



FIP
MAGAZINE
by ClickPolo



POLO'S OLYMPIC LEGACY REVIVED



Pascal Renaudon - R&B Presse



In a historic clash at Chantilly, the USA defeated France in the Paris Games Polo Challenge, celebrating polo history and the enduring spirit of the 1924 Olympics



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September 2024

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Remembering Patrick Guerrand-Hermes



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SINCE 1890

Congratulations

USA 🇺🇸 🏇 🇫🇷 France for making history
at the Paris Games Polo Challenge!





REFLECTING ON A HISTORIC PARIS GAMES POLO CHALLENGE

BY PIERO DILLIER
PRESIDENT FEDERATION OF
INTERNATIONAL POLO

As we look back on the Paris Games Polo Challenge 2024, it's with great pride and gratitude that we celebrate this remarkable event. The Federation of International Polo, in collaboration with the Fédération Française de Polo, the United States Polo Association (USPA), and USPA Global, successfully brought to life a centennial commemoration that will be remembered for years to come. Hosted at the magnificent Chantilly Polo Club, this event was not only a tribute to the 1924 Paris Olympics but also a powerful testament to the enduring legacy of polo.

The match between the USA and France transcended mere competition; it was a symbolic reconnection of the sport with its rich Olympic history. The anticipation and excitement leading up to the game were matched only by the exceptional display of skill and sportsmanship on the field. The USA's victory over France was a fitting culmination to a match that captured the imagination of polo enthusiasts around the world.

This event was more than a game; it was a celebration of polo's global reach and its capacity to unite people across cultures and generations. The inclusion of female players on each team further highlighted the sport's commitment to inclusivity and progress, adding another layer of significance to this historic occasion.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the USPA for their steadfast partnership and to the Fédération Française de Polo for their gracious hospitality. The success of this event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of all the players, organizers, and countless individuals who contributed to making this celebration a reality.

As we move forward, we carry with us the spirit of this event—a reminder of polo's illustrious past and a beacon for its future. The Paris Games Polo Challenge 2024 has not only honored a century of polo but has also set the stage for the next hundred years of this extraordinary sport.

ERIC TRIUMPH: CHALLENGE 2024



Thank you for being a part of this
momentous journey.

“ ”

AUGUST 7TH, 2024, IS HISTORIC FOR POLO

by Carlos Beer

CLICKPOLO

In the wake of the individual show jumping final won by Germany's Christian Kukuk, the last equestrian competition of Paris 2024, the magic of Olympism continued today at the Chantilly Polo Club with the "rematch" of the opening game of the 1924 Paris Olympics tournament, which saw France and the USA go head-to-head. Thus concluded the best way for polo to attend the Olympic Games. The action does not stop; there is still more polo to come. That was the message.

It was a rematch that, while France was unable to avenge the 15-1 defeat from 100 years ago, showcased a team that has grown in strength and determination. The French players demonstrated remarkable skill and resilience, closing the gap to a more gratifying score of 10-7 in what was a truly respectable match. Their performance highlighted not only the progress of French polo but also the enduring spirit of sportsmanship that defines these centennial commemorations.

This event would not have been possible without the exceptional organization by France, whose efforts ensured that the spirit of the 1924 Olympics was honored

with dignity and grandeur. The Chantilly Polo Club provided a magnificent stage for this historic encounter, blending tradition with the modern elegance of the sport. The four young Americans—Quinn Evans, Hope Arellano, Nicolas Escobar, and Cody Ellis—alongside the French players Elena Venot, Dorian Bulteau, Julien Reynes, and Clément Delfosse, will all go down in history, not solely because of their participation in this significant match, but for being part of an exhibition where Polo once again took its place alongside the Olympic spirit. Both teams, with their exceptional performances, embodied the essence of this commemorative event.

Truth be told, polo as a collective will remember this day. It is history in the making, not just for the victors but for all who contributed to this momentous occasion. We hope that this marks the beginning of a new era for Polo and the Olympic Games, one where the sport can continue to thrive and inspire across borders.



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THE 2024 PARIS GAMES POLO CHALLENGE: A HISTORIC MATCH UNFOLDS

The 2024 Paris Games Polo Challenge, hosted at the prestigious Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly, offered a remarkable spectacle that captured the essence of the sport and the Olympic spirit. The event, which paid homage to the 1924 Paris Olympics polo tournament, saw the United States and France face off in a highly anticipated rematch. Despite the passage of a century, the competitive fire burned just as fiercely on the field, with the match unfolding in a manner befitting its historic significance.

The Chantilly Polo Club, draped in the vibrant colors of the French and American flags, provided an idyllic setting for this centennial celebration. As Europe's largest polo club, it stood as a fitting venue for such a momentous occasion, which not only honored the legacy of the 1924 tournament but also showcased the modern evolution of the sport.

From the opening chukker, it was clear that this would be no ordinary match. France, eager to avenge the lopsided defeat of a century ago, showed a level of determination and resilience that kept the game intensely competitive through the first three periods. Clément Delfosse, France's captain, struck first, setting the tone with a solo effort that was quickly matched by Quinn Evans for the USA. This pattern of back-and-forth scoring kept the spectators on the edge of their seats, as the teams remained deadlocked at 5-5 by the end of the third chukker.

However, it was in the fourth chukker that the American team, leveraging their experience and strategic depth, began to pull away. Nico Escobar, the match's standout player, showcased his prowess with a series of decisive goals that ultimately secured the United States a 10-7 victory. Escobar's performance was instrumental, not only in terms of ►

PARIS GAMES POLO CHALLENGE 2024



PARIS GAMES POLO CHALLENGE 2024







scoring but also in orchestrating the flow of the game, earning him the title of Most Valuable Player (MVP).

