

INSIDE

# HOKIE SPORTS

The Official Publication of Virginia Tech Athletics

## ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Erick Green led the nation in scoring and Alexander Ziegler won an ACC and a national championship. For their efforts, they are Inside Hokie Sports' 2012-13 athletes of the year.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

Two longtime Hokie Club staff members have decided to retire



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## HOKIES END GOOD SEASON AT NCAAS

The Virginia Tech softball team made its second straight trip and sixth overall to the NCAA regionals and advanced to the championship game of the Lexington, Ky., regional. The Hokies fell 1-0 to Kentucky and saw their season come to an end. They finished with a 38-21 record for their third straight winning season.







## THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

“Going into my senior year, I can honestly say my time at Virginia Tech has been the most rewarding of my life. Thank you for giving me the best four years I could have asked for!”

**COURTNEY LIDDLE**  
Senior | Softball

“The memories I have collected the past few years at Virginia Tech couldn’t never be replaced. I am so proud to be at such an inspirational school.”

**KYLIE MCGOLDRICK**  
Sophomore | Softball







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**HOKIE CLUB LEVEL:** HOKIE CLUB

**HOKIE CLUB MEMBER SINCE:** 2011

**CURRENTLY RESIDES:** BLACKSTONE, VA

**WHAT YEAR DID YOU GRADUATE?** 2011

**FAMILY:**

BRITTANY THOMAS (FIANCE) AND HENRY (GOLDEN RETRIEVER)



## Q&A

**Q: Being a member of the Hokie Club and supporting Virginia Tech athletics is important to me and my family because ...**

**A:** I believe it provides so many benefits for the entire university. I know that in a small way each member helps build state-of-the-art facilities and gives scholarships to very worthy student-athletes. For reasons like this, I'm very proud to be a member of the Hokie Club.

**Q: You are a recent graduate of Virginia Tech. What propelled you to join the Hokie Club?**

**A:** Joining the Hokie Club was a given for me when I graduated from Tech. I've learned from both my grandparents (Bob '53 & Anne Quicke) and my parents (Dunc '81 & Myra Quicke '81) how important it is to give back to our great school. Supporting the Hokie Club is one of many ways to support our alma mater. I know that donations of all size are very beneficial to the success of the Hokie Club.

**Q: Do you have a specific moment when you realized that you were a fan of Virginia Tech athletics and knew without a doubt that you were a Hokie?**

**A:** I've been regularly attending football games since I was probably 3 years old. I would say I knew I was a true Hokie in the mid-90s when my brother, Morgan '09, and I would go down to the locker room after every game. As little boys, we'd stand outside and wait for players and coaches to come out. We'd have our sharpies ready, and we'd collect autographs on our game programs. Jim Pyne, Lee Suggs, and Bud Foster are just a few of our favorites.

**Q: Do you have any game day or tailgating traditions or superstitions? If so, what are they?**

**A:** Game Day in Blacksburg always starts at least three hours before kickoff. My grandmother's tailgate spread always draws a huge crowd. Whether we're tailgating at the GERMAN Club Manor or in Lot 1, it's always great to catch up with so many friends. Win or lose, we

continue the tailgate after the game too.

**Q: When you head into town for a game, are there any "must-do" things for you and your family?**

**A:** A trip to Blacksburg isn't complete without a trip to TOTS (Top of the Stairs) in downtown Blacksburg. I also enjoy going back to the GERMAN Club Manor, which is where I spent a good amount of time when I was a student in Blacksburg.

**Q: Virginia Tech has had a lot of successful teams and wins over the years. Do you have a favorite team/season or game that stands out the most?**

**A:** There are many memorable seasons and games, but one that I will never forget is the season opener in 2007. It was the first time that many Hokies were back in Blacksburg after the tragic events of April 16. The day started with "GameDay" broadcasting from Blacksburg, and the entire day demonstrated how great being a part of the Hokie community is.





# LETTER FROM LU

The 142nd year of the university concluded with graduation in Lane Stadium on May 17. We said, "Good-bye and good luck" to a number of outstanding student-athletes who will set out to make their mark in the world. We are grateful for all of their contributions to their sports, to the university and to the community. They brought us many exciting moments on the fields and courts this past year.

Our fundraising results for the fiscal year ending in June will be good, but will trail last year's record-breaking results. We are proud to report that the VTAF Endowment has reached an all-time high of \$46.3 million. Earnings from this endowment paid approximately 19 percent of this year's scholarship bill, and coupled with money from our Annual Fund, we were able to meet the \$11.2 million tuition bill for 2012-13. We know that tuition, room and board will increase in the fall, and our goal is to try to keep the Annual Fund at pace to meet the rising costs of educating our student-athletes. You can help us by inviting new Hokies and friends to join the Hokie Club.

The 2013 Orange and Maroon Tour was successful, as staff and coaches visited 16 cities and reached four states. We thank all of you who came out to support the events, especially those of you who bid generously on the auction items. Thanks to our Hokie presidents and Hokie Reps, whose work make the golf tournaments, receptions and dinners so enjoyable.

We are very pleased with the football seat and parking selection process that took place between late April and early June. Our staff was happy to aid those members who requested assistance, and we feel that the process went smoothly. The Ballena software product is simple and easy to use and has saved our office and the ticket office countless hours of manual work.

Hokie Club members who are season ticket holders for men's and women's basketball will receive information regarding the reseating of Cassell Coliseum scheduled for late summer. As a result of the reseating process, the deadline for ordering season tickets was moved forward to June 24 to allow time for the ticket office staff to process the requests and prepare for the reseating. A detailed "how-to" guide will be mailed in July to assist those fans who plan to participate in the reseating. Hokie fans will recognize the Ballena software package used in the football reseating and should find navigating through the selection process very similar to what they did when selecting football seating.

The Hokie Club office will lose two valued and long-term employees this summer when John Moody and Sharon Linkous retire. John will step away June 28 after 40 years of service, while Sharon will retire July 31 after 43 years of service. Both have seen the Hokie Club grow from the days of asking for \$10 per year and recording gifts manually to now where our staff raises tens of millions of dollars yearly and our gift accounting staff enters thousands of annual gifts online. Their commitment and dedication to Virginia Tech athletics cannot be measured in years of service or Hokie Club members served. I know that I have learned much from both of them and will miss them. They have earned this opportunity to retire and can now enjoy being a Hokie fan on Saturday afternoons. We wish them both good health and Godspeed as they begin a new journey.

The Hokie Club is pleased to announce that Ben Hill has joined our fundraising team as an associate director of development for intercollegiate athletics. Ben is a 1994 Virginia Tech graduate, earning his B.A. in urban affairs and planning. He has enjoyed a successful career in the insurance field and has been active in the Williamsburg community. He will be relocating his family to Blacksburg this summer and looks forward to getting started and meeting with Hokie Club members.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and we will see you in Atlanta on August 31st.

Go Hokies,

**LU MERRITT**

Senior Director of Development for Intercollegiate Athletics



**Tech adds women's golf**

On May 14, Tech AD Jim Weaver announced that the athletics department will begin a women's golf program, which makes it the 22nd intercollegiate sports program at Tech.

The squad will begin competition in the fall of 2015. Weaver hopes to name a head coach by July 1 of this year and plans on giving the coach a year to recruit student-athletes and build the program. Recruited student-athletes will start in the fall of 2014. The Hokies will commence team play in the fall of 2015 and become eligible for the Atlantic Coast Conference championship that spring.

"We have been working toward this day since joining the ACC, but wanted to make sure that everything was in place for this program to succeed before starting this process publicly," Weaver said in a release.

"Our men's golf program has proven that golf at Virginia Tech can be highly successful."

The women's golf program will share the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech and the included Virginia Tech Golf Team Complex with the men's team. The practice facility already includes a women's golf locker room, and it features indoor hitting facilities, outdoor covered and heated tee areas and a full practice range. The facility also includes state-of-the-art video equipment and other modern instructional modes.

Women's golf will be the first new sport added by the Hokies since the school joined the ACC in the 2004-05 academic year and the first new sport at Tech since softball was added in the 1995-96 academic year. Tech will become the 11th ACC school to compete in women's golf.

**Six Hokies selected in MLB Draft**

Shortstop Chad Pinder headlined a contingent of six Tech players who were selected by Major League Baseball teams in the 2013 MLB First-Year Player Draft held June 6-8. The six players drafted marked the second-most ever drafted from Tech. In 2010, eight Hokie players went in the draft.

Pinder went to the Oakland A's in the "Competitive Balance Round B" of the draft. This round came after the conclusion of the second round.

Pinder, ranked by many as one of the top 100 draft-eligible prospects, was the 71st overall selection. The junior from Poquoson, Va., became Tech's highest draft choice since 2002 when pitcher Joe Saunders went to the Anaheim Angels of Los Angeles with the 12th overall selection.

Pinder, a first-team All-ACC choice, started all 60 games and batted .321 this past season. He hit eight home runs and drove in 50 runs. He recorded a .483 slugging percentage and a .404 on-base percentage.

Outfielder Tyler Horan, pitcher Jake Joyce, pitcher Eddie Campbell, pitcher Joe Mantiplay and pitcher Colin O'Keefe also were drafted by MLB teams.

On the second day of the draft, the San Francisco Giants selected Horan in the eighth round, and the Washington Nationals took Joyce in the ninth round. Horan led Tech with a .342 batting average, and he also hit 11 homers and drove in 50 runs. Joyce went 7-1 in 30 appearances, with a 4.16 ERA. He struck out 56 in 62.2 innings.

Campbell, Mantiplay and O'Keefe went on the final day of the draft. The Seattle Mariners drafted Campbell in the 15th round, while the Detroit Tigers selected Mantiplay in the 27th round. Campbell went 2-5 this season, with a 5.40 ERA, but pitched well in his final two starts. Mantiplay, Tech's ace, went 6-1 this season, with a 2.85 ERA. He struck out 50 in 75.2 innings and walked just 25.

The Los Angeles Angels selected O'Keefe in the 33rd round. He pitched in just five games this season, going 0-2 with a 15.88 ERA. 

**ACC announces football rotating crossover opponents**

Each year, the Tech football team plays every team in the Coastal Division (six games) and also Boston College from the Atlantic Division. BC serves as Tech's primary crossover opponent.

