physician, Cindy got on horseback at the age of 40, and made sure to kindle a similar interest amongst her children—three daughters and two sons, at an early age. Talking about the challenge of starting late, she says: “I have always been a bit of a trailblazer. I was in one of the first classes in med school that accepted a large percentage of women, I fought the federal and state government to let me hyphenate my name, and I worked full time while raising a large family.” Cindy does

not agree with the notion that riding is a male preserve. Having been brought up with stories of women and men fox-hunting together, as well as romantic tales of them riding together, she never related with the conservative idea. After her trainer made her way into the Olympics, and two of her daughters took a shine to riding, her belief strengthened. “Equestrian sports are among the few where your body’s strength doesn’t matter, only your skill does,” she says.

Speaking of her journey of nursing a rescue gelding named Cochise back to health after years of neglect and abuse, she says: “My daughters had horses, nothing fancy, but I never wanted one until him. You could see his ribs from not being properly fed and there were ulcers in his mouth from lack of oral care. The first time I rode him, it took three of us to catch him because he wasn’t used to being ridden.”

Eventually, with proper care and feeding, she got him to the point where he would let her catch and ride him. However, he wasn’t good as a trail horse, which is why the owner planned on selling him. Scrapping their plans of getting new siding for the house, she convinced her husband to buy him instead. “Unfortunately, he now has arthritis in one of his knees, so I can’t ride him much. But he is still my boy.”

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Image credit: Gary and Cindy Jones-Nosacek



Motivational

HAILEY FELDMAN: INFLUENCING WOMEN IN POLO

Sports and an influencer role merge together
when the motivation is to succeed in all aspects.

Hailey Feldman, CMO and head of marketing and branding agency Mixed Digital, loves horses and takes her influencer roles to equine sports as well. She started riding horses at an early age of three. "I was fortunate to have ponies and horses of my own. I competed in everything from the Junior Hunters to the Pony Jumpers," says Hailey. "Horses are my heart, and equestrian sports are a part of my identity."

Social media helped her communicate with and become friends with women across the globe who shared similar values, hobbies and opinions. She has been expanding her network through Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. She has trained five women in her career who have been able to change their



of looking "big", as there were she and an intern or two only. The insecurity was a challenge. She believes: "It is important not to let your insecurities get in the way of your goals."

When it comes to workplace conflicts, gender inequality is an issue at times. She knew that despite being a CMO, the title meant nothing and she had to earn every bit of it. She recalls an incident where the client who was nurtured and brought in by her, did not feel comfortable discussing money with her.

This came as a shock to her. But it was Mark Simmons, president and CEO of Mixed Digital, who made her realize this prejudice was alive and real. She confidently speaks now: "It may sound harsh, women have to be able to acknowledge inequality in business, and work together to gradually eradicate the injustice."

Hailey's family was an integral support to her when she decided to quit her job at Madison Avenue in Manhattan and started to build her own shop.

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jobs, from intern to assistant and assistant to contractor. Being a former New York City Public School Teacher, she finds the job of mentoring and helping women to achieve new heights very fulfilling. Hailey remarks: "I'd love to create a forum of some kind to open my advice and my expertise to those who would like it. I got to the point where I am today because I had female mentors."

Every story is not a Hog Heaven, there are challenges one needs to face while accomplishing goals. When it comes to the barriers that deprived Hailey to achieve her goals, they were like the never-ending laundry list. At the time of launching her own company, Equestrian Marketing, LLC, she thought



Musings

EVEN HORSES KNOW A WOMAN'S KIND HEART!

In equine sports, women have held their
ground for a long time.



Your gender does not define your ability to chase dreams. It's often said that girls dream about their knights in shining armour, riding a pure white horse, who will take them to the lofty tower palace, and then they will live happily ever-after. Why can't girls dream themselves riding that white horse and saddle towards their goals and aspirations?

Gender equality has always been a discussion point in all spheres, whether corporate or sports. But in equine sports, men and women compete on a level-playing field, following similar rules and regulations. It's been around 66 years since Dressage became the first event to come in 1952; followed by show jumping in 1956; and,

eventing in 1964. We can clearly say that equestrian sports are the trailblazers for gender equality. Does this equality show on the ground? How?

Rather than going back into the long tiresome journey of tracing the origins of equine sports like Polo, consider a small incident... in India the soldiers of the East Indian Company saw some exiled Manipuri princesses playing a sport which looked like hockey on horseback and teams of men wearing turbans,

dhoti and shin guards holding mallets. This shows that women were a part of this sport from an early stage. Let's see it from the Persian view where Polo was first played. The reference which proves that Polo is a sport for both men and women is indicated by "the queen and her ladies engaging King Khosrow II Parvīz and his courtiers in the 6th century AD".