France, despite the loss, could take pride in their valiant effort. Players like Dorian Bulteau and Julien Reynes were pivotal in keeping the game close, demonstrating skill and composure under pressure. Elena Venot, who along with Hope Arellano represented the female contingent on the field, played a crucial role in maintaining the intensity and spirit of the match. ►

The match's conclusion saw individual honors awarded, with Nico Escobar's mare, Open Amapola, receiving the Best Playing Pony (BPP) award. The 12-year-old mare, bred by the renowned Ellerstina, exemplified the pinnacle of equine athleticism and contributed significantly to Escobar's commanding performance.

 Pascal Renaudon - R&B Presse



As the dust settled on the field of honor, the 2024 Paris Games Polo Challenge was not merely a rematch of a historical game but a celebration of the sport's enduring appeal. The camaraderie between the two teams and the passion of the players and spectators alike made this event a resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the annals of polo history. With plans already underway for another encounter in 2025, the legacy of this extraordinary match will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations of polo enthusiasts. ■





ACTION!

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JULIO ARELLANO, COACH USA TEAM

It was an amazing event organized by the French Polo Federation, USPA, and USPA Global Licensing. The chance to mark 100 years and to be in France during the Olympics made it unique, and to be the coach made it tremendous.

More than the victory for the U.S. team, I believe it was a victory for all polo, enhancing its exposure as a sport, and a brand and bringing awareness to the Chantilly Polo Club. I would like to thank Michael Prince, Stewart Armstrong, and Benoit Perrier for making it a reality. In preparation for the event, I was able to use two international games in Wellington, Florida, at the National Polo Center to try different players and combinations. Then we were able to get everyone together the week before in California for two practice games. All team members were able to attend and the Santa Barbara Polo Club, Luis Escobar, and locals helped organize the practices.

The level of play, the field conditions, the hospitality of the French team, and the horses on both teams were great. I have to thank my brother, Carlucho Arellano, for getting the horses organized for us with Jota Chavanne.

It was such a success and so well done that I went ahead and told everyone involved that we should reciprocate and host the French team in Wellington, Florida!





HOPE ARELLANO, USA TEAM



To be able to represent the United States in this game was incredibly special. It was an honor to be part of something so historical! Playing at the same time as the Paris Olympic Games made it especially unique and special.

It was my first time in France—and the French were all such welcoming and wonderful hosts! The club was stunning and it was all around a beautiful atmosphere. In the fourth chukker, we all finally clicked and we really tightened up with our men which allowed whoever had the ball more time.

Our team was in the best spirits the whole time, each day was so fun, we never stopped laughing. It means so much to be part of a team like that, it makes you want to work harder for your teammates! The entire experience was so memorable!

 Eva Jakovle

NICOLAS ESCOBAR, USA TEAM

It was an amazing honor as always to represent my country, but to play in that historical match was an amazing experience that I will never forget. To play in such an important match With the historical background of the Olympics being played 100 years ago in Paris Is a game that will forever be remembered.

The club is an amazing venue with beautiful Barns and well-kept fields. I could not ask for a better place to play. We also had an amazing group of supporters there which helped with the atmosphere of the game.

The big difference in the game was made in the second half as we were able to double the horses that we played in the first half. That being said, we knew the horses more in the second half and were able to secure the game. My favorite moments of the match were all of the second half when our team was in a flow state, there was no doubt in my mind that we were losing the game.

My biggest takeaway was being able to be a part of such an amazing experience with good teammates, coaches, and friends. It was great to play in front of such a large audience in France.



MATTIHEU DELFOSSE, COACH FRANCE TEAM

As the coach of the French team, both male and female, I find it very important to be able to play international test matches. We have many young players with little experience, and it is crucial for them to gain international exposure against players from other countries and of different levels.

In the European and World Championships, we have often arrived somewhat unprepared and lacking experience. In that sense, the Paris Games Polo Challenge was incredible, especially for players like Elena, Julien, and Dorian, who had the chance to live such an experience. My brother Clement is from another generation and is more accustomed to this level. It was an incredible experience overall. Before this, there was a test match between France and the "Rest of the World," and for the four girls who played, it was their first time representing the country. All of this helps us improve.

The preparation was short because we were in the middle of the season here. Elena and Clement were playing elsewhere, so we had to rent horses. Although Julien and Dorian were better organized, we didn't have much time to practice together.

We found a way to play that was different from what we had initially planned. Clement ended up playing in the back because he didn't have the horses to go forward, and we wanted Elena to play in the middle, but she ended up playing as number 1. In the end, the best-mounted players ended up playing in the middle. We had to adapt to what we could do rather than the natural position of each player.

I think we played quite well in the match. We were tied until the fourth chukker, then they took the lead, and we were able to close the gap at the end. We must highlight the level of the American team; they played really well.

The context was incredible, and I loved that it was held at the same time as the Olympic Games, which added an extra flavor to the event.

 Justine Jacquemot



ELENA VENOT, FRANCE TEAM

 Eva Jakovle



It was an honor to be part of this event. As a commemoration of the 1924 Olympic Games and Right during the actions happening next door in Paris, it was great seeing spectators with flags taking part in the game.

Playing a game like this with friends and representing France in my home club of Chantilly was very nice. The atmosphere with no pressure, just having fun doing our best and putting on a nice and fun show for the public to watch was the most important.

