

Virginia Sweeps the National Intercollegiate Championships

The Virginia Polo Center hosted the National Intercollegiate Tournament April 7-11. A total of fourteen teams, seven men's and seven women's, competed for their respective trophies. With ten mostly competitive matches played earlier in the week, the finals were set:

In the Women's Final, the # 1-ranked Cornell women came into the final with an undefeated season, but came up two goals short of the #2-ranked University of Virginia women, 19-17. Fourth-year (Senior) Captain Cristina Fernandez led her team to victory with 9 goals, including a two-point penalty shot from beyond mid-field that gave Virginia a three goal lead with less than two minutes to play, sealing the deal. Fourth-year (Senior) Leah Hall and First-year (Freshman) Emily Dameron each contributed 5 goals. Dameron was a last minute substitution for First-year (Freshman) Meg Greenhalgh, who was unable to play due to an illness that kept her out the entire tournament. Meg's sister, Sybil, played well against Oregon State in Virginia's opening game, but Dameron's accuracy on penalty shots in the semis against University of Connecticut led to her getting the nod to play in the final. A true team player, Sybil unselfishly provided support on and off the field to help



this team throughout the season to become the 2009 National Women's Champions. Both Fernandez and Dameron were named to the All-Tournament Team.

In the men's final, the undefeated and #1 ranked University of Virginia Men faced off against the equally strong two-time defending national champs from Texas A&M. The UVA Team, captained by Second-year Jovey Beh, led at the half by one goal, 10-9. In the third quarter, Virginia outscored A&M 6-3 to take a commanding four-goal lead, 16-12, and A&M's 5-4 advantage in the fourth left them behind 20-17 at the final buzzer. The Virginia attack was almost perfectly

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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 April 13.

Rotunda Club \$2,500

Stephen Orthwein

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Donate by mail:

Payable to *Virginia Polo Fund*
UVA Fund
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All gifts count toward University giving totals and are tax deductible.

FROM THE COACH:

This has certainly been a year to remember. Being a part of an organization like this has a tremendous responsibility attached to it. The board of directors has set the bar high for all of us to aspire to. We have just finished a year full of many, major accomplishments. Let me first start out by thanking the board for their dedication to this program. As volunteers, this board devotes time away from their businesses and families. They do so because of their shared passion for this sport of polo.

The board committed to funding some needed improvements to the facility. A new front gate with wood pillars and an automatic gate opener, still to be installed, is nearly finished. All new signs, with a common color scheme, tie the look of the Center together. Pictures are included in this newsletter. We also reroofed the wood barn and the hitting cage. Finally, exterior walls to the locker rooms and the office were painted.

All of these projects were completed prior to hosting the 2009 National Intercollegiate Finals and provided a noticeable facelift to the Virginia Polo Center. The host tournament committee, coaches, players and parents all found the renovations to our facility quite impressive.

Let us not forget why the Virginia Polo Center exists in the first place. That is, of course, to provide polo and polo instruction to our youth. This year we mounted 5 competitive teams, 2 at the collegiate level and 3 at the high school level. Both the Mens and Womens UVA Teams won the USPA National Championship this year! I am so proud of all the work the students did to prepare for this event. At the high school level, 2 of our teams qualified for, and competed in, national tournaments.

We also had a very successful UVA Club season with 6 teams playing off on Wednesday nights for the Club championships. I am also very proud of our first *Virginia Polo Magazine*. This is planned to be an annual publication produced and edited by the Virginia Polo Club members. First year Meg Greenhalgh was our editor, along with Lina Scott. Together they produced a very professional publication that I hope you will enjoy reading.

I was not able to accomplish all of this alone. LJ Lopez worked this year as my assistant coach. His main responsibility was to coach the high school program and he did a fantastic job. He also assisted me at the collegiate level helping run practices for both the men's and women's teams. I was able to use him as an umpire, player for scrimmages, teacher, and coach. LJ was also responsible for overseeing the design and installation of the new signs that has enhanced the look of the Virginia Polo Center. Molly Muedeking was also very helpful this year, again running the winter bootcamp on Saturdays as well as the Wednesday night club league.

Lou Lopez

Louis J. Lopez, Jr.
Coach and General Manager

VA POLO HONORS RINEHARTS

Charlottesville, VA, April 3, 2009 - Virginia Polo, Inc., the organization which supports all polo activity at the University of Virginia, recently announced the establishment of the *Rodger and Bobo Rinehart Polo Pony Endowment Fund*. The endowment memorializes the late Rodger and Bobo Rinehart, who were instrumental in the foundation and development of this premier collegiate polo facility since the 1950s. The proper care of the numerous polo ponies owned by Virginia Polo was one of the Rineharts' major interests and concerns. Income from the endowment will be used to help support the cost of maintaining the ponies that Virginia Polo owns.

The Fund was started by lead gifts from Debby and Mark Pirrung, Class of 1973, and Dick "Remo" Riemenschneider, Class of 1959. Mr. Pirrung and Mr. Riemenschneider are former members of the University of Virginia Polo Team and recipients of the wisdom, hospitality and kindness of the Rineharts.

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



Photo Right, L to R - Joevy Beh, Mauricio Lopez, CB Scherer, Coach Lou Lopez, Assistant Coach LJ Lopez, Strother Scott and Mauricio Diaz

Photo Below, L to R - Leah Hall, Christina Fernandez, Coach Lou Lopez, Assistant Coach LJ Lopez, Emily Dameron, Sybil Greenhalgh (not pictured: Meg Greenhalgh)



Sweeps *continued*

balanced, with Beh and First-year C. B. Scherer scoring seven goals apiece and First-year Mauricio Lopez adding six. Alternates Strother Scott and Mauricio Diaz also provided support on and off the field to help their team become the 2009 Men's National Champions. Scherer was named to the All-Tournament Team.

A special thanks goes out to Assistant Coach LJ Lopez for his help in making this possible.



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.

