

2006 WILLIAM S. FIELD TOURNAMENT

Virginia once again dominated the Field tournament at Cornell University. This year it was a Virginia/Cornell final in both the Men and Women's brackets. I must say that it was not an easy trip to the finals either, since both teams had to beat last year's national champions to make it to the final.

Read more about the tournament in the *Captian's Corner* on page 5.



From L to R - Tournament winners Strother Scott, Devon Daily, Mauricio Diaz, Chevy Beh, Trevor Dunlap and Coach Lou Lopez.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REACHES 1.5 MILLION

VA Polo's Capital Campaign surpassed the \$1.5 million mark, or 30% of its \$4 million goal. One hundred percent of the current members of the VA Polo Board of Directors have enthusiastically supported the campaign.

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Rob Rinehart with Hutton and Greg Goodman, honoring Greg for his generous gift to the VA Polo Endowment Campaign. The Virginia Polo Bronze is awarded to those who contribute a minimum of \$100,000 to the endowment campaign.

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Louis J. Lopez, Jr.

Club Office

(434) 979-0293
 info@vapolo.org

December, 2006



We are now at the end of our Fall 2006 season. The club continues to grow and develop in many ways. First, the membership has reached an all time high. This is largely due to the polo boot camp that was established a year ago. This year, Molly Meudeking along with Hutton Goodman lead this program. This formal lesson program has allowed many Virginia students with riding abilities (I use the term riding ability loosely) the opportunity to receive dedicated time to developing themselves as players. After the completion of the boot camp, the student has the option of joining the club as a full member. The Fall is also a time for Friday night games under the lights in our outdoor arena. Weekly sign up sheets are posted at the barn for all members to get a chance to play in the big games. We mostly had round robin games with 4 players per team (each playing 3 periods). This allowed for 12 members to play each week. On Parents Weekend we played 2 round robin matches allowing 24 members to play. We used every available horse to make it work. There were many family members and friends at the match. I particularly enjoyed the spirit exhibited by the tailgates that many parents sponsored.

For us to be able to run such an active program, giving our students as much polo as we did, we need horses. We also need to be able to care for and manage the string's fitness, soundness, and general well being. This is a very important aspect of the success of our program. Virginia is constantly recognized, not only for the quality of its players, but also for the quality of its polo string. Virginia receives many high quality horse donations largely due to the care given to them by our students. Horse care and management is a #1 priority at Virginia. Although all students are involved, the responsibility of leadership falls on a few. This year it is Lila Gaines' leadership that has taken our horse care to another level. I am not only impressed with her knowledge, but in her ability to ask for help in areas she is not sure about. Lila is also creating a model for others to follow in the future.

In partnership with horse care is stable management. Cecilia Steel heads up this responsibility. She has a quiet way about her and sees that the horses are fed and the barn is kept clean on a daily basis. Because of her interest in and knowledge of the horses, she has been responsible for the string selection for all Fall games. This being her last year, she is teaching others to take over when she is gone.

On a competitive level, Captains Chevy Beh and Lila Gaines both lead their teams to impressive victories in the William Field Invitational Tournament, held each Fall at Cornell. As we get ready for Nationals this winter I look forward to helping these captains develop their teams to perform at the highest level. As leaders and players they are well respected by their team mates. I am excited about Virginia's prospects.

To run a program of this magnitude and scope, there is significant cost involved. As fiscal manager, I look closely at the bottom line along with making sure that what we do is of the highest quality. I hope that all of you that have either personally been through the Virginia Polo Program, or have children that either have been or are currently involved in Virginia Polo, will help us reach our financial goal. If you have already given to our annual campaign this year, I personally thank you. If you have not given as of yet, I hope that you will give this program serious consideration as you make your year end charitable contributions. If you have not been to our new website, please take some time to visit www.vapolo.org. If you have any questions about our program, I can be reached at llopez@vapolo.org. You can also call me directly on my cell at 434-409-2637. I am happy to answer any questions you might have about our program, and to help you make your gift to Virginia Polo.

Lou Lopez

Louis J. Lopez, Jr., Coach & General Manager

www.vapolo.org

Polo Training Foundation 2006
Player of the Year



From L to R - Ellen Lopez, LJ Lopez and Lou Lopez

L. J. LOPEZ RECEIVES AWARD

Virginia Polo's very own L.J. Lopez received the 2006 Player of the Year Award from the Polo Training Foundation in Aiken, SC on September 29.

