

Michigan Intercollegiate Polo Club Year in Review 2018-2019



Team Profile	Pg. 1-5
--------------	---------

College Polo 101	Pg. 6
------------------	-------

Trip to Traverse	Pg. 7
------------------	-------

Fall Semester	Pg. 8
---------------	-------

A Bit of Friendly Competition	Pg. 9
-------------------------------	-------

Brand Ambassadors	Pg. 10
-------------------	--------

JV Team Accomplishments	Pg. 11
-------------------------	--------

Women's Varsity Accomplishments	Pg. 12-13
---------------------------------	-----------

Annual Benefit Gala	Pg. 14
---------------------	--------

Thank you	Pg. 15
-----------	--------

Meet the Team *the Team* *the Team*



Madelyn Blum

Birthday: January 2, 2000

Year: Freshman

Hometown: Phoenix, MD

Number of Years Playing Polo: 4 years

Major: Organizational Studies

Favorite Umich Horse: Felicia

Summer plans: Maddie is interning with the Baltimore Orioles while also continuing to play polo.

Gia Borely

Birthday: July 29, 1999

Year: Freshman

Hometown: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Number of Years Playing Polo: 1 year

Major: Biology

Favorite Umich Horse: Midge

Summer plans: Gia will be interning at a research lab.





Caelen Caspers

Birthday: April 10, 1998

Year: Junior

Hometown: Bloomington, Minnesota

Number of Years Playing Polo: 3 years

Major: Micro-cellular and developmental biology

Favorite Umich Horse: Fudge

Summer Plans: Caelen plans on training her horses to compete nationally

Kyleigh Cumming

Birthday: June 12, 1998

Year: Junior

Hometown: Goodrich, Michigan

Number of Years Playing Polo: 3 years

Major: Biology

Favorite Umich Horse: Rex

Summer Plans: Kyleigh will volunteer at a local animal shelter and travel with her boyfriend.



Kevin Ghilani

Birthday: November 27, 1998

Year: Junior

Hometown: Wexford, PA

Number of Years Playing Polo: 1 year

Major: Biology/Pre-Med

Summer Plans: Kevin plans on interning at a lab and spending time with his family and friends.

Kartikeya Gouthi

Birthday: July 26, 1994

Year: Graduate Student

Hometown: Ahmedabad, India

Number of Years Playing Polo: 4 years polo

Major: Masters of Management

Summer Plans: Kartikeya is excited for his new job working in India.



Lysette Kessler

Birthday: December 30, 1996

Year: Senior

Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Number of Years Playing Polo: 1 year

Major: Public health

Favorite Umich Horse: Fudge

Summer Plans: Lysette will be returning as a counselor for a horseback riding camp.



Zach Majumdar

Birthday: April 19, 2000

Year: Sophomore

Hometown: San Francisco, California

Number of Years Playing Polo: 1 year

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Summer Plans: Zach plans on interning at an engineering company and helping to groom for local polo players on the weekends.





Meagan McBride

Birthday: October 26, 1998

Year: Junior

Hometown: Canton, MI

Number of Years Playing Polo: 3 years

Major: Economics

Favorite Umich Horse: Fudge

Summer Plans: Meagan plans on interning at a wealth management firm in Ann Arbor and going on vacation to Lake Michigan with her family.

Sarah McColm

Birthday: March 25, 1997

Year: Senior

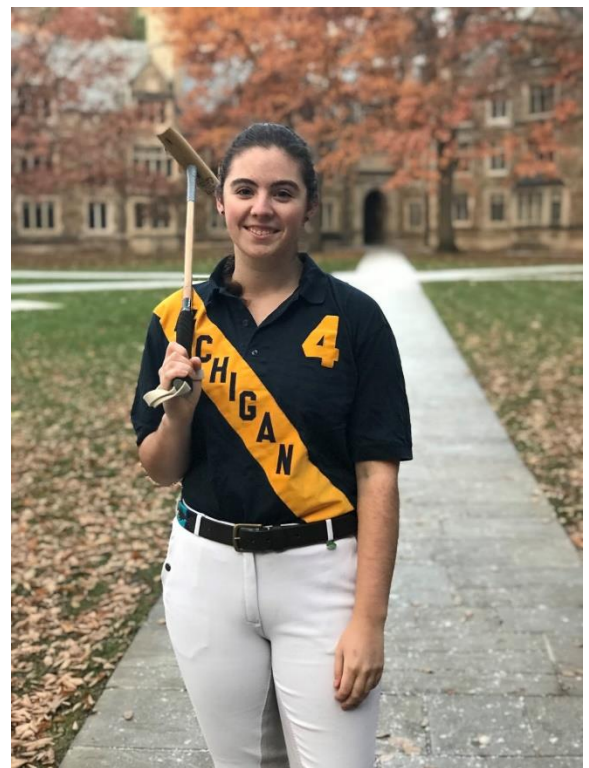
Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Number of Years Playing Polo: 3 years

