

LA POLO

INTERNATIONAL

Hundred+ 49th Edition

EXPERT SPEAK with

**SIRAJ
ATTARI**



GREAT TURFS
FOR GREAT PLAY

A most significant requirement is of a good field which translates to a good match.

THE INDIAN
CHAPTER

The history of polo in the country where its modern form took birth.



19



KUROSH WRESTLING
ON HORSEBACK

The popular folk game introduces visitors to Kyrgyz culture as well.

JAEGER LECOULTRE'S
REVERSO: SUSTAINING THE
STROKE OF THE MALLET

Through all its modifications, LeCoultre has kept its legendary roots intact and never fails to excite customers with innovation!





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POLO



Manipuri Ponies are considered to be the original polo ponies since modern polo originated in Manipur.

EXPLORE

GREAT TURFS FOR GREAT PLAY

A most significant requirement is of a good field which translates to a good match. While this is true for most sports, the polo field assumes a greater importance for its sheer magnitude.





A great man once said: “Polo is not just a sport, it is a way of living.” When Kate Reardon called it a game that drifts in and out of fashion, her words held a certain level of truth. Polo has been a game that keeps going from being hugely sought-after to a tad bit out of fashion, to one in demand all over again. However, despite the fluctuations, the game never loses its royal status.

A plethora of factors come into play. From horses to mallets, handicaps of players to goals’ hit, the list is long. A most significant requirement is of a good field, that translates to a good match.

The polo ground is a sprawling 300*160 yards, which makes it as big as six soccer fields or nine football fields combined. Each field needs an area of 10 metres aside and 30 metres behind the goals. These areas are barred from being accessed and are called safe zones. Spread over 10-15 acres, the field for the sport of kings corresponds to its regal nature.





No sport in the modern context can be played on an uneven ground or a field not maintained according to the requirements of the game. The game of polo is no stranger to the requirement of a well-maintained ground. The polo field is maintained with a closely mowed turf in order to provide a surface that is safe and helps players keep the desired pace.

Unlike soccer or football, polo does not use a net for the purpose of establishing a goal. Goals in polo are instituted through posts, each set eight yards apart from the other and centred at each end of the field. Each goal post is three metres high.

The surface of the field needs good maintenance in order to keep the field in playing condition and to avoid the horses' loss of balance. Involving great strength and grit, the game is almost never played in rain or on a wet field, in most cases to save the horses from tripping.

“Divot stamping”, a polo tradition developed to aid in replacing the mounds of earth called divots that are torn up by the horses' hooves, has transformed into a tradition that gives the onlookers an opportunity to walk around and engage in socializing activities during half-time of a match.

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CONVERSATIONS

“POLO
SPONSORSHIP IS
GETTING BETTER”:
SIRAJ ATTARI

The player shares that cajoling and horse whispering should never be underestimated because horses are intelligent and tend to develop a defensive attitude towards threatening and violent humans.



Siraj Attari, celebrated Polo player, takes us to the lush green Polo fields of Hyderabad which are now on the verge of losing their glory, thanks to red-tapism and negligence. Among his contributions has been the revival of Polo through sponsorships, an alien idea at one time.

He recalls how his privilege of being associated with the Police Commissioner of Hyderabad made him familiar with horses.

Riding horses at as early as five years, and then shifting to Hyderabad Public School which provided the comforts of horse riding led to his admission into the Hyderabad Riding Club.

The rich history of Polo is intermingled with Hyderabadi culture. One of the oldest Polo centres lies in



CONVERSATIONS



the city of Nizams where the first match was played circa 1875. There wasn't a day when these grounds weren't lit with the excitement of polo matches. Unfortunately, open grounds as those fell prey to government acquisition and construction of colonies, which is why Polo in Hyderabad suffered a setback during the 1950s to 1975.