On June 4, the ACC announced each team's rotating crossover opponents for the next 12 years. This opponent is the one ACC team that changes every year on each team's schedule. Each ACC school will play all of its rotating crossover opponents twice during the 12-year rotation, once at home and once on the road, but not in consecutive years. Here are the rotating crossover opponents for

the Hokies through 2024:

Year	Opponent
2014	at Wake Forest
2015	NC State
2016	at Syracuse
2017	Clemson
2018	at Florida State
2019	Wake Forest
2020	at Louisville
2021	Syracuse
2022	at NC State
2023	Florida State
2024	at Clemson

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editor's desk | by Jimmy Robertson

# The 2012-13 athletics year ranks as one of the best ever for Tech

The NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships marked the end of the 2012-13 sports year for Virginia Tech athletics, and it rounded out arguably the greatest athletics year in the history of the university.

That may seem like a bold statement to make. In fact, in pitching this theory to a friend recently, he argued otherwise, stating the Tech football team had its worst season in 20 years, and people rank a successful year on how well the football team performs.

Fair point, to be sure. Tech fans love their football, and the disappointment of the 2012 season still lingers.

That said, let your editor morph into attorney mode here and state his case for this past year's successes.

First of all, yes, the football program had a 7-6 record, but the Hokies won their final three games, including their bowl game. Whether the bowl win comes against Michigan or Rutgers, it counts the same. Winning a bowl game should not be dismissed. Only 18 teams finish a season having won a bowl game and/or the national championship. Tech was one of them.

Second, the men's basketball program brought some thrills despite its struggles this past season. Watching Erick Green chase the nation's scoring title and then win it, becoming the first Tech player to do so, was a treat. Watching him become the first to be named the ACC Player of the Year added to it.

Finally, Tech's Olympic sports were just phenomenal this past year. Remember when everyone said that the Hokies' Olympic sports were going to struggle immensely in the ACC? Remember when certain media members basically said the gravedigger was going to be busy burying Tech's Olympic sports.

Well, the school added two more national championships in track and field when Alexander Ziegler won the weight throw during the indoor season and Tomas Kruzliak won the hammer throw during the outdoor season. Tech has won 14 individual national championships – all since joining the ACC.

This year, the school won three ACC championships (men's cross country, men's indoor track and wrestling) to bring its total to 16 since joining the league, and the school finished

second in five others (golf, baseball, men's swimming and diving, women's swimming and diving and men's outdoor track).

Six Olympic sports qualified for NCAA postseason play – women's soccer, men's cross country, golf, men's tennis, softball and baseball. The latter three all won at least one match/game.

In certain Olympic sports, such as track and field, swimming and diving and wrestling, only individuals qualify for the NCAA Championships. The Tech wrestling team and men's swimming and diving squad sent 10 individuals to the NCAAs. The men's indoor track team sent seven, while the outdoor team sent eight. The women's swimming and diving squad qualified eight for nationals as well.

The men's indoor team finished in a tie for ninth place in the team standings and the outdoor team finished 19th. The wrestling team came in 10th, the men's swimming and diving team 20th and the women's swimming and diving team 24th.

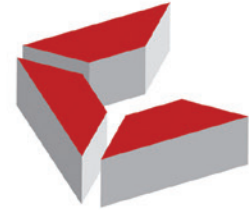
Thanks to all that NCAA success, the Hokies should finish in the top 20 of the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings for the first time ever. The Learfield Sports Directors' Cup awards points based on how a school fares in NCAA sponsored competition. Tech's previous best finish was last year when it came in 35th.

One may say to look back on this past year and enjoy it, an insinuation that this year was an aberration. But don't expect the Hokies to be one-year wonders in many of these sports. These rosters feature a lot of great young talent.

Kruzliak and Chris Uhle (men's track), Kylie McGoldrick and Kelly Heinz (softball), Devin Carter, Chris Moon and Nick Brascetta (wrestling), Scott Vincent and Maclain Huge (golf), Amerigo Contini and Andreas Bjerrehus (men's tennis), Ashley Meier (women's soccer) and Martina Schultze and Annjulie Vester (women's track) all have at least two years of eligibility remaining.

There are a lot of reasons to be positive about the future. Just like there are a lot of reasons to be positive about this past year. All of the above-mentioned arguments may be off base to you all, the fans. After all, at the end of the day, you all hold the gavel. You're the judge – and the jury.

As this athletics season comes to an end, we ask this – how do you rule? 



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# New president to play critical role in the future of Tech athletics

For the first time in 14 years, Virginia Tech is searching for a new president, and while that person will continue to build on the university's national and international presence in terms of academics, outreach, research, and economic stability, he or she also will shape the future of Hokie athletics.

On May 14, Tech president Charles W. Steger announced he would step down after 14 years once his replacement is found – presumably within the next 12 months. Under Steger's leadership, the university increased its research portfolio by more than 300 percent, grew enrollment to 31,000-plus, increased graduate enrollment by 12 percent, raised more than \$1 billion in private donations, created more than 2.5 million square feet of new buildings, formed the remarkable school of biomedical engineering and created a school of medicine.

From an athletics standpoint, Steger's tenure has been very impressive. He negotiated Tech's entrance into the Atlantic Coast Conference and served as chairman of the BCS Presidential Oversight Committee, which formed the new college football playoff that goes into effect following the 2014 season. He also oversaw several expansions to Lane Stadium, the construction of the Hahn Hurst Basketball Facility, and other major capital projects within Tech's athletics complex.

Virginia Tech Board of Visitors Rector Mike



Retiring university president Dr. Charles Steger has helped Tech in so many areas, particularly in athletics, and his replacement will play a big role in the future of the athletics programs.

Quillen has appointed a search committee to assist the board in finding the university's next president. That committee, which has chosen an outside consulting firm to assist in the search, will be supported and staffed by Minnis Ridenour, Tech's executive vice president and chief operating officer emeritus.

While the new president will inherit the charge of continuing to build a major land grant university that has become a renowned international research institution, he or she also will play a vital role in

shaping the future of Hokie sports. This includes hiring administrators and coaches, approving facilities, and perhaps most importantly, setting the tone of athletics' importance both within the university and externally among its constituents.

A president's job is much more than just overseeing athletics, of course. Virginia Tech's budget for next year is a whopping \$1.28 billion. To put that in perspective, Tech's athletics budget this past year was roughly \$67 million. So in reality, while Tech's athletics revenues are



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impressive – ranking among the top-35 schools nationally per a recent USA Today report – the athletics department’s spending is only about five percent of the university’s overall budget.

Still, athletics is extremely important at Virginia Tech. The new president will be challenged to navigate those waters and understand the importance of sports on this campus and to its constituents throughout the commonwealth and nationally.

Presidents, not athletics directors, have assumed the controls of intercollegiate athletics and that academic flavor goes all the way to the top, where former UConn and LSU president, Mark Emmert, is now in charge of the NCAA. However, there have been casualties among several brilliant academic executives at high profile and prestigious universities in recent months.

At Penn State University, former president Graham Spanier is facing charges of concealing child sex abuse allegations and perjury involving former Nittany Lions football assistant coach Jerry Sandusky. That scandal, one of the biggest in NCAA history, ended the long tenure of college football’s winningest coach, Joe Paterno, and led to unprecedented sanctions from the NCAA, including a \$60 million fine. The Governor of Pennsylvania tried suing the NCAA, but the lawsuit was thrown out.

At Rutgers, new president Robert Barchi and the school have faced heavy criticism of the university’s handling of former men’s basketball coach Mike Rice, who was shown in a video throwing balls at his players and verbally abusing them in practice. Rice was eventually fired and former athletics director Tim Perneti also resigned. But controversy over the hiring of Perneti’s replacement, Louisville associate AD Julie Hermann, and the inaccuracy in the released academic record of the school’s new basketball coach led to a former New Jersey Governor calling for Barchi’s resignation. Current Governor Chris Christie has backed Barchi in what has become both an academic and political issue.

At Ohio State, president Gordon Gee announced he was retiring last week after he made statements mocking: a.) The University of Notre Dame, b.) Notre Dame’s president, c.) Roman Catholics, d.) the academic integrity of the University of Louisville and e.) the Southeastern Conference. Back in 2011, Gee joked that football coach Jim Tressel, who had admitted to breaking NCAA rules, would have the power to fire him. Tressel was eventually let go, Ohio State was placed on probation, and Gee has now stepped down.

At North Carolina, Chancellor Holden Thorp will resign at the end of June after spending

three years dealing with an array of NCAA and academic issues related to athletics, which have landed the Tar Heels on probation. Thorp, a UNC alum, will become the new provost at Washington University in St. Louis. During a campus forum in April, Thorp said he “certainly didn’t know enough to run college sports” when he was first hired at his alma mater in 2008. Yet during the NCAA investigation in Chapel Hill that began in 2010, Thorp claimed his “daily duties became all athletics, all the time.”

In an April article by The Associated Press, Thorpe told attendees at the forum, “Either we put the AD’s back in charge and hold them accountable if things don’t work or let’s be honest and tell everyone when we select (presidents) to run institutions that run big-time sports that athletics is the most important part of their job.”

Listen, Thorp – like Spanier and Gee – is a brilliant guy. These people are all incredibly intelligent, proficient fundraisers and dedicated, experienced academicians. They were all well-qualified, highly vetted and paid incredibly high salaries to run major national universities with billion dollar budgets. And by all accounts, were popular, successful, terrific presidents.


Robert Barchi is a brilliant neuroscientist whose main goal is to merge two medical schools. Yet he’s been embroiled in a political controversy between state senator Barbara Buono, who wants him gone, and Christie, who has Barchi’s back. Buono is running for Christie’s job, and the two are headed for a November election showdown in New Jersey. It’s almost mind-boggling that Barchi – and Rutgers – are in the middle of this gigantic political scandal because of ... (pause for effect) ... what happened during basketball practice.

