

POLO PIECES

Six-goaler Eduardo plans to take up hunting this year

POLO is fast developing as a sport in Ireland, according to a top international player. Argentinian polo player Eduardo Albarracin has noticed a great improvement in the game since he arrived in Ireland three years ago.

He is now a member of the All-Ireland Polo Club and will be playing at the club throughout the summer. Eduardo's six-

horses on a small farm in Cordoba, Argentina, Eduardo was the only polo player in the family. But anyone who loves horses and lives in Argentina could not avoid the game.

"It's the number one sport in Argentina — it's much harder and a lot faster than in Ireland."

He plays for the fun, speed and thrills and because he has always loved horses. It's also a sort of escapism. "When you're out on the field, you don't think of anything else. You forget everything except the game."

He has three horses in Ireland, including Rosita, a mare worth \$20,000 who was brought over from Argentina. He also keeps six horses in Argentina and returns there every year to play at La Martina Polo Ranch.

His polo career has taken him to places as diverse as Brazil, Holland and Palm Beach. He hopes to play in Italy in September and visit England during the polo season.

Being a professional player involves more than chukkas and trophies, however. "It takes a lot of work, training and exercising the horses."

He plans to breed polo ponies and would love to see more people in Ireland taking up the sport. "I would like more spectators to come to the Phoenix Park too."

This year, Eduardo has one extra goal to aim for — he wants to try hunting in Ireland. He schooled his wife's hunter, but has never hunted. "There is no hunting in Argentina. And I have never jumped!" he laughs.

While he grew up with



Argentinian polo player Eduardo Albarracin believes that inviting top players to the Phoenix Park will improve the standard of polo in Ireland.

By Geraldine Comiskey

goal handicap makes him Ireland's best polo player and he believes that the practice of inviting top players to the Phoenix Park has paid off.

"The standard of polo is coming up in the All-Ireland Polo Club because they are getting more players with high handicaps. If you always have a high-handicap player in a club, you will bring the game up faster."

His skill, agility and quick reflexes were very much in evidence at the start of the Irish polo season recently, as he played practice chukkas in the white shirt of Larry O'Mahoney's Oakleaf team.

Eduardo was the professional player brought in by Major Hugh Dawnay to assist him at his Whitfield Court International Polo School in Waterford — the only residential polo school in Europe.

He lives in Clonsilla, Co Dublin, with his Irish wife, Susan, and five-month-old daughter, Ciara Luciana. "As soon as she can walk, I will put her on a horse," he laughs.

In true Argentinian tradition, Eduardo has been playing polo since he was a child. "I have been playing for 16 years. I was five years old when I first held a polo stick."

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Kildare win at the Park

CO Dublin beat the Kildare (selected) team in the Polo monthly cup tournament at the Phoenix Park on Sunday last.

The standard of play was raised by the presence of two professional polo players from Argentina—Eduardo Albarracin and Marcello Garahan — on opposing teams.

Albarracin, a six-goal player, was on the winning team with the All-Ireland Polo Club president, Alex Mackay, Bernard Llewellyn and Lar Sheeran. They beat Kildare (selected) by six goals to four, in a fast and exciting match.

The Kildare (selected) team were Marcello Garahan, Oliver Caffrey, Tony Rhatigan and Michael Meenaghan.

Garahan, a four-goal professional, returned to Argentina on Monday, after a 10-day tour of British and Irish polo events. Albarracin is now living in Ireland (see above).

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SHOW JUMPING

Today — Cannes, France; Northern region show, Loughanmore, Co Antrim, 10 a.m.; Woodtown, Stocking Lane, Rathfriland, Co Dublin, 10.30 a.m.; Midland Cubhunters, Granard, Co Longford, 12 noon.