The ambiance was festive and sunny people came with smiles and had flags to support both teams. We were lucky to play on field Honor one in Chantilly. We knew they had more experience playing together and mostly playing this level of polo as four good players in a team. We were mostly without our horses, as we were all playing in other tournaments elsewhere at the same time. It's always tougher with legs that we know less or not at all... We put all our good horses in the first three chukkers, ended up 5-5 at halftime and the job was not bad at this point. Then we made a few fouls that probably cost us the game. But we enjoyed the experience for sure.

These games are fun to play, you meet new people and have dinner with the opposite team. It was well organized and had a friendly spirit. Representing France is very enjoyable and I would love to travel more doing so!

DORIAN BULTEAU, FRANCE TEAM

 Eva Jakovle



Participating in the 2024 Paris Games Polo Challenge, 100 years after the last edition, was truly an honor for me as a representative of my country, France. I experienced this commemoration, through its organization, atmosphere, and sportsmanship, as the beginnings of an Olympic event.

Its symbolic nature, its occurrence during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, with an organization worthy of a high-level international sporting event. The uniqueness of this USA-France match also stems from the limited opportunities to play intercontinental tournaments with a fully American team.

The atmosphere was inevitably very special, as it took place at the club where I developed and progressed throughout my polo career, to which I am strongly attached. It was also very important to me to play at home for France, and for it to take place in Chantilly, an iconic polo venue in Europe founded by Patrick Guérard-Hermès, who honored us with his presence.

We objectively felt some apprehension about playing against this very combative American team, trained to play high-goal polo. It was a great challenge to keep the score as close as possible!

The event was admirably organized by all stakeholders, and I personally felt a great sense of honor in participating, with immense pleasure as the result. I would indeed like to see more opportunities to organize international matches, with forms of partnerships between teams, clubs, and federations, thus promoting diversity in intercontinental play and strengthening the polo community.



CLEMENT DELFOSSE, FRANCE TEAM

Participating in the Paris Games Polo Challenge was something very special for me, firstly because I had the chance to wear the French jersey again and play for my country, and secondly because it happened during the Olympic Games. I had never experienced the Olympics so closely before, and commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first Paris Olympics was a historic moment. I felt a very special energy, and being able to live through this was something unique for me.

I've played several matches and tournaments for France, each with its own particularity. The match against the USA was a bit different, with less pressure than in a European or World Championship, for example. I saw this opportunity as a gift and tried to enjoy this unique moment as much as possible. I will remember this event as something very positive for polo and sports in general.

The atmosphere was incredible. One thing that the U.S. Polo Assn. and Chantilly did very well was organizing the match as if it were a World Championship final, so everything, from

the crowd to the match itself, was super organized. A lot of people came, all cheering and filled with joy. I believe it was a true success for Chantilly polo and for the sport in general.

We started the match quite well, but in the fourth chukker, we made a couple of mistakes that allowed the United States to gain the upper hand. At this level, it's the small details that make the difference, and in this case, it was in their favor. The United States is an experienced team; they reached the final of the last World Championship, so we have to congratulate them on their victory.

These matches are always great because they help us remember those who developed our sport in the past; to see where polo was before and where it is now. These are very different times, but without the past, we wouldn't have the polo we have today. It's good to revisit our roots. It's wonderful to experience these moments to ensure that polo continues to be both a celebration and a game.

 **Eva Jakovle**



FRANCE TEAM

 Eva Jakovle



USA TEAM

 Eva Jakovle







JEAN-ÉDOUARD MAZERY, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH POLO FEDERATION

Dear Friends,

2024 has been an extraordinary year for France as we proudly host the Olympic Games. In the spirit of this global celebration of sport, the French Polo Federation had the immense honor of organizing the Paris Games Polo Challenge on August 7th. This prestigious event, which took place during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, was supported by U.S. Polo Assn., the International Polo Federation (FIP), and the United States Polo Association (USPA). Held at the magnificent Chantilly Polo Club, the headquarters of our federation, this exceptional event was a unique opportunity for the French team to take on the American team amidst the Olympic atmosphere.

The Paris Games Polo Challenge was not just a celebration; it was a pivotal moment to showcase the qualities of French polo and promote our sport on the world stage. It was a great pleasure to celebrate Franco-American friendship, especially as I have an American grandmother and a great-uncle who

designed Washington. The event offered a significant platform to demonstrate the professionalism of French players, the exceptional quality of our horses, and the world-class infrastructure at the Chantilly Polo Club—a dream realized by Patrick Guerrand Hermès. Patrick sadly passed away the day after this wonderful event took place, and I am deeply moved that he was able to preside over this magnificent occasion, which saw the American and French teams celebrate the great unity and friendship between our two countries and among all polo players.

Reflecting on the historical significance of this event, it is incredible to think that 100 years ago, these two teams met as part of the Olympic Games. To be able to meet again in France during the Olympics at Chantilly, the largest polo club in Europe, in collaboration with the U.S. Polo Assn and the USPA, was truly a dream come true. The match, which featured women in both teams, highlighted the growing importance of ►





women's polo globally—an aspect we are committed to promoting further. This event was also a reminder of how much polo has evolved over the last century, and it underscored the importance of continuing to develop the sport for future generations.

This event benefited greatly from the Olympic atmosphere and the extensive communication surrounding it, and I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks to Michael Prince and the entire U.S. Polo Assn. team, who initiated this project with the Chantilly Polo Club team under the auspices of the FIP. The presence of ESPN, which captured the event, was also a tremendous asset, enabling us to showcase this incredible match to a global audience. Our discipline, now easier to film and explain in an educational way, is gaining visibility and accessibility, which will help democratize polo and grow our professional sport.

