This Sport Called Polo...

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**This Sport Called Polo . . .**

Don McGuiness Explains It

*For Women Spectators*

**Polo** is the simplest game in the world—to the person who has never played. A man can be a good rider, but still look like a dub on the polo field. For in addition to his equestrian skill he must have a good eye, a strong arm, more than average amount of courage, and a brain that is working every minute of the game.

Most people's knowledge of this aristocratic game has been gleaned from flashes in the news reel at their local opera house. They see horses racing over a carpet-like turf, men riding into tight spots, smacking the diminutive ball, and riding out again unsaddled, and ladies and gentlemen waving pink handkerchiefs daintly from the sidelines.

The game is played on a grass field, which officially is supposed to be 250 yards in length or about the equivalent of two and a half football fields. The length of a polo diamond in amateur circles depends largely on the size of the field on which it is laid out. The size of an indoor arena of course depends upon the size of the building.

Lining the two sides of the field is a low box fence, about 12 inches in height and designed to keep the balls from going out of bounds continually. The goal posts are set 8 yards apart, and constitute about the only outstanding feature of the field itself. Each post is a huge wicker affair which looks like a life buoy.

In principle polo resembles hockey, shinney, and the other sports in which the ball is pushed between two upright posts to score.

Baseball has its innings, football its quarters, basketball its halves and tennis its sets, but in polo the playing time is divided into chukkers, a peculiar name which has no bearing on the game unless it would refer to the fact that the players "chuck" their horses and get some fresh ones. Each chukker, in college matches, lasts 7 minutes, and there are six such periods in a game. The players change horses after each chukker.

Outdoor polo, the most popular form of the sport, is played by two teams of four men each. Indoor polo, unless the field is extremely large, is played by only a trio of riders on each side.

The men are designated for their positions just like the members of a tennis team, by numbers, for instance No. 1, No. 2, etc. The No. 1 man is presumably the best player on the team and the fourth man the poorest, but even polo coaches are foxy now and then, and switch their riders around for the sake of that strategy which you've heard so much about in everything from sports to romance.

Theoretically, the first two players are the offensive men and the last two are defensive, but they stick to theory about as close as do the members of a basketball team when the scoring starts. At the beginning of the game the teams line up opposite each other at the center of the field, standing close together in a line which extends longitudinally. The official throws the ball in from the side of the field and all eight men scramble for a crack at it with a subsequent mangling of men's bodies and horses' ankles, for, from start to finish, polo is a rough and tumble game, especially on the horses. It is a thrilling game to watch when the mounts are fast.

The ball is always thrown onto the field at the opening of each chukker and after a score is made. The teams trade goals after each score. If the ball jumps the little fence, a frequent occurrence, it is tossed back onto the field and the team which hit it last allows its opponents to have a free strike at the ball.

There are fouls in polo, just as there are in every other sport invented to date, but in the equestrian game a team can be penalized for fouls to an opponent's horse as well as its rider. The most common form of fouling is striking an opposing horse or player with a mallet. Points are subtracted from the score as a penalty for such unsportsmanlike offenses.

The polo player, as he rides madly about the big playing field, swinging his narrow bamboo mallet at the all-too-small white ball flying between the flying horses' legs, and taking severe beatings about his helmeted head and body, has to have plenty of grit. Spurs are not uncommon and the horses and men are constantly tangling, colliding and tripping.

Polo is a hard game to play, but a great game to watch.

**Coeds Buy $1.00 Hose**

*Iowa State* women do not pay more than $1.00 a pair for their hose. At least this is indicated by the 230 questionnaires answered for the Textiles and Clothing Department, in connection with the national project of home economics clubs.

Of the 230 girls questioned, 125 buy hose at prices from 90 cents to $1.00. Only one girl pays more than $2.00. Fewer girls buy at special sales than otherwise. Two hundred eleven out of 230 buy more than one pair at a time, and 200 buy of the same kind. Price and appearance run a close race as the determining factor in a purchase. Forty-three different brands of hose are purchased. Semi-chiffon is the most popular weight with 186 buyers, while chiffon runs a close second with 123 and service weight has only 54.

Another phase of the hosiery problem was in the form of a wearing test. The average number of times that chiffon hose can be worn without coming in a hole is 10. The semi-chiffon hose wore, on the average, 16 times before breaking into a hole, and service weight led the race with 17 wearings.

The questionnaire showed that present labels are not satisfactory. Women students desire statements of the exact fiber or fibers in the hose, indications of leg length, a guarantee for service, some indication as to whether the hose has been tested and approved by some authority for quality, the labelling of seconds as such, the date of manufacture and whether or not they are proof against runs.

A few years "ladies course" was developed in the college in 1871 and the first instruction in the school of domestic science was given in 1872.