Boundless Energy

Facts About Polo



MARTI MCGINNIS

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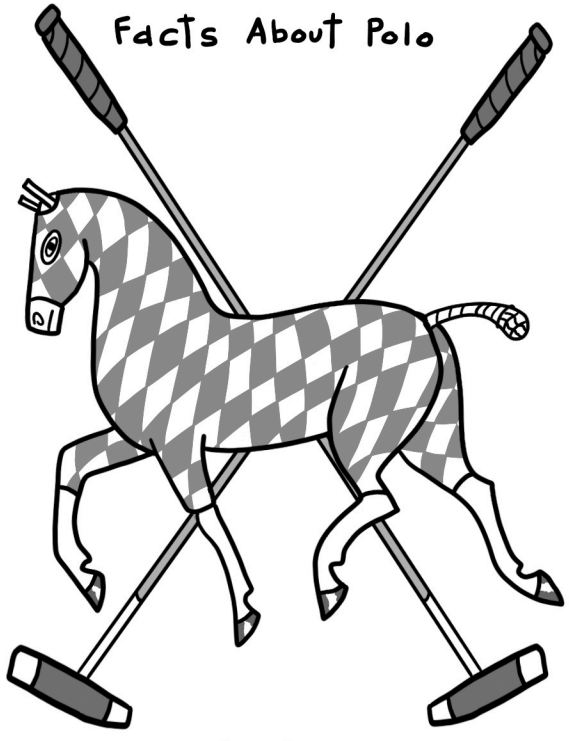


Marti McGinnis

What is a "Zine"?

Glad you asked. THIS is a zine. A small, self-published booklet.

These are often made to share an idea, an interest or simply a way of seeing the world.

I drew this little piece of my world to pass along to Yours.

That's it.

I hope you like it.
I'm making a whole series.
Stay in touch if you like.
Send me your email and I'll add you to my list.

MARA
MARTI

What is this Beautiful Madness?

Polo

Imagine soccer. Now put everyone on a horse, give them long handled mallets, and make the ball very, very small.

That's polo: four riders per team, one enormous field, and a tiny ball having the most eventful day of its life.



POLO HAS A PASSPORT

Polo is played around the world, with extra strong traditions in Argentina, Mexico, the U.S., Britain, India and many other countries.

The exciting energy of horses has broad appeal.





The horse is the half of the magic.

A great polo pony must accelerate, stop, turn, anticipate, and listen amid a whirlwind of horses and swinging mallets.

Fast is good. Fast and clever is even better.

Why Are They called Ponies?

They're horses! The name is a historical holdover, not a height requirement.

Modern polo ponies can be quite substantial athletes.

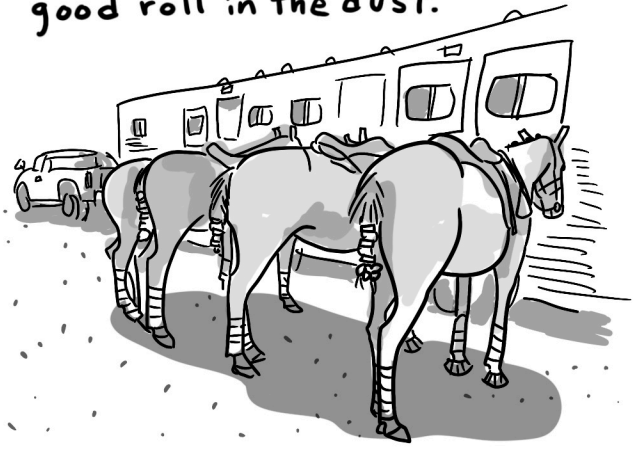


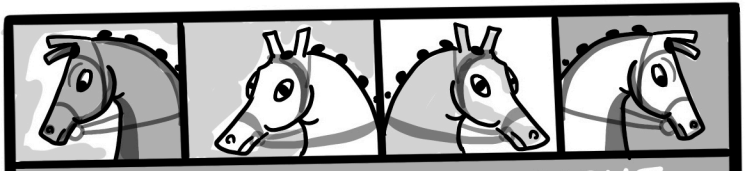
They're selected for speed, stamina, agility, intelligence, and the ability to turn swiftly.

