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By:  Stucky H.R. No. 1464

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The University of North Texas polo club proved itself the finest in the nation by winning the 2023 United States Polo Association Division I Men's National Intercollegiate Championship on April 15; and

WHEREAS, Despite having only competed in the sport since 2018, the Mean Green polo club quickly established itself as a strong contender and finished as the runner-up for the national title in April 2022; after returning to action later in the year, UNT logged a series of impressive wins in November, capturing the Texas College Polo Championship with a 13-10 victory over Southern Methodist University and then bested Cornell and the University of Virginia to clinch the prestigious William S. Field Invitational polo tournament and the No. 1 ranking in the country; and

WHEREAS, At the conclusion of the regular season, UNT joined the other top teams in Charlottesville, Virginia, for the 2023 National Intercollegiate Championship tournament; the Mean Green players first squared off against Texas A&M University in the semifinals on April 13 and defeated their interstate rivals, 20-8; two days later, the team took to the field for the championship match, looking to avenge the loss to the University of Virginia in the 2022 finale; UNT built a 5-3 advantage in the first three chukkers and added to their lead after the break; demonstrating tremendous poise and confidence down the stretch, UNT outscored Virginia 4-1 in the fifth chukker and then dialed up the defense the rest of the way to seal a 14-9 victory and the university's first polo title; and

WHEREAS, Vaughn Miller Jr. scored 17 goals in the national tournament and was joined on the All-Star team by Andrew Scott, who earned the Connie Upchurch Memorial Sportsmanship Award for the second time; UNT also received important contributions in the match from John Dencker, Vance Miller, and Niklaus Felhaber; these determined student-athletes were ably guided by head coach Vaughn Miller Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Winning a national championship represents countless hours of hard work and an unwavering commitment to excellence, and the UNT Mean Green polo players are a source of tremendous pride to the entire university community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the University of North Texas polo club on winning the 2023 USPA Division I Men's National Intercollegiate Championship and extend to the team's athletes, coaches, and staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the club as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.