Tomorrow — Cannes; Edmonton, Canada (World Cup qualifier); Ballywilliam, Cobh, Co Cork, 11 a.m.; Midland Cubhunters, 12 noon; Loughanmore, 12 noon; Oylegate, Co Wexford, 12.30 p.m.; Rathkeale, Co Limerick, 10 a.m.; Thomastown, Co Kilkenny, 10.30 a.m.; Tynagh, Co Galway, 11 a.m.; Woodtown, 10.30 a.m.; Robeen, Co Mayo, 11 a.m.

Mon, May 29 — Mid-Ulster Show Jumpers, Sandholes, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, 10 a.m.; North West Show Jumping Club, Limavady Lions Club Grounds, 11 a.m.

Tues, May 30 — National Novice

Ballyheane, Sunday, May 7

Horses, RDS Gascolgne qualifier — 1, Michael Hanley's Outlook (Gabriel Slattery); 2, J Flynn's Ballinacarrow Lass (Colm Flynn); 3, B Harte's Ask Pat (Padraig Judge); 4, B Brennan's Roadstown Diamond (Matt Gordon); 5, M McLoughlin's Celtic Original (Owen Horan).

Horses, RDS Superphone Grade E qualifier — 1, P Land's Gaye Stepper (Diarmuid Lang); 2, F Gordon's Star Buck (Frank Gordon); Divided after second round — Viola Lowry's Bonny Fox (Austin Mella); M Doody's Barstown Boy (Gabriel Slattery); P Corcoran's Hall Diamond (Padraig Corcoran); and E Cawley's Windgate Rocket (Gabriel Slattery).

Horses, RDS Superphone Grade D qualifier — 1, B Scully's Kill Lane (Jimmy Wheeler); 2, J Feerick's Globetrotter (Gabriel Slattery); 3, S Duffy's Cool Choice (Vinnie Duffy); 4, Leo Carey's Coovers Pride (Frank Gordon); 5, T Gill's Flores Silver Shadow (Frank Gordon); Divided after second round — Jimmy Wheeler's Sands Of Time (Owner).

Horses, Grades D and E — Divided between Cool Choice; Sands of Time; Reagan's Arrival; Fourways Hilltop; Val's Choice; Windgate Butler; Roadstown Diamond; Diamond Reward and Classical Charm.

The week's fixtures

Championships, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, 12 noon.

Weds, May 31 — National novice championships, 12 noon.

Thurs, June 1 — Hickstead, Great Britain; Gera, East Germany, National novice championships, 12 noon; Claremorris, Co Mayo.

Fri, June 2 — Hickstead; Gera; Juoy-en-Josas, France.

Sat, June 3 — Hickstead, Gera, Juoy-en-Josas; Calgary, Canada (World Cup qualifier), Abbeyteix, Co Laois, Ballymoney, Co Antrim, 10 a.m.; Belgooly, Co Cork, 12 noon; Edgeworthstown, Co Longford, 1 p.m.; Lurgan, Co Armagh, 10 a.m.; Ballygawley, Co Sligo, 10 a.m.

Sun, June 4 — Hickstead; Gera, Juoy-en-Josas; Abbeyteix, Ballinacarrow, Co Sligo, 11 a.m.

Ponies, 128 cms Grades ABCD

— 1, T Walsh's The Brat (Michael Walsh); 2, P Howley's Hightort Boy (Claran Howley); Divided after second round — J Gilmartin's Coffee Cream (Adrian Gilmartin); T Gill's Flogas Sparks (Claran Howley); M Quinn's Orka (John Quinn) and V McKeown's Classy Lady (Gail McKeown).

Ponies, 138 cms Grades C and D — 1, S Sweeney's Purdy (Una Sweeney); 2, L McGowan's In A Minute (Sinead McCartan).

Ponies, 148 cms Grades C and D — Divided between Martin McHale's Breeffy Boy (James McHale); M Grealy's Tooreen Lad (Clodagh Grealy); M Forde's The Country Girl (John Brennan) and L Ruane's Ballymorean Lad (Ian O'Grady).

