



PRESS, RADIO AND TV RELEASE

ASTROS BASEBALL CLUB

P. O. BOX 288
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

PHONE
RI 8-4500

65-270

FOR RELEASE
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Polo is coming back to Houston!

The first annual Texas All Star Polo Match will be held Saturday, January 29, 1966, in the Astrodome, with 100 per cent of the net proceeds going to Texas Children's Hospital building fund.

The announcement was confirmed jointly yesterday at the first polo scrimmage match in preparation for the big event by Leopold Meyer, Texas Children's Hospital president; officials of the Houston Polo Assn., a group formed recently to stage the benefit match, and Jack O'Connell, representing Houston Sports Assn. and the Astrodome.

"We are hoping for a capacity crowd," Meyer said, "not only for the great benefit to the hospital building fund, but for the revitalization here of a great sport."

O'Connell expressed HSA's excitement about the match as a great spectacle for the Astrodome which is expected to become a yearly event, benefitting one of the state's major charities.

The first polo scrimmage was an exciting one for a small group along the sidelines of the Bayou Club field. Since there were no goals installed on the 300 by 100 yard field, goals were improvised with Neiman-Marcus hatboxes.

Wives of the polo players sat on blankets at the edge of the field until it began to rain. The players, in green and yellow jerseys, weren't fazed in the least by the rain, but everyone talked about how they wouldn't be rained out in the Astrodome.

Players in this first scrimmage included outstanding Houston players John Mecom, Jr., Will Farish, Vernon Cook, Bob Gerry, Dr. Paul Harris and Paul Harris, Jr.

Among those who will headline the January event will be Cecil Smith, San Antonio, member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and one of the greatest polo players of all time, and his son, Charles, who has won the U. S. Open for the last two years.

Scrimmages will be held weekly at Pin Oaks Stables.

Polo association officials, including Ed Haden, Ted Law, Tom Prior, Lawrence Marcus, Farish, Mecom and others, via the press, radio and TV hope to make all sports fans aware of the sport and excitement of polo.

This all star event will be the first polo match to be played formally here since World War II with the minor exception of a few games in 1952.

Team members are to be announced soon, but all players will be professionals from Texas.

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