The Polo Training Foundation has been recognizing its top male and female players since 1986. The criteria for selection of this award falls into three main categories. They are playing ability, contribution to the sport, and sportsmanship. University of Virginia students have won this award nine times, more than any other University, with its most recent winner being last year's mens captain L.J. Lopez. Congratulations on a job well done!

Bottom Left Picture - Tom Huber and Jake Flourney refresh themselves after chukkers at Great Meadow in June. Bottom Right Picture - From L to R Nick Barry, Jake Flourney, Tom Huber, Jim Dunlap (with Gracie, Jack and Annie Dunlap), Shockey Gillet and LJ Lopez.



FROM THE BOARD

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

It is always nice to report good news. Starting with the glorious weather here, this has been a fantastic Fall semester for Virginia Polo. The club membership is 32 strong with another 17 recruits having enrolled in the "polo bootcamp" run by Hutton Goodman and other club volunteers on Saturdays. Leah Hall (President), Adam Klopp (Treasurer), Kelly Michaelis (Promotions), Lila Gaines (Varsity Captain) and Cecelia Steel (horse and barn management) all provide great leadership.

Just as rewarding to report is that Nick Barry '99, David Christopher '90, Aaron Cohen '06, Diana Crowley '80, Erin Dougherty '02 and Will Harris '93 have joined the board of directors of Virginia Polo, Inc. This infusion of new blood bodes well and begins an orderly rotation of directors. Likewise, under the tutelage of our development consultant Tom Connors, Polo Inc. is now in compliance with GAP standards as reviewed by the accounting firm of Hantzmon-Wiebel. With affirmation in February comes, simply, the charitable organization "good housekeeping" seal.

Our facility still remains the pre-eminent one in the country. Thanks to the endowment being built, monies are now being transferred to a plant reserve fund which will ensure that we can keep up what is now in place and also allow us to make the facility more accommodating to players and horses alike. This year the BOD has authorized the construction of three new 12' x 24' run-in sheds and the fencing of an additional 50 acres of pasture so generously lent by Jenny Sue Minor.

Of course, it is your support and allegiance to Virginia Polo that makes it all possible.

All the best,

Rob Rinehart, Chairman



Enter for your chance to WIN a Hermès Polo Saddle!

Only 100 tickets to be sold ~ \$100 each

Winner does not need to be present at drawing to win. The drawing will be held when the last ticket is sold. It is the responsibility of the winner to report earnings to the IRS. At the request of Hermès, no returns, refunds or exchanges for the raffled item.

To receive a raffle ticket, please make your check payable to *Virginia Polo / Saddle Raffle* and mail to VA Polo, 1082 Forest Lodge Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

A picture of the actual saddle may be viewed online at www.vapolo.org.

FALL FAMILY WEEKEND FANS



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN *continued from page 1*

The campaign, which was publicly announced in Wellington, Florida on April 20, has two main objectives. One is to raise \$3.5 million in new endowment funds, the income from which will be used to support VA Polo's programs and care for its facilities. The other objective is to build a Student Caretaker Cottage which will give VA Polo a 24/7 physical presence on its property located off Old Lynchburg Road, just south of Charlottesville and minutes from The University. As of October 31, there have been thirty capital gifts to the campaign with an average gift of \$50,206. Va Polo is a self-supporting organization which receives very limited support from the University of Virginia, that comes in the form of student activity fees. The campaign committee is in the process of expanding its coverage beyond the board, and committee members are starting to contact VA Polo alumni and friends.

For more information or to learn how to make a gift, please call Tom Connors, campaign director, at 434-979-0293 or e-mail tconnors@vapolo.org.

SPRING SCHEDULE

January 3 – Horses back in work
January 17 – 1st day of classes
January 22 – Slow chukkers begin
January 27 – Polo Bootcamp 1st practice, 11:00 a.m.
Club Member clinic, 1:00 p.m.
January 28 – Virginia Juniors 1st practice, 2:00 p.m.
February 2 – Varsity Men scrimmage, 4:00 p.m.
February 3 – Polo Bootcamp, 11:00 a.m.
Varsity Women scrimmage, 2:00 p.m.
February 4 – Virginia Juniors, 2:00 p.m.
February 9 – Culver Boys vs. Junior Varsity, 6:00 p.m.
February 10 – Polo Bootcamp, 11:00 a.m.
Culver Boys vs. U.Va. Women, 2:00 p.m.
February 11 – Virginia Juniors, 2:00 p.m.
February 16 – Virginia Men vs. Cornell at Cornell
Virginia Club Round Robin, 6:00 p.m.
February 17 – Polo Bootcamp, 11:00 a.m.
Virginia Women vs. Cornell at Cornell
February 18 – Virginia Juniors vs. TBA, 2:00 p.m.

