



Press Release

Perfect Start For Defending Champions Hong Kong China As Third Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup Gets Underway

01 October 2014, Tianjin – Twelve months ago, the polo stars of Hong Kong China were popping champagne corks on the podium at the Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club; today they galloped back into their stride once again, demolishing the USA by 13 goals to 6 in the opening game of the 2014 Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup.

One of the highest goal tournaments in world polo, the Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup is the jewel in the crown of China's rapidly developing international polo scene. Hong Kong China's victory will see them advance to Sunday's grand final to play either England or Argentina; USA will be fighting for third place in the subsidiary final on Saturday.

Under rainy skies and the eager eyes of spectators from China and beyond, players and officials took to the field for the opening ceremony of the third Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup. The emerald green polo field, lined with grandstands, crisp white event marquees and television cameras, was dressed for the occasion as the national anthems echoed off the luxury residences of Fortune Heights. A prestige collection of European-style villas and apartments, Fortune Heights has China's finest polo club at its heart, and towering above it all, the majestic Goldin Finance 117 building, soon to be crowned one of the world's tallest skyscrapers when completed in 2016.

Hong Kong China was sporting a changed line-up from last year: Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup veterans John Fisher and last year's Most Valuable Player (MVP)

TIANJIN GOLDIN METROPOLITAN POLO CLUB

天津环亚国际马球会

16 Hai Tai Hua Ke Jiu Lu Bin Hai Gao Xin Qu, Tianjin 300384, China 中国天津滨海高新区海泰华科九路16号, 邮编 300384

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John-Paul Clarkin were joined by six-goal Argentinean polo star Lucas Lalor, with Santiago Cernadas coming in as a late replacement for the injured Gaston Moore.

USA fielded a side that included eight-goal veteran Mike Azzaro, voted MVP at the inaugural Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup back in 2012 and one of an elite few athletes to hold the sport's highest handicap of ten goals for over ten years. Top pro and pin-up Nick Roldan, also playing off eight goals, was joined by Andres Weisz and Carlos Gracida Jr, son of the Mexican legend Carlos Gracida, who tragically passed away in February this year, just weeks after competing for his native Mexico as part of its first ever snow polo team at the FIP Snow Polo World Cup in Tianjin. The world of polo had lost a legend; the crowd reflected.

The game got underway with a quick exchange of penalties, John-Paul Clarkin rolling his home before USA's Nick Roldan calmly evened the odds from forty yards. After the restart, USA's number four Mike Azzaro picked out teammate Andres Weisz with a cannonball pass that sailed all of 60 yards, Weisz galloping between the posts to put his side ahead. The game was on.

The penalties continued to go Hong Kong China's way, however, Clarkin adding another two to put his side into the lead. But the best goal of the chukka came right at the bell, a rampant charge downfield and neatly cut shot by Santiago Cernadas, Hong Kong China leading by four goals to two after the first chukka.

Cernadas exploded into life again in the second chukka with another dashed goal, this time slotted sweetly inside the post from a tricky angle to stretch Hong Kong's lead. The game started to settle, and it wasn't until the final minute that the next goal came – another for John-Paul Clarkin, out-muscling his marker to roll it neatly over the line and put Hong Kong China in a commanding position.

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Trailing far behind in the third, USA needed a moment of inspiration, and Nick Roldan dutifully obliged, shooting from the boards at pace and overcoming the tightest of angles to score the goal of the game and give the USA fans something to cheer about. Newly energized, Carlos Gracida Jr. and Nick Roldan combined soon after to narrow the gap to two goals, trailing Hong Kong China by four goals to six. But USA's momentum was soon snuffed out by Hong Kong China, John Fisher scoring a brace of penalties to put his side ahead at the halfway mark, 8-4.

The next two chukkas were fractious and closely-fought, neither side finding much rhythm as rain continued to pelt the field. USA desperately fought to put points on the board, but Hong Kong China did their best to stifle their opponents as the seconds ticked away. At the end of the penultimate chukka, the scores were 11-6 to Hong Kong China.

