



****PRESS RELEASE****

April 24, 2008

Team Canada played their first game against New Zealand today in the Federation of International Polo (FIP) 8th Polo World Championship. New Zealand came in with a 15-Goal handicap team, giving the 14-Goal handicap Canadian team .5 goals on the scoreboard to start the game.

The game had a tense beginning with Canada awarded a penalty three after just one minute of play. Brandon Phillips of Team Canada was to convert the penalty shot but was blocked out within feet of the goal by New Zealand player David Miller. In blocking the goal, Miller took the ball to his face and play was stopped for medical attention. After a short game delay, Miller was diagnosed with a broken nose and play resumed with a New Zealand alternate player. New Zealand scored one goal in the first chukker of play, ending the period with a score of New Zealand 1, Canada .5.

Team Canada came out strong in the second chukker with a breakaway goal by Robert Stenzel and an amazing mid-field goal by Marcelo R. Abbiati. New Zealand also scored one goal, making it Canada 2.5, New Zealand 2 after the second chukker of play.

The third chukker saw a goal a piece scored, making it a neck and neck game at the half. The fourth chukker was a defensive battle, with no goals scored by either opponent. Canada came out strong again in the fifth chukker but with only one goal scored to New Zealand's three, Team Canada admitted defeat to the strong New Zealand contingent with a final score of New Zealand 6, Canada 4.5.

Kyle Fargey, Marcelo R. Abbiati, Brandon Phillips and Robert Stenzel played an impressive team game, but missed several key goal scoring opportunities, with balls hit just wide of the goal posts on several occasions in the first half.



Team Canada: (L to R) Robert Stenzel, Brandon Phillips, Marcelo R. Abbiati, Kyle Fargey.

In other tournament play, Brazil beat out England, Chile defeated Spain, and Mexico defeated South Africa. Canada's next game is against Chile on Sunday. Team Canada still hopes to qualify for the tournament semi-finals with a strong showing against both Chile and Spain in the next week of tournament play.

For more information, contact Megan Kozminski for Polo Canada, or visit www.polocanada.ca/