In an exclusive conversation with La Polo, he shares how Polo earlier was a restricted monopoly with no concept of sponsorship. In present times, not only the method of playing has changed vastly, to be more fierce, but the response for sponsorships has been welcoming. The dominating role of the army over Polo grounds has subsided and use of breeds have varied, from Marwadi and Kathiawadi to thoroughbreds.

An amusing incident that he shares is regarding sponsorship for polo matches at Jaipur; while working with a tobacco company, the company granted Rs 75,000 for sponsoring an entire season for three years!

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EXPLORE

POLO & ITS GRAND TRADITION

Two British soldiers discovered the sport in Manipur—and that was the start of a glorious chapter.

Theoretically, the first polo match was played in Persia around 2,500 years ago. People thought that the equestrian sport was created by contending tribesmen of Central Asia. However, the game, played by the tribesmen was unorganised and a rough version of Polo. Eventually, kings used the sport as a method to coach their cavalries. Even till present, the factual origin of the sport is unknown. Moreover, as suggested by scholars and historians, the richest accounts of Polo can be traced through Indian, Persian and Chinese literature.



POLO IN INDIA

In 1860, two British soldiers, Lieutenant Joe Sherer and Captain Robert Stewart, had a pleasant sojourn in Manipur. During their stay, they witnessed some locals playing a game on horseback, chasing and hitting a ball with a stick. Being professional horsemen themselves, the soldiers got fascinated with the play.

Subsequently, after returning to Kolkata from Manipur, with the memory of the game, Lt Sherer and Capt Stuart put forth the idea of making it a proper sport. Finally, goal posts were planted, four team members per team were decided, and the Calcutta Polo Club was established in 1860.

Likewise, after the advent of the Englishmen in India, Polo was organized and later, made popular in the country.

The fulcrum of Polo in India was established in 1892 as the Indian Polo Association (IPA). There were some famous Polo teams at that time, such as the teams of Alwar, Bhopal, Bikaner, Jaipur, Hyderabad, and many others. But, the best among them were the Central India Horse, Prince Albert Victor Own Cavalry, and the 10th Royal Hussars.

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A GAME AT COWDRAY



Cowdray Park Polo organised a final 18-goal tournament, with Murus Sanctus and Ferne Park pitted against each other, only one goal separating the two of them. A foul-ridden

opening chukka came about in Ferne Park's Joaquin Pittaluga opening the scoring on a

punishment 2 transformation; yet Murus Sanctus' Guillermo (Sapo) Caset reacted to tie the score toward the finish of the main chukka. At the end of the third chukka, Will Drewitt chased down Maiz Dulce's John Martin preventing him from getting a goal that would have put Maiz just one goal behind going into the fourth. The Equine Management Best Playing pony was awarded to the stallion Lovelocks Bonjovi, owned and ridden by Charlie Hanbury.

KLENTNER BEATS 9-8 SANTA CLARA I, CLAMS SOUTH COAST OPEN

Among the competition Team members were, Lucas Escobar (Santa Clara), and Nico Escobar (Lucchese), as well as Graduating Team USPA members Jesse Bray (Klentner Ranch), Geronimo Obregon (Klentner Ranch), Matt Coppola (Antelope) and Santi Torres (Dundas).

The MVP was Marquitos Alberdi and The BPP Chala was owned and played by Geroobe. The match was an exciting one with neck-to-neck competition; the Klentner were true winners. A rematch of the 2020 America Cup against Santa Clara (Lucas Escobar*, Santiago Tocalino, Federico Escobar, Lucas Criado Jr.), this time Klentner Ranch crushed their commendable adversaries in the 6th chukka to end the significant standard season at Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club in Carpinteria, California, with 9-8.