One Rider A Whole Supporting Cast

Players change horses throughout a match, giving their mounts a chance to recover between periods of intense work.

Behind every rider is a team of equine athletes. It's rather like Formula One, if the cars needed hay and enjoyed a good roll in the dust.





Four Players

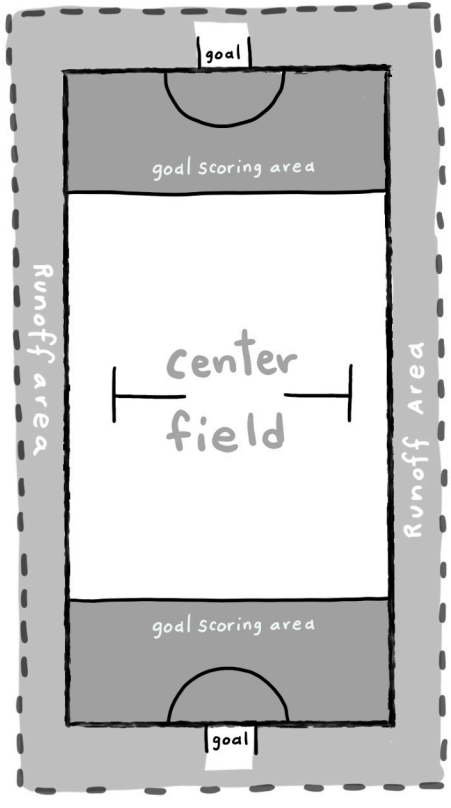
Eight Perspectives

Outdoor teams have four horse and rider partners, numbered 1-4. Their roles are:

1. Forward - striker
2. Midfielder - scrambler
3. General - Quarterback
4. Back - goal tender

The horses definitely have a point of view. Everyone wants to push the ball.

A Rather Large Playground



A regulation outdoor polo field is about 275 x 146 m - Nearly 4 hectares of grass.

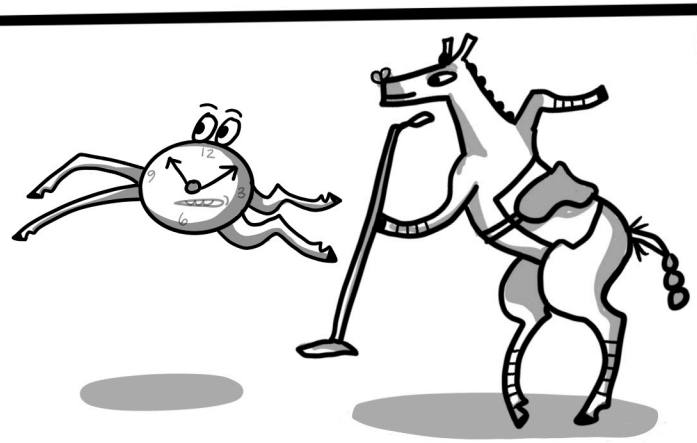
All that space. One little ball. Absolutely nowhere to hide.

The Mallet
A Horseman's Magic Wand

Long cane shaft.
Wooden head.

one very determined swing.

The player holds the reins in one hand and the mallet in the other, steering a galloping horse while aiming at a ball that has not agreed to cooperate.



