

UVA Teams Earn Spots in Finals

U.Va. Men's Team remains undefeated

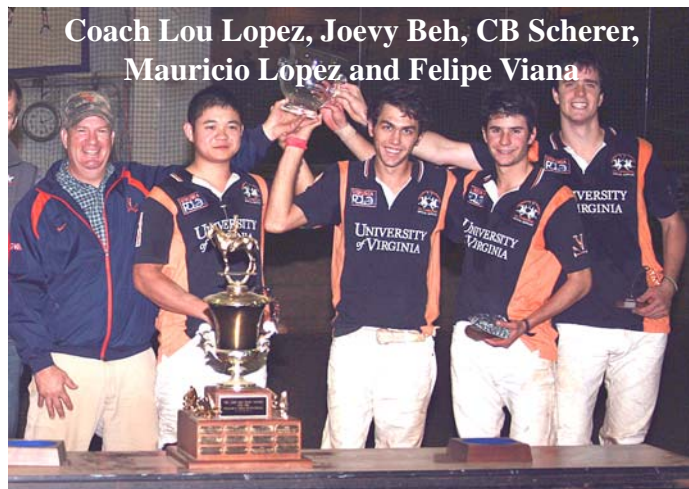
The U.Va. men's team has been on an incredible winning streak since September of 2007. Having lost in an upset to Cornell in the semi-finals at the Kentucky Horse Park during the 2007 national finals, U.Va. men have had a perfect record ever since. Captain Joevy Beh, along with Mauricio Diaz, Strother Scott, CB Scherer, and Mauricio Lopez finished last year's season undefeated with a win over Texas A&M at the 2008 national tournament. This year we added new recruit Felipe Viana to the squad. His talent as a player has given us incredible depth.

We completed our fall season undefeated with decisive regular season wins over Cornell, Harvard, University of Kentucky, Uconn, and Colorado State. The men finished their season by competing in the William Field Tournament held at Cornell University each fall. In their first match U.Va. beat Uconn 23 to 7. Their second match was against Colorado State. The score was 22 to 13. In the finals U.Va. faced off against last year's national finalist Texas A&M with a final score of 21 to 10 in favor of U.Va.

U.Va. Women make it to Finals

The U.Va. women's team started off with a sound win against the traditionally competitive Texas A&M team 15 to 8. Captain Meg Greenhalgh, along

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Coach Lou Lopez, Joevy Beh, CB Scherer, Mauricio Lopez and Felipe Viana



Sybil Greenhalgh, Isabella Wolf, Kylie Sheehan, Meg Greenhalgh and Coach Lou Lopez

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Club Office

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Thank You!

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the 2009 Annual Fund.

This list reflects donations received as of December 2.

High Goal Club \$5,000

Mrs. John D. Donahey
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FROM THE COACH:

The ponies have just been turned out, ending the fall semester. There is lots to talk about. The herd has undergone a transformation as I have retired many of our older ponies. These horses have given the VPC many years of service. I am pleased to have been able to find retirement homes for many of these horses. This has made room for new horses to join our string.



This semester has also given students the opportunities to develop their leadership skills. The Virginia Polo Club members have voiced their interest in scheduling more organized practices and match games for the JV level players. There are many college programs that have teams at the JV level that would not be strong enough for our varsity teams to play, but competitive for our club members to play. A separate practice schedule, along with home and away games will be scheduled for those club members interested. Along with the Varsity schedule of home and away games, the JV players will also have their own schedule of home and away games. Fourth years Savanna Barry and Sarah Pergolizzi will be responsible for the organization and implementation of these events.

The Virginia Polo Magazine will produce its second edition this spring in time for Nationals. Editor Meg Greenhalgh and Lina Scott will be providing the leadership on the project. A special thanks goes out to Stilly McFadden for his generous support providing the printing of this publication.

Speaking of Nationals, the Virginia Polo Center has once again been chosen as the site to host the 2010 National Intercollegiate Championships (NIC) to be held in April. We will also host the Southeast Collegiate and Interscholastic Regionals as well this March.

The United States Polo Association has also just entered into an agreement with the Virginia Polo Center to become a USPA Regional Training Center. We are one of five sites currently awarded this status. I will have more to say about this in the spring newsletter as we work with the USPA to help grow the sport of polo.

The polo community continues to send its best and brightest to U.Va. Our new fall recruits are Isabella Wolf, Kylie Sheehan, Alexa Diaz, and Felipe Viana. We welcome all of you to our program.