"We didn't change much going into the last chukka, but we knew that if we had patience, confidence and faith in each other that we could win." – Marcos Alberdi



LOS AMIGOS AND LA KATRINA MOVED INTO FINALS OF WORLDS POLO LEAGUE OF TRIPLE CROWN OF POLO

In the final game, Seminole Casino went all 4-6 against Los Amigos Blue, with Ganzi securing a goal in the first chukka; on a penalty for the second round, Paquito de Narvaez also kicked in two goals for Seminole Casino. The World Polo League pulls in an enormous global field of players from all parts of the world including Australia, Chile, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Brazil, Switzerland, France, Germany, Uruguay, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Nigeria and England.

THE 49TH MANSION INTERNATIONAL POLO TOURNAMENT



The French team Sante Mesme secured the winning title Playtech Gold Club on 6th September 2020, beating the Pakistani team 11 to 10. The 49th mansion International Polo Tournament is a Sotogrande held at Santa Maria Polo Club. This trophy is the epitome of success and endeavour. The event had 10 teams

against each other, which made San Roque back to the centre of world sports.

Players from the United States, United Kingdom, Spain, Argentina, France, Spain, Pakistan and Ireland took part in the competition. Sainte Mesme, who played with his captain Birger Strom, alongside Robert Strom, Clemente Zavaleta and Salvador Jauretche was ahead on the scoreboard all through the match; in the sixth chukker, BN Polo Team - Babar Nassem, Second F Llorente, Pelayo Berazadi and Ezequiel Zubiaurre - figured out how to tie at 10 objectives and it was important to play an additional time, in which the brilliant objective was chosen, to such an extent that Robert Strom, from Sainte Mesme, scored.

20TH ANNIVERSARY FRENCH POLO OPEN AT CHANTILLY



The 20th anniversary French Open will have a record number of groups, nine countries and remarkable players. An incredible exhibit beginning September 4 will hit a gleaming peak during the Grand Finale on September 12. Gaston Lucero will be umpiring 24 matches during the three coming weeks, alongside the Argentine Umpire Rafael Silva.

POLO PARK ZURICH

The 21st Polo Park Zurich International Ladies Tournament had 26 female players contending at two levels - the Challenge League and the Medium Goal League. Two expert players, Rebecca Walters UK +6 and Jeanine Hugo-Menendez SA +5, fortified and coordinated their more significant standard partners.

Group Princes de Venoge went onto the field showing an earned certainty. This group dominated the competition of the Challenge League with Jolies Filles second and Grand Cru third. The Most Valuable Player was granted to Shiva. The Medium Goal, Estée Lauder, went into the lead and maintained up their half objective preferred position until half-time;



however, the third chukker was the distinct advantage. Jeanine was on quick horses. Morgan van Overbroek +2 came out on her preferred horse, the long-term old Torcacita.

FRENCH OPEN POLO

Alexander Kristoff won the opening stage of the Tour de France, while Thibaut Pinot was one of several riders to take a tumble on a rain-hit ride on Saturday. Norway's Kristoff outsprinted Danish best on the planet, Mads Pedersen, after 156 km around Nice. Dutchman Cees Bol completed third.

Colombian Nairo Quintana fell prior while Pavel Sivakov, one of the guarding champions Egan Bernal's key lieutenants, hit the ground twice. Pre-stage top choices Sam Bennett, Caleb Ewan and Giacomo Nizzolo slammed on elusive streets as downpour unleashed devastation.

National Arena Delegates Cup



A firmly challenged 2020 National Arena Delegate's Cup at Commonwealth Polo Club brought about two elimination rounds and the last by a one-objective edge. There were two additional time triumphs, featuring uncommon field play, in Paris, Kentucky. WM Polo and Commonwealth Black met on September 3, that boiled down to an additional time punishment shootout to decide the victor. Behind a solid first half and eight objectives from Nik Feldman, WM Polo got triumphant, catching the 14-13 triumph and the National Arena Delegate's Cup title.

POLO TO WATCH OUT

EAST COAST OPEN

This year, five teams will descend on the Greenwich Polo Club to compete in the Northeast's most prestigious high-goal tournament. Both Postage Stamp Farm and 2018 champions Audi will be returning to the field, alongside Monterroso, Monterroso Vikings and Los Violines. Three of the members from last year's winning team will compete once again for Audi, joined by Matias Magrini, in the hope of inscribing their names on the Perry Trophy for the second consecutive year.