Looking to the future, the Paris Games Polo Challenge is laying the groundwork for more international events in 2025 and 2026. France is also bidding to host the European Zone qualifiers for the World Arena Championships in 2025 and the World Arena Championships in 2027. Discussions are already underway with the United States, Argentina, England, and other European countries to establish a regular calendar of such events. These competitions are vital for the continued promotion and professionalization of our sport.

The future of polo in France is bright. With over 1,000 players and more than

30 clubs, including high-goal tournaments hosted by the Chantilly Polo Club, the Deauville Polo Club, and La Baule Polo Club, French polo is gaining prominence on the international stage. The success of the Paris Games Polo Challenge highlights the quality of French players, our horses, and our infrastructure. We must now focus on the growth of arena polo, which is set to expand significantly, especially given the weather conditions, and will facilitate greater access to the sport.

Alongside the professionalization of the sport, the development of top infrastructures, women's polo, and youth polo are our biggest challenges in the coming years.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the Paris Games Polo Challenge possible—from the Chantilly Polo Club teams who prepared the field all the American and French players who magnificently showcased the values of polo, the players who brought their best horses, our generous partners, in particular U.S. Polo Assn, to the FIP and the USPA, who have supported this idea from the outset. The warmth, friendship, and sporting spirit we experienced during this magnificent event are what make polo truly special. As we move forward, we must continue to pass the ball—not just on the field, but in life. We must pass on our ideas, our ambitions, and our dreams to the next generation, ensuring that polo continues to thrive and grow for another hundred years and beyond.

Together, let's write the history of French polo by giving it roots and wings!

CARLUCHO ARELLANO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF USPA SERVICES DIVISION



Participating in the Paris Games Polo Challenge was a tremendous honor for polo, particularly for the United States. This prestigious event provided a unique opportunity to showcase polo to a global audience in a country hosting the most celebrated international sports competition. It also served as a significant nod to the sport's historical connection with the Olympics. In every sense, it was a privilege and a moment of pride for the sport and the nation.

The overall experience was exceptionally positive. We forged a strong connection with Jota Chavanne, who was instrumental in providing and securing a solid string of horses. The hospitality extended by the French Polo Federation, particularly by Benoit Perrier, was outstanding and greatly appreciated.

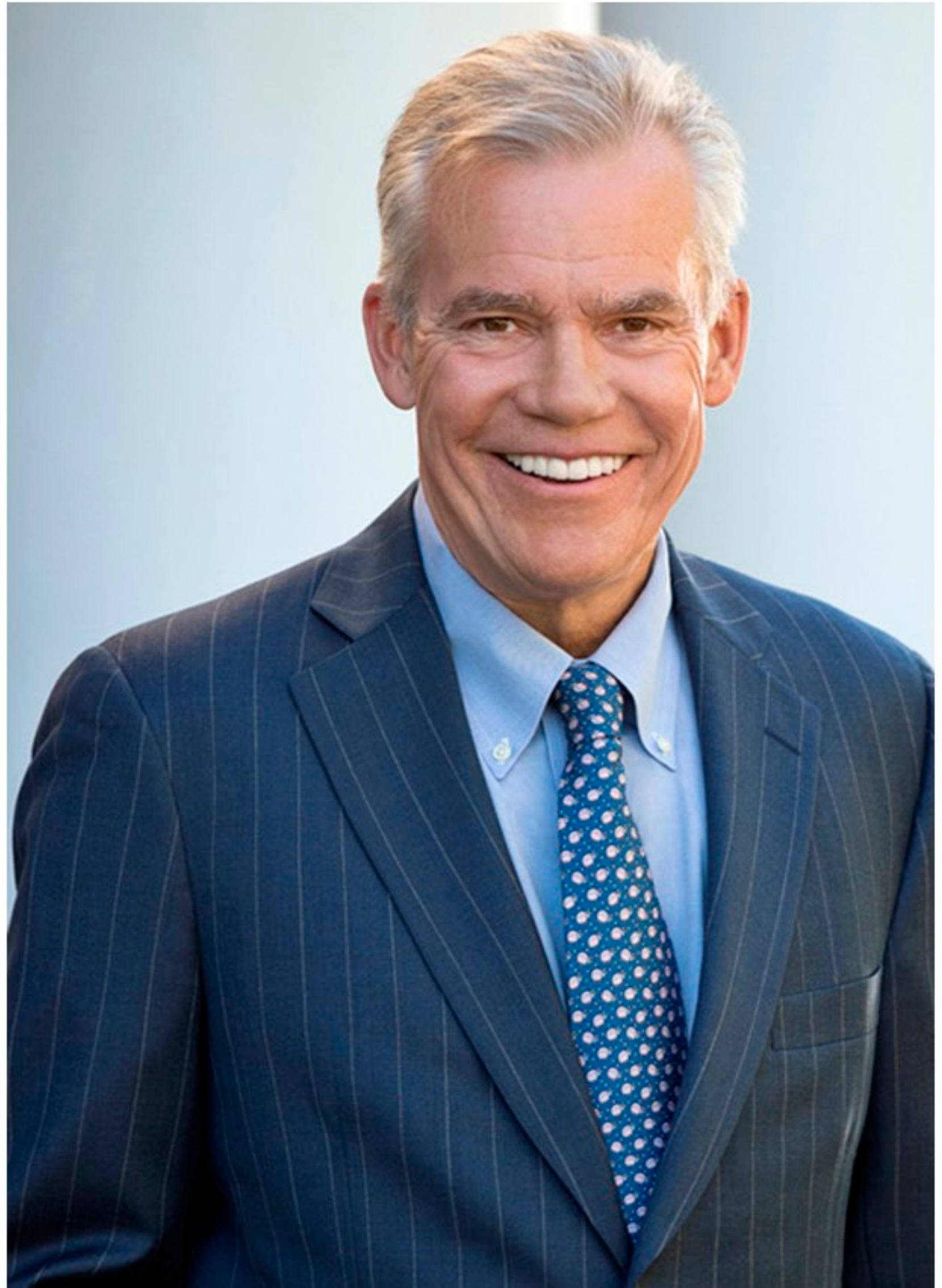
The team came together using two international events hosted at the National Polo Center in Wellington, Florida, as tryout opportunities. From there, they traveled to Santa Barbara, California, before the event to have two practices together. Having built familiarity during the tryouts and reinforced it through consistent coaching, the players developed strong camaraderie and chemistry.