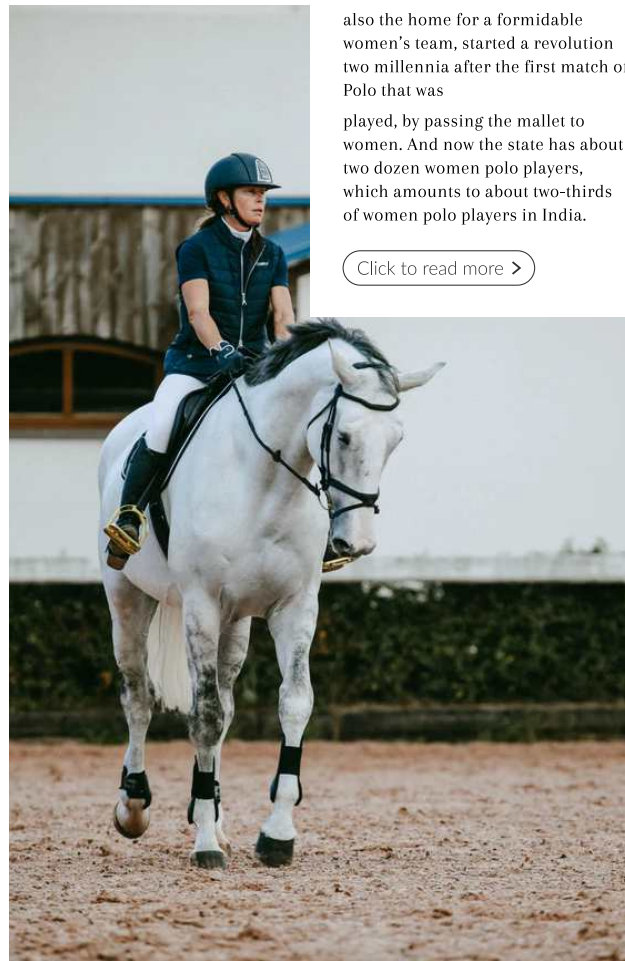
Though being a part of the sport from an early stage, women were not allowed to wield the mallets. Manipur, which is not only termed as the birthplace of modern Polo, but is



also the home for a formidable women's team, started a revolution two millennia after the first match of Polo that was

played, by passing the mallet to women. And now the state has about two dozen women polo players, which amounts to about two-thirds of women polo players in India.

[Click to read more >](#)

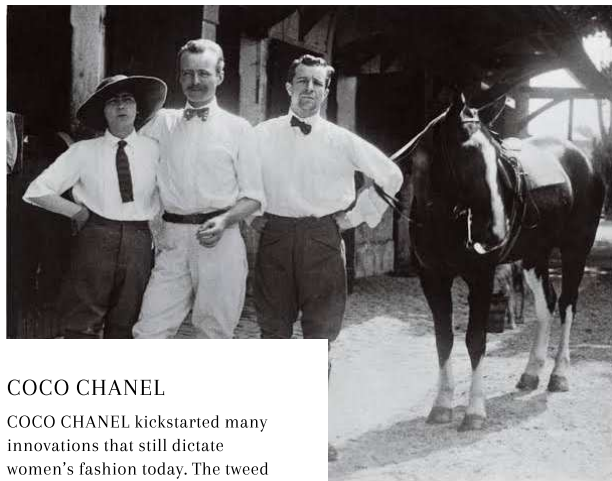




Beyond

AND THEY GOT IT FROM POLO

Polo has been an inspiration for some
legendary fashion brands.



COCO CHANEL

COCO CHANEL kickstarted many innovations that still dictate women's fashion today. The tweed jacket, the little black dress, menswear and women's wear...she has rocked it all.

One of the most sought-after fashionistas, Coco Chanel, born in 1883 with the moniker of Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel, is a true queen of French fashion. Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel took inspiration from her horseback days, dressing women in men's Polo uniforms with a few tweaks. By doing so, she forever changed the history of women's fashion, introducing them to breaches.

Chanel was known for breaking the rules. Early 1909, when women wearing pants was even rarer, Chanel was photographed wearing pants. Chanel's introduction to Polo and fashion was unlikely as women

and horses never quite crossed paths, other than on the sidelines, a century ago.

