

Dubai and Villa del Lago score wins in Joe Barry Memorial Cup action

By Alex Webbe

Dubai 11, Valiente 9

Dubai's (Rashid Albwardy, Carlos Gracida, Diego Cavanagh and Alejo Taranco) offense was only surpassed by their defense in Wednesday afternoon's Joe Barry Memorial Cup match with Valiente (Bob Jornayvaz, Roberto Zedda, Santi Torres and Santi Chavanne) as they ran out to a surprising 8-1 halftime lead on their way to an 11-9 victory.

Alejo Taranco, the talented Argentine 6-goaler who was a member of Valiente's 2015 United States Open championship team, found himself on the other side of the line in the 3pm contest, scoring the opening goal of the game, 1-0. Diego Cavanagh showed the skills that had him playing alongside Adolfo Cambiaso on Rashid Albwardy's high-goal Dubai team in England as he converted a 60-yard penalty shot for a goal and followed it up with a goal from the field. Valiente was unable to launch a successful run at goal in the first chukker and fell behind, 3-0.

The Dubai defense continued to dominate in second period play. A 30-yard penalty conversion from Taranco was followed by a goal from the field from Cavanagh with both teams exhibiting superior horse power in the 20-goal tournament. For the second consecutive period Valiente was unable to score and trailed 5-0 after two chukkers.

Cavanagh controlled the third chukker, opening the scoring with another 60-yard penalty goal and adding two more goals from the field, 8-0. Santiago Chavanne broke open the shutout with a 40-yard penalty goal that ended the first half. Dubai rode off the field leading by seven goals, 8-1.

Valiente's offense began to stir in the fourth period. Goals from Santi Torres and Roberto Zedda began to cut into the large Dubai lead, 8-3, but there was more work to be done. A foul in the Valiente goalmouth resulted in a Penalty 1 that surrendered a goal to Dubai, 9-3, but the Valiente team was undeterred. Team captain Bob Jornayvaz connected for his first goal of the game and Chavanne found himself on the scoring end of a pass from Torres in the final seconds of the fourth chukker to cut the Dubai lead to four goals, 9-5.

Cavanagh continued to plague the Valiente defense in the fifth chukker, taking advantage of a Valiente foul and converting his third 60-yard penalty shot of the day, 10-5. Zedda countered with a 40-yard penalty goal of his own, 10-6, as the Valiente offense continued to improve. Once again it was Chavanne with the final goal of the

period. Dubai continued to lead but Valiente had cut the once insurmountable lead to a manageable three goals, 10-7.

Zedda opened the sixth chukker with a 30-yard penalty goal that brought Valiente to within two goals of the lead, 10-8, but Cavanagh continued to haunt the Valiente defenders, adding his eighth goal of the match, 11-8, on a short penalty conversion. Valiente continued to hurl attack after attack at the Dubai defenders but to little avail. Torres scored the final goal of the game with less than a minute on the clock and Dubai collected their second Joe Barry Memorial Cup win, 11-9. The win improved Dubai's record to 2-0 while Valiente remained winless at 0-2.

Cavanagh collected four of his game-high eight goals on penalty conversions. Taranco scored twice and the team received one goal on a Penalty 1. Chavanne and Zedda scored three goals apiece for Valiente. Torres added two goals and Jornayvaz scored once in the loss.