The army lists him as Captain Jerome J. Waters but everyone at O. U. knows him as Jerry Waters. A graduate of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical college, Captain Waters who loves horses is responsible mainly for the development of polo at the university. Oklahoma as a result is expected to be invited to join the Intercollegiate Polo association, having been nominated for membership by Princeton. Captain Waters is shown on one of the fine mounts the government maintains at the Norman unit.

Up and there: polo

BY HERMIONE BRISCOE, ’28

College sports are broadening out in an effort to give benefits to a vast body of students of varying capacities, interests, training and adaptability. A generation or so ago, sports were limited and were confined for the most part to football, baseball, tennis and basketball.

While polo is one of the youngest of the sports which have been adopted by colleges, it is unique in that it may be played and is played by men after leaving college. Even men fifty years old or more remain good players. The sport is becoming a potential one in schools today because it affords excellent training in coordination of mind and body, and because over-exertion is seldom experienced by the players.

Polo in the colleges got its initial impetus in the organization of the reserve officers corps work in these institutions immediately after the World war, and has had a magnificent growth in the decade which has elapsed.

With the assigning of mounted units to the R. O. T. C. at the University of Oklahoma in 1919, students began to develop an interest in polo. Each mounted unit was allowed from forty to ninety horses and equipment as well as stable facilities. This in turn brought officers who during their service with the various army mounted units had played polo.

According to Captain Jerome J. Waters, assistant professor of military science, and coach of the varsity polo team, the playing of polo as a college sport is encouraged by the war department as it develops quick thinking, alertness and team play.

Polo at the university was started by Major C. A. Baehr, field artillery, about 1920. Until the arrival of Major Edwin P. Parker the teams were made up of both students and army officers stationed here. The last three seasons since 1929, the teams have been composed entirely of students.

“The two essentials of polo are good fields and mounts, and through the enthusiasm and efforts of Major Parker, the University of Oklahoma is the only university in the country which can boast of two sodded fields,” explains Captain Waters.

“There are some thirty good polo ponies and more are sent here all the time. In addition to the ponies and the fields, the equipment is complete, each pony having its own bridle, boots and white saddle-cloth with number. The team has two sets of colors, both of which are combinations of red and white, knee pads and so forth. In addition there are two polo cages with wooden horses for practice in striking the ball.”

The two coaches, Captain Waters, and First Lieutenant Ernest A. Elwood, F. A., are varsity coach and freshman coach, respectively. They are furnished free of cost to the university. Captain Waters came here in 1928 from Fort Sill where he was a member of the horse show team. As a student there in 1922, he was greatly interested in the sport of polo. Later he taught three years in the department of animal transport. He then studied for a year at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he was enrolled in the advanced course in equitation in the cavalry school. On his return to Fort Sill, he organized an equitation course in the field artillery school. He is a man fully trained to build up a fine sport at the university. His interest in the boys, and his genuine love of the game, coupled with his enthusiasm and untiring efforts as a trainer, carries promise that polo will develop into one of the most important sports of the university. Lieutenant Elwood, also, is an expert, and has devoted his best efforts in teaching the boys.

Eligibility requirements for members of the polo team are the same as for any other sport in the university. The 1930 team maintained an enviable grade record, Captain Waters said.

The varsity team was accorded a signal honor when it was invited to play in the Intercollegiate Association Polo tournament held last June at the Rockaway Hunting club, Cedarhurst, Long Island. Early in the spring Captain
Waters received a communication from F. S. O'Reilly, secretary-treasurer of the association which is a branch of the United States polo association with headquarters in New York City. It was an invitation to play in the annual intercollegiate, which is the melting pot of college polo. Only five very strong schools belong to the association which is a very traditional and sporting group. They are Yale, Harvard, Princeton, West Point, and the Pennsylvania Military college.

The University of Oklahoma has been considered by the association as a prospective member, as the easterners see the development of polo as a sport in the western state universities. At the same time the university received the invitation to play, the University of Arizona was under consideration. But it was decided the Sooners were more advantageously located, so the invitation was sent here.

Such an honor meant much to the Sooners but they were faced with the necessity of raising adequate funds. They found they could raise $1,500; then the association wrote they could guarantee $750. Through the assistance of the Norman chamber of commerce, the student council and Mr. W. E. Hightower, sportsman, of Oklahoma City, the remaining dollars were accumulated.

It is likely that the university will be invited to become a member of the intercollegiate polo association within the next two months. Princeton is making a written nomination for the Sooners, and Harvard is seconding the nomination which will be presented before the association at the meeting which will be held in New York City the latter part of November or the first part of December. To become the first western member of this strongly organized and exclusive association would indeed be an accomplishment in sports for the Sooners.

The team which played in the tournament last June consisted of Clyde Watts, Robert Hert, Joe Barshill, Joe Chastain, J. B. McKinley, captain, Edgar D. Nichols, manager, and Captain Waters, coach, accompanied the boys. In the first game, Harvard won over Princeton by a score of 9 to 8. Pennsylvania won from Yale 11 to 6. The third game was between Oklahoma and the Army, with the Army boys taking the game 12 to 6. Our boys gave the Army a handicap of three goals, so the score was in reality 9 to 6. In the semi-finals, Harvard won from Pennsylvania and played the Army for the finals with Army winning by a small margin, 9 to 8. Returning from New York by way of Lexington, Kentucky, the varsity team played the Elk Horn polo club team, defeating it by a score of 12 to 8.

The fall schedule just completed has been successful. Oklahoma played the Anadarko club two games, 12 to 8, and 10 to 1; and Nichols Hills, Oklahoma winning 10 to 1. Oklahoma beat Missouri in two games, 13 to 5 and 17 to 8.
world understanding, plus appreciation of the beautiful.