WOMEN'S PACIFIC OPEN – AT SANTA BARBARA

Women's Pacific Coast at the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club, US, is the follow-up of the fourth edition of the Victrix Ludorum Tour of England comprising eight teams for the 18-goal tournament. Four teams, up to 18 goals, are competing in the Women's Pacific Coast Open. The finals are set for Sunday.

LA EQUUS

THE EVOLUTION OF THE HORSE



Courtesy of U. S. Museum of Natural History

NEBUCHADNEZZAR once said "what is an 'equid'?" in the horse that carried this skeleton. He was an Babylonian—a four-toed horse—and paleontologists say he was a wild thing twelve years ago. The man who dug up these bones in Wyoming did not recognize them as a horse's. Compare this skeleton with that of the draft horse.



THIS Equippus was about the size of a weasel. We know nothing of its uses, but he had a skull much like that of the modern horse, or perhaps he could "suckle." There were herds of these little horses in Europe as well as in America.



WE ARE reasonably sure that man used horses for war purposes 1200 years before the Christian era, and we know they are still being used. This statue shows the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, mounted on a war horse. The work was done by an unknown sculptor.



Photo by Professor C. S. Silliman

THIS only really wild horse of today is found in Northwestern Mongolia. He is called the Przewalski horse, in honor of the "great" horse. The wild horses of North America were descendants of domesticated horses brought here by early Spanish conquerors.



Photo by Charles Bell

THIS typical pack-train is descended from the same stock as the big draft, but an unshod horse and a limited load supply have influenced his size. In fact, given we have a six-legged pack train, but look closely and you can even see a smile on the face of the teamster.



Photo by H. E. Smith

SCIENTISTS believe that the graceful and intelligent Arabian horse originated in Western Africa about 3000 B. C. and was in Arabia. Here the grace and power evolved by this imported Arabian, Malay, Indian, and so forth. Many believe in the "divine ancestry," being descended from a celestial being, because of their speed and endurance in the approach of the enemy.



ONE can scarcely believe that such a specimen as this magnificent Percheron rose from the same foundation as the shaggy equine above. This too draft is the most useful type now in existence.



THIS skeleton of the draft horse is so compact that he can exert great power and move at considerable speed. It differs a good deal from that of the skeleton of man. The principal differences are in position, reduction of irregularity and absence of ball-and-socket joints in the limbs. The long spine gives the horse two hundred motion from side to side. Although the horse is gifted with considerable intelligence the principal purpose of his skull seems to be to hold his teeth. It is interesting to note that the Arabian horse has only five teeth whereas other horses have six.

THE COURTESY GENTLEMAN

ENTAILING THE

Image credit: 4 Dog Arts

The horse evolved over 45 to 55 million years from a small multi-toed creature into the large, single-toed animal of today.

A photograph showing two shirtless men wrestling on horseback in a field. The man on the left is mounted on a dark horse, while the man on the right is on a brown horse. They are both leaning forward, engaged in a physical struggle. The background is a vast, open landscape under a clear sky.

TRAVEL

KUROSH WRESTLING ON HORSEBACK

The popular folk game introduces visitors to
Kyrgyz culture as well.

Sports in Kyrgyzstan are something beyond amusement, they are training for life. To live in the ragged mountain steppes, people need to be tough and clever, and sports helped them gain these vital qualities and aptitudes. Horses, alongside chasing hounds, were fundamental. Even today, most of the provincial populace follows a semi-nomadic lifestyle. Nearly everybody can ride a horse, and an assortment of horse games is played to showcase expertise and alertness.

Wrestling too became an important segment of conventional culture, and still has impact today.