Trailing by five goals, it would need a Herculean effort from the USA to get themselves back into the match. In fact, by throwing everything at Hong Kong, USA left themselves vulnerable to the counter attack. John-Paul Clarkin connected with Cernadas to make it an even dozen for Hong Kong China. And right at the death, Cernadas scored again to claim his fifth of the match, Hong Kong China sealing a comfortable victory 13 – 6 .

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Daily polo matches are contested as follows:

Wednesday, 1 October 2014

Result: Hong Kong, China VS USA 13 – 6

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The tournament schedule will continue as follows:–

Date	Time	Team		Team
02 October 2014 (THU)	2 pm	Argentina	VS	England
03 October 2014 (FRI)	2 pm	Rest Day		
04 October 2014 (SAT)	2 pm	Subsidiary Final		
05 October 2014 (SUN)	2 pm	Final		

Information on Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup 2014

Gates open: 1 pm

Match Time: 2 pm

Address: 16 Hai Tai Hua Ke Ju Lu Bin Hai Gao Xin Qu, Tianjin, China

Official website: www.supernationscup.com

You may wish to catch the matches:

- Live in Hong Kong on nowTV, Channel - Sports Prime 630,635,100
- Or catch delayed telecasts online

http://www.hurlinghampolo.com/polo_videos.php

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thepoloclubchannel>

Team List

HONG KONG, CHINA

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Lucas Lalor	6
Player 2	Santiago Cernadas	6
Player 3	John-Paul Clarkin	8
Player 4	John Fisher	4
		24
Reserves	Bautista Sorzana	6

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USA

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Carlos Gracida Jr.	3
Player 2	Andres Weisz	5
Player 3	Nicholas Roldan	8
Player 4	Mike Azzaro	8
		24
Reserves	Joel Baker	2
	Jason Crowder	6

ARGENTINA

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	Pablo Dorignac	6
Player 2	Tomás Ruiz Guiñazú	6
Player 3	Agustín Máiquez	6
Player 4	Martín Tassara	6
		24
Reserves	Pablo Llorente	6

ENGLAND

		<u>Handicap</u>
Player 1	George Meyrick	5
Player 2	Jack Richardson	5
Player 3	Max Charlton	6
Player 4	Tom Morley	6
		22
Reserves	Jonny Good	5

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Partners of Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup 2014:

TITLE SPONSOR

Fortune Heights

<http://www.fortuneheights-tj.com>

HOSTS

Federation of International Polo
Chinese Equestrian Association

<http://www.fippolo.com>

<http://equestrian.sport.org.cn/>

CO-ORGANISERS

Tianjin Polo Association
Hong Kong Polo Development and Promotion Federation
Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club

<http://www.metropolitanpoloclub.com>

OFFICIAL GLOBAL MEDIA PARTNER

Equestrio China

<http://www.equestrio.com/china>

OFFICIAL LIVE BROADCASTER

nowTV

<http://www.nowtv.now.com>

OFFICIAL JERSEY PROVIDER

La Martina

<http://www.lamartina.com>

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

<http://www.supernationscup.com>

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About Fortune Heights

Fortune Heights is the only luxury residences with polo club membership in China. Located in Goldin Metropolitan with a gross floor area of approximately 700,000 square meters, the development includes high-rise residential buildings, low-density luxury villas and townhouses.

About Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club

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Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club currently features three standard-size polo fields, stabling for over 200 horses, all-weather training facilities, a riding school and a luxurious Club House and 167-room resort-style hotel. The state-of-the-art equestrian facilities are used and maintained by professionals from all over the world.

Apart from being the host venue of the Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup 2014, major international fixtures on the Club's annual calendar include various spring and autumn tournaments and matches for different levels of play from youth to professional.

About Federation of International Polo (FIP)

The Federation of International Polo (FIP), founded in 1982, is the international body governing the sport of polo recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and includes 59 National Federations as full members. Polo has been played in the Olympics and is growing in popularity all over the world. Polo is a sport of horse and player. Men and women compete together in this contact sport as players are handicapped and games have a handicap range. While polo has primarily been played outdoors on a large green field, variations of the sport such as snow, beach and indoor polo are emerging and gaining popularity. FIP aims to develop rules for the safe conduct of the sport for both horse and player. Competition, sportsmanship and compliance with international rules of fair play are at the core of our sporting ethos.

For more information about the polo tournament, please contact:

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