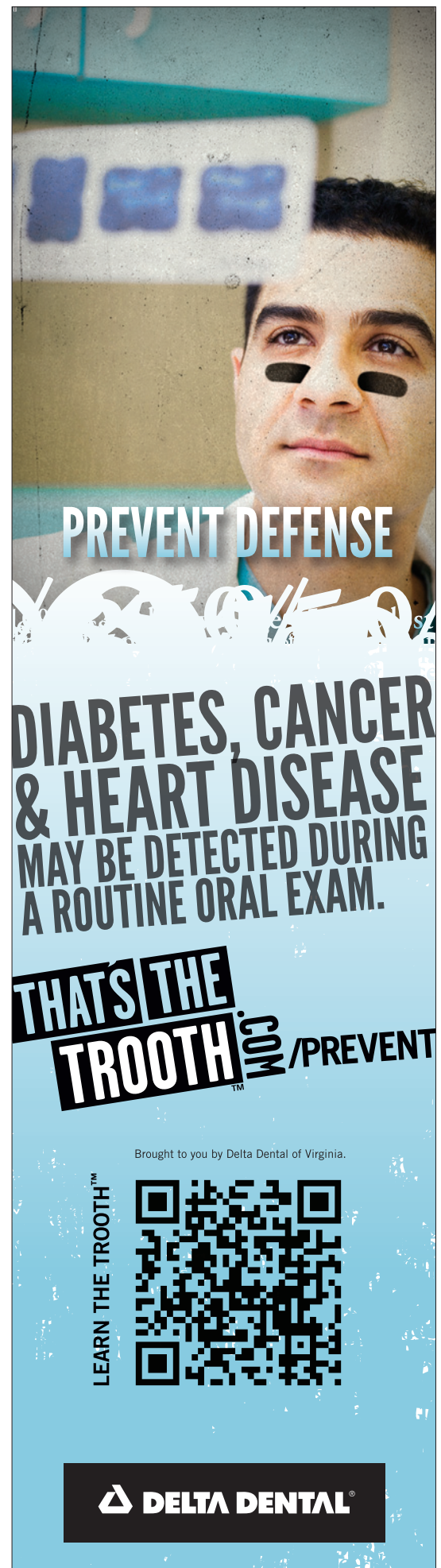
As Hokies, we’ve been lucky. The Charles Steger-Jim Weaver-Frank Beamer triumvirate at Virginia Tech has been a remarkable success. To have the same president, AD and head football coach for 14 years is unusual. These three men share common goals, ideals and a mutual trust that has helped Tech not only grow, but perhaps more importantly, avoid many of the pitfalls that have afflicted many of Tech’s conference and regional brethren.

Is Thorp right? Should new presidents be told athletics are “the most important part of their job?”

That’s hyperbole, of course.

But the tenor of Thorp’s message is valid. A keen understanding of athletics and the consequences of a single misstep in this arena are more critical than ever for any new president.

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## Cassell Coliseum reseating set to get underway

by Jimmy Robertson

After going through the reseating process for Lane Stadium, Tech fans shouldn't have any reservations about going through the process for Cassell Coliseum.

After all, the process is practically the same.

Season ticket applications for the upcoming 2013-14 men's and women's basketball seasons have been mailed to all season ticket holders, including those not in the Hokie Club, and to all Hokie Club members. Those orders need to be returned by the June 24 deadline. Once the athletics department officials receive those orders, they plan on beginning the process for reseating Cassell Coliseum.

"I'm hoping that people will say, 'Gosh, Syracuse is coming in (to the ACC), Pitt's coming in, Notre Dame is going to be here, and next year, Louisville is going to be here, so let's go ahead and get our good seats now,'" said Lu Merritt, the senior director of development for intercollegiate athletics and the one who oversees the Hokie Club. "This is going to be the best league in the country, and there's a great opportunity to see some of the best college basketball you'll ever see."

The June 24 deadline for basketball season ticket orders is much earlier than in years past. Usually, the order form gets sent out in September. But the ticket office needs the extra time to coordinate the reseating process, as it did last year for the Lane Stadium reseating process.

Those who order basketball season tickets will receive a letter in July that gives them an appointment time, and they also will receive a "how-to" guide to reference when using the Ballena Technologies online system – the same system that the athletics department used in

the reseating of Lane Stadium. This system allows customers to see available seating options beforehand and then choose from among the available options during their appointment times.

The appointment times will be in August. Smith said that he expects to ship season tickets in October well in advance of both teams' season openers in early November.

"We feel like the process is straightforward," said Sandy Smith, Tech's assistant AD for ticketing services. "We want to give the customer the flexibility to decide where he or she wants to sit. Everyone has the same opportunity to see what's available beforehand and then choose during the appointment time."

The order of selection again will be determined based on where a customer ranks on the reseating "ladder." This ladder recognizes a combination of both giving and continuous years of purchasing season tickets. In fact, those who have been a continuous season ticket purchaser since 1966 take the top spot on the ladder and get to retain their current seat location, if they so choose. Next comes contributors who rank as Benefactors, Century Champions, Golden Champions, Diamond and Platinum Hokies. Then, those who have purchased season tickets continuously between 42 and 45 years get to choose, followed by Golden Hokies and so forth.

Not all seats in Cassell Coliseum will be available for selection. Customers noticed this exact same thing in the Lane Stadium reseating process, and some questioned it. The athletics department sets aside blocks of seats to meet certain demands as required by contract.

For example, the visiting team receives a


certain number of seats. Also, corporate sponsors to Tech athletics often receive tickets to both football and basketball games as part of their contracts.

Plus, the athletics department sets aside a block of seats for athletics department personnel, and also, the band and the students get certain portions of the coliseum.

There are a couple of things to be aware of as the reseating process for Cassell gets ready to begin. For starters, there will be separate selection processes for both men's and women's basketball. The ticket office plans on conducting the process for purchasers of men's basketball season tickets first, and then conducting the process for purchasers of women's basketball season tickets shortly thereafter. There is simply not a good way to combine the two for those who purchase season tickets of both sports.

Also, customers should be aware that they will not be selecting their parking spots for men's and women's basketball. The ticket office assigns lots based on where customers rank on the Hokie Club's point priority system. Once in a particular lot, the customer may park in any available space, as there will not be assigned spaces.

"We'll start with Lot 1 based on a customer's point priority, and then move to Lot 4 (next to the softball field and outdoor track) and Lot 8 (the Litton-Reaves lot)," Smith said.

The athletics department encourages all those with questions about the Cassell Coliseum reseating process to visit a website dedicated for this purpose – [www.CassellColiseumreseating.com](http://www.CassellColiseumreseating.com). The "how-to" guide can be downloaded from this site as well. 



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Devin Burke's complete-game victory against Connecticut was a highlight for the Hokies, who played host to their first NCAA regional.



# Hokies home for NCAA regional, see season end with loss to Oklahoma

by Marc Mullen

It was easily the best 14-game stretch played by the Virginia Tech baseball team since the school joined the ACC for the 2004-05 season. The Hokies won 13 of 14 games before falling in the conference's championship game to North Carolina on May 26, and with that run, they earned a regional host site for the 2013 NCAA Baseball Championship.

The Blacksburg regional produced quality baseball over six games played from May 31 through June 2, and despite the Hokies not advancing to a super regional, being the host site for a regional brought national attention to the Tech baseball program – something not missed by Tech head coach Pete Hughes.

“I thought our guys did a great job for the entire tournament,” Hughes said in a postgame press conference after the Hokies’ 10-4 loss to Oklahoma that ended their season. “The next goal is to sustain this success and keep hosting regionals and advance to the supers. There are a ton of victories that happened this weekend that you don’t see on the baseball field. We got a chance to expose our venue and community nationally, and that is priceless.”

The community certainly showed up to

support their team. The Hokies played in front of the largest crowd ever to watch a collegiate baseball game in Blacksburg, as 3,566 attended Tech’s opening game against Connecticut. The largest crowd ever was the 5,311 that saw the 2008 Tech squad take on the New York Yankees on March 18 in an exhibition that honored those who passed away and/or were injured in the previous year’s April 16 shootings.

The total attendance for the six games of the weekend was also a three-day weekend record of 9,275, surpassing the 8,515 (approximated) fans that came out to see No. 1 North Carolina and Tech face each other earlier this season.

Those fans also pushed the season total home attendance to a record of 40,030 fans, or an average of 1,334 per game – almost 400 more fans per game than the previous season’s high. According to a report released weekly by Division I baseball, those numbers were 47th (total) and 49th (average) nationally for the season.

## **MANTIPLY SUFFERS ONLY LOSS IN NCAA GAME**

Senior left-handed hurler Joe Mantiplay swept through the regular season with a perfect 5-0

record and then earned his sixth win of the season in the Hokies’ 10-1 victory over Virginia in the ACC Baseball Championship’s pool play.

With that victory, Mantiplay became the first starting pitcher to post a 6-0 record since 2002 when Joe Saunders did it. However, in the team’s 5-2 loss to UConn in an NCAA regional game on May 31, Mantiplay suffered his first and only loss on the season.

Of note, Brian Fitzgerald was the last Hokie starter to end a season with an unblemished record, as he was 5-0 in 1993, while Rick Knapp was the last to be perfect with more than five wins, finishing 10-0 in 1982.

With his 4.2 frames thrown in the game, Mantiplay moved into the top five in career innings pitched at Tech with 299.2 innings, passing Mike Williams (1988-90) by one inning.

## **BURKE ALMOST MAKES TECH HISTORY**

In his final start of the 2013 season and his Hokie career, Devin Burke held Coastal Carolina scoreless through 8.1 frames before CCU outfielder Jacob May hit a solo home run in the ninth. But Burke still picked up the win in a 9-1 elimination game victory on June 1.



With the win, Burke earned his 11th victory of the year, tying for the second-most ever in a single season at the school. He won his sixth straight decision. Jason Bush was the last pitcher to win 11 games in a season (1999).

Burke almost made history with his near complete-game shutout, which would have been a first for Tech in an NCAA postseason game. Tech had never shut out an opponent in its 29 NCAA tournament games—let alone got a complete-game shutout effort. The one run allowed did match the lowest output by a Tech opponent in an NCAA game, tying the 1954 team that beat Clemson 7-1 on May 24.