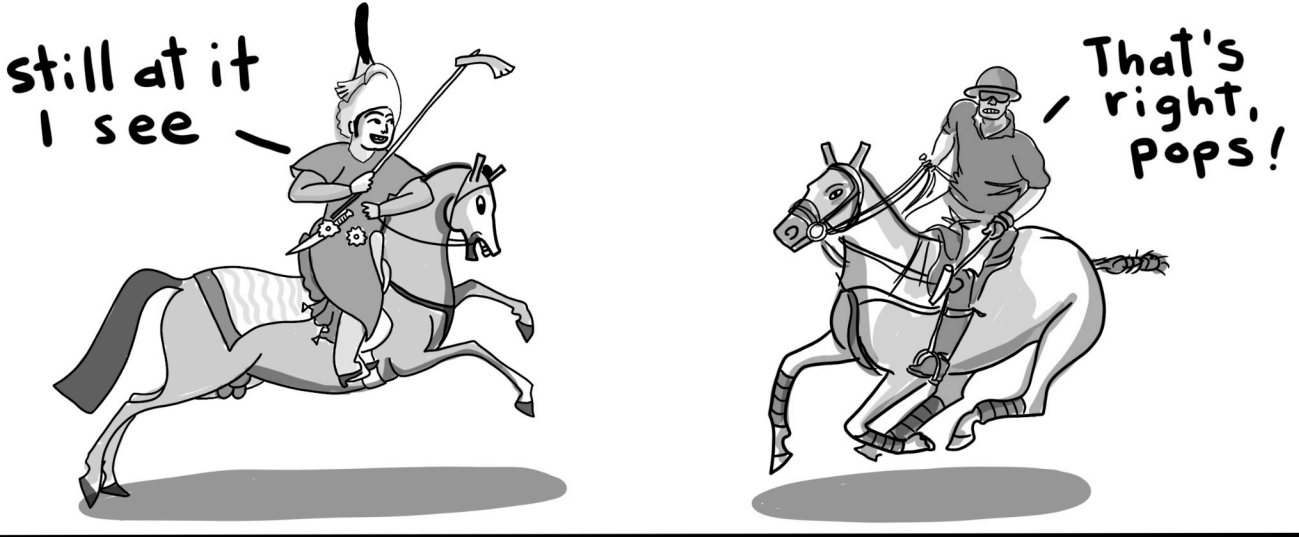
What The HecK is a ChuKKer?

A chuKKer is a period of play. A traditional full-length outdoor match has six chuKKers, each lasting up to seven minutes of actual play, plus time added for stoppages.

Seven minutes. Four horses per side. Several lifetimes' worth of excitement.

A Game With Ancient Roots

Polo's history stretches back more than 2,000 years, with early forms played across Persia and Central Asia.



Player Handicaps*

-1 Beginner
0 low rated player
.5-2 Developing to Intermediate
2.5-5 Experienced, competitive
5.5-7 High level player
7.5-9 Elite player
10 World class

* Federación Mexicana de Polo (FMP)

Team Handicaps

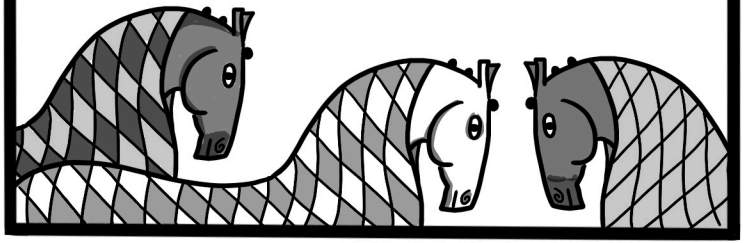
	Team A	Team B
Player 1	2	3
Player 2	3	4
Player 3	-1	2
Player 4	6	7
	10	16

Team B is rated 6 higher than A.
Team A starts the tournament with 6 goals before chukker #1

Join the Fun!

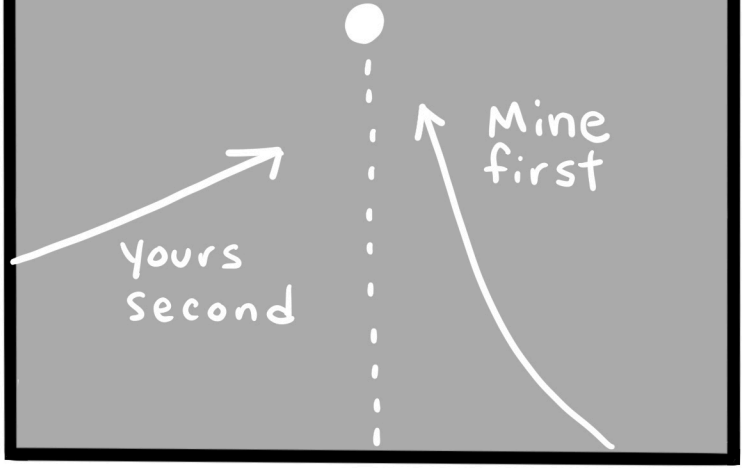
How Much to get Started as a Beginner

Category	Est. $ Range
4 Horses	$800,000+
Tack	$40,000+
Player gear	$50,000+
Horse Maintenance per month	$50,000+
Club Fees (month)	$8,000+
Truck + Trailer	~$1,000,000+



