

PB Illustrated flexes muscles against La Indiana

By Alex Webbe

Palm Beach Illustrated 12, La Indiana 6

In the second Joe Barry Memorial Cup match of the day a young and talented Palm Beach Illustrated team (Nacho Badiola, Jared Zenni, Facundo Obregon and Jesse Bray) shocked a veteran La Indiana lineup (Michael Bickford, Joao Paulo Ganon, Ruki Baillieu and Tommy Biddle) 12-6.

Palm Beach Illustrated charged out of the gates in the opening chukker with Facundo Obregon scoring in the first 30 seconds of the game to go ahead, 1-0. Jared Zenni made it 2-0 at the 5:21 mark while La Indiana was struggling to find their offense. Tommy Biddle finally got La Indiana on the scoreboard with a 40-yard penalty conversion in the final 39 seconds of the chukker to trail Palm Beach Illustrated, 2-1.

Nacho Badiola extended the Palm Beach Illustrated lead to 3-1 with a goal from the field just 24 seconds into the second chukker, 3-1. Zenni scored on a pass from Badiola with 4:07 left in the period to make it 4-1. La Indiana fought back with a penalty goal from Biddle and a goal from the field from Joao Ganon, 4-3. Obregon converted a 40-yard penalty shot for a goal to end the chukker with Palm Beach Illustrated on top, 5-3.

The pace quickened in the third period with Palm Beach Illustrated pressing the attack. A penalty goal from Obregon in the opening minute of the third chukker made it 6-3, and a goal from the field from Badiola came with just 1:41 left in the period. La Indiana was unable to score, and fell behind by four goals, 7-3 after the first three chukkers of play. Biddle converted a 40-yard penalty shot to open the second half, and cut the Palm Beach Illustrated lead to three goals, 7-4. Obregon countered with a penalty goal of his own, 8-4. Jesse Bray scored his first goal of the day to close out the chukker with Palm Beach Illustrated enjoying a 9-4 advantage.

Palm Beach Illustrated was looking to put the game away in the fifth with Bray adding a goal from the field to make it 10-4 when La Indiana came alive. A goal from Australian 7-goaler Ruki Baillieu and a great individual effort from La Indiana team captain Michael Bickford cut the lead to four goals, 10-6, with one chukker remaining in regulation play.

The La Indiana rally disappeared as quickly as it appeared with an oppressive Palm Beach Illustrated defense smothering any offensive effort. Badiola scored at the 3:42 mark, 11-6, and Obregon scored the final goal of the game on a penalty conversion to end the match with Palm Beach Illustrated claiming their first win of the season, 12-6.

Obregon scored five times in a balanced Palm Beach Illustrated attack. Badiola added three goals with Zenni and Bray scoring two goals each for the win. Biddle scored all three of his goals on penalty conversions for La Indiana. Ganon, Baillieu and Bickford added single goals in their second tournament loss.

Joe Barry Memorial Cup action will continue on Thursday, January 14th at the International Polo Club with Audi - Millarville (Grant Ganzi, Nic Roldan, Julian Mannix and Freddie Mannix) battling Dubai (Rashid Alwardy, Carlos Gracida, Diego Cavanagh and Alejo Taranco) at 11am. Defending champion Orchard Hill (Steve Van Andel, Polito Pieres, Peke Gonzalez and Lucas Criado) and Valiente (Bob Jornayvaz, Roberto Zedda, Santi Torres and Santi Chavanne) will meet at 1pm with Villa del Lago (Jim Zenni, Guille Agüero, Hilario Ulloa and Agustin Obregon) and Tonkawa (Jeff Hildebrand, Gonzalo Deltour, Sebastian Merlos and Mason Wroe) closing out the day in a 3pm game.

The International Polo Club is located at 3667 120th Avenue in Wellington. For more information about the IPC, tournament information or tickets, call 561-282-5334 or visit InternationalPoloClub.com.