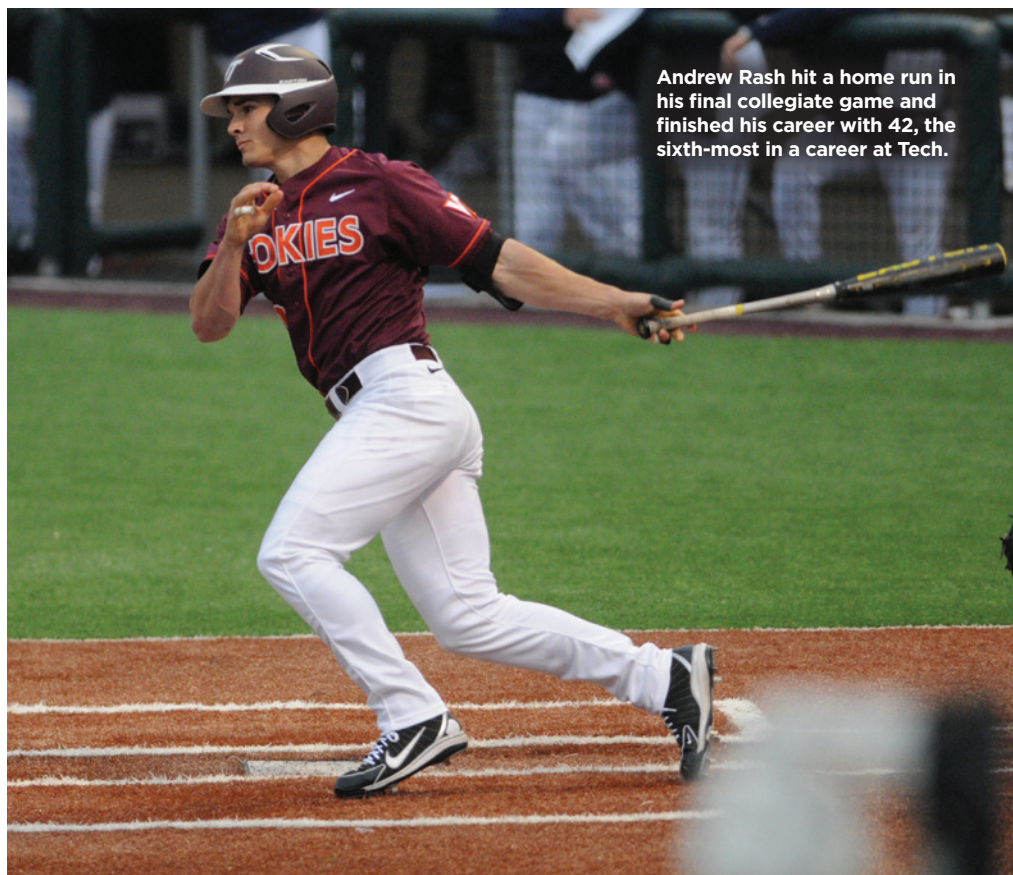
**HORAN ETCHES NAME IN RECORD BOOK**

Redshirt junior Tyler Horan was 2-for-5 with a double against Oklahoma in the Hokies' final game of the year, and with those numbers, pushed his season totals into the Tech record book.

Horan finished the 2013 season with 257 at-bats, moving past Tim Buheller into the top spot for most at-bats in a single season. Buheller registered 254 at-bats during the 1985 season.

With the double, Horan ended the year with 26 doubles, good for second all-time in a single season at the school. He sits one ahead of Casey Waller, who had 25 during the 1989 season, and one behind Steve Domecus, who set the school record with 27 in 2010.

Finally, Horan's two hits in the final game increased his team-high total to 88 hits, moving him into a tie for fifth place in a single season. He tied Jim Stewart, who actually set the school record back in 1982, but has since been passed, and Chad Foutz (1997). Buheller, Domecus and Shaun Sullivan (1985) hold the record with 92 hits.




Andrew Rash hit a home run in his final collegiate game and finished his career with 42, the sixth-most in a career at Tech.

**TWO HOKIES REACH CAREER RECORD MARK**

In the victory over Connecticut on June 2, two Tech players who first stepped foot on campus in 2008 moved into the top five in one career category at the school.

Clark Labitan threw the final 3.1 innings in the 3-1 victory to earn his 11th save of the season and the 14th of his career. Labitan passed Orvin Kiser for the fifth spot on the school's all-time saves

list, as Kiser saved 13 in his career at Tech (1976).

Andrew Rash hit an RBI double in the victory, giving him 56 doubles in his career. That mark tied him with Sean O'Brien (2004-08) for the fifth-most in a single season at the school. Rash also homered twice in the tournament, pushing his career total to 42, just one shy of the top five at the school. Mike Conte (1986-89) was the last man to hit at least 40 homers in a career at the school before Rash. 

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# Kruzliak wins national championship

Behind Tomas Kruzliak's win in the hammer throw, the Tech men's track and field team finished in 19th place at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships

by Jimmy Robertson

Tech's national dominance in the throwing events continued at the recent NCAA Outdoor Track and Championships in Eugene, Ore., as freshman Tomas Kruzliak won the national title in the hammer throw, giving the Hokies their seventh title in the event in the past nine years.

Behind Kruzliak and Jeff Artis-Gray's fifth-place finish in the long jump, the Tech men's team finished 19th nationally with 14 points. It marked the program's sixth straight top-20 finish.

"It's nice to be in that top-20 group," said Dave Cianelli, Tech's director of track and field and cross country. "We've been top 10, and we've been top five, but to be in the top 20 in the country is still a really good accomplishment, and it keeps our men's team in the mix of being one of the top 10-20 programs nationally. We'll continue to come here with the goal of being in the top 10, and hopefully next year when we come back here, we'll move up back into that top-10 group."

Kruzliak, from Nitra, Slovakia, garnered the most attention among the Tech contingent and deservedly so. He joined former Hokie and fellow countryman Marcel Lomnický as the only Hokies to win a national championship during their first year on campus.

Kruzliak recorded a throw of 226 feet, 1 inch (68.92 meters) on his first attempt and then increased that mark to 227 feet, 3 inches (69.26 meters) on his second attempt. His second throw turned out to be the winner, as no other competitor threw the hammer more than 69 meters.

"I felt pretty good physically throughout the whole competition," Kruzliak said. "I was confident, not nervous, but I still believe that I could have thrown farther."

Kruzliak claimed Tech's 14th individual national championship. Of those 14, 11 have come in throwing events. Tech has won the national championship in the hammer throw in four of the past five years, including three straight. The past two years, Alexander Ziegler won the national championship in the hammer throw.

"It feels good," said Greg Jack, Tech's throws

coach. "That's just what we do. It's an event we can excel at, and we've really shown that. We'll just continue to build on that from here."

## THROWING AROUND THE COMPETITION

(Tech's national titles in throwing events)

Year	Competitor	Event
2005	Spyridon Jullien	Weight throw
2005	Spyridon Jullien	Hammer throw
2006	Spyridon Jullien	Weight throw
2006	Spyridon Jullien	Hammer throw
2009	Marcel Lomnický	Hammer throw
2011	Alexander Ziegler	Hammer throw
2011	Dorotea Habazin	Hammer throw
2012	Marcel Lomnický	Weight throw
2012	Alexander Ziegler	Hammer throw
2013	Alexander Ziegler	Weight throw
<b>2013</b>	<b>Tomas Kruzliak</b>	<b>Hammer throw</b>

Competing in his last collegiate event, Artis-Gray finished fifth in the long jump, earning first-team All-America honors. The Chesapeake, Va., native's jump of 25 feet, 6.25 inches (7.78 meters) got him into the finals. Then in the finals, he moved up to fifth place with a mark of 25 feet, 9.25 inches (7.85 meters).

Four men's track and field athletes earned second-team All-America honors – Ronnie Black, Chris Uhle, Matthias Treff and Denis Mahmic.

Black, a senior from Newport News, Va., came in 11th in the high jump. His best jump was 7 feet, 2.5 inches (2.20 meters)

Uhle, a sophomore from Powell, Ohio, finished 15th in the pole vault. In his first attempt, he cleared 16 feet, 8.5 inches (5.1 meters), and then he set a personal record with a vault of 17 feet, 2.75 inches (5.25 meters) in his second attempt.


Treff, a redshirt senior from Burgthann, Germany, finished 15th in the javelin throw. His best throw was 217 feet, 6 inches (66.29 meters), but that wasn't quite good enough to get him in the finals.

Mahmic, a senior from Zagreb, Croatia, came in 17th in the hammer throw. His best throw was 202 feet, 11 inches.



Tomas Kruzliak's national title in the hammer throw marked Tech's 14 individual national championship in track and field.

On the women's side, Martina Schultze finished in eighth place in the pole vault to earn first-team All-America honors. The sophomore from Uhingen, Germany, cleared her first two heights of 13 feet, 3.5 inches (4.05 meters) and 13 feet, 7.25 inches (4.15 meters), and then she advanced after clearing 13 feet, 11.25 inches (4.25 meters). She moved on to 14 feet, 1.25 inches, but failed to clear the bar on three attempts and finished in eighth – five spots higher than her finish a year ago.

Annjolie Vester earned All-America honors after finishing 13th in the hammer throw. The sophomore from Homburg, Germany, posted a throw of 201 feet, 5 inches (61.41 meters) on her first throw, which turned out to be her best throw. She earned second-team All-America honors in her first appearance at the national meet. 



## Tech softball team wins three in regional, falls to Kentucky to end season

by Jimmy Robertson

For softball fanatics – and Virginia Tech fans – the action and the play at the NCAA Lexington Regional was hard to beat.

Unfortunately, the Hokies came up a run short of advancing to the super regional round.

Despite getting great pitching from senior Jasmin Harrell, the Hokies couldn't get a run across the plate and fell to Kentucky 1-0 in the championship game on May 19 in Lexington, Ky. Tech had beaten the Wildcats 2-0 earlier in the day to force a second game in the double-elimination format.

With the loss, the Hokies' season ended with a 38-21 record.

"We did what we needed to do to compete and try to move on, and obviously I thought, coming into this regional, we matched up well with Kentucky," Tech head coach Scot Thomas said in a release by the Tech athletics communications staff. "I think we proved that today (May 19). Hats off to them, and hats off to my team for battling all last night (a 13-inning game against Marshall) and battling all day today (on May 19). I am proud of our bunch for sure."

Coming off a 13-inning win the previous evening against Marshall, the Hokies needed to beat Kentucky twice to advance to the super regional. In the first game, freshman Kelly Heinz pitched near-perfect ball, giving up just three hits in a 2-0 shutout of the Wildcats.