Image credit: The New York Times



Image credit: Awesome Okanagan



Kyrgyz Kurosh, an antiquated wrestling, is mainstream even today. Competitors wear white trousers, leaving the chest uncovered. They stand confronting each other in a tangle and hold each other's belts with two hands. The individual who can toss their rival on the shoulder wins.

It is additionally played in other formations, on horses, in the national games celebrations, where it is called "Kurosh - wrestling on horses". Riders ought to get the other rider down the pony by pushing and seizing, being bare-chested on the horseback; the more vulnerable contender frequently sticks urgently to the horse's head as viewers are eager watching and expecting him hitting the dirt.

These folk games were planned as a celebration for travellers, but now they are celebrated to promote and introduce the Kyrgyz culture to global audiences as well.

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WHO SEIZED THE KENTUCKY DERBY 2020?



The 146th edition of the Kentucky Derby 2020 had to be rescheduled due to Covid-19, with limited spectators. The final happened on September 5 and to Tiz the Law's disappointment, the day was seized by Authentic.

Here's a quick insight into the results from the day:

1. Authentic: \$18.80 to win, \$6 to place and \$5 to show.
2. Tiz the Law (1¼ lengths): \$3.40 to place and \$3.20 to show.
3. Mr. Big News (3¼ lengths): \$16.80 to show.
4. Honor A. P. (5 lengths)
5. Max Player (7 lengths)
6. Storm the Court (9 lengths)
7. Enforceable (10¼ lengths)
8. Ny Traffic (13¾ lengths)
9. Necker Island (14¾ lengths)
10. Major Fed (15¾ lengths)
11. Sole Volante (16¾ lengths)
12. Winning Impression (21½ lengths)
13. Money Moves (22¼ lengths)
14. Attachment Rate (24 lengths)
15. South Bend (25¾ lengths)
16. Finnick the Fierce (scratch)
17. King Guillermo (scratch)
18. Thousand Words (scratch)

\$2 Exacta: \$41

\$1 Trifecta: \$1,311.80

\$1 Superfecta: \$7,925.80

Preakness 2020

The usual, second leg of the Triple Crown was bumped back at third because of the rescheduling and delays caused by the deadly virus. The win of Tiz the Law at Belmont Stakes in June and Authentic at Kentucky Derby early this September, meaning no Triple Crown on the line at the Preakness Stakes 2020 scheduled for October 3 at Pimlico Race Course, Baltimore.