Polo inspired Chanel in the world of fashion in many ways. The little black dress, the cardigan jacket, the perfume No.5 de Chanel and the Chanel suit... the focus was always on the comfort of women, designing for modern audiences, and that's how wealthy women and celebrity icons such as Marilyn Monroe went into her showroom. Getting inspired from the polo uniform, a tweed jacket, featuring gold buttons, patch pockets and a gold-coloured chain sewn into the hem to ensure it hung properly from the shoulders, the Chanel suit became a status symbol for the new generation.

DONATELLA VERSACE

Donatella Versace is an Italian fashion designer and businesswoman. The designer is credited with inventing the supermodel vogue of the 1990s, by discovering and featuring supermodels like Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington and Linda Evangelista, all of whom were featured on the runway and in many ad campaigns. She has been inspired by Polo's free-spirit.



Image credit: FashionModel Directory

BETSEY JOHNSON

The Connecticut-born designer spent her childhood in dance classes. Her exuberant, vivacious label rocks the fashion industry since the 1960s. Johnson's creativity and imagination are apparent in her pieces, constantly ever-changing with the times but remaining true to herself and her personal design aesthetic, embodying enthusiasm, fun and a happy verve.



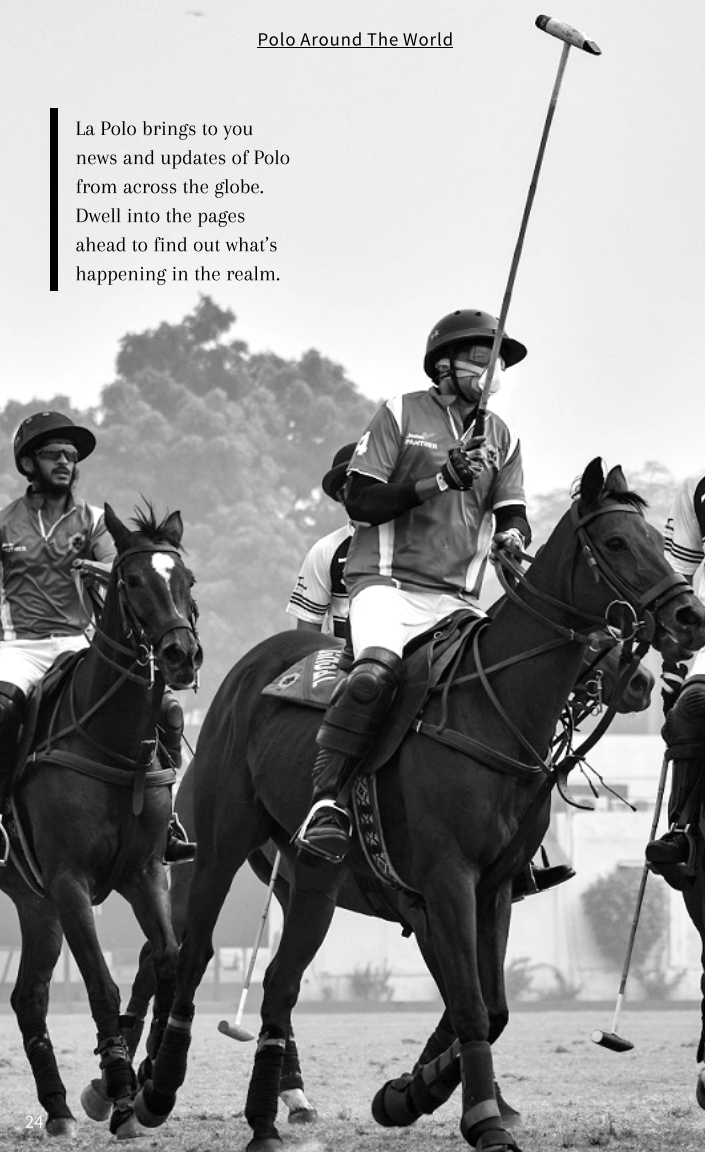
Image credit: Pleasure Photo

MIUCCIA PRADA

Born on May 10, 1949, the amazing designer first dazzled the fashion world in 1985 with a series of black nylon handbags and backpacks. Prada has flourished as a billion-dollar company, taking the fashion world through stylish minimalism based on pared-down design, innovative fabrics and computer-enhanced patterns.

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La Polo brings to you news and updates of Polo from across the globe. Dwell into the pages ahead to find out what's happening in the realm.