In the second game, Kentucky got an RBI single from Lauren Cumbess in the fifth inning that scored Sylver Samuel and made it stand. Harrell gave up eight hits for the Hokies, but only the unearned run, as Samuel had reached on an error by Kylie McGoldrick.

### HARRELL SETS RECORD

Tech staged off elimination on the second day of the regional when it used great pitching from Harrell and a timely hit by Bkaye Smith to beat Marshall 3-2 in 13 innings. The game marked the second-longest game in school history (a 2005 Tech-Florida State game went 14 innings).

In the bottom of the 13th inning, Smith's two-out single scored Amanda Ake with the winning run.

Harrell went all 13 innings and struck out 13.


She broke the school record for innings pitched in a game, snapping the mark of 12.2 set by Angela Tincer in Tech's 3-2 win over the Seminoles in that 14-inning game. Her 13 strikeouts mark a new career high as well. She had struck out 12 in a game on two occasions, with the most recent time coming in the season opener against Southern Illinois in February.

### MCGOLDRICK, LIDDLE NAMED ALL-ACC

McGoldrick and Courtney Liddle both received All-ACC recognition for their play this past season.

McGoldrick, a sophomore from Stratford, N.J., earned a spot on the first team after leading the Hokies with 11 home runs. She started 50 games at second base and hit .344, with 33 RBIs and 28 runs.

Liddle, a senior from Haymarket, Va., made the second team and became Tech's third three-time all-conference player. She started all 59 games and led Tech with a .347 average. She hit seven homers and drove in a team-leading 37.

Liddle finished her career ranked first in school history in career on-base percentage (.467), career walks (146) and career hit by pitch (26). 

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## Longtime Hokie Club staff members to retire

John Moody and Sharon Linkous have dedicated more than 80 years combined to helping Tech athletics

*by Jimmy Robertson*

Usually as the spring months quickly fade into summer, Tech's coaches take inventory of their rosters. And in many cases, they lament the loss of veteran upperclassmen to the working world.

The same process can apply to other areas of athletics, and this summer, Lu Merritt, the "coach" of the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund (better known by Tech fans as the "Hokie Club"), is seeing a couple of experienced hands leave his team and call it a career.

John Moody, an associate director within the Hokie Club, and Sharon Linkous, an accountant within the club, both plan to retire after more than 40 years of helping raise money for Tech athletics. Moody will retire at the end of June; Linkous at the end of July. These two institutions will take 84 years of fundraising experience with them.

"To have them both walk out the door within a month of each other is a big, big loss," said Merritt, officially known as the senior director of development for intercollegiate athletics.

Moody and Linkous actually started their careers in the profession by working for what was then called the Virginia Tech Student Aid Association, an organization founded in the late 1940s to raise money for athletics scholarships. It morphed into the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund in 1989.

Starting in 1951, Mac McEver served as a part-time director of the club (he also coached) before becoming the full-time director in 1960. In 1970, McEver hired Linkous from the education department at Tech, where she had been working after graduating from high school in 1969, to



oversee the recordkeeping. That same year, he hired an assistant director named Jack Prater, a name familiar to most Tech fans. Prater played football at Tech and later coached at Tech.

Prater ended up leaving, moving into an administrative role under then football coach Charlie Coffey. So in 1972, McEver cornered Moody on Tech's football practice field one day and offered him the job. Moody, who was working for Jostens ring company at the time and visiting the area, decided to accept.

"When I started out after college, I made \$3,600 to teach and then got an extra \$300 to coach football and \$300 to coach track at Norview High School (in Norfolk)," Moody said. "So I made \$4,200. My wife was pregnant with our first child. We just couldn't make it financially. So I went into the business world. I didn't really like it. I was with Jostens, selling rings, and I was one of their top sellers. But I didn't like it.

"I came up here and was watching a football practice. McEver asked me if I'd like to have a job. I was doing well financially, but I just wasn't happy. I visited with my wife. Her parents lived here in Blacksburg, so we made the decision to come back – and it was one of the better decisions in my life."

Getting these two to talk about their accomplishments over the years was a more difficult chore than the one Tech's football team faces on Aug. 31. This publicity-shy tandem prefers to quietly slip off into the sunset and let others judge their career work.

For sure, they've enjoyed wonderful careers – those of the blue-ribbon variety. When Linkous started working in 1970, the club had 1,800 members. Today, the list is more than 10,000.

She has stayed in the background, inputting records and keeping them in tidy shape and printing reports at a moment's notice. She arrives at 7 every morning and has been known to take work home frequently. In sports vernacular, she serves as Merritt's "quarterback."

"I worked 24 years in the banking industry and 20 here, and her work ethic is the best I've seen," Merritt said. "She does so many things outside her job description, and I've been meeting with her just to try to get my arms around everything she does. She does a lot of little things that just add to the office in addition to her knowledge and experience."

Moody put Linkous' impact a little more succinctly.

"They can fill my seat easily," he said. "Hers is going to be a little more difficult."

Filling Moody's seat will not be an easy task either. Actually, Merritt tried to do that a few years ago when Moody retired. Fortunately,

Moody decided to stay on in a part-time role.

Moody, a Richmond native, has played a prominent role in getting many of the organization's programs implemented. When he first started with the Virginia Tech Student Aid Association, he wasn't sure how to approach fundraising. So he decided to write a letter to alumni and other fans of the athletics programs, asking for a \$10 donation. He received

393 responses and raised \$6,420.50. Even today, he keeps those now yellowing responses in a drawer in his desk, a



Sharon Linkous and John Moody (top of photo) are retiring after spending more than 40 years each helping build the Hokie Club into what it is today.

reminder to his humble roots.

Over the years, he took a lot of ideas from others and implemented them and made them even better. For example, he, Bill Matthews, Shannon Hardwick – the father of Tech golf coach Jay Hardwick – and others took some donors to the Metro Conference baseball tournament in Tallahassee, Fla., one year, and on the way down, they played golf at several different courses. Hardwick later suggested taking the donors on a trip with the Tech golf team. So Moody got a group together to go to Pine Needles, N.C., with the golf team, which plays in a tournament there every year. The

group hopped on the course right after the last group among Tech's golfers teed off.

One of the golfers later said, 'If we're Hokies, you all must be 'Hackin' Hokies.' Thus, the "Hackin' Hokies" were formed, and the group continues its annual trip with the golf team today. The excursion gives the Hokie Club a chance to solidified relationships with its donors.

Later on, in the late 1980s, Mike Carroll, who served as the director of development for athletic programs at that time, saw a need to take a group of donors to the Homestead in Hot Springs, Va., and let them play golf with some of the coaches, again as a way to enhance the relationship between Tech and the donors. So Moody organized it. The group looked for a name, and someone said, "Well, we're Hackin' Hokies, too." So that group became Hackin' Hokies, Too, as a sort of play on words.

That trip continues today and serves as a fundraiser for various projects. The group has raised money for the clubhouse at the River Course, the baseball scoreboard, the scoreboard at the swimming facility, and the flag plaza at Lane Stadium, which is named after Moody.

Carroll also wanted the club to come up with a volunteer program in which contributors would sign up others who expressed an interest in Tech athletics and the Hokie Club. At the time, NC State and Clemson used similar programs, and Moody researched those, thus playing a large role in establishing what is now the Hokie Rep program.



Of course, none of that takes into account all his trips around the state, visiting with potential contributors, shaking hands, establishing relationships and convincing them to give some of their hard-earned money to aid Tech athletics. Moody's deep, genuine laugh and easygoing disposition make him a natural for fundraising. He gravitates toward people – and they gravitate toward him.

Partly because of that and partly because of his contributions to Tech athletics – and not just monetarily – Moody has been inducted into both the Richmond Hokie Club Hall of Fame and the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame. He also has a scholarship endowed in his honor, and the top Hokie Rep with the most growth in members annually gets the John S. Moody Award.

"John has been a good friend and a good mentor," Merritt said. "He has a simple, common-sense approach to things, which I like and respect. He communicates with people, he listens to them and he stays in touch. John has become good friends with so many people, but it's because he builds a solid, genuine relationship with them."

In the end, those relationships pay off. One time, back in the early 1990s, the Blacksburg High School girls' basketball team was heading to Grundy, Va., for a regional basketball game against Grundy High School. Moody called a good friend – and well heeled – contributor in Grundy, and the two discussed the upcoming game. The contributor thought Grundy would win. Moody thought otherwise. They ended up wagering \$5 on the game.

Moody lost the bet, as Grundy defeated Blacksburg. So he found five of the oldest, most

crumpled \$1 bills that he could find and mailed them to his friend.

Days later, he received a letter from his friend. He opened the letter and found a note that said, "You don't lose all your bets." Enclosed within the envelope was a check for \$50,000 made out to the Hokie Club.

Such things do not happen accidentally.

"You don't really raise money; you raise friends," Moody said. "And then your friends give you the money. Friends will give to you."

"The real joy in this kind of work is getting to know the people outside. They become as close as your brothers and sisters in your family. I've been to a lot of weddings and too many funerals. I've had a lot of laughs, and we've cried together. There are lots of people right now that, if something happens in their family, I'm there. It's just the same as if it were a family member. The relationships you gain in this job, they are your extended family, and they're the ones that are loyal to a fault. I've had a good time with them."

Moody and Linkous have seen a lot of changes over the years, both within the athletics department and within the Hokie Club. In the 1970s and even into the 1980s, the Hokie Club would ask for \$10 or \$100. Enrollment eventually got to 4,000-5,000 members. Then in 1999 – Michael Vick's first year – membership exploded, particularly after people could not get tickets to the 2000 national championship game. As membership rose, so, too, did contributions.

The two of them saw the Virginia Tech Student Aid Association transform into the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund in 1989. They've been part of numerous fundraising campaigns, and worked for four different directors.

Moody, at one time, wanted to be the director. But a stint as the interim director after Carroll left to take a different position on Tech's campus convinced him that his skill set didn't fit that particular job. Moody isn't about going to meetings. He's about meeting people.


"Well, that's my fun part," he laughed. "Whether that's my strong point, I don't know. But it's what I enjoy. I didn't enjoy sitting behind a desk. The organization part of it just wasn't one of my strengths."

