

INKATERRA POLO TEAM WINS PERU-ROYAL SALUTE CUP

AT THE 94TH OPEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MERCEDES-BENZ 2013

The polo tournament Mercedes-Benz 2013 was held in Pachacamac and Monterrico at the fields of Lima Polo Club, where the four horsemen of Inkaterra played thrilling matches before winning the 'Peru-Royal Salute' cup on Sunday, December 15th.

With the purpose of amending the image of poverty associated with Peru during the 80's in order to attract foreign tourism and investment, Inkaterra supports polo, a sport linked to social and economic well-being. Taking the lead after his brother Ignacio (who currently plays with the Cornell University polo team), Inkaterra's new captain is 16-year-old Lorenzo Masías. He was backed by Estuardo Masías, Guillermo Málaga, and a renowned guest: Argentinean player Pancho Bensadón, who has participated at the Palermo Open, one of the World's most famous. Close friend of Guillermo Málaga, Mr. Bensadón eagerly accepted the invitation to play in Peru, where he sensed great potential from the local players and stated that Peru's polo scene was first grade.

Intense training led to a successful season, which allowed Inkaterra to play the finale in the Polo Handicap category, competing with La Quebrada-BMW team. For the three first sets, Inkaterra was winning with considerable advantage, but on the fourth set La Quebrada-BMW gave the fight. On the last set, Pancho Bensadón passed the ball to Lorenzo Masías, who rode fast to hit the mallet from midfield, and score with great aim Inkaterra's sixth goal. Minutes before ending the match, Bensadón impressed the crowd with a bold move: he scored after hitting the ball in the air. A final result of 7-5 was obtained.

"It was with excitement and great responsibility that I assumed the captain's position in a team where my family has played polo since 2006", said Lorenzo Masías. Influenced by his father and older brother, Lorenzo started practicing the sport of kings since the age of five, riding a pony. A year later he was already playing his first tournament, 'Copa Potrillos', where he was awarded for being the youngest polo player ever in Peru. Currently in high school, Lorenzo is still not sure about his professional career, but he is confident that polo will remain a hobby.

For the following season, Pancho Bensadón will be replaced by 20-year-old Marcelo Cilloniz. To succeed in February's championship, 'Copa de las Naciones', the Inkaterra polo team is currently training to have the strategy, comradeship and momentum that allowed them to raise the Peru-Royal Salute cup.