The third objective of the school is to enable young people to use their aptitudes along right lines. Aptitudes at the beginning are neutral—they are neither good nor bad. They may become either, depending upon the kind of guidance they get. The manipulative aptitude may develop along the line of lock picking until a degree of skill is reached that enables one to open the most complicated bank vault; or it may develop along the line of electrical construction until one is able to invent new electrical apparatus. In this case two types of guidance prevail. One guides the mechanical aptitude along the line of lock picking which is usually called bad, while the other guides the same aptitude toward electrical construction which is usually called good. It is the duty of the school to enable young people to use their aptitudes along fruitful lines and the school must enable boys and girls to make the world a better place in which to live.

Opportunity for practice

Along with these three-fold objectives the school must provide much opportunity for thinking, evaluating, and judging on the part of pupils. Teachers must stop thinking, evaluating, and judging for pupils, for it is only through practice in those things that students learn to do them. Instead of making adding machines out of our youth we must make them the inventors of adding machines. In brief, the function of the new school is, first, to help youth to discover its aptitudes; second, to provide a thinking and liberating education along the discovered aptitudes; and third, to help our young people to use their aptitudes in such a fashion as to better their own lives and the world in which they live.

We are still pioneers. We have our frontiers to conquer as our forefathers did but the frontiers of today are quite different from the frontiers of yesterday. This will ever be so for we are living in a changing world. Consequently, the pioneers of today are very different from the pioneers of yesterday. This, too, will ever be so for a world with its changing frontiers demands changing individuals and those who fail to recognize this fact become driftwood in the current of progress. The thing that concerns us most today is whether we have the new frontiersmen in the making. Are our young people developing along the lines for which they are best fitted? Are they acquiring a real understanding of the people of this present world? Finally, are they learning how to think, evaluate, and judge comprehensively before engaging in line of action? If we are to conquer the frontiers of tomorrow as our forefathers conquered the frontiers of yesterday, we must educate our young people along these lines.

UP AND THERE: POLO

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14 to 4. Iowa State was defeated, 14 to 0.

The New Mexico Military Institute, although boasting young Jimmy Rogers, son of Will, put up two mighty good battles but lost them. The scores were 5 to 2 and 7 to 6.

The spring plans include games with the Universities of Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Colorado. Captain Waters has just received a shipment of eight dozen clubs and 80 dozen balls from Calcutta, India. This is done because of the keen balance and excellent quality of the clubs and because the cost is less than prices of domestic equipment.

Additional plans have been made to include games with the St. Louis or Kansas City country clubs; the Chagrin Valley Hunt club in Cleveland, Ohio; the Detroit Polo Club in Detroit; the Intercollegiate tournament; and the Elk Horn country club in Lexington. Clyde Watts was graduated in '31 so Bob Hert took his place on the regular team, and A. E. Dickson of Hominy is the new substitute.

This September about fifty students came out for polo. They are divided into two squads according to their experience and previous play. The freshman squad under Lieutenant Elwood is first given a series of lectures and demonstrations on the strokes, both by diagrams and actual supervision on the wooden horses. The next step is to play a game on the blackboard; after that, the rules of the game are taken up. The novices are taken outdoors and divided into two teams where they play polo dismounted on small fields with short mallets, Captain Waters explains.

As the men become proficient they are mounted in pairs, stroking from a horse at the walk and trot.

"The polo stroke must be as accurate as that of golf, together with the follow-through, and the player must stroke both forward and backward on either side of his horse at all speeds. This alone necessitates hours of practice for perfection, and, in addition, the player must be in the best of condition to ride at top speed for six periods of seven and one-half minutes each," says Captain Waters.

"The progress of the beginner depends mostly on his ability to ride well enough so as not to be bothered by a horse. It was a great surprise to me to find that at least one half of the men in the heart of the horse center of the country had never been on a horse before."

Polo trips live fresh in the minds of the players. During 1930-1931, polo took the boys in seventeen states, three countries and Washington, D. C. The trip to New York and back by Lexington, Kentucky took in fourteen states, two countries and Washington, covering 4,000 miles.

Boy, what a trip. The gang went 'rubber-necking' and the sights they saw gave form to the keyword of the trip, "Lookee Yander." Lookee yander sang out time and again throughout the trip as the impressionable college boys from Oklahoma went east for the first time.

The eighteen horses were shipped June 4 with three grooms on a new Santa Fe horse car attached to a fast passenger train. It took them only four days to arrive in New York. Private Jesse Smith was in charge with Privates Hagood and Cable accompanying.

Watts, Hert, Barnhill, Chastain, McKinley, Nichols and Coach Waters left June 5 in two cars. The first night was spent in Springfield, Missouri, and the second night was spent outside of Indianapolis. "St. Louis is one big town," is the comment Joe Chastain makes. But Joe changed his mind when they reached Detroit. "We drove seven miles on one street and counted thirteen Wayne County Peoples' banks."

It was the intention of Captain Waters to make the trip as educational and enjoyable as possible. "Polo teams can travel much more cheaply than a football squad, because we have fewer players. We have more time, especially when games fall out of the school term. Since our trip was taken after school closed, and since we were driving in private automobiles, we decided to take our time and really see the country," he explains.

With Captain Waters as director, the tour, indeed became an educational one, remaining vividly in the minds of the boys this year.

Into Canada and a sight of Niagara on the Canadian side. Series of exclamations at the great crevasse cut by the raging waters. Back to Buffalo, on to Rochester and a trip to the Eastman Kodak plant. At Rochester the 'rubber-necks' gawked so frequently that they followed the boulevard around the city twice before they got their bearings.

Cornell university impressed the boys at Ithaca, New York. Then to the big city. The boys went through the tunnel under the Hudson and stopped to ask