Moody and Linkous both love the donors, and they love their co-workers, but both feel it is time to retire. Linkous plans to spend time with her family and especially grandson Avery, while also going to Tech games just as a fan. Moody spent a lot of time away from his wife and three children over the years while traveling and wants to make up for some lost time. Plus, he's been dealing with some minor health issues of late.

"It's time for me to step out," he said. "It's a young person's game. To make this work as it should, you have to travel. People are not going to get in a car and come to Blacksburg and say, 'I'm not in the Hokie Club, but I want to give you \$100,000. Will you take it?' You have to build that relationship by going to see them. Since I'm not on the road, the university and this office deserve someone who can and will do that."

They both agreed that they have loved coming to work over the years. As Moody said, "There is never a day that I dreaded coming to work."

They have seen the Hokie Club change and grow and become successful over the years, and both played integral roles. Now, Merritt faces the task of replacing two of his best "players."

Rest assured, it will not be an easy one. 



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# TECH'S TOP 10

## 2012-2013 VT EDITION

*Here are the top 10 moments of the 2012-13 academic year as compiled by the magazine staff, with help from several in the athletics communications office:*

1.



### 1. ZIEGLER, KRUZLIAK CLAIM NATIONAL TITLES

Alexander Ziegler and Tomas Kruzliak continued Tech's excellence in track and field throwing events, as both won national titles this past year for the men's track and field program.

Competing in his last collegiate event, Ziegler won with the weight throw event at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Fayetteville, Ark., in early March. His top throw of 73 feet, 8.25 inches (22.46 meters) stood for the final three rounds.

Kruzliak, a freshman from Nitra, Slovakia, dominated the competition at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Ore., in early June. He recorded a throw of 226 feet, 1 inch (68.92 meters) on his first attempt and then increased that mark to 227 feet, 3 inches (69.26 meters) on his second attempt. His second throw turned out to be the winner, as no other competitor threw the hammer more than 69 meters.

With their two national championships, they gave the track program its 13th and 14th individual national champions - 11 in throwing.

Stephan Munz (pole vault).

The men's indoor title marked the Hokies' second since joining the ACC.

### 3. MARONE LIFTS TECH WRESTLING TEAM TO ACC CROWN

In the last match of the ACC Wrestling Championships, Tech senior David Marone dominated Virginia heavyweight Derek Papagianopoulos, and that victory lifted the Hokies to their first ACC team title.

Tech trailed Virginia by 10 points going into the finals. But Jarrod Garnett won at 125 pounds and Nick Brascetta, Jesse Dong and Pete Yates won at 149, 157 and 165 pounds, respectively. Virginia had three finalists lose, which set up the final between Marone and Papagianopoulos. Marone won 8-0, and Tech's bench poured onto the mat in College Park, Md., to celebrate the title.

Tech had finished second on two occasions at the ACC Championships (2006 and 2011). The Hokies won their first conference crown since 1998 when it competed in the Colonial Athletic Association, and the ACC title marked the program's 10th overall conference title dating back to 1955.

2.



### 2. TECH CLAIMS ACC INDOOR TRACK TITLE

Will Mulherin's victory in the 3,000-meter run late at the ACC Championships propelled the Tech men's indoor track and field team past Florida State and to the ACC team title. It also marked the third team title in a row for the Hokies, who won the ACC's outdoor crown last spring and the cross country title last fall.

The 3,000 was the next-to-last event in the meet and Tech led by just a few points. But Mulherin held off Florida State's Jakub Zivec to win by just two-tenths of a second and garner enough points to allow the Hokies to hold off the Seminoles by 17 points.

The Hokies also got huge victories from Thomas Curtin (5,000-meter run), Tihut Degfae (800), Alexander Ziegler (weight throw), Jeff Artis-Gray (long jump) and

### 4 MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM WINS ACC TITLE

Paced by redshirt senior Will Mulherin and getting top-10 performances from sophomores Brayden Burleigh and Thomas Curtin, the Virginia Tech men's cross country team stunned the ACC by winning the cross country title at the ACC Championships held in Blacksburg - their first team title as a member of the league.

Mulherin became the first runner ever at Tech win an individual championship. He led the field with a course-record time of 23:37.3. It was the top time of the season for him. Burleigh and Curtin both finished with times under 24 minutes for the first time in their careers.

Thanks to their team championship at the ACC meet, the Hokies advanced to the NCAA Championships as a team for the first time since 1987.

3.



4.





## 5. ZAGUNIS' BLAST LIFTS TECH OVER FSU AT ACC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Virginia Tech baseball team enjoyed one of its best seasons ever, advancing to the championship game of the ACC Championship and securing home games for the NCAA regionals. But the Hokies would not have gotten to that championship game without a dramatic home run from Mark Zagunis.

In the second game of pool play, Tech led 2-0 before Florida State scored two in the ninth to tie the game. But with one out in the bottom of the ninth, Zagunis drilled a pitch from FSU reliever Gage Smith into the left field seats for the game-winning home run. Tech won the game 3-2 and beat Georgia Tech the next day before falling to North Carolina 4-1 in the title game.

The win over the Seminoles marked Tech's third over them this season. Florida State spent much of the season ranked in the top 10 nationally.

## 6. HARRELL CARRIES TECH IN NCAA SOFTBALL REGIONAL WIN OVER MARSHALL

The Virginia Tech softball team made it to the NCAA regionals for the second straight year (and sixth overall), and the Hokies faced a must-win game against Marshall on the second day of the regional to advance to the regional championship.

The two teams played 13 innings before Tech scored a run on Bkaye Smith's single in the bottom of the 13th to win 3-2 over the Thundering Herd. But the story of the game was Tech starting pitcher Jasmin Harrell.

The senior from Irvine, Calif., pitched all 13 innings, setting a school single-game record. She also set a career high with 13 strikeouts and tossed 186 pitches in all - 121 of them for strikes. She did not allow a run after the fifth inning.

Tech's thrilling run in the NCAA came to an end with a 1-0 loss to Kentucky in the final game. In that game, Harrell gave up just one unearned run in a losing effort to end a 38-21 season for the Hokies.

## 7. GREEN'S CAREER HIGH HELPS TECH STUN NO. 15 OKLAHOMA STATE

Tech guard Erick Green set his career high on numerous occasions this past season, but the first time came in the Hokies' upset victory over visiting Oklahoma State.

Green scored 18 of his 28 points in the second half, including eight free throws in the final 1:16, to lift the Hokies to an 81-71 victory, giving Tech its first win over a ranked nonconference foe since 1995 and its first over a ranked nonconference

opponent at Cassell Coliseum since 1978.

Green set his career high five different times this past season. He went on to become the ACC's player of the year, and he led the nation in scoring at 25 points per game.

## 8. TECH WOMEN STUN NO. 19 FLORIDA STATE IN HOOPS

The Tech women's basketball team struggled for much of the season, but the Hokies pulled off a shocker on Feb. 24 when they rolled past Florida State 71-52 at Cassell Coliseum.

A 14-0 run early in the first half gave Tech a lead it would not relinquish. Monet Tellier scored 24 points, including the 1,000th of her career, and she also dished out six assists in her best game of the season. Uju Ugoka added 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

The Hokies, who struggled to score for much of the season, shot 46.7 percent from the floor and made four 3-pointers. The win marked Tech's lone win over a ranked opponent this past season.

## 9. JOURNELL'S KICK LIFTS TECH PAST UVA

The Hokies continued their dominance over in-state rival Virginia on the gridiron, but needed a Cody Journell field goal on the final play of the game to nip the Cavaliers 17-14 at Lane Stadium.


Tech became bowl eligible for the 20th straight year with the win and beat UVA for the ninth straight time and 13th time in the past 14 meetings.

Antone Exum's interception set up the game-winning drive, which started with 3:21 left. Tech drove inside UVA's 20, and with four seconds left, called a timeout to set up Journell's 29-yard attempt. Journell drilled it as time expired.

## 10. WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM BEATS NO. 7 WAKE TO SOLIDIFY NCAA BID

The Tech women's soccer team probably would have made the NCAA Championships anyway, but in the last match of the regular season, the Hokies took away any doubt, blasting No. 7 Wake Forest 3-0 in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Tech got goals from Katie Yensen (right), Ashley Manning and Jazmine Reeves, with Yensen's goal coming less than two minutes into the match. Dayle Colpitts had two saves in goal and recorded the shutout.

The 2012 season marked the fifth straight in which the Hokies have upset a top-10 team. Tech advanced to the NCAA Championships and finished with a 13-6-1 overall record. 





## 2012-13 CO-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

One player won a national championship in his final collegiate event. The other accomplished a Tech first, leading the nation in scoring and being named the ACC's Player of the Year.

Given their unbelievable accomplishments over the course of this academic year, Inside Hokie Sports has named Alexander Ziegler and Erick Green its 2012-13 athletes of the year.

Ziegler became the fourth two-time winner to be named the magazine's athlete of the year, joining former softball standout Angela Tincher and former track throwers Spyridon Jullien and Marcel Lomnický. Other student-athletes to be named athlete of the year include Cornell Brown, Jim Druckenmiller, Katie Ollendick, Corey Moore, André Davis, Lee Suggs, Bryant Matthews, Kevin Jones, Queen Harrison and Dorotea Habazin, who shared the honor with Lomnický in 2011.

## ALEXANDER ZIEGLER


*Senior  
Dischingen, Germany*

Ziegler has been dominant on the national throwing scene since arriving at Tech. He placed third in the weight throw at the 2010 NCAA Indoor Championships and second in the hammer throw at the 2010 NCAA Outdoor Championships. Then, in 2011, he took second in the weight throw at the NCAA Indoor Championships before finally breaking through and taking gold in the hammer throw at the NCAA Outdoor Championships that spring. In 2012, he finished third in the weight throw, but won his second hammer throw national championship during the outdoor season.

This season, Ziegler became a three-time national champion. At the NCAA Indoor Championships held in Fayetteville, Ark., in early March, he won

his first weight throw crown with a toss of 73 feet, 8.25 inches (22.46 meters). His throw was nearly four feet better than his next competitor.

Ziegler won the ACC title in the weight throw with the best toss in the nation this season. His throw of 77 feet, 7.75 inches (23.69 meters) broke his own personal record by more than two feet.