The Ball Has the Right-of-Way

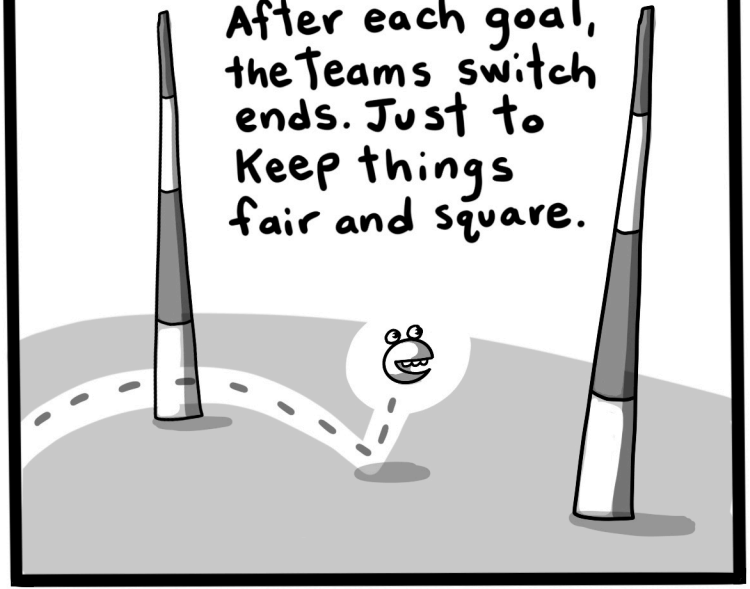
And whoever is situated to get to the ball with the smoothest line generally has the right of way, too.



How To Score a Goal

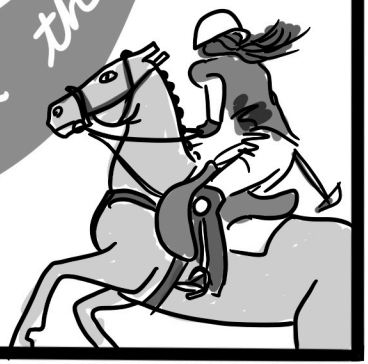
Simple! Just whack the ball between the goal posts. That's one point. The team with the most points at the end wins.

After each goal, the teams switch ends. Just to keep things fair and square.



Polo ain't just a boys' club. Women rip it out on the field too. Guts, passion, skill and finesse are all hallmarks of their tournaments and mixed matches. Horses don't care and the polo ball disrespects all genders equally.

Women at the Gallop...



The Divot Stomp

At halftime, spectators are often invited onto the field to press the chunks of turf kicked up by the horses back into place.

This is the Divot Stomp. At last, a sport where light landscaping in pricey shoes is a thing.

What's happening, mama?





Speed is Amazing. So is skill.

But there's Something extraordinary about the moment horse and human move as one.

May we always make room for curiosity, courage, some wildness, and the occassional magnificent gallop.

BOUNDLESS ENERGY

Ears flick.
Nostrils flair.
Ahead is flung.

The best polo partners communicate with energy and intension.

Let's Go man, Go!!!!!



the SECRET LANGUAGE of Horses

From Fast Galloping Contests

To Carefully Guided Guest Experiences

Horses are skilled athletes, and magic makers and dream fulfillers.

Yes, they accept our ribbons and trophies as naturally as they do our hearts and hopes.



Horses provide an almost limitless Grace to those who can appreciat it.

- Equine Therapy
- Equine Assisted Learning
- Natural Horsemanship
- Trail Riding
- And all the ways we can pursue excellence in partnering with them.




If we make the right choices we can find ways to be in their presence.
And we are always made better for it.


Hi, I'm Marti and I'm making a series of zines to give away.
This is one.
Others are coming.
more info:
happyart.com/zines