The event garnered interest from both the polo community and a broader audience unfamiliar with the sport, particularly due to its association with the Olympics. We would love to host a rematch and reciprocate the hospitality we received from the French Polo Federation. Participating and winning this event has brought more awareness to the U.S. polo team. We are constantly in communication with other countries to try to organize new international events or revive prior international matches with historic significance.

CHRIS GREEN

USPA CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER & GENERAL COUNSEL

Events like the Paris Games Polo Challenge afford the USPA the opportunity to assemble its rising young players to compete together against their international counterparts in historically important locations and highly competitive events. International competition like this enhances their playing skills, requires them to work together as a team, support each other on and off the field, and it exposes them to playing styles, field conditions, and rule nuances with which they may not be familiar. All of these experiences are important in developing the next generation of top American players, an endeavor to which the USPA is committed.



J. MICHAEL PRINCE

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF USPA GLOBAL LICENSING

It was an incredibly rewarding experience to see the U.S. Polo Assn. play a central role in the Paris Games Polo Challenge, alongside the United States Polo Association (USPA), the Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly, the Federation of

International Polo (FIP), and the Federation Française de Polo (FFP). Being the Official Title and Apparel Sponsor allowed us to showcase our brand on a global stage and support the sport of polo and the polo community internationally. ►





The Paris Games Polo Challenge 2024 holds a special significance for us, particularly reflecting on the historical relevance of the 1924 Paris Olympics, which makes this event the centennial celebration and tribute to the last time France hosted the Olympics, 100 years ago. This once-in-a-lifetime event was a FIP-sanctioned tribute match between the USA and France, where more than 2,000 fans attended the notable Olympic-inspired polo game, bridging the heritage of the sport and this iconic historical event to a global audience.

The sport of polo is the DNA of the U.S. Polo Assn. brand. This deeply rooted connection shapes our identity and values, influencing how we approach partnerships and sponsorships globally. Events like the Paris Games Polo Challenge, the U.S. Open Polo Championship, the U.S. Open Women's Championship, and the British Open Polo Championship for the Cowdray Gold Cup, among many others help bridge our authentic connection to the sport of polo and its rich tradition to sports fans and our consumers worldwide.

U.S. Polo Assn.'s leadership and support of events like the Paris Games Polo Challenge and the others mentioned above help elevate the profile of polo worldwide. Our brand has a multi-billion-dollar global footprint and worldwide distribution through more than 1,100 U.S. Polo Assn. retail stores that offer apparel, accessories, and footwear for men, women, and children in more than 190 countries. The sport-inspired brand also has a multi-year deal with

ESPN to broadcast several of the premier polo championships in the world, including the Paris Games Polo Challenge 2024. Whether you're a fan of the brand or a fan of the sport, there's something for everyone at these incredible sport-inspired events positively impacting millions of fans around the world.

When deciding to sponsor major polo events, we consider many factors all centered around our integral mission that supports and nurtures the sport of polo and its heritage. We consider the event's alignment with our brand values and strategic growth from a marketplace perspective, the impact on the polo community, and the potential to reach a broader audience and share the sport and the brand to create new fans of both.

The partnership with the Paris Games Polo Challenge was a natural progression of our ongoing commitment to support the sport of polo, both in the United States and internationally. When we discussed the idea with FIP, USPA, FFP, and the Polo Club de Domaine de Chantilly, everyone was on board from day one. We have had a relationship with the Polo Club de Domaine de Chantilly for the last few years and they were amazing to partner with on this event.

Having the Paris Games Polo Challenge, among several other top national and international games throughout the year, broadcast on ESPN is a significant milestone, not just for U.S. Polo Assn., but for the sport as well. It not only highlights the thrilling sport where men

and women play on the same teams, as well as their polo pony teammates, but also showcases the lifestyle moments of the sport that fans enjoy, such as the divot stomp, families, polo dogs, and chic outfits in the crowd. Providing both sports and lifestyle content on the world's leading sports entertainment platform is amazing for awareness of the game. The Paris Games Polo Challenge match had such huge interest that ESPN ran one of the viewings during primetime, replacing another high-profile sports event.