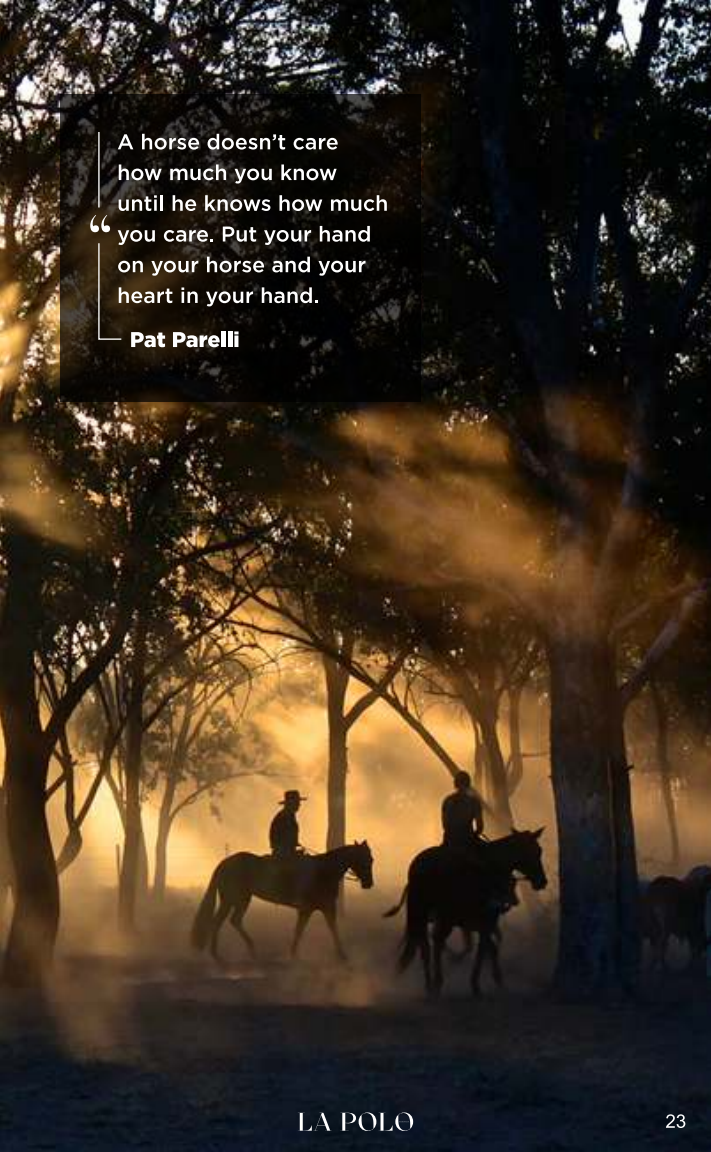
Image credit: Programming Insider

HEADING TO ASCOT



Image credit: Sky Sports

Golden Horde will be galloping speedily into the Qipco British Champions Sprint at Ascot scheduled for October after his promising run at the Betfair Sprint Cup. Clive Cox's three-year-old was outshining on his own on the far side of the race track and seized the second position as Dreams of Dreams took the honours of winning against Glen Shiel at Haydock last weekend.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of two riders on horseback silhouetted against a bright, hazy light filtering through a dense forest of tall trees. The scene is captured in a low-angle, backlit perspective, creating a dramatic and atmospheric effect. The quote is presented in a clean, white, sans-serif font within a dark rectangular box in the upper left quadrant.

A horse doesn't care
how much you know
until he knows how much
you care. Put your hand
on your horse and your
heart in your hand.

Pat Parelli

BEYOND



The Fedora has been a fashion statement for over a century. How did the trend start? And how did it become a sensation with legendary cinema icons? A close look.

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CLASSICS

Jaeger Lecoultre's Reverso: SUSTAINING THE STROKE OF THE MALLET

Through all its modifications, LeCoultre has kept its legendary roots intact and never fails to excite customers with innovation!



Polo is the epitome of elegance. But only professional players truly understand the extremities of the sport. Players require accessories, like watches which promise durability. Jaeger LeCoultre's legendary watch Reverso arose out of a similar practical requirement. The name Reverso, in Latin means, "I turn around".

THE HISTORY

In the 1930-31 winter, a group of polo players went to Swiss businessman and watch-dealer Cesar de Trey, asking him to create a time-pie that could withstand the brutality of the polo mallet. After applying his genius into the making of this historic watch, he sent the request to Jacques David LeCoultre. The French designer, Rene Alfred Chauvot, who was vested with the task of the development of this new watch case dropped the usual idea of applying a protective grill on top (a technology that was used for the WW1 military watches) and instead curated a reversible case to protect the dial and glass of the watch.





FORMULATING THE IDEA

Trey returned to Paris, where he partnered with Jacques David LeCoultre, owner of the LeCoultre Manufacture at that time. They sought to find a solution to the challenge made to him and contracted French designer, Rene Alfred Chauvot, the actual inventor of the slide and flip mechanism.

The immediate idea they concluded upon was a watch that could flip the case around. The ingenious Reverso with its rotating case was created on

March 4, 1931, in order to prove handy for polo matches. The dial could be firmly protected by reversing the case, and with a back that assured protection of the dial from brutal mallet strokes. It bore tracks on the top and the bottom of the case which allowed it to be popped out and innovatively titled up like the cover of a book, slid across the tracks, and flipped over.

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
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