



## **\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

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This weekend saw a number of exciting matches and events at the Federation of International Polo (FIP) 8<sup>th</sup> Polo World Championship.

On Saturday, the official opening ceremonies were held at Campo Marte – the historic, military based polo grounds in the heart of Mexico City. Each participant country was represented at the ceremonies: Canada, Chile, Spain, New Zealand, Brazil, England and South Africa. The host nation of Mexico put forth an impressive and entertaining display for the thousands of polo supporters in attendance.

The feature game on Saturday afternoon at Campo Marte was Mexico vs. England. Mexico came into the game with a tournament record of 1-0 and England came in at 0-1, making it an important game in the host nation's bracket of the tournament.

The first two chukkers of the game were close with England converting two penalty 3's and Mexico scoring one goal from the field. The third exciting chukker saw a total of 7 goals scored – a beautiful breakaway from England's Nina Vestey Clarkin, a penalty 3 and 4 converted by England's Tom Morley, a penalty 4 converted by Mexico as well as 2 field goals from the determined Mexican team. The game was tied at 5-5 after the third chukker.



England were the stars of the fourth chukker with beautiful efforts from both Clarkin and Morley to give them an 8-5 lead going into the final chukker. To their dismay, England committed a number of fouls in the decisive chukker. A total of 3 penalty 4's were awarded to Mexico, which they converted to tie the game at 8-8 with under a minute remaining. Mexico then won the final throw in and took the ball all the way to goal, making the final score 9-8 for Mexico. The Mexican fans were on their feet, the fans of England remained quietly puzzled.

Bronzes were awarded to both teams in the Campo Marte feature game between England and Mexico.

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On Sunday, there were three important matches played at the Tecamec polo facility. In the first game of the morning, Spain edged out New Zealand. The second game of the day was Canada vs. Chile. With many Canadian family, friends and supporters looking on, including team supporters Deb and Derek Wolstenholme and Don and Carol Pennycook, the Canadians took to the field eager to make up for Thursday's loss to the New Zealanders.

The Chileans, however, took a quick lead in the game from the first throw in. Within the first 2 minutes of play, Canada's opponents scored an impressive 3 goals from the field. Brandon Philips scored one goal for Team Canada, making it 3-1 at the end of the first chukker. Chile converted a penalty 4 in the second chukker and the Canadians went into the third down by three goals.

The Canadian fought back in the third chukker, with Brandon Philips converting a penalty 2 and 4. Chile scored from the field towards the end of the chukker, making it 5 goals to 3 for Chile at half time.



Team Canada regrouping to come out strong in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the game against Chile.

Canada came out strong in the 4<sup>th</sup> chukker, with a quick breakaway goal from Marcelo Abbiati and a penalty 4 conversion from Brandon Philips. Chile matched Canada's two goals, however, maintaining their 2 point lead going into the fifth chukker.

The Chileans remained dominant on offense and scored a beautiful goal from mid-field half way through the final chukker. Canada battled back with a field goal from Phillips with only 45 seconds left in the game. As the clock ran down, however, Canada resigned themselves to the Chilean victory with a final score of 8-6.

Somewhat deflated by the horsepower beneath them, Canada took their second loss in the tournament with dignity. The game against Chile was a tough battle throughout, with the three early goals scored by Chile in the first two minutes of play ultimately determining the end result of the game.

In the final game on Sunday, Brazil took out South Africa in a hard fought battle to the end of the fifth chukker.

Team Canada's third game is scheduled for Tuesday against Spain. Canada needs to win over Spain by several goals in the hope to still qualify for the tournament semi-finals.

For more information, contact Megan Kozminski for Polo Canada, or visit [www.polocanada.ca/](http://www.polocanada.ca/)