Major: Microbiology

Favorite Umich Horse: Irish

Summer Plans: Sarah will be working in a lab and researching cholera.



Monica Lis-Planells

Birthday: April 15, 1996

Year: Senior

Hometown: Lake Orion, Michigan

Number of Years Playing Polo: 5 years

Major: Movement Science

Favorite Umich Horse: Mercury

Summer Plans: Monica plans on working as a lab assistant and playing her polo ponies.

Amanda Vogel

Birthday: July, 24 1998

Year: Junior

Hometown: Troy, MI

Number of Years Playing Polo: 3 years polo

Major: Kinesiology

Favorite Umich Horse: Midge

Summer Plans: Amanda plans on studying abroad in Thailand and visiting her best friend, Maddie, in Maryland.



Janeen Zheng

Birthday: November 1, 2000

Year: Freshman

Hometown: Okemos, MI

Number of Years Playing Polo: 1 year

Major: Architecture

Favorite Umich Horse: Tecate

Summer Plans: Janeen plans on studying in New York City and spending time with her family and friends.

“Those who stay will be champions.”

-Bo Schembechler

College Polo 101



Pictured: All the representatives for various intercollegiate clubs outside of the National Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame.

At the beginning of October, junior member and President Kyleigh Cumming was given the opportunity to attend the “College Polo 101” information event in Wellington, Florida, courtesy of the USPA. Over the course of the weekend, Kyleigh met with collegiate polo club members from universities around the nation as well as important leaders within the USPA. Collegiate members were given tours of the polo museum in Wellington, Tato’s mallets, and the Tackeria, while also attending seminars on topics such as tack maintenance, fundraising, game rules, recruitment, and more. While the trip was filled with valuable information, Kyleigh was also able to form friendships and connections with the other university representatives, leading to the potential for games in the future. The experience as a whole was invaluable, and Kyleigh was quite fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend.

Trip to Traverse



Michigan and Michigan States teams after the match.

We had another fantastic year of summer exhibition matches, with our most successful fundraising match yet! Taking place in Traverse City on the weekend following the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, the Michigan Intercollegiate Polo Club and the Michigan State Polo Club faced off in a friendly fundraising rivalry match. This year's match took place on a lovely August day, with a large turnout of both Wolverine and Spartan fans.

Loyalties and spirits were held high as many fans supported their alma maters as both Michigan State and University of Michigan fight songs were sung to start off the event. We would like to extend a special thank you to the University of Michigan Alumni Association of Traverse City for bringing so much maize and blue! Spectators were able to watch the match from grass seating, grand stands, or the comfort of a catered VIP tent provided by the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival. Although we suffered a close loss last summer, we hope to beat the Spartans this summer! Playing for Michigan were Kat Heggen (1), David Wertz (2), and Seamus Dillon (3). We aim to share our love of polo through these events, and expose as many horse lovers and sports fans as possible to the sport of polo.



Seamus Dillon with Best Playing Pony of the match.

Fall Semester

Fall is a busy time for the team, but also a lot of fun! Every fall we have a booth at Festifall, a student organization gathering, where students can explore and talk with members of a variety of organizations. Quickly kicking off the year, we hosted team tryouts, and luckily were able to have many new members join to play the amazing sport of polo. Throughout fall semester we did other fun events, such as painting the rock (we might have gotten a bit carried away with the paint), a cider mill trip, and team parties. We are also so lucky to have the opportunity to practice at the Detroit Polo Club during the fall semester, where we can practice in their regulation sized outdoor arena, and also have the opportunity to play a little on the fields as well! It is such a fun experience for both new and existing members.



