



****PRESS RELEASE****

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Team Canada is in Mexico City to compete in the Federation of International Polo (FIP) 8th Polo World Championship.

The official tournament horse draw took place at Hotel Nikko, and teams were mounted on their strings for their first practice game yesterday. The horses have been donated to the FIP by a broad spectrum of Mexican players and sponsors. Team Canada played a strong practice against the South African team, and return to the polo field in Tecámac today to stick and ball practice and better acquaint themselves with their string of horses.

The first tournament game takes place tomorrow, with Team Canada facing off against New Zealand. New Zealand is making their first appearance at a World Cup Championship, beating out Australia, India and Pakistan to qualify for the tournament. Other games scheduled for Thursday include: Mexico vs. South Africa, Spain vs. Chile, and England vs. Brazil.

Last night the FIP hosted an Inaugural Reception in Mexico City. The event was attended by team players, coaches, sponsors, supporters and press. Farouk S. Younes, Tournament Director of the Polo World Championship, welcomed players and guests and encouraged fair play and sportsmanship from all teams. Each team was then presented official game jerseys in their national colours.



L: Team Canada World Cup Championship jerseys alongside FIP Insignia Trophy
R: Team Canada members (L to R) Kyle Fargey, Brandon Phillips, Steve Dalton and Marcelo R. Abbiati with Mexican team member Julio Gracida (2nd from right).

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The FIP Polo World Championship is a 14-Goal tournament; the handicap for each team must amount to 14 or less, with the highest ranked players on the team rated 5-Goals or less. The anchors for Team Canada are two 5-Goal rated players: Marcelo R. Abbiati and Brandon Phillips. Abbiati, who learned polo in his home country of Argentina, permanently resides in Priddis, Alberta. Based out of the Calgary Polo Club, Abbiati competes in High Goal tournaments throughout the summer season. Originally from King City, Ontario, Brandon Phillips is a polo professional based out of Wellington, Florida. Phillips has played in many prestigious North American polo tournaments, and is building a respectable polo career alongside some of the best players in the world.



L to R: Team Canada members Abbiati, Phillips and Stenzel

Rounding out the team are two 2-Goal rated players: Robert Stenzel and Kyle Fargey. Stenzel has had great success playing for the Toronto Polo Club in Interscholastic Tournaments and was named Interscholastic Male Player of the Year for 2007. Fargey, originally from Dugald, Manitoba, is the Polo Instructor at the Calgary Polo Club Polo School, and has played professional polo in Canada, the US and Africa. Dayelle Fargey, a team alternate and sister of Kyle, is one of the highest rated female polo players in North America and one of only two women team members at the Polo World Championship (the other female player is Nina Vestey out of England). Cody Offen, a 2-Goal rated player out of Toronto, is the other Team Canada alternate.



Team Canada with presented with jerseys: (L to R) Stenzel, Fargey, Abbiati, Phillips, FIP delegate, D. Fargey and Coach Steve Dalton.

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