

Horsing Around

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By: Mary Jo Almeida-Shore

Eighth Annual Miami Beach Polo World Cup

The sport of kings returned to South Beach for the eighth consecutive year featuring top polo players from around the globe for the **Maserati Miami Beach Polo World Cup** which took place from Thursday, April 26 through Sunday, April 29 featuring eight women's teams in a one-day series of round-robin championship matches and a three-day men's tournament.

Thousands of polo enthusiasts enjoyed a series of lifestyle daytime and evening VIP events such as fashion shows by La Martina and Blank Silk, shopping, cocktails and gourmet food by Kung Fu Sushi in the Catalina Hotel and Kone Sushi- which made for lots of revelry in between and long after the chukkers.

Despite wind and soggy conditions, the teams fought and frolicked in the sand until Mother Nature forced the matches to come to an abrupt halt when the rain and the winds off of the Atlantic Ocean were too much for the Miami Beach polo arena, forcing the cancellation of the final three matches of the tournament on Sunday, April 29.

"It's not unprecedented," said Miami Beach Director of Polo, **Alex Webbe**. "Major tournaments have been rained out in the past,



and will get rained out in the future. But the celebrations surrounding the event continue.” Webbe explained from the festivities of Sunday’s post-event soiree at The Raleigh hotel on Miami Beach.

This year the **HEYS Luggage team** took top honors in the elite women’s division scoring a hard-fought 3-1 win over **Lufthansa Private Jet** with team captain **Cecelia Cochran** garnering MVP honors. **Bulgari** managed a 1-0 defensive victory at the expense of the **Ciroc** team.

Maserati, The Raleigh and **Yellow Cab** all scored wins during the matches on Friday and Saturday and were looking forward to finding out who would take home the World Cup when Mother Nature intervened. The men’s competition found three teams tied with 2-0 records following the first two days of play.

“In the eight years we have been staging the competition, this year’s event was the most talked-about.” said **Bruce Orosz**, founder of The Polo Life. “The feedback from our sponsors, the players and spectators has been tremendous and the weather in no way dampened anyone’s spirits over the three days of play.”

“The sport of Polo and Maserati share the qualities of passion, excitement and elegance,” commented **Andrea Soriani**, Director of Marketing and Communications, Maserati North America. “Miami Beach Polo exceeded our expectations in terms of the ardent engagement of the community, not to mention the vast participation from the South American audience. This event is truly unique.”

The weekend revelry included a private event, hosted by Maserati and Bulgari, to present the **Octo Maserati** timepiece at the Setai hotel, on Friday, April 26, as well as an exclusive fashion show by Meghan Walsh, daughter of John Walsh, to showcase her “Blank Silk” line of Indian-inspired daytime and eveningwear at the Perry on Saturday, April 28. Big Sisters of Greater Miami and The Voss Foundation were the tournament’s official charity organization, receiving a portion of funds raised through ticket sales from the event.