The VPC continues its commitment to maintain and develop the physical plant. The addition of the new Rodger Rinehart Jr. Stables, along with renovations to our main barn, are just a few of the changes you can expect to see.

As a final note, none of this would be possible without your generous financial support for both our endowment and annual giving. It is because of your support that we are able to remain the number one collegiate polo facility in the country.

Lou Lopez

Louis J. Lopez, Jr.
Coach and General Manager

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

At the October Annual Meeting, I was elected Chairman of Virginia Polo for the next two years. I want to thank Joel Gibbons for his hard work during his time as Chairman and look forward to his assistance as a member of the Executive Committee. In addition to Joel, the Executive Committee consists of Jake Flournoy, Peter Henderson, Tom Huber and Nancy Schlichting.

While the Nation is in a state of turmoil, Va Polo continues its mission of providing “men and women from all walks of life, with the opportunity to experience the sport of polo.” The Club is quite healthy from many perspectives – participation, new opportunities and community support.

Participation – the Club has approximately 30 college members and a solid group of high school players this academic year. Each participant learns about playing polo, horsemanship and commitment, and benefits from this healthy outlet from scholastic demands.

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U.Va. Women continued

with Kylie Sheehan, and Isabella Wolf fought hard to earn this win.

In their second match, the U.Va. women beat the University of Connecticut 15 to 10 earning them a berth in the finals. Sybil Greenhalgh, substituting for an injured Meg, along with Kylie and Isabella played well together.

U.Va. faced off against the Cornell women in a match that challenged our girls from the first throw in. With Cornell, out to revenge their loss to U.Va. in the 2009 National Finals, U.Va. faced an uphill battle at half time with a score of 12 to 3. The U.Va. women fought back hard, but came up short with the final score 18 to 10 in favor of Cornell.

Kylie, Issy, Sybil, and Meg returned to Charlottesville with a renewed incentive to push themselves, and grow as players and as a team for an even better outcome at the national tournament this April.

The Team would like to formally thank our parents, our coach Lou, and teammates Julia Stenier and Savannah Barry for all of their support. We are all looking forward to next semester.

Thank You!

Mauricio & Johanna Lopez
for the six new
Merlos polo saddles

Bill & Elizabeth Wolf
for 45 new turnout blankets,
new clippers, the floating of
our strings teeth, and the
renovation of our wash stall by
enclosing and providing heat
for the horses and players

If you would like to
make an in-kind donation,
please contact Lou Lopez
to discuss current needs.

Donate by mail:
Payable to *Virginia Polo Fund*
UVA Fund
PO Box 400314
Charlottesville, VA 22903

All gifts count toward
University giving totals
and are tax deductible.



Joevy Beh



U.Va.'s Kylie Sheehan riding
off Cornell's Lizzie Wizner

VA POLO BOOT CAMP *by Sarah Pergolizzi*

As I was myself a graduate of the Virginia Polo Boot Camp, I was happy to take over the reins this past semester and to instruct Virginia Polo's newest players. This past Fall proved to be an especially strong season for the Boot Camp program. There was a wide variety of students – they ranged from first years in the college to first years in Darden business school, and everything in between; there were boys (well, one boy) and girls; and there were ex-patriots of the Virginia riding team, students who hadn't ridden since middle school, and one student who didn't have any substantial prior riding experience.

While their backgrounds differed, every single student this year was eager to learn the game, a quick and courageous learner, and a smiling face each, early Saturday morning at the barn. They enthusiastically tackled each new swing, despite sore wrists and less-than-clear faculties after fun Friday nights. Many stayed for Saturday afternoon games to see the strokes and rules they were learning come to life. The students this year were brave enough to make big mistakes, learn from those mistakes, and subsequently, they all became polo players.

Lou and I worked hard to prepare the Boot Campers fully for the Spring semester on the Club team, and our organization of the lessons worked beautifully. We began the lessons with a riding lesson and a hitting lesson on Woody, the trusted wooden horse of Virginia Polo. The hunter-jumpers of the group were uncomfortable at first with the polo seat, but they picked it up quickly. The next few lessons involved a slow introduction of each of the four polo shots, with careful attention to detail. The students learned to get their behinds out of their saddles, but they also learned this hitting technique's importance in ensuring the safety of the horse and the accuracy of the swing. Throughout the lessons, the students not only learned that they must do certain things; they also learned why they must do them.