In addition to winning three national championships, Ziegler won four ACC championships in his career and earned seven All-America nods. He also got it done off the track, graduating with a degree in business management. He won a \$5,000 postgraduate scholarship from the ACC and is currently working on his MBA at Tech. 





CO-ATHLETE  
of the  
YEAR




## ERICK GREEN

*Senior  
Winchester, Va.*

Perhaps no player in the nation improved more between his junior and senior seasons than Erick Green. The 6-foot-4 guard enjoyed one of the best seasons in Tech history – maybe the best.

Green became the first player in Tech history to lead the nation in scoring, averaging 25 points per game. Scoring in double figures in every game this season, Green set a school record by scoring 801 total points, snapping the mark of 785 points set by Bimbo Coles during the 1989-90 season. In the regular-season finale at Wake Forest, he scored his 1,700th career point and moved past Ace Custis into 10th place in career scoring at Tech.

Green also became the first Tech player to be named the ACC's Player of the Year and one of just two players to receive All-America honors from The Associated Press. He was named the league's player of the year by the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association, a group of media members who cover ACC schools, and he received third-team All-America honors from The Associated Press. Dell Curry, who was a second-team selection in 1986, is the only other Tech player to make The Associated Press' All-America team.

In addition to averaging 25 points per game, Green also averaged four rebounds and 3.8 assists per game. He shot 48 percent from the field, 39 percent on 3-point field goal attempts and 82 percent at the free-throw line. 



FOOTBALL

**ATHLETE**  
of the  
**YEAR**



# LOGAN THOMAS

*R-Junior  
Lynchburg, Va.*

Quarterbacking an offense that lacked experience this past season, Logan Thomas' numbers weren't quite as great as his phenomenal sophomore campaign. However, he still managed to shoehorn his way into the Tech record books, while guiding the Hokies to three season-ending victories, including a 13-10 win over Rutgers in the Russell Athletic Bowl.

Thomas completed 51.3 percent of his passes for 2,976 yards, with 18 touchdowns and 16 interceptions this past season. He also rushed for a team-leading 524 yards and nine touchdowns, thus playing a part in 27 of the Hokies' 38 touchdowns scored in 2012.

Thomas became the first Tech quarterback since 1965 (Bobby Owens) to lead the team in rushing. He also eclipsed his own single-season school record for total offense. His 3,500 total yards surpassed the mark of 3,482 that he set last season.

He also moved into third place at Tech in career passing yards with 6,096 and needs only 922 yards in his final season to surge ahead of Bryan Randall (6,508) and Tyrod Taylor (7,017) and move into first place on the all-time list. In fact, barring injury, Thomas should hold records for career passing yards and career total offense by the time his career ends at the conclusion of the 2013 season. 





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# MIKEY MOYERS

*Senior  
Stanardsville, Va.*

The Hokies needed a big season from Mikey Moyers to continue their streak of NCAA regionals, and they got it, as Moyers closed his career strongly, recording four top-five finishes this past season and eight top-20 finishes.

Moyers' best finish came at the ACC Championships, where he finished in a tie for second place. He shot 10-under-par at the Old North State Club in Badin Lake, N.C., to record his best finish as a collegian and to help the Hokies to a tie for second place in the team race.

Moyers also finished third at the Furman Intercollegiate with a score of 6-under-par, and he finished fifth on two occasions. He came in fifth at the VCU Shootout with a 1-over-par score and fifth at the Puerto Rico Classic with a score of 7-under-par.

Moyers finished the season with a stroke average of 72, which ranked second on the team behind Scott Vincent's 71.6. In 21 of his 35 rounds this season, he finished at par or better, and he averaged 72.75 in final rounds. 



**ATHLETE**  
of the  
**YEAR**




# MONET TELLIER

*Junior  
Charlotte, N.C.*

The women's basketball athlete of the year award goes to junior Monet Tellier after she became the 23rd Hokie to reach the 1,000th point milestone – just the eighth as a junior. She also became the school's all-time leading scorer in ACC games and set a school single-season scoring record in ACC games as well.

Tellier reached the 1,000-point mark on Feb. 24 with a 24-point performance in a 71-52 upset win over No. 19 Florida State at Cassell Coliseum. It was one of her six 20-plus point games of the season, and she reached double figures in 25 of 30 games played.

Her 254 points scored in ACC games this year are the most ever by a Hokie since the team has been in the conference, and she increased her league career scoring mark to 549 points, also a school best.

Tellier led the team in scoring 16 times, led the team in rebounding nine times and led the team in assists 11 times. For the season, she led the team in most categories, including scoring (396 points), rebounds (167), assists (96), steals (36) and minutes played (980). She also made a team-best 135 field goals, 30 3-point field goals and 96 free throws. 

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**ATHLETE**  
of the  
**YEAR**



# WILL MULHERIN

*Senior  
Yorktown, Va.*

Will Mulherin was named the Inside Hokie Sports' men's cross country athlete of the year a year ago, and this season, he enjoyed arguably the best season ever by a Tech men's cross country athlete.

Mulherin finished in the top 10 in four of the six races in which he ran during the cross country season. He came in 13th at the Virginia Tech Invitational and then was second at the Charlotte Invitational and sixth at the NCAA Pre-Nationals held in Louisville, Ky.

But his crowning moment came Oct. 27 when he won the ACC title at the ACC Championships held on Tech's home course. He bested the field with a time of 23:37.3 and became the first Tech cross country runner to win a conference championship. Behind him, the Hokies won the team title, which was also the program's first.

Mulherin went on to finish seventh at the NCAA Southeast Regional held in Charlotte, running the course in a time of 29:52.51 (10K). At the NCAA Championships held in Louisville, Ky., he finished in a tie for 28th, running that course in a time of 29:52.70. He became the first two-time All-American in cross country at Tech.

Mulherin also excelled in indoor track, though his track exploits weren't taken into consideration for his being name the magazine's men's cross country athlete of the year. His victory in the 3,000-meter run lifted the Hokies to the ACC team title at the ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships. He claimed seventh place at the NCAA's indoor meet to earn All-America honors. He finished his career as a two-time All-American in both track and cross country. 

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**ATHLETE**  
of the  
**YEAR**




# SARAH RAPP

*Sophomore  
Raleigh, N.C.*

Sarah Rapp continued her steady improvement as a cross country runner this season, finishing in the top 10 on two occasions and earning all-region honors after a solid performance at the regional meet.

Rapp started her season strongly, finishing eighth at the Virginia Tech Invitational. She ran the course in a time of 21:51.13. In the Hokies' next meet, she claimed seventh place, running the course at the Charlotte Invitational in a time of 21:35.46. That finish was her best of the season.

She finished 96th at the NCAA Pre-Nationals and then 51st at the ACC Championships held in Blacksburg. She closed her season strongly with a 25th-place finish at the NCAA Southeast Regional held in Charlotte, N.C. She ran the course in a time of 21:16.49 to earn all-regional honors. That marked the first all-region honor of her young career. 



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BASEBALL

ATHLETE  
of the  
YEAR



# TYLER HORAN


*R-Junior  
Middleboro, Mass.*

After his exploits during the 2012 spring AND summer, Tyler Horan may have possessed a huge bull's eye on his back for the 2013 season. All he did was improve in almost every category and become Tech's 15th All-American in baseball.

Horan led the team with a .342 average and had 88 hits (tied for the fifth-most in a single season) in 257 at-bats (new school record). He hit 26 doubles (second-most all-time), four triples and tied for the team lead with 11 home runs. His 155 total bases and .603 slugging percentage also led the team.

He was one of three Hokies to

start in every game this year and his performance earned him an All-ACC first-team selection, an NCAA Blacksburg Regional All-Tournament team selection and a second-team Louisville Slugger All-America pick.

During the year, he was also named a Louisville Slugger National Player of the Week after a weekend that saw him smack four home runs in a pair of wins over Marist. That effort pushed his home run total to 10, and he became the first player since 2002 (Brad Bauder) to reach double figures in homers in back-to-back seasons. 

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# COURTNEY LIDDLE

*Senior  
Haymarket, Va.*


A two-player toss-up for the magazine's softball athlete of the year sees honor going to departing senior Courtney Liddle, who led the Hokies in many offensive categories and earned a number of postseason awards. She edged out sophomore Kylie McGoldrick, who had a fine season herself.

Just one of three Tech players to start in all 59 games, Liddle led the team with a .347 batting average, and had 58 hits, 14 doubles and 37 RBIs. She also walked 45 times and was hit by four pitches to post a near .500 on-base percentage (.489).

In addition to those numbers, she scored 42 runs, had 95 total bases and had a .569 slugging percentage,

all second on the team. She stole five bases, tied for second on the squad, and finished third on the team with seven home runs.

Liddle, who played two-thirds of the season at first base and a third as the catcher, was a NFCA Mid-Atlantic Region first-team selection, an All-ACC second-team selection, a member of the ACC All-Tournament team and was the 18th overall pick by the NY/NJ Comets in the 2013 NPF College Draft.

She became just the third Hokie selected in the draft, and with the All-ACC pick, the third of her career, she also became the third Tech player in program history selected three times. 



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# DAVID CLEMENS

*Junior  
Ballston Lake, N.Y.*

The Virginia Tech men's soccer team struggled to score at times this past season, but not because of the efforts of forward David Clemens.

Clemens started all 20 games for the Hokies and led the team in nearly every offensive category. He led the team with 10 goals and 22 points, and he led the squad with three game-winning goals. He finished fifth in the ACC in goals, points and goals per game (.50).

Clemens' best game came against VMI when he recorded his first career hat trick, scoring three goals in the Hokies' 3-1 victory. He scored two goals and had an assist in Tech's 3-2 upset victory over NC State in the first round of the ACC Tournament. His game winner in the 82nd minute moved the Hokies into the second round.

Clemens scored three goals in the ACC Tournament, tying Patrick Nyarko's school record for goals in a conference tournament. Clemens' 10 goals this season were the most for a Hokie since 2006 when Nyarko set the school's single-season record with 16. 






# ASHLEY MEIER

*Freshman  
Strongsville, Ohio*

The Virginia Tech women's soccer team featured some experienced players, but the one who caught the attention of everyone – including ACC foes – was freshman Ashley Meier.