Our scenic walk taking our ponies back out to their pasture.



Pictured Above: (left to right) Caelen Caspers, Maddie Blum, Amanda Vogel, Janeen Zheng, Zach Majumdar, Kevin Ghilani, Sam Schubert, Kyleigh Cumming, and Meagan McBride. Painting the rock is a yearly tradition.

Pictured Left: Coach, Emmalyn Wheaton, teaching new members how to sit in their "polo seat."

A Bit of Friendly Competition

Every year the Michigan Intercollegiate Polo Club puts on a tournament for all members to keep the competitive spirit alive in the winter. With 4 teams competing for the trophy, competition was tight! Team names this year included the following: Canterbury Tales, Head over Hooves, The Forelock Warlocks, and the Fast and the Spurious. Traditionally, JV Bowl takes place at the end of our indoor season, and is an opportunity for our JV team to play competitive chukkers and to test the skills they learned all season long. Teams are made of two JV members and one varsity member playing back. Each team plays all other teams in an elimination style tournament to determine the victors. Victor are crowned champions and presented with a trophy until the following year, when they must pass on the throne.



Left: (left to right) Janeen Zheng, Amanda Vogel, Gia Borely of team Head over Hooves, with Zachary Majumdar, Monica Lis-Planells, and Meagan McBride of the Fast and the Spurious

Right: The JV bowl trophy in all its glory!



This year team Head Over Hooves (consisting of Janeen Zheng, Gia Borely, and Amanda Vogel) came out on top with a 3-1 season. Janeen and Gia were first year players this year, and Amanda was a supporting varsity teammate. These two first year members did a great job being aggressive and strategic, which landed them with the trophy! At the end of the tournament, we also awarded the title of Best Playing Pony and it went to, Michigan's own, Fudge! We can't wait to see if these three will be able to defend their crown next year when they take on the new competition!

Brand Ambassadors



Pictured: Madelyn Blum and Zach Majumdar showcasing our new jerseys and whites with our horse Irish.

We are very excited to be partnered with the U.S. Polo Assn. this year! U.S. Polo Assn. is the official brand of the United States Polo Association (USPA), the nonprofit governing body for the sport of polo in the United States. With worldwide distribution through over 1,030 mono-branded stores, boutiques, department stores and e-commerce, U.S. Polo Assn. offers apparel for the whole family as well as accessories, footwear, travel and home goods in more than 160 countries.

We are lucky enough to be brand ambassadors with the U.S. Polo Assn. this year and received brand new jerseys and whites! We wanted to thank the U.S. Polo Assn. for partnering with us, and we are very excited to show off our new uniforms in the new season!

#LiveAuthentically

Shop:

www.uspolo.org/apparel



JV Team Accomplishments



Pictured: (Left to right) Zach Majumdar (4), Lysette Kessler (1), Janeen Zheng (3), Gia Borely (2)



Post round robin team picture!

This year, the JV team got the opportunity to play in a round robin with Michigan State University and University of Louisville! Our JV team practiced and prepared to face the Spartans and Cardinals in their first official game! A round robin is a game where 6 chukkers are split up between the three teams competing: each team playing in 4 chukkers, with two against each team. Our JV Team consisted of Lysette Kessler (1), Gia Borely (2), Janeen Zheng (3), and Zach Majumdar (4). The first two chukkers, MSU and Louisville battled it out with MSU coming out on top 14-5. Then, our JV hopped on for the last 4 chukkers securing the win against Louisville 11-4, then in a close match, coming out on top against MSU 8-7. This Round Robin was a great learning experience for all the JV members and they are excited for the upcoming year to play more matches! We appreciate MSU for hosting this Round Robin and Louisville for making the trip up to Michigan!

Women's Varsity Accomplishments

This year was filled with exciting new milestones and triumphs for the University of Michigan Women's Varsity team. Our varsity players included Michigan Polo veterans Amanda Vogel, Meagan McBride, and Kyleigh Cumming as well as newcomers Monica Lis-Planells and Maddie Blum. The Wolverines began their season with a trip to MSU to battle the Spartans, unfortunately coming up short in a well-fought match. Taking this first game as a growing experience, they learned from their mistakes and traveled to Guelph Polo Club in Ontario to settle their first victory. After this match, Michigan had completed their two required games in order to qualify for the Southeastern Girl's Intercollegiate Preliminaries.