I was truly honored to be able to award Nico Escobar the MVP of the Paris Games Polo Challenge alongside Mr. Patrick Guerrand-Hermes one of the true gentlemen and visionaries of the sport

Looking ahead, U.S. Polo Assn. is dedicated to continuing our support and promotion of the sport of polo, both domestically and internationally. This year we have Sotogrande International Polo in Spain and the Berlin Maifeld Cup which we are excited to sponsor again. Coming up in 2025, we kick off the high-goal polo season at the USPA National Polo Center (NPC) in Palm Beach County, Florida from January through April, culminating in the U.S. Open Championship® Final. We continue to support the Westchester Cup in the U.K. as well as polo youth with the National Intercollegiate Championships (NIC) and our Annual College Partnership Program (CPP). Finally, 2025 is the United States Polo Association's (USPA) 135th Anniversary, so there will be other exciting sport-inspired events and celebrations throughout the year as well. The future of



the sport and the brand has never been brighter. ■



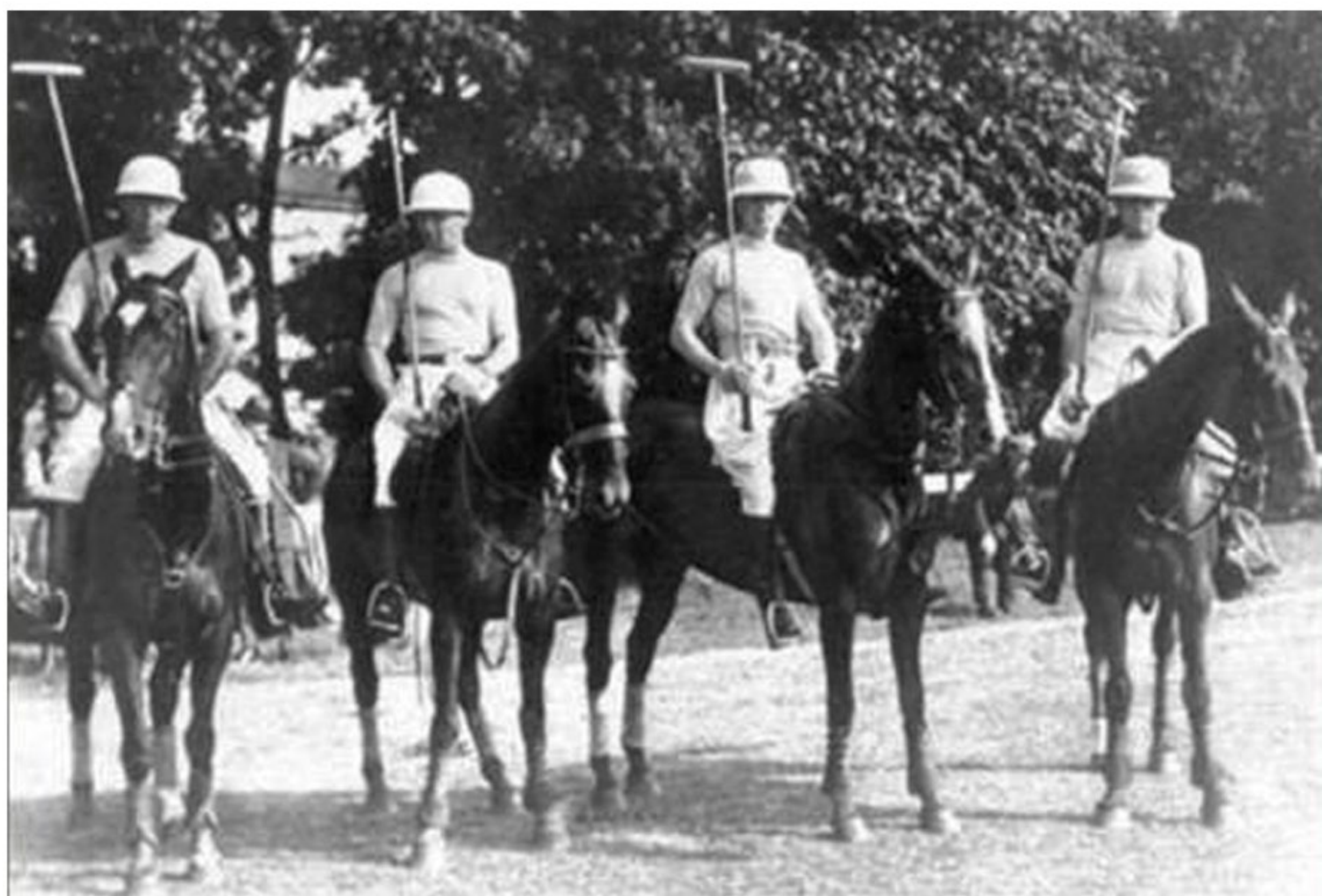
The Legacy of Polo in the Olympic Games: From 1924 to 2024

Polo holds a unique place in the annals of the Olympic Games. Although its time on the Olympic stage was brief, the impact of those early tournaments, particularly the 1924 Paris Games, continues to echo within the global polo community. As we approach the centenary of this historic event, it is fitting to reflect on the legacy of polo in the Olympics and the significance of the 2024 Paris Games Polo Challenge, a match designed to honor this rich heritage.

Polo's first foray into the Olympic Games occurred in 1900, during the Paris Games, a time when the modern Olympics were still in their infancy. The inclusion of polo was a natural fit; the sport, with its deep historical roots and aristocratic appeal, mirrored the international spirit that the Olympics sought to cultivate. Teams from France, Mexico, Spain, and the United States competed in that inaugural Olympic polo tournament, with Great Britain taking the gold medal. This victory not only marked a milestone for British polo but also highlighted the sport's global reach, as it brought together players and horses from across continents to compete on the world stage. ►







The sport returned to the Olympics in 1908 in London, where it once again showcased the prowess of the British teams. However, it was the 1920 Antwerp Games that saw a significant shift, with Argentina emerging as a dominant force in international polo. Argentina's gold medal win in Antwerp set the stage for what would become one of the most iconic moments in Olympic polo history—the 1924 Paris Games.