The lessons ended with an explanation of the rules, and practice chukkers in which we enforced those rules and explained them in context. The chukkers were slow at first, with many whistles for crossing of the line and riding into swings. However, by the third lesson of chukkers, the students were cantering, hooking, riding off, and circling back once they missed the ball.

This Fall's Boot Campers are all prepared to join the Club this Spring, and while I haven't yet received confirmation from everyone, we are already at a 50% retention rate. Historically speaking, for at least the years that I've been in the club and helped out with the Boot

CHAIRMAN *Continued*

New Opportunities – Va Polo was recently accepted by the USPA as a Regional Training Center (RTC). As such, Va Polo will receive financial assistance from the USPA for providing facilities to teach polo, hold instructor/umpire training, to host tournaments, etc. We look forward to working with the USPA in a manner that benefits both organizations.

Community Support – The Va Polo community is far reaching and is a key reason why our program remains so strong. During the last twelve months, our community established the Rinehart Polo Pony Fund (donations and pledges exceed \$115,000); constructed an eight (8) stall barn dedicated to Rodger Rinehart; established a fund for club members new to polo; and donated time and expertise to improve the organization.

Even with the above positive news, changes needed to be made in order to negotiate the financial realities of today. Specifically, dues were increased and the string was decreased to an optimal size. Going forward, our 2010 budget is being crafted with a critical eye on costs since some outside revenue sources (ie, benefit games and summer facility leasing) have stopped for the near term.

Even with prudent financial planning, Va Polo will continue to depend on Annual Giving to fund 20%+ of its operating budget. As such, Va Polo needs your financial support now more than ever. Please keep us at the top of your year-end charitable contribution plans, whether cash or securities.

We have a terrific organization that all should be proud of. I hope you will visit Va Polo when you are in the area. To stay in touch, please check www.vapolo.org each month or email vpolo@aol.com and we will add you to our distribution list.

Best Regards,
Shockey Gillet, Jr.

Camp, this is a fantastic figure. While I'd love to attribute most of this success to my own skills as a teacher, I really can't. A great part of this Fall's success is due to the incredible Boot Camp students, the Club and Varsity members that came out to help teach, and Lou's expert coaching.

I hope that you all look forward to next Spring and the Club seasons to follow. The growth of this Fall's Boot Campers is sure to be extraordinary!

Trip to Harvard by Mauricio Diaz

On Halloween Weekend Oct 30-31, the Men and Women's Varsity B teams flew up to the Myopia Polo Club near Boston, Massachusetts to take on the Harvard Polo Team in what were a couple of exciting matches. The matches were played in their recently renovated outdoor arena. It was a short, but very successful weekend for both teams.

The Women's team was composed of all fourth year students. Evelina Scott, Sybil Greenhalgh, and Wynnie Long led the attack for the women with a 12 – 8 win. Sayle Atkinson (second year), Strother Scott and Mauricio Diaz (fourth year students) powered through for the men's side with a 26-1 final score.

The Harvard Polo Team is composed of mostly beginner players who have had no prior experience in polo and possibly only some limited horseback riding experience. With Crocker Snow as their coach, many of the players we competed against show potential in future years to come. With a newly refurbished arena and a beautiful barn sponsored by Robert Daniels of Pony Express, only a 10 minute trailer ride away, the Harvard Polo Team has an ideal set-up for which to practice intercollegiate polo. They

recently received an impressive string of ponies from Tommy Lee Jones which has improved the quality of their ponies tremendously from the previous time Virginia had played Harvard, and will definitely improve their quality of play. We established a strong connection with the Harvard players and horses, and hope to be able to visit them and play against them next semester.

Lina Scott, Strother Scott, Wynnie Long, Sybil Greenhalgh



Rinehart Pony Fund

Thanks to many generous supporters, the Rodger and Bobo Rinehart Polo Pony Endowment Fund, established this past April, has received a total of \$118,000 in cash and pledges to date. In addition, a new eight stall barn - now known as the Rinehart Stables - has been donated by Earle Betts.

Donations (cash or securities) to the Fund are tax deductible and multi-year pledge payments are accepted. For more information, contact: Dick Riemenschneider 703-777-1403, Virginia Polo 434-979-0293, or visit www.vapolo.org/ponyfund.html

**USPA SE Scholastic Regionals
March 11 - 14**

**USPA SE Collegiate Regionals
March 18 - 21**

**USPA National Intercollegiate
Championship
April 5 - 10**

at the Virginia Polo Center



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.