Left: Amanda Vogel bumping Virginia Tech.

Right: (left to right) Kyleigh Cumming (1), Meagan McBride (2), and Monica Lis-Planells (3) after their win in Ontario.



Our girls returned to Michigan State University with a new sense of teamwork and motivation. They had spent weeks practicing and honing their skills and were ready to take on the competition. Their horses came along for the ride, as Michigan provided a string and a half to be played in the tournament. In their first match against Virginia Tech, the Wolverines edged out the Hokies by a single goal, leaving spectators on the edge of their seats until the final horn blared out. This win placed Michigan in the finals the next day. There, they would take on Wisconsin.

Wisconsin fought hard, but our varsity was overwhelming and outscored the Mustangs 29-4. With a win in the finals, the Wolverines won their respective preliminary competition. At the awards ceremony, the Michigan ponies won Best Playing String, a coveted award denoting a string of ponies' prowess in the sport of polo. Additionally, Felicia, a frequent member of the Michigan Polo team provided by coaches Paul and Emmalyn Wheaton, won Best Playing Pony. Along with the ponies, first-year member Maddie Blum won an All-Star award. For the first time ever, our team would be advancing to the Southeastern Regionals.



Over spring break, the team traveled to the Virginia Polo Center to embark on their first Regionals journey. In the first match, they were set to play against the University of Virginia, a strong and experienced team. Unfortunately, this match would be the end of the road for the Wolverines, who would go on to lose by a large margin. But at the end of the day, this was a great first experience with a higher level of competition for Michigan and they are looking forward to practicing and working diligently in order to improve for next season.

Before hitting the road to head back to Michigan, Maddie

Blum received an All-Star at the awards ceremony. Though they did not advance to Nationals, they are rightfully proud of all they accomplished during this monumental season, reaching milestones they never have before. They thank their coaches Paul and Emmalyn for their dedication and the amazing ponies of Michigan for helping them to get to where they are now, and the team is looking forward to another successful year of polo!

Annual Benefit Gala

This year we celebrated the 3rd annual benefit gala held at the Graduate in Ann Arbor. The event was catered by the Graduate with a silent auction, dinner, and live music. We celebrated the accomplishments of the team, not only with their success in matches but as well as accomplishments of individuals on the team. Our coach, Emmalyn Wheaton, handed out awards to our team members. *Varsity MVP*



Members (left to right) Claire Lacey, Kartikeya Gouthi, Caelen Caspers, Amanda Vogel, Maddie Blum, Meagan McBride, Sarah McColm, Monica Lis-Planells, Gia Borely, and Kyleigh Cumming.

went to Madelyn Blum, *JV MVP* was received by Zachary Majumdar, *Most Improved* was awarded to Gia Borely, *Sportsmanship Award* was given to Meagan McBride, and some silly awards such as *Best Dressed* was given to Kevin Ghilani and *Most Likely to Fall* to Lysette Kessler.

We were lucky enough to have the University of Michigan Women's Glee Club perform a variety of university songs. Also providing a catered dinner and hosting a silent auction. Some examples of our silent auction include: Florida Polo Experience Package, this gives an opportunity to play or watch a polo match at the Villages Polo Club in Florida as well as a polo lesson by the Lis-Planells'; a day at the spa basket, including a variety of essential oils, diffuser, and facemasks; Fine Dining at Flemings; Michigan polo merchandise; and much more!

We not only met, but exceeded our fundraising goal this year, so we would like to thank those in attendance, but everyone who donated and helped make such an event possible. It is with the support of generous donors that we are able to keep our wonderful string of horses.

Thank you!

As this school year comes to a close, we would like to thank all of the support we receive throughout the year. Through your donations and excitement toward our intercollegiate club, we are able to experience and enjoy the sport of polo. We would also like to thank our coaches, Emmalyn and Paul Wheaton - we appreciate all you do for the team on a daily basis and we would not be where we are if it weren't for all your help! And another thank you to our alumni for keeping up with the team and their support. Keep a look out for the team back in action starting in September!



If you are interested in donating to the team, donations can be made by Paypal or mail.

Paypal: paypal.me/mipoloclub

Mail: 1214 S University Ave, Suite S104, Unit 4433, Ann Arbor, MI 48104