



Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club
2022 Cheval Athletics USPA IntraCircuit

SANTA BARBARA, CA. (June 19th, 2022) This Sunday marked the culmination of the 12 goal series at the Santa Barbara Polo Club and the coveted finals of the 2022 Cheval Athletics USPA IntraCircuit. With such a big day ahead, players, horses, and spectators came well-prepared for the action to come. The weather held up for the featured match and it did not disappoint, extending into overtime, to make the final day of the 12 goal series live up to all expectations.

Antelope immediately put the game into high-gear. Racing around end to end, Antelope managed to rack up four goals in just one chukker. FMB Too!/Folded Hills found themselves reaching to keep up, only countering with one goal from Juan Curbelo. This finished the first chukker 4-1 to Antelope.

The second chukker saw more of the same. FMB Too!/Folded Hills stayed flat-footed while Antelope continued to dominate. Jim Wright took the reins for Antelope in this chukker with one goal from the field and two penalty conversions. Santiago Wulff, from the opposing team, scored one from the field in order to keep FMB Too!/Folded Hills in the game. The second chukker finished 7-2 to Antelope.

The third chukker saw the biggest differential in score, with Antelope ahead by seven goals mid-way through the chukker, and the scoreboard reading 9-2. However, around the four-minute mark, FMB Too!/Folded Hills decided to turn it on. The team began capitalizing on smart play, catching Antelope on three fouls which Will Busch and Santi Wulff turned into goals through penalty conversions. The first half of the game ended with Antelope ahead and a score of 9-5.

Antelope and FMB Too!/Folded Hills played evenly in the fourth chukker. They exchanged goals at the top end of the field, starting with Jimmy Wright for Antelope, then Will Busch for FMB Too!/ Folded Hills, Wright again, and finally Curbelo finishing off the fourth chukker with a goal from the field. The chukker ended with the same difference in score, but this time 11-7 to Antelope.

The fifth chukker mimicked the fourth, with each team achieving two goals each. This seemed to put Antelope in a comfortable position, leading by four goals going into the final chukker, but things can change quickly in polo.

They certainly did as well with FMB Too!/Folded Hills finally finding the fire they had been looking for the whole match. The team played together and furiously, earning back all four goals they found themselves behind by. Santi Wulff began this comeback converting a penalty, and Will Busch finished it off scoring the two goals that tied up the match and sent the game into overtime. The score read 13 to 13 as the teams took their five minute break before entering the seventh chukker.

In a matter of minutes, the game was all over. Santi Wulff sunk a penalty four with nerves of steel to grant FMB Too!/Folded Hills the victory and marked the comeback of the season. The team celebrated all the way onto the trophy stand for their efforts.

Most valuable player went to Juan Curbelo for his fierce play and consistency in front of goal. Henry Walker's mare bred by Carlos Avendano, "Constanza" was awarded best playing amateur pony. The best playing pony played by a professional, "Coco" came from Jimmy Wright's string.

The 12 goal season awards were also presented at the conclusion of this match. The season's most valuable player went to Juan Guerreo from Los Padres. The best playing string for the season went to Kristos Magrini, again on Los Padres. The Santa Barbara Polo Club rejoices in a successful 12 goal series and looks forward to the high goal.

Polo Training Center Tournament

The Polo Training Center Tournament Final preceded the IntraCircuit, with a start time of noon. The two teams that took the field were Farmers and Merchants Bank and Klentner Ranch. FMB had Bayne Bossom play in the spot of the injured sponsor, Danny Walker, for this game.

The game remained close all through the first three chukkers. At the end of the first half, the score was tied 7-all. However, FMB managed to pull ahead at the end with a strong second half.

At the end of the match, FMB came out on top, with the final score of 13 to 10. Matthew Walker was awarded most valuable player for his sportsmanship on the field, team direction, and great defense. Lucas Criado's bay mare, "Big Star" received the honors of best playing pony.

About Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club

Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club is the premier destination for summer polo. Players and Patrons from all across the globe call Santa Barbara their home for the summer, bringing world class polo to the Southern California coast. We welcome spectators back to our club to enjoy the matches in 2022. Please visit the “Spectator Information” page for more information.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our website, www.sbpolo.com.