Enigma and Coca-Cola open the Joe Barry Memorial Cup with wins

By Alex Webbe

Enigma (Jerome Wirth, Jeff Hall, Matias MacDonough and Carlucho Arellano) scored the opening win of the 2016 Joe Barry memorial Cup at the International Polo Club Saturday afternoon, riding past La Indiana (Michael Bickford, Joao Paulo Ganon, Ruki Baillieu and Tommy Biddle), 12-9, in a game that was tied five times in the opening four chukkers.

Jeff Hall scored the first goal of the game in the opening 18 seconds of the first chukker to give Enigma the 1-0 lead. Joao Ganon tied it at 1-1 with his first goal of the game just a minute later, and gave La Indiana the lead, 2-1, with a second goal from the field. Pablo MacDonough leveled the score at 2-2 at the 3:02 mark of the chukker but a final goal from Australian 7-goaler Ruki Baillieu ended the period with La Indiana in the lead, 3-2.

Both defenses held firm in the second chukker. Ganon stretched the La Indiana lead to two goals, 4-2, in the opening minute of play with both teams battling through the scoreless balance of the period. After two chukkers it was La Indiana on top, 4-2.

MacDonough converted a 60-yard penalty shot that cut the La Indiana lead to a single goal, 4-3, with Hall tying the game. La Indiana team captain Michael Bickford got the lead back for his team with a goal from the field that had Enigma trailing, 5-4 at the end of the first half.

MacDonough tied the game at 5-5 with a goal from the field in the first three minutes of the fourth chukker, and carried them to the lead, 6-5 with a 30-yard penalty conversion. Bickford scored the final goal of the chukker with under a minute on the clock to deadlock the game at 6-6.

Consecutive goals from MacDonough and Carlucho Arellano had Enigma in front by two goals, 8-6. Baillieu cut the Enigma lead back to a single goal, 8-7, but Hall scored the final goal of the period for a two goal, 9-7 Enigma advantage.

Bickford opened the final chukker of the game with his third goal of the day, bringing La Indiana to within a goal of the lead, 9-8. Arellano put Enigma up by two goals, 10-8 at the 4:44 mark. Ganon cut the Enigma lead back to one, 10-9, with his fourth goal on the day, but that was where the rally fell short. Arellano added his second goal of the chukker with 2:57 left to play, 11-9, and slammed the door on La Indiana with his final goal of the day with 51 seconds left in regulation play, 12-9.

MacDonough led all scoring with five goals. Arellano scored four times and Hall added three goals for the win. Ganon set the offensive pace for La Indiana with four goals. Bickford was credited with three goals and Baillieu scored twice in the loss.