

SKYLINE

Beach it for the sport of kings

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If you're looking to partake in a bit of horseplay this weekend, hoof it over to North Avenue Beach for the Grey Goose Chicago Beach Polo World Cup on Saturday and Sunday. And while there, be sure to check out Ben Rosenfield.

The 31-year-old West Loop resident is one of several players from around the globe participating in the prestigious tournament of beach polo. With his team, Titan Commercial Polo, Rosenfield will participate in his first sand tournament with professional players that he has paid — as in hired — to play with him on a high-level team.

"It's as if old man Ricketts played third base with the Cubs," explained Rosenfield, Principal at Titan Commercial, a commercial real estate brokerage firm located in the Aqua Building.

The beach will be the site of a custom-built arena roughly the size of a football stadium, with VIP suites, pop-up shops, fashion shows and of course, the beautiful horses, which are track horses from the U.S. and Argentina, Rosenfield said. The tournament will host eight teams — four men's, four women's — with partial proceeds benefitting local charities.

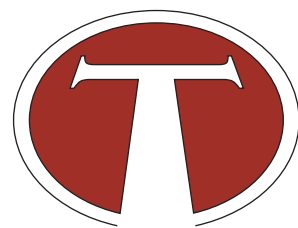
Rosenfield told me that polo — aka the sport of kings — was once played here by Marshall Field and the Wrigleys. He said the Museum of Contemporary Art property was an armory that housed a polo arena, as did the Noble Horse in Old Town.

"It's in our roots," said Rosenfield. "Polo has been a part of Chicago society since Chicago was Chicago."

I did hear a couple of grumblings from folks thinking it's a bunch of manure this is happening on the beach, but I've decided they were just being horse's asses. In fact, I'm sort of chomping at the bit to get to North Avenue this weekend and have a look-see.



Ben Rosenfield and Roxy, at a recent polo tournament in Lexington, Kentucky.



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