The 1924 Paris Games were pivotal, not just for polo but for the broader Olympic movement. Held at the historic Bagatelle Polo Club, the tournament attracted some of the best polo talent in the world. Teams from Argentina, the United States, Great Britain, and Spain battled fiercely, each seeking to etch their name into the history books.

Argentina's victory in Paris was nothing short of legendary. In a match that is still discussed with reverence, Argentina narrowly defeated the United States 6-5, securing their place as the reigning champions of the sport. The Argentine team's skill, strategy, and sheer determination were on full display, and their triumph was celebrated not only as a victory for their nation but as a defining moment for polo itself.

This win solidified Argentina's status as a global polo powerhouse, a position they have maintained ever since. The 1924 tournament is often remembered as the pinnacle of Olympic polo, a competition where the sport's greatest players and horses converged to create an unforgettable spectacle.

Despite the success and excitement generated by the 1924 tournament, polo was excluded from subsequent Olympic Games. The reasons were varied: the logistics of transporting horses across continents, the increasing costs of hosting the games, and the shift in focus toward more accessible sports. Yet, the legacy of polo in the Olympics did not fade. Instead, it became a part of the sport's storied history, a chapter that continues to inspire players and fans alike.

In the years that followed, polo continued to evolve. New tournaments emerged, the sport spread to new regions, and its following grew. However, the absence of polo from the Olympics left a gap that many in the polo community have long felt. The memories of those early Olympic matches, especially the 1924 Paris Games, have lingered as a reminder of what the sport once achieved on the world's most prestigious stage.

The 2024 Paris Games Polo Challenge served as a bridge between past and present, connecting today's players and fans with the rich history of the sport. It is a reminder of how far polo has come since the days of the 1924 Paris Games and a testament to the lasting impact of those early Olympic tournaments.

For the Federation of International Polo and its members, this event was an opportunity to reflect on the sport's evolution and to honor the legacy of the players who competed nearly a century ago. The Challenge was also a chance to showcase the modern game, with all its ►

advancements in training, strategy, and horse breeding, while paying homage to the traditions that have shaped polo over the years.

The story of polo in the Olympic Games is one of both triumph and nostalgia. It is a tale of a sport that once graced the world's most prestigious athletic stage and left behind a legacy that continues to inspire. The 1924 Paris Games stand as a defining moment in this history, a time when the best in polo came together to create a spectacle that would be remembered for generations.

The 1936 Berlin Olympics marked the final appearance of polo as an official Olympic sport. This tournament was notable not only for its competitive spirit but also for the impressive performance of the Argentine team, who once again demonstrated their dominance in the sport. Held in the midst of a politically charged atmosphere, the 1936 Games saw Argentina defeat Great Britain 11-0 in the final match, securing their second Olympic gold medal in polo.

Despite the success of the 1936 Games, polo was not included in subsequent Olympics, marking the end of its official Olympic journey. The 2024 Paris Games Polo Challenge is not just a celebration of the past but a recognition of the sport's enduring appeal and its ability to unite players and fans across the globe. For the Federation of International Polo, it is an honor to commemorate this legacy and to continue to promote the sport's rich history and vibrant future. ■





A Historic Venue: The Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly

In 2024, as Paris celebrated the centennial of the 1924 Olympic Games, it was only fitting that the commemorative Paris Games Polo Challenge was held at a venue as rich in history and tradition as the event itself. The Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly, with its deep roots in the sport and its

picturesque setting, provided the perfect backdrop for this historic occasion. A century after polo graced the Olympic stage in Paris, this esteemed club once again brought the world's attention to the sport, reinforcing its legacy as a cornerstone of international polo. ►