February 22-25 – USPA Scholastic Womens Nationals
March 3 – Spring Break begins
Polo Bootcamp, 11:00 a.m.
Virginia Juniors vs. TBA, 2:00 p.m.
March 4 – Virginia Juniors vs. TBA, 2:00 p.m.
March 8-11 – USPA SE Scholastic Regionals
March 15-18 – USPA Intercollegiate Regionals
March 23 – U.Va. Men vs. TBA
U.Va. Women vs. TBA
March 24 – Polo Bootcamp, 11:00 a.m.
March 25 – Virginia Juniors vs. U.Va. Club, 2:00 p.m.
March 30 – Varsity Women vs. TBA, 6:00 p.m.
Varsity Men vs. TBA, 7:30 p.m.
April 2-7 – USPA Intercollegiate Nationals
in Lexington, KY
April 13 – Virginia Club Round Robin, 6:00 p.m.
April 15 - Virginia Juniors, 2:00 p.m.
April 23-28 – Virginia Polo Open
April 29 – End of season Virginia Juniors Match

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

from Chevy Beh, Men's Team Captain

The field trip up to Cornell was indeed a great one! Although we already knew each other pretty well, this trip gave us a chance to spend more time than we usually do together. This enabled us to learn more about ourselves and others. In return, it helps us to learn about people's strengths and weaknesses from working together outside the polo arena. Thus, we can expect what a player was capable of delivering both mentally and physically.

I am pleased with the results we had up in Cornell considering we did not practice together that often. However, I reckoned that there is still a lot of improvement that we need to make in order to be a competitive team for the Nationals. We need to continue polishing the Diamond to make it shine! We will continue work hard next semester.

from Lila Gaines, Women's Team Captain

After a disappointing loss at Nationals last year, the Women's team came in to this season ready to work hard. In addition to team practices we also instituted a mandatory stick and ball rule; anyone who failed to stick and ball three times a week had to buy her teammates milkshakes, so it worked out well for all of us.

The hard work paid off at the William Field tournament when we defeated UConn (National champions for the last two years) in the semi-finals. While we lost to Cornell in the finals, we are looking forward to avenging that loss in the upcoming season. We feel like we've built up a lot of momentum and continued hard work next semester will lead to our continued success.



Thank You!

The Chain Remains Unbroken

Thank you to all those who have contributed to our 2006 operating fund. Donations received through November 28.

Rotunda Club \$2,500

Michael and Rebecca Dailey
George P. Greenhalgh
Daniel T. Montgomery
Allan D. Scherer

Players Club \$1,000

W. Earle Betts, III
Dan Colhoun
Thomas N. Connors
James R. Dunlap
Karlene Garber
Sherlock S. Gillet
Hobby Family Foundation
 Paul & Janet Hobby
 William P. Hobby
 Katherine Hobby Gibson
Tom Huber
John and Karen Klopp
Reginald E. Ludwig
Richard C. Riemenschneider
 In memory of Donald Grubbs
Robert H. Rinehart
Bradley A. Scherer
Kris S. Wooten

Chukker Club \$500

Nicholas A. Barry
Alfred E. Fortugno
Dana Fortugno
G. David Hamar
George and Cynthia Kahle
Evelina Massie Scott
Harold A. Via, Jr.

