

WINNER



TAKES ALL

BY MICHELE MEYER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIEGO CAPPELLA

Even while practicing alone, Hilario Ulloa performs the same fearless, focused moves that make him the Michael Jordan of the equine set. He's ranked among the world's top 10 polo players, and his confidence in the saddle hints at a history steeped in horses. With his mallet behind his back, he leans far off his steed—at 40 miles per hour, no less. Somehow, he knows where the ball is and slams it home.

"I was practically born on horseback," says Ulloa, offering a nonplussed explanation for his super-human skills. For those who know him best, it's his drive to win that most sets the 34-year-old apart from his competitors.

"Hilario's very intense," says fellow Argentine 10-goaler Guillermo "Sapo" Caset, who's played with—and against—Ulloa since age 12. "He has to win, even if it's PlayStation or ping-pong. He's really, really competitive."

That tenacious pursuit earned Ulloa a 10-goal rank, the highest possible, in the U.S., his native Argentina, and England at age 30. He was only 24 when he became a 9-goaler. He's played in Wellington for the past nine years, racking up triumphs such as the 2018 U.S. Polo Open Championship.

Polo player Hilario Ulloa's competitive nature and equestrian prowess impress on the field and in the stable

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