The midfielder from Ohio was one of the team's top offensive threats this season and helped lead the Hokies to the NCAA Championship for the fifth straight year. She started 18 of the 19 games in which she played and led the Hokies in goals (eight) and points (19). She also recorded two game-winning goals.

The freshman's game-winning goal against Clemson found its way on SportsCenter's Top-10 Plays, coming in at No. 7. She played a big part in the win against No. 18 Maryland, as she assisted the game winner and she played 81 minutes to help limit the Terps to just four shots on goal. Overall, she scored goals in eight different games.

Following the season, Meier made the ACC's All-Freshman team and she earned second-team All-ACC honors. Also, Meier concluded her rookie season by making the All-ACC Academic team for women's soccer. 



**ATHLETE**  
*of the*  
**YEAR**



# RYAN HAWKINS


*Junior  
Charlotte, N.C.*

Ryan Hawkins and Logan Shinholser headlined a strong Tech diving program this past season, but Hawkins got the nod as Inside Hokie Sports' athlete of the year because of a terrific performance at the NCAA Championships.

Hawkins earned All-America nods in two events at the Championships, which were held in Indianapolis, Ind., in late March. He claimed sixth place in the 3-meter event, scoring 397.70 points in the finals. He also placed eighth in the platform event, scoring 352.85 points.

He finished 14th in the 1-meter event.

Hawkins also enjoyed a great meet at the ACC Championships, where he finished no worse than seventh in any of the diving events. He came in third in the platform event, fifth in the 1-meter event and seventh in the 3-meter event. His 415.65 points in the platform event were a career high.

Hawkins continued to get things done in the classroom as well. For the third straight year, he made the men's swimming and diving All-ACC academic team. 



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**ATHLETE**  
of the  
**YEAR**



# HEATHER SAVAGE

*Senior  
Canandaigua, N.Y.*


Of all the selections for individual athletes of the year, the choice for women's swimming and diving may have been the easiest. After all, Heather Savage enjoyed yet another sensational year and ranks among the greatest swimmers ever at Tech.

Savage earned All-America honors for the second straight year after finishing eighth in her specialty – the 100-yard butterfly – at the NCAA Championships, swimming the race in a time of 52.14 seconds. She went undefeated in the event this season, and she only lost five out of the 23 events in which she competed during her senior campaign.

Savage led the Tech women to a second-place finish at the ACC Championships held in Greensboro, N.C., this past February – the program's highest finish ever. She won

five medals at the event, including a gold in the 100 butterfly and a gold as both a member of the 200 and 400 medley relay team. She took bronze in the 200 butterfly, setting a school record with a time of 1:56.54, and she participated in the 400 freestyle team that finished second.

Savage finished her career as the school record holder in both the 100 and 200 butterfly. She also holds the conference and the ACC Championship record in the 100 butterfly.

In addition, Savage got it done in the classroom during her time at Tech. In April, she was named the ACC's women's swimming and diving scholar-athlete of the year – the second time in which she has won the honor. She graduated with a degree in human nutrition, foods and exercise. 

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MEN'S TENNIS

ATHLETE  
of the  
YEAR




# AMERIGO CONTINI

*Freshman  
Parma, Italy*

Becoming the first Tech player invited to the NCAA Singles Tennis Championship as a freshman and just the 14th overall made selecting Amerigo Contini to be the men's tennis athlete of the year an easy choice.

Contini finished the season ranked a team-high 67th nationally by the Intercollegiate Tennis Associate (ITA) as a men's singles player and he was sixth in the Atlantic Region. His outstanding rookie campaign included being named the ACC's Freshman of the Year and all-conference after going 7-3 against ACC competition. He was also recognized as the ITA Atlantic Region Player to Watch.

He finished the season with a 28-12 overall record, which included a duals record of 16-7. He went 9-6 at the No. 1 singles flight and 7-1 at No. 2 flight. He also registered six wins this past year over nationally ranked opponents.

Contini teamed with classmate Andreas Bjerrehus to earn a doubles ranking of 37th in the nation and fourth in the region. The pair went 19-9 overall during the past year – 13-6 at the No. 1 flight – and was 5-7 against nationally ranked opponents. 



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**ATHLETE  
of the  
YEAR**



# ILINCA STOICA

*Freshman  
Piatra Neamt, Romania*

Ilinca Stoica's overall singles record wasn't above .500, but she played all except two of her 59 matches – singles and doubles – at the No. 1 flight, and for what she what she accomplished as a freshman, she is the magazine's women's tennis athlete of the year.

Stoica posted a 12-12 mark in dual competition at the No. 1 spot and was 1-0 at the No. 2 flight, while finishing 1-3 in tournaments. She finished her first year with a 14-15 overall mark, was 4-7 against ACC competition and won two of the four matches the Hokies compiled this past season against ranked opponents.

Stoica knocked off two top-55 opponents this past season. In early April, she knocked off then-No. 35 Joelle Kissell of NC State by scores of 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (9) in the Hokies' 6-1

loss to the Wolfpack. Against Miami in mid-April, she defeated then-No. 53 Stephanie Wagner 6-0, 6-3, in the Hokies' 4-1 loss to the 'Canes. She also downed Louisville's Julia Fellerhoff 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, early in the season in Tech's 5-2 win over the Cardinals. Fellerhoff was ranked in the top 100.

Where she helped Tech the most was at the No. 1 doubles flight, pairing with fellow freshman Kelly Williford for a 13-9 record. Overall, Stoica was 17-13 as a doubles player.

The duo's best performances came in the ACC Championship, as they helped the Hokies win the doubles point in a 4-3 win over No. 14 Duke in the opening round of the tournament. They were also squared at 5-5 against Virginia's No. 1 doubles team before the match was stopped because the point was decided. **VT**

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# MARTINA SCHULTZE


*Sophomore  
Uhingen, Germany*

In many ways, choosing Martina Schultze as the women's track and field athlete of the year was the easiest task among all of the honorees by this magazine. After all, Schultze dominated in her event, both during the indoor and outdoor season.

Though she came up a little short of winning a national championship, Schultze finished in eighth place in the pole vault to earn first-team All-America honors at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in early June. Her best vault was 14 feet, 1.25 inches (4.30 meters). During the indoor season, she finished third at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships with a vault of 14 feet, 5.25 inches (4.40 meters).

Schultze also won two ACC championships in

the pole vault this year, claiming gold at both the ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships held at Rector Field House and the ACC Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Raleigh, N.C. During the indoor season, she won gold at the ACC meet with a vault of 14 feet, 7.25 inches (4.45 meters), setting an ACC Championship meet record. During the ACC's outdoor event, she won with a vault of 13 feet, 5.25 inches (4.10 meters).

She broke her own school record three times over the course of the outdoor season, with the last time coming on her vault of 14 feet, 4 inches (4.37 meters) at the Roanoke/Virginia Tech Twilight meet in Roanoke, Va. 



LACROSSE

**ATHLETE**  
*of the*  
**YEAR**



## MEGAN WILL


*Sophomore  
Bel Air, Md.*

The Virginia Tech lacrosse team went 8-8 this past season, and a lot of credit for that goes to Megan Will, who handled a lot of the scoring duties for the Hokies.

Will started all 16 games for Tech at one of the attack positions, scoring 42 goals and handing out 12 assists for 54 points. She led the team in goals scored and points, while finishing third on the team in assists. Her 70 shots on goal led the team.

Will's best game came on the Hokies' spring break trip to California when she scored a career-high six goals in Tech's 16-7 victory over UC Davis. She equaled her career high of six goals in the Hokies' 14-8 win over Longwood. In that match, she tallied a career-high eight points (six goals and two assists).

Will also had big games against Liberty, Old Dominion and Davidson. She scored five goals against Liberty and added four each against ODU and Davidson. She scored at least one goal in 13 of the Hokies' 16 matches.

Will goes into her junior season with 72 career goals and 91 total points. 





## PETE YATES

*R-Senior  
Conyers, Ga.*


There were many candidates for the magazine's wrestling athlete of the year, as the Tech wrestling program celebrated its best season in the school's history. But Pete Yates' year was a cut above the others.

Yates won an ACC championship, was named the ACC's Wrestler of the Year, and earned All-America honors at the NCAA Championships, where he finished in fourth place at 165 pounds. He went 18-0 in dual meets, including a 5-0 mark in ACC competition, and he led the team in bonus points and near-fall points.

At the NCAA Championships in Des Moines, Iowa, Yates advanced to the semifinals, where he lost to No. 2 seed and defending national champion David Taylor of Penn State. He came back to beat Iowa State's Michael Moreno in the consolation round and then lost

in the third-place match to No. 4 seed Tyler Caldwell of Oklahoma State to finish in fourth. His fourth-place finish was the second-best in school history at the Championships. Brandon Glover finished third at the 1959 NCAA Championships.

At the ACC Championships in College Park, Md., Yates won his two matches and helped the Hokies to their first team title. After receiving a first-round bye, Yates recorded a fall at 1:48 over NC State's Nigel Jones, and then in the finals, he beat longtime rival Nick Sulzer of Virginia by a count of 4-2 to win the title.

Yates closed out his career with 131 career victories, a total that ranks second on Tech's all-time list behind Sean Gray. He won two ACC titles and was a two-time All-American. 



VOLLEYBALL

ATHLETE  
of the  
YEAR



# CARA BAARENDSE


*Senior  
Mason, Ohio*

For the third straight year, Inside Hokie Sports has named Cara Baarendse as its volleyball athlete of the year. Her consistently good play continues to warrant her as a selection.

Baarendse was the only Tech player to earn All-ACC honors this past season – the third time she has done so. She recorded 244 kills, averaging 2.17 kills per set, while tallying a .350 attack percentage. She ranked seventh in the ACC and 64th nationally in the latter category.

She also posted 25 aces, 169 digs and 79 blocks this past season. On the defensive side, Baarendse was third on the team in digs with 1.51 per set and her 79 blocks ranked second on the team.

Baarendse, who also earned AVCA All-East Region accolades for the third straight season, finished her Tech career as the all-time hitting percentage leader with a four-year tally of .342. In addition, Baarendse eclipsed the 1,000-kill milestone and finished with 1,236 for her career – a total that ranks ninth in Tech's record books. In 10 games this season, she recorded at least 10 kills.

Off the court, Baarendse was a four-time member of the ACC's All-Academic volleyball team. She graduated with a degree in human development. 



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