Stick and Ball Club \$250

Gregg E. Johnson
Summerfield K. Johnston
Katherine B. Madden
Lee Ann Daly McCoy
Harry G. Powell
Harold J. Woodward

Hot Walker Club \$100

Anthony T. Abbenante
Margaret Rives Bacon
Matthew F. Connolly
Gregory J. Daniels
Craig and Robin Ellis

Hot Walker Club \$100

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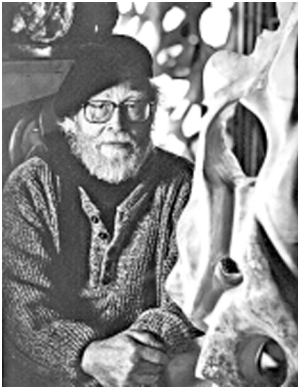
ANNUAL FUND - THE LIFE BLOOD OF VA POLO

While you will read about the successes of our Endowment Campaign in another section of this newsletter, you should know that it is the gifts to the Annual Fund that support VA Polo's programs on a daily basis. Our programs are increasing in size and scope each year. More than forty-eight UVA students have signed up to participate in polo programs this fall. Last year, sixteen area high school students participated in a program designed for them, and four of them are now enrolled at the University and playing with VA Polo. It takes operating funds for these programs to grow, and presently the source of those funds must come from members of the VA Polo family in the form of annual gifts.

Last year, Annual Fund gifts to VA Polo totaled \$70,000. The goal for 2006 is \$80,000. Most gifts to the Endowment Campaign are being paid over a five year period, so it will take a few years for the income from the increased endowment to match the increased cost of supporting our programs. VA Polo remains a self-supporting organization.

If you have not already done so, please make a gift to the Annual Fund today by visiting our website at www.vapolo.org/support.html or by mailing your check made payable to "**UVA Fund/Virginia Polo**" to:

UVA Fund
PO Box 3446
Charlottesville, VA 22903



In Memory

C. David Breedon

1938 ~ 2006

Friend and Neighbor of VA Polo

FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE by Strother Scott

Nothing shocks athletes quite like drastically changing the level of the games in which they are playing. Coming to Virginia definitely did that for me. I played two full years of polo with the Charlottesville Junior Team, and with a couple matches and two very brief but enjoyable stints in Regionals under my belt, I thought I had a fairly decent handle on things, polo-wise. I was, it turns out, very wrong.

I played a week or two of relatively un-eventful polo with the club, and was beginning to get comfortable, when lo and behold I got an email inviting me to play in a Friday night exhibition. "No big deal," I thought, "that'll be fun." However, when I got to the barn, it wasn't the regular club kids that were there, but instead the varsity kids, who I had met briefly but never spent any real amount of time with. This was a little disconcerting, and was made more so by the fact that two of them were over six-foot-four.

I would be lying if I said that first game went anything but poorly for me. It took me almost a full chukker to pick my jaw up off the saddle. The difference in level of play between a college polo match and an interscholastic one can't really be adequately described; it

New run-in shed on its way up.



has to be seen to be believed. It was an extra shock for me, since I at the time had almost zero polo experience beyond my high school team and the occasional Rege Ludwig clinic. Instincts that I had developed for two years had me going the wrong way all night; and plays that four semesters told me wouldn't develop *did* develop, and on a regular basis at that. I don't think I'd ever had such a negligible impact on a game.

I wouldn't call that game a low point, but it definitely knocked me and made me reconsider my position. It got better from there, however, and one thing is true of any sport; playing with your superiors is the best way to improve. And as the year went on, it became clear that my high school background was incredibly valuable to me. Nothing gives you a faster lesson in riding off than a game against Garrison in their tiny arena, and although spectators I'm sure wish there were fewer fouls in interscholastic matches, I came to UVA with a solid understanding of the rules gleaned from two years of fouls getting called on me. The major adjustment I had to make wasn't in my swing mechanics, or in my riding, but in my thinking, and the only way to make that adjustment is through experience.

Virginia Polo Bootcamp Fall 2006



VIRGINIA POLO MISSION STATEMENT

The Virginia Polo Center in Charlottesville, Virginia provides University of Virginia students, both men and women from all walks of life, with the opportunity to experience the sport of polo.

In keeping with the philosophy of the founders, the program strives to instill in each student the merits of responsibility, hard work, dedication, the rewards of fellowship, working as a team, and the ability to compete in an intercollegiate sport on the national level. These are valuable lessons that endure in the students personal and professional lives after college.

This is a student run organization with members equally sharing responsibility for the athletic success, work ethic, and outstanding reputation of our polo legacy. The Board of Directors are dedicated to providing overall management, professional coaching, and long-term financial support for future generations.

Virginia Polo is not supported by the University of Virginia and relies primarily on outside sources for its financial well being.

1082 Forest Lodge Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22903