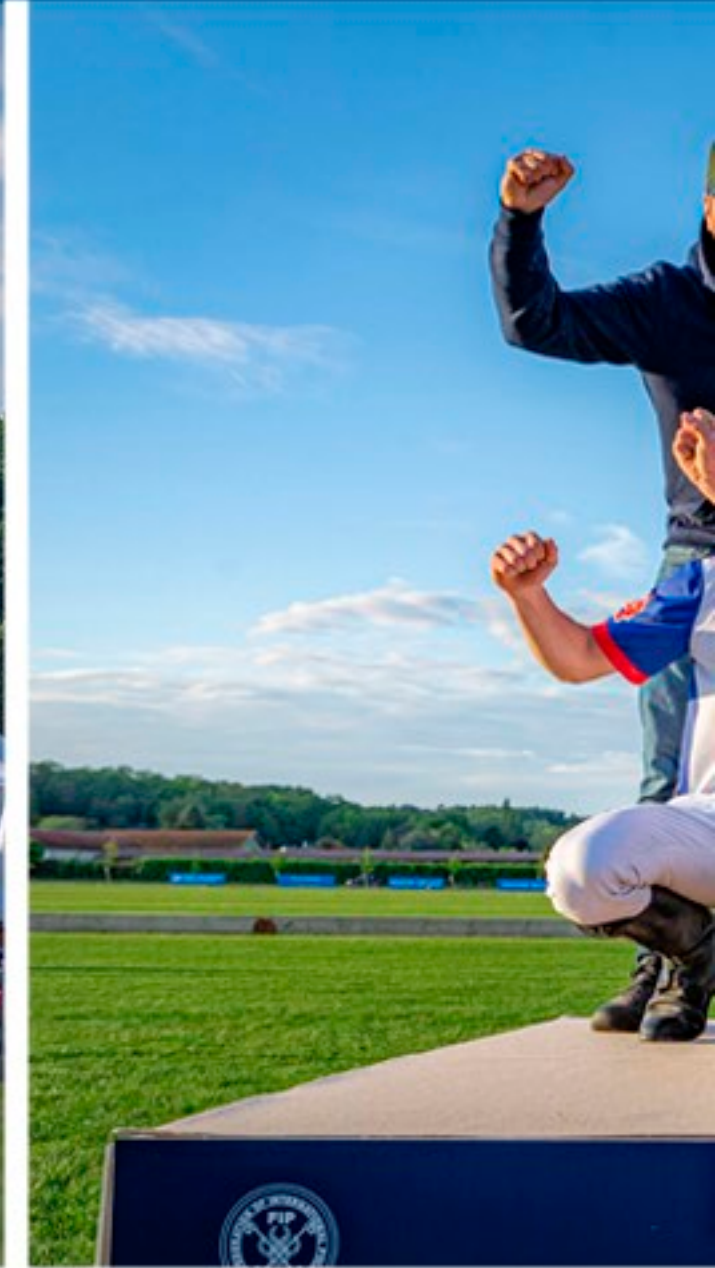




 Justine Jacquemot

The Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly, located in the serene countryside of Apremont, France, is a venue steeped in history and prestige. Established on lands originally chosen by Baron Robert de Rothschild in 1920, the club has evolved into one of the most significant polo destinations in Europe. The Baron, captivated by the area's ideal conditions for polo, laid the groundwork for what would become a world-renowned institution.

In 1995, Patrick Guerrand-Hermès, along with a group of passionate polo enthusiasts, secured a 50-year lease on the Apremont Farm, marking the official founding of the Chantilly Polo Club. The club's rapid development over the years is a testament to its commitment to excellence. From its inception, it has attracted top-tier players from around the globe, contributing to the growth and popularity of polo in France. ►





The club's infrastructure is a marvel in itself. Spanning over 205 hectares, the estate includes nine international-sized polo fields, state-of-the-art sand arenas, and extensive stabling facilities that can accommodate hundreds of horses. The club's setting, adjacent to the historic Chantilly forest, offers a picturesque backdrop for both players and spectators. The atmosphere during tournaments is unmatched, with a blend of luxury and tradition that brings to life the spirit of the Argentine pampa just 40 minutes from Paris.

Beyond its facilities, the Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly is a vibrant community, home to 420 players and a hub for international polo events. The club's dedication to promoting the sport is evident in its world-class competitions, including the prestigious French Open and various international tournaments that have put Chantilly on the global polo map. ■

Patrick Guerrand-Hermès: A Legacy of Passion and Polo



September 25, 1932 - August 13, 2024

The world of polo bids farewell to one of its most passionate advocates and influential figures, Patrick

Guerrand-Hermès, who passed away on August 13, 2024, at the age of 91. A man whose life was defined by his love for the sport, Patrick's commitment to polo was unwavering, playing until his final days.

The Federation of International Polo mourns the loss of Patrick

Guerrand-Hermès, a legend whose impact on the sport will be remembered forever. His dedication, leadership, and passion for polo have left an indelible mark on the global polo community, and his memory will continue to inspire future generations.

Born into the illustrious Hermès family, Patrick's legacy extends beyond the luxury brand that bears his name. His true passion, however, lay on the polo field. A visionary and a pioneer, Patrick was instrumental in the development and promotion of polo not only in France but also globally. His tenure as President

of the Federation of International Polo from 2007 to 2009 marked a period of significant growth and visibility for the sport.

Patrick's contributions to polo were vast and varied. In 1996, he founded the Polo Club du Domaine de Chantilly, transforming it into one of Europe's most prestigious clubs and the home of the French Open. This club, born from a vision shared with friends, became a cornerstone of French polo, attracting players and enthusiasts from around the world. Even at the age of 90, Patrick took to the field during a special tournament held in his honor, a testament to his enduring spirit and love for the game.

His influence extended beyond France. Patrick's deep connection to Morocco led him to establish the Royal Polo Club La Palmeraie, a stunning venue nestled between the dunes and the Atlantic Ocean. This club, much like Patrick himself, was built with a profound respect for the land and the sport, offering a tranquil yet vibrant environment where polo thrived. ►



 Eva Jakovle



Patrick's journey with polo began early, encouraged by his father, who introduced him to the sport in Paris. Over the decades, he nurtured this passion, not just as a player but as a mentor and leader in the polo community. His presidency at FIP saw him organizing international competitions, including the World Polo Championship in 2004 at Chantilly, further cementing his legacy as a driving force in the sport.

Though his achievements in business and his ties to the Hermès brand are noteworthy, it is Patrick's devotion to polo that will be most remembered by those who knew him. His life was a blend of elegance, ambition, and a deep love for the sport that gave him joy and purpose. Patrick's passing marks the end of an era, but his impact on the world of polo will endure, inspiring future generations to carry the torch of this noble sport. ►





 Justine Jacquemot



Patrick Guerrand-Hermès
is survived by his wife Martine,
his son Olaf, and grandchildren,
who will carry forward his legacy
of passion, elegance, and
unyielding spirit. ■





See you
on the next issue