Emaar Cup 2021

The coveted trophy of the prestigious Emaar Cup 2021 was lifted by the UAE Polo Team, with Benjamin Panelo emerging as the MVP. Poder of Zedan Polo Team was declared the Best Playing Pony. A medium-goal tournament, the Emaar Polo Cup witnessed prominent polo teams compete to reach the grand finale on March 12.



Image credit: Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club

US Open Women's Polo Championship

The US Open Women's Polo Championship, a national tournament that is now the country's most prestigious women's polo Cup, began on March 10 at Port Mayaca Polo Club. After the matches, the top four teams go into the Semi-Finals on March 17, and the Finals on March 20.

US Open Women's Polo Championship Teams:

Iconica (22): Maureen Brennan (5), Clara Cassino (8), Milly Hine (6), Anna Coscia (3)
 BTA/The Villages (22): Kylie Sheehan (5), KC Krueger (6), Paige Boone (5), Tiffany Busch (6)
 Polo Gear Coffee Co. (22): Gillian Johnston (6), Dawn Laurel Jones (6), Izzy Parsons (8), Danielle Lussi (2)
 Hawaii Polo Life (22):
 Mia Cambiaso (8), Hazel Jackson-Gaona (10), Pamela Flanagan (4), Dolores Onetto (0)
 Dundas (22): Nina Clarkin (10), Sarah Siegel-Magness (2), Olivia Uechtritz (3), Hope Arellano (7)

POLO RIDER CUP

The Polo Rider Cup, an international competition, will take place from June 10-20, on the eminent grounds of the Polo Club of Chantilly. The competition brings together, for the first time ever, the best polo clubs in the world. beIN Media Group, the global sports and entertainment broadcaster, and GAME Polo have undertaken a bargain, which will allow beIN Sports to broadcast the highlights to the 2021 Polo Rider Cup in 12 territories, including the US, Canada, Turkey and Thailand.



Image caption: Polo Rider Cup to be aired on beIN

Eldorado Polo Club: Spreckels Cup

At Southern California's Eldorado Polo Club (Indio, California), Cavallo Ranch (John Bickford, Max Menini, Tomas Obregon, Alejandro Gonzalez) scored four unanswered goals in the final period to defeat Bensoleimani.com (Ben Soleimani, Juan Curbelo, Tomas Alberdi*, Remy Du Cellie Muller*) 10-8, securing victory of the 2021 USPA-sanctioned 12-goal Spreckels Cup. Cavallo Ranch's Alejandro Gonzalez was awarded the Most Valuable Player. Dobel, owned and played by Gonzalez, was awarded the Best Playing Pony.

The 6-Goal Spreckels Cup Final, played at the Eldorado Polo Club, on March 7, witnessed Lasalle Properties (Bob Gray, Luis Saracco, Marcos Llambias, Micaela Saracco) emerge victorious with a final score of 6-5.5 against Dungar/Element 101 (Peter Milner, Greg Hanson, Jared Sheldon, Rodrigo Salinas). Llambias was awarded the Most Valuable Player, and Tangerine, owned by Danny Juarez and Rodrigo Salinas and played by Salinas, won the honor of Best Playing Pony.

In the 2-Goal Spreckels Cup, Brevia Farms (Sofia Lorenzo, Catlin Dix, Audrey Persano, Lesa Slaughter), the all-women's team defeated Boss Polo (Piers Bossom, Felipe Vicente, Cory Williams, Aaram Safai) by a final tally of 8-7.5. Sofia Lorenzo earned the title of Most Valuable Player, and the Best Playing Pony honors were awarded to Sally, owned by Lesa Slaughter and played by Lorenzo.

Bushwood v/s Ellipse in Top Pony 8-Goal

Bushwood (Nick McClelland, Nick Manifold, Kris Kampsen, and Michael Armour) battled against Ellipse Polo (Pancha Terrera, Baldo Palomeque, Robi Bilbao, and Louis Devalleix) on Grand Champions Field 4 to secure close victory over Ellipse Polo and win the Top Pony 8-Goal title. The final score was 10-9 in favour of Bushwood. Kris Kampsen was named MVP.



Image credit: ChukkerTV



Image credit: Sohail Ali

JINNAH GOLD CUP

Diamond Paints secure their first-ever Master Paints Jinnah Gold Cup by defeating DS Polo/ASC in the nail-biting match played at the Jinnah Polo and Country Club (P&RC) ground.

