



Press Release

USA Defeat Argentina To Clinch Third Place At The Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup 2014

04 October 2014, Tianjin – USA staged an inspiring comeback today at China's Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club to beat rivals Argentina 10 - 9 in the subsidiary final of the Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup 2014. Trailing two goals to five at half time, the Americans scored eight goals in the final three chukkas, going some way to make amends for their defeat in the opening match against local side Hong Kong China, who will play England in the grand final tomorrow.

In fact, today's match was a repeat of the grand final of the inaugural Fortune Heights Super Nations Cup back in 2012, Argentina edging that contest by eight goals to seven, and the USA's Mike Azzaro, the only player from either side to be representing his nation again in this tournament, winning the Most Valuable Player award.

In front of a buoyant crowd, the ball was thrown in by VIP guest Mr. Bat-Erdene Dashemberel, Minister of Defence and member of Parliament of Mongolia, and the game was on. A first chukka full of attacking endeavour set the tone for the rest of the match, ending with both teams poised on one goal each.

Deft stick work by Pablo Llorente resulted in a fine score for Argentina at the start of the second chukka, cheered on by His Excellency Gustavo Alberto Martino, Ambassador of Argentina to the People's Republic of China, and a keen polo fan. After the pony change it was Pablo Llorente once again who proved too hot for the USA to handle, galloping in a smart goal to make it 3-1 to Argentina. A late chance for the USA to pull one back came in the form of a 60-yard penalty. Nicholas Roldan's shot had the legs but not the accuracy.

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

Tel (电话): (86) 22 8372 8888 Fax (传真): (86) 22 8371 7733



A defensive blunder by the USA at the start of the third chukka left the ball exposed in front of goal, inviting Argentina's Pablo Llorente to step in and cut it sweetly between the posts. Argentina were having the lion's share of attacking play, Dornnac coming close with a shot from distance, before the irrepressible Llorente scored again make it 5 – 1 to the South Americans.

Then followed a let off for USA as Pablo Llorente uncharacteristically rolled his penalty wide. This spurred the Americans into life, who galloped down field as a unit but failed to convert. Eventually the pressure told with a minute and a half left on the clock, a penalty by Nicholas Roldan cutting the deficit to three goals, the scores at half time 5 – 2 to Argentina.

The South Americans started as they left off after the traditional treading in of the divots, Pablo Llorente putting himself on the score sheet yet again. USA replied with a fine backhand goal off the stick of Mike Azzaro, the experienced talisman finding a way through the Argentinean defensive lines. A hit from the spot for Nicholas Roldan resulted in a smart chip and charge and another score for the USA. Azzaro added to the USA's tally after a terrific passage of play and great stick and ball by Nicholas Roldan, Argentina having little answer to the revitalised American side.

Argentina's Martin Tassara scored his first of the game at the start of the penultimate chukka, a swift gallop towards goal leaving his defender eating turf. USA's Nicholas Roldan replied with a 40-yard penalty to pull it back to 7 – 6, and quickly made it all square a moment later with another shot from the spot.

A fantastically lofted hit from Roldan dropped just in front of the posts for Andres Weisz to nudge over the line, giving the USA the lead for the first time in the match.

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This lasted all of thirty seconds, a decisive Argentinean attack winning them a tap in from the spot, leaving the teams tied on eight goals each going into the final chukka.

USA's Mike Azzaro led the charge with a muscular goal early in the chukka, only for Argentina's Dorignac to reply with a trademark breakaway gallop and shot just before the halfway bell. USA came close to a winner with two minutes remaining after a powerful run by Azzaro failed to find the finish it deserved, but seconds later Nicholas Roldan rolled in his fifth of the game to make it double figures for the USA. In a thrilling final two minutes chances fell for both sides, but the USA held on to win by the tightest of margins.

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Daily polo matches are contested as follows:

Wednesday, 1 October 2014

Result: Hong Kong, China VS USA 13 – 6

Thursday, 2 October 2014

Result: Argentina VS England 8 – 10

Saturday, 4 October 2014

Result: Argentina VS USA 9 – 10

The tournament schedule will continue as follows:–

Date	Time	Team	Team
05 October 2014 (SUN)	2 pm	Final: England VS Hong Kong China	

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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

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

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ARGENTINA

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

ENGLAND

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

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/>

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**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

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.

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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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