

TENT PEGGING

By Atef Al Attar

The term refers to a specific mounted game with ground targets; it refers to the entire class of mounted cavalry games involving edged weapons on horseback. The competitive sport evolved out of cavalry training exercises designed to develop cavaliers' prowess with the sword and lance from horseback.



▲ *The Egyptian tent pegging team*

A CAVALRY SPORT OF ANCIENT ARAB ORIGIN
AND IS ONE OF ONLY TEN EQUESTRIAN
DISCIPLINES THAT WAS DEVELOPED AND
OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR EQUESTRIAN
SPORTS (FEI) IN 2004

the twilight of cavalry in the twentieth century.

The term tent pegging is also related to the idea that cavaliers mounting a surprise pre-dawn raid on an enemy camp could use the game's skills to cut or uproot tent pegs, hence collapsing the tents on their sleeping occupants and spreading chaos and terror in the camp. Because the specific game of tent pegging is the most popular equestrian skill-at-arms game (a term derived from edged weapons on horseback), the entire class of sports became known as tent pegging during

Today, tent pegging is practiced around the world, but is especially popular in Middle Eastern countries, Afghanistan, Australia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. The Olympic Council of Asia included tent pegging as an official sport in 1982. While members of cavalry regiments and mounted police forces still dominate tent pegging, the sport is increasingly embraced by civilian riders. The Egyptian team participated in the Tent Pegging World Games in 2001 in India where they came in third place. Consequently, the Egyptian Equestrian Federation decided to hold tent pegging national events every two weeks throughout the season.