Ponies, 138 cms Grades ABC — 1, O Conway's Lisenny Flash (Nicholas Conway); 2, M Grealy's Grey Sinead (Fergus Hanley); 3, O Conway's Top Gun (Nicholas Conway).

Ponies, 148 cms Grades ABC — 1, O Conway's Slobhain Liath (Nicholas Conway); 2, M Grealy's Tooreen Lad (Clodagh Grealy).

Claremorris Sunday, May 21

Ponies, 128cms, Grades ABCD — 1, K O'Hagan's Carrick Boy (Claran O'Hagan); 2, K O'Hagan's Tia Marie (Claran O'Hagan); 3, P Howley's Ballylucky (Claran How-

ley); 4, E Cawley's Casio Silver (Elaine Cawley); 5, D Conway's Sunseeker (Damien Conway); Divided after second round — T Gill's Flogas Sparks (Claran Howley); M Quinn's Orka (John Quinn); C Fleming's Dumborn Pass Boy (Ronan Clarke); P Doherty's Carrick Skippy (Damien Conway) and P Howley's Cheeky Guy (Vincent Howley); 22 competed.

Ponies, 138cms, Grades C and D — Divided between P J Clarke's Dual Edition (Declan Clarke) and W Ralph's Breeffy Star (Kenneth Ralph); 11 competed.

Ponies, 138cms, Grades ABC — 1, O Connolly's Lisenny Flash (Nicholas Conway); 2, L McGowan's John Brown (Sinead McCartan); 3, J Brennan's Maxwell Man (John Brennan); 6 competed.

Ponies, 148cms, Grades C and D — Divided between M Forde's The Country Girl (John Brennan); A Buckley's Quintan's Lad (Clara Buckley); J Quinn and T Flemming's Pat's Choice (Ian O'Grady); R Leonard's Dunmacreea Gift (Rory Leonard); George Lynch's Grey Steel (Andrea Lynch); P Smith's Garty Cannon (Sean Lynch) and P Egan's Ringo Boy (Derek Jennings); 28 competed.

Ponies, 148cms, Grades ABC — 1, T McGuigan's Cox's Pippin (Ronan McGuigan); 2, F Conway's Little Sparkle (Conan Conway); 3, T McComb's Just in Time (Angela McComb); 4, P Kent's Kilclooney (Cameron Hanley); 16 competed.

one-day event, Fairview, Dunlavin, Co Wicklow.

Sun, June 4 — Tinahely inter-club one-day event, Club Grounds, Tinahely, Co Wicklow.

DRESSAGE Tomorrow — Rathkeale, Co Limerick; Judges training, Spruce Lodge, Kiltinan, Co Dublin.

Sat, June 3 — Lurgan show, Co Armagh.

Sun, June 4 — Silver Spurs finals, McElroy Equestrian Centre, Kill, Co Kildare.

TRIATHLON Tomorrow — Barneath Castle, Toghur, Co Lough, 10.30 a.m.

PONY SHOWS Tomorrow — Cheval R.C. pony show, Jordanstown, Oldtown, Co Meath, 11 a.m.

PONY RACING Tomorrow — Slape, Co Meath, 2.30 p.m.

Goresbridge sales

THE two-day sale at the Goresbridge complex in Co Kilkenny realised just short of £4m, well up on last year's aggregate of £160,000. Top price of £10,000 was paid by James Jones for a five-year-old by Carnival Night.

Five year-olds and upwards — Mrs M Reidy's 5yo g 15.3 hh by Ballinella to Brian Duff, 1,125 gns; Mrs S Ryan's Charleville, 6-y-o br g 16.3hh by Down The Hatch to Olivia Masters, 5,400gns; J Scanlon's 5yo b g 16hh by Campaigner — dam by Teaspoon to Ann Jones, 2,600gns; P Tynan's 6yo b m 16.2hh by King Of Diamonds — dam by Imperius to Tony Condon, £5,000; D Wood's Carravella, 5yo gr m 16hh by Ballinella—Carrowbaun Girl to Pat Cash, 2,100gns.

