



Team Lucchese

John Muse (Patron), Jason Crowder (Won MVP of final game), Andres Weisz, Adolfo Cambiaso (Won MVP of high-goal season)



Team Piocho

Matias Torres, Carlos Gracida, Memo Gracida, Tom Barrack (Patron)

Cambiaso's team, Lucchese. "Can anyone stop Adolfo (Cambiaso)? I don't think so," said Lea, a 1-goaler and owner of Zacara, his polo team. The name Zacara is derived from the combination of his children's names, Zachary and Chiara. He was right. Cambiaso led Lucchese to victory and earned MVP player of the high-goal season. His teammate, Crowder took MVP of the final game.

For fans and players alike, it was a whirlwind six weeks of intense play on the field and intense people watching in the cool white tents. Men and well-dressed ladies in exotic hats sipped champagne and enjoy the traditional half time divot stomp, where fans can wander all over the field and stomp down the torn turf and socialize.

In this crowd, Rocio Gonzalez de Narvaez, of Argentina, may be the ultimate polo fan. The sport has captivated her famous polo-playing family for two generations. Her world-champion father, Daniel Gonzalez, is a coach, and her two older brothers Mariano and Martin, are both

renowned players.

"My father began playing with Ambassador Glen Holden when I was born and they were very close friends all my life," said Gonzalez, a handbag designer married to De Narvaez, a 9-goaler injured in the final game. "We've been coming to Santa Barbara every summer since I can remember." While the couple and their young son, Pacito, 3, travel to many posh locales such as the Hamptons, Palm Beach, England and St. Tropez, she said Santa Barbara is a favorite place away from home.

Argentine player, Ulloa, a 9-goaler with Zacara team enjoys the quaint town. "The gentle weather and beautiful landscape makes everyone more relaxed," said Ulloa, who played in Santa Barbara for first time this season. "It feels like a small family of friends. We have bar-b-cues, play tennis and go to the gym when we're not playing polo. It's a nice feeling to be here."

But when the players are on the field, the climate is anything but gentle. The match resembles hockey on horseback—a game with the distinction of being the sport of kings. Polo dates back more than 2,500 years to the reigns of Alexander the Great and Darius III of Persia. In an adrenaline-filled game where men on beautiful horses gallop across the lawn at breakneck speeds, anything can happen and does happen.

"I've had more injuries than I can count," said Lea, founder of Lion Capital. Injuries include a shattered shoulder, broken ribs and collar bone. On the lighter side of harm, a player's mallet cut into his cheek during a game, which required stitches. "Luckily, I had my friend who's also a surgeon sewed up my face," Lea said with a chuckle.

Many players say they're drawn to the sport for the fierce competition, speed and endurance. Polo fan Gonzalez de Narvaez says she loves the game for the beautiful horses and to cheer her husband's team. "I get very involved during the game. But once it's over, no matter the results, life goes on," she said, while watching her son, Pacito run on the polo field. "We have a family, a life and the next game is coming soon!" ●



Adolfo Cambiaso



Rocio Gonzalez de Narvaez



Who Gets Fido?

BY DEANIE KRAMER

Certified Mediator

Official Mediator for Divorce Court TV

In the break-up of a relationship, the family pet is often the one source of calm: "You can yell at your dog all day, but when you pick up a tennis ball, he's your best friend. Yell at your partner all day and a tennis ball won't do it!" We would like to prevent your pet from becoming the powerless victim of a break-up. It's a painful reality, but pets become hostages in tugs of war between owners. Often we find a fortunate pet with more than one human to shower it with attention and love. Some people, through Mediation, agree to share time with their pet, similar to the way people share their children by preparing parenting/custody and visitation plans.

One of the first issues that appears in the break-up of a relationship is what will happen to the family pet. I've heard from clients that they can "get another house, car or furniture, but not another Fido!" The other thing I've heard is "don't get mad, get everything"...that includes Fido. It appears that the more severe the fighting gets, the greater emotional toll on everyone. What's clear, though—pets are more than an item of property. They are living beings with deep emotions so it's important for people to decide what is going to happen to the family pets and do so as amicably as possible. There are many reasons to consider a mediator in resolving almost any conflict and that includes, who gets Fido.

Mediation cost is far less than if each party pays a separate attorneys to represent them. In mediation, individuals have control over the agreement by consensus and the Mediator helps each side manage his/her emotions. In Mediation parties are encouraged to recognize the positive in the other person and find common ground for agreement.

I worked with a couple going through a divorce and they just couldn't agree on who would get the two dogs and the dogs had to stay together. Amazingly, animal shelters are asked to hold animals in protective custody while people make custodial arrangements so neither can abscond with the animal. I was able to help this couple agree on an arrangement whereby the dogs would fly back and forth, between Los Angeles and New York City every two weeks so each would have substantial time with the dogs. We came to an agreement they both could live with.

In another case, a couple fought over who would get their talking parrot. It was mutually decided through Mediation that the woman would get the parrot as she was the person that cared most for the pet. As a last wish, the gentleman asked if he could have a week or two to say goodbye to his parrot—a wish that his ex consented to. When the time came, the woman retrieved her parrot and all was well until the parrot began to swear uncontrollably. To her disbelief, the parrot had been taught new swear words and phrases so that she could not take the much loved pet.

There was another case that involved 'monkey support'. In this particular case, it was decided that the female would get the monkey, but now she wanted 'monkey support' as the monkey required special diapers and food. This is another example of how Mediation can help. Deanie Kramer, the official mediator for Divorce Court TV, has been written about internationally as the expert in Pet Mediation. ● **You can read articles in about this subject at DeanieKramer.com or check out articles on this subject at *LA Times*; *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *Dog Fancy Magazine*, *the London Observer*, *Southern California Divorce Magazine*, *La Opinion*: "A beastly Business: Pets and Divorce", and many more.**