

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

By Alex Webbe

Villa del Lago 12, Palm Beach Illustrated 11

In the second Joe Barry Memorial Cup game of the day Villa del Lago (Jim Zenni, Guille Agüero, Hilario Ulloa and Agustín Obregon) got the best of Palm Beach Illustrated (Nacho Badiola, Jared Zenni, Facundo Obregon and Jesse Bray) in a back-and-forth 12-11 victory.

Palm Beach Illustrated started out strong, picking up goals from the opening goal from Facundo Obregon and Jesse Bray, 2-0. Hilario Ulloa got Villa del Lago on the scoreboard with a 30-yard penalty shot, 2-1. A final goal from Obregon closed out the first period with Palm Beach Illustrated riding a 3-1 lead.

Villa del Lago wasted little time getting back into the game. Second chukker action got started with a goal from the field from Villa del Lago team captain Jim Zenni, 3-2. Ulloa scored twice (once on a penalty conversion) to take their first lead of the game, 4-3. Bray tied the game at 4-4 to end the period.

A defensive third chukker saw little in the way of effective attacks by either side. Ulloa accounted for the only goal of the game on a 60-yard penalty goal as Villa del Lago rode off at the end of the first half on top of a delicate 5-4 score.

A regrouped Palm Beach Illustrated team took the field in the fourth period and showed their determination by scoring the first two goals of the second half. A penalty goal from Obregon was followed by a goal from the field from Bray as Palm Beach Illustrated resumed the lead, 6-5. Guille Agüero leveled the score at 6-6 with his first goal of the day. The final goal of the chukker went to Obregon who allowed Palm Beach Illustrated to leave the field with a narrow 7-6 advantage.

Jared Zenni (son of Villa del Lago's Jim Zenni) stretched the Palm Beach Illustrated lead to two goals, 8-6, in the opening minutes of the fifth chukker. Villa del Lago responded with goals from Agüero and Ulloa for an 8-8 deadlock. Bray's fourth goal of the game put Palm Beach Illustrated back into the lead, 9-8. A Palm Beach Illustrated foul proved costly, with Ulloa converting from 30-yards out, 9-9.

Ulloa scored a goal from the field that gave Villa del Lago the lead, 10-9, in the final chukker, but the game was far from over. Consecutive goals from Nacho Badiola and Obregon (30-yard penalty conversion) gave the lead back to Palm Beach Illustrated, 11-10. A penalty goal from Ulloa was followed by a goal from the field from the talented Argentine 9-goaler and Villa del Lago celebrated the hard-fought 12-11 win.

Ulloa showed why the Argentine Polo Association elevated his handicap to the coveted 10-goals as he scored nine times for the victory (five on penalty goals. Agüero added two goals and Jim Zenni was credited with a goal for the win. Obregon's five goals led the Palm Beach Illustrated offense. Bray stepped up with four goals on the day with Jared Zenni and Badiola adding single goals in the loss.

The victory improved the Villa del Lago record to 2-0 while Palm Beach Illustrated fell to 1-1.

Joe Barry Memorial Cup action continues on Thursday at the International Polo Club with a 3pm game between Audi/Millarville (Grant Ganzi, Nic Roldan, Julian Mannix and Freddie Mannix) and the 2015 defending championship Orchard Hill entry (Steve Van Andel, Polito Pieres, Peke Gonzalez and Lucas Criado).