T Heame's 5yo ch g 16hh to J Jones, 2,900 gns; M Aylward's 5yo b m 16.1hh by Entrecht — Melville Rock to Jack Power, £2,800; W J Cairns 5yo b g 16.2hh by Safari—dam by Lorakeet to G Brockhauser, £5,000; Blackwater Stables 5-y-o b g 16hh by Imperius to M Hutchinson, £5,000; Mrs C Kennedy's 7yo gr/ro m 16.1hh to Mrs B Harris, £2,500.

Four year-olds — B O'Connor's 4yo b m 16.1hh by Kildalton King to Catherine O'Byrne, 2,800gns; J Phelan's b g 16.1hh by Yellow Better—dam by Tullaherin Boy to Ned Cash, 3,300gns; P Quinn's b m 16hh to Ginger Dick —dam by Northern Value to Maurice Cousins, 4,100gns; C A Schorman's pal m 16.1hh by Weavers' Web to Olivia Masters, 3,500gns; L Smith's ch g 16.2hh to Ned Cash, 2,850gns.

J Wallace's pal g 16.2½hh to Uncle Walter —dam by Mickey The Marcher to M Lynch, £5,700; Woodlands' Farm Stud's br g 16.2hh by First Consul, 2,900 gns; T Walsh's b g 16.1hh by Arctic Que to Wayne Long, 3,550gns; J Crosbie's b m 16.2hh to M Hearty 5,100gns; Miss A Croty's b m 16.2hh by Ballinella to K Furlong, 2,700gns.

D Dermody's gr g 16½hh by Sea Crest to M Brandt, 2,900gns; T Donnellan's gr by Samiel—Bansha Girl to T O'Driscoll, 3,600 gns.

Three year-olds — D Carroll's b g 16.2hh by Samiel to M Kenny, 3,100gns; M O'Looney's ch g 16.2hh by Stobhall to D Burke, 2,600gns; P Power's b g 16.1hh by Major Point to E V Pritchard, 2,500 gns; T Smyth's b f 16hh by Hagabash to Leo McLaughlin, 2,500gns; J Whitty's b g 16.3hh by

Positively to E O'Driscoll, 3,300gns. P Power's b f 16hh by Santa's Sleigh to A J Byrne, 2,000 gns; J Cooke's gr f 16.1hh by Hunter's Delight — Sabrina to "Cash" 3,350gns; Mrs Collins' ch g 16.2hh by Legaun Prince — dam by Love and Marriage to George Morley, 3,700gns; P Corcoran's b g 15.3hh by Clover Hill to M Lowry, 1,500gns; P Power's bf f 16.1hh to P Lenihan, 2,000gns.

D Carroll's bl g 15.2hh by Private Walk to D Fitzgerald, 1,000gns; Miss B Doyle's b g 16.2hh by Hildenley to Michael Foley, 2,100gns; G Kelly's b g 16.1hh by Triggerero to George Morley, 3,500gns; Michael Crowley's ch g 16.1hh by Gold Coin to "Cash" 3,300gns; M Crowley's gr g 16.1hh by The Conqueror to M Connors, 3,400gns; P S Nolan's b g 16.1½hh by Triggerero — Janson Pride to Tom Hurley, £5,000; G Kelly's gr g 16.1hh by Varano to M King, £3,600.

Second day Five year-olds and upwards — J Curran's 6yo b m 17 Teaspoon to M Lynch, 1,200 Furlong's 5yo gr m 16.2 Prospect Pride — dam by Tez. to W Taaffe, 3,525gns; K Jacob's gr Commemara g 15.2hh to M Lynch, 2,250gns; H M B Jordan's 6yo ch g 16.2hh to B O'Meara, 2,300gns; P Kinsella's 7yo b m 15.3hh to Wayne Long, 1,450gns.