The final score was 8-7, in favour of Diamond Paints. The best polo pony award was claimed by Daniyal Sheikh's pony while Syed Turab Rizvi emerged as the best player of 0-2 goal category. Raja Mikail Sami best player in 2-4 goal categories, Marcos Panelo in 4-goal category, Mir Huzafa Ahmed was the best in patron category while man-of-the-final award went to Raul Laplacette of Diamond Paints.

Sujan Northern India Polo Championship

The 16 goal Sujan Northern India Polo Championship got into action from 16th March to witness the finals on 21st March 2021 at Jaipur Polo Ground, New Delhi. A total of three teams came down to participate against one another. Although the finals had Jindal Panther and Sujan against one another where by 10 goals to 7, Jindal Panther took the trophy home.

Results of league matches:

Day 1- Sujan 8 vs Sona Polo 7 | Day 2- Jindal Panther 9 vs Sujan 5

Day 3- Jindal Panther 10 vs Sona 9.5



THE PRESIDENT'S POLO CUP

The exhibition match for President's Polo Cup was into action at the President's Bodyguard Parade Polo Ground, New Delhi in the presence of the honorable President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.



India's top players divided into two teams, Lancers and Bodyguard came down to fight against one another to lift the prestigious trophy. The match went into an extra chukker and for the golden goal. Pacing high in speed both the teams fought for the last chance to victory but as luck would have it, it was team Lancers in favor of which the umpires declared a penalty strike from 30 yards. Taking which was Basheer Ali, who grabbed the chance to victory with 8 goals to 7.

2021 CV WHITNEY CUP

The 2021 CV Whitney Cup, on the Home of the US Polo Assn - Field 1 witnessed Park Place and Scone battle into overtime, in a thrilling adventure to determine the champion of the esteemed Cup and a \$100,000 prize. The final score was 11-10, in favour of Park Place. Whitman was awarded the Most Valuable Player, while Best Playing Pony went to Hilario Ulloa's Lavina Heroica. Crio Polo Argentino (Argentine Bred) Best Playing Pony was given to Mega Big Bay, owned by Lerin Zubiaurre and played by Juan Britos.



Image credit: Alex Pacheco

IFZA Gold Cup 2021 Trophy

Image credit: Alex Pacheco



The highly esteemed, 18-goal handicap tournament on the grounds of Al Habtoor Polo Resort and Club witnessed a high-intensity game between Ghantoot Polo and UAE Polo at the final match of the IFZA Gold Cup 2021 tournament. The final score was 11 goals to 7, in favour of Ghantoot Polo. The top scorer of the tournament was Benjamin Panelo, with 36 goals. Cesar Crespo was declared the Most Valuable Player and Pichot, ridden by Marcos Araya as the Best Playing Pony.

“There is a touch of divinity even in brutes, and a special halo about a horse, that should forever exempt him from indignities.”

– Herman Melville



LA POLO

All eyes on Shout The Bar

Walker is confident that Shout The Bar, a mare, will prove her mettle in the All-Star Mile at The Valley. She has earned her position and will give every ounce, as done in the past races. With Shout The Bar, Waterhouse and his training partner Adrian Bot have won two Group 1 races.



Image credit: Brett Holburn/Racing Photos via Getty Images

CHERRY TORTONI IS FAVOURITE

Sportsbet favoured Cherry Tortoni to win the Alister Clark Stakes (2040m) at Moonee Valley on 13th March 2021, a crucial lead-up to the Derby. Patrick Payne is a clear favourite at \$1.95; Parure is next best at \$6, with Young Werther alongside Beltoro at \$7.



Image credit: BRUNO CANNATELLI

COOLMORE CLASSIC

Nash Rawiller, Thompson-trained Sweet Deal's rider, has decided to surround Stakes champion Forbidden Love with a weight of 54.5kg for the Coolmore Classic race to be held at Rosehill Racecourse. John Thompson, the trainer, has paired Sweet Deal, an on-pace mare, with Englishman Tom Marquand, who has a top weight of 58 kg. Thomson said there is a lack of preparedness as the mare missed the 1200-meter run. Forbidden Love becomes the \$6 favourite after drawing well in gate three, and Sweet Deal, a \$12 shot that drew preferably in barrier two.



Image credit: STEVE HART

HORSE QUARANTINED



Image credit: STEVE HART


Maryland Jockey Club cancelled racing card at Laurel Park after a horse tested positive for equine herpesvirus. As a precautionary measure, the department placed a hold on the barn where the horse was stabled and three other horses with which he had contact. Since many entries have been quarantined, the Jockey Club has cancelled the nine-race card. On 13th-14th March 2021 non-quarantined horses from the network were included in races.

LA POLO

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