



GRAND CHAMPIONS POLO CLUB

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Photo by: Jacquie Porcaro

Nic Roldan

The professional polo player and entrepreneur talks to Charley Larcombe

8 goal professional polo player, Nic Roldan lives at a million-kilometres-an-hour. Whether it's on a polo field in Argentina or galloping down the beach here in Miami; whether it's flying between Wellington and Aspen chasing the season or hosting business lunches for his numerous entrepreneurial interests, rarely does this man slow down. Even during a global pandemic.



“As the world shut down, I was lucky to be here at home and we have been able to have some sort of normality. To be honest I have been working hard on NR, ‘The Brand’ so it’s been a year of growth,” reflects Nic from his barn in Wellington.

Nic Roldan, ‘The Brand’ includes his position as America’s leading polo player, a status he has worked tirelessly to pursue since the age of 15 when he won The US Open, the country’s most prestigious tournament. Since this precocious beginning, Nic has won finals the world over, from Argentina to the UK and played with some of the most revered professionals and patrons. Being a third generation polo player, it is quite evident that the game of kings is in his blood.

Away from the pitch, he has numerous ventures, cross-pollinating and feeding into each other, creating a cohesive embodiment of the modern athlete. This year he’s been focussed on R Polo Holdings which include his property business, buying, selling and renovating; cofounding High Goal Gin, a premium liquor brand; and there’s talk of a bijoux clothing brand in the works. He is actively involved in local charity work as an ambassador for the Kids Cancer Foundation and collaborates with a multitude of sporting and lifestyle brands.

“My brain doesn’t turn off and I am constantly thinking of new ventures. I feel I’m in my prime as an athlete and am relentlessly aiming for that ultimate level – but there’s a lot of downtime in this sport so I like to keep my days as busy as possible.”

And busy they are.

His day begins with his trainer, following a bespoke hybrid of cross-training and Pilates, aimed at increasing his longevity in the sport which can be punishing to the professional’s body.

Having worked out, it’s down to the barn to check the horses, perhaps plan for afternoon matches, and to catch up with the grooms over a caffeine-rich maté. Midmorning, his attention turns to R Polo Holdings, before inevitably heading off to a working lunch. Afternoons are reserved for team practices or for the big games, frenetic hours of gladiatorial ride offs, heart-in-your-mouth cut shots, and – hopefully – exultant celebration.

Then there are the photoshoots, fielding the media, and channelling the rest of his energy into the Next Big Idea. Fortunately, he carves out time for himself with weekends often involving a round or two of golf, and evenings spent with family and friends at home where he is happiest.

As the high goal polo season winds down in Palm Beach, there’s a slight change of pace – but not for long.

“The World Polo League Beach Polo tournament comes at the end of an intense three months of focus so it’s always fun to head down to Miami to play on the beach. The event gets better every year and has this refreshing energy.”

And it’s this energy that guests of the tournament can really enjoy as they get close to the action. Attacked slightly differently than the more open game played on green pitches, you can expect thrills and spills and the players and ponies really putting on a performance.

“The World Polo League Beach Polo is an incredible platform to showcase the sport to a new audience – and I’m looking forward to once again playing in this event in the vibrant city of Miami.”

And with that, Nic is off. Onto the next meeting, the next match, leaving that high-frequency energy in his wake. ■