K Kehoe's 5yo b g 15.3hh by Tula Rocket to A Jones, £2,700; E Lee's 6yo br m by Crozier — dam by Slipped to W Taaffe, 1,000gns; D McCarthy's Good Night, 5yo ch g 15.3hh by Carnival Night — dam by Ozymandias to Frank Derwin, £1,850; S Memigan's 5yo ch g 16.1hh by Carnival Night — Lissycassey to James Jones, £10,000; Miss L Moylan's 6yo b m 16hh to "Cash" £3,900.

Four year-olds — Mrs B McCormack's b g 16hh by Selko — dam by Bahrain to M Lynch, 4,400gns; Mrs S Dunne's b g 16.1hh by Kilcullen Lad — dam by Young Tutor to M Hutchinson, £4,500; A Fortune's br g 16.1hh to Willie Flavin, 2,400gns; Mrs E Godkin's gr g 16.2hh by Soudno — Queen of Diamonds to E O'Driscoll, 4,400gns; J Grennan's ch m 16hh by Hildenley — ID dam to Marie Hearty, 3,000gns.

D Hassett's ch g 15.3hh by Spectrach to A Jones, 2,600 gns; G Hayes' ch g by Skylark — dam by Deep Run to Wayne Long, 4,550gns; D Hughes' ch g 16.1½hh by Roi Guillaume — Hostage Seeker to A Jones, 2,250gns; R E Johnson's ch m 15.3hh — dam by Plus to J Foley 710gns; Mrs S Kruger's br g 15.1hh by Horos — Ballydonagh Bluebird to Willie Flavin, 1,000gns; Miss I O'Meara's ch g 16.2hh by Nordlys to Wilson Fallon, 1,250gns.

Miss A McGrath's br m 15.3½hh by Glenvara to M Brandt, 1,800gns; Miss E Murphy's ch m 16.1hh by Bassompierre to Marcus Buser, 2,650gns; H O'Reilly's gr g 16.1hh by Talaris — dam by Lahinch to Myles Cash, 2,600gns.

Three year-olds — Mrs E Had-don's ch f by Carnival Night — Bracklin Lady to Tony Condon, 2,000gns; T Hurley's ch g 16.2hh by Clover Hill — Lisaglin Lass to T Burns, 3,800gns; R Kelly's ch g 16.2hh by Sandyhill Boy to Tony Condon, 2,500gns; J Kelly's b g 16.1hh by Kingsway Diamond — Belclare Star to M King, 4,200gns; Miss G King's b f 16hh by Young Tutor — Bolamey Molly to "Cash" 4,800gns.

M O'Meara's ch g 16.1hh by Leabog to M Connors, 5,500gns; J Moloney's b g 16.1hh by Crafty Coder to M Hearty, 3,500gns; Nelson Bridge Stables' b f 16.2½hh by Soudno — Bridge Blue Bell to J M Perry, 3,500gns; J Dalton's gr l D horse 16.1½ by Glenside — Tudor Queen to "Cash", 2,000gns.

Two year-olds — D Cullen's b g 16.1hh by Edmund Burke to M Burke, 2,750 gns; Mrs Furlong's ch g by Positively — Mungoduff Lady to M A Lonergan, 3,300gns.

THE McELROY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
Kill, Co. Kildare

- Junior Activity Day (May 14th) transferred to May 28th.
- Junior Disco — May 28th (8-12 p.m.) at the McElroy Equestrian Centre.

For full details contact (045) 77208.

Irish Pony Racing Assoc.

PONY MEASURING
Ballinasloe Cattle Mart
June 3rd, 2-4 p.m.

CALLIAGHSTOWN RIDING CLUB

Inter-Club One Day Event
at Calliaghstown Riding Centre
11th June 1989
Entry fee — £12
Entries close Friday 2nd June with Anne Lilly, Tara Lodge, Trevel, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath
Tel. (01) 259028
Dressage times available Friday 9th June