

inside

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HOKIE SPORTS

Journal of Virginia Tech Athletics

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Tech wrestler Devin Carter is Inside Hokie Sports' Athlete of the Year after overcoming an injury to win another ACC title and finish second at the NCAA Championship.



WHAT'S INSIDE:

A group of longtime athletics department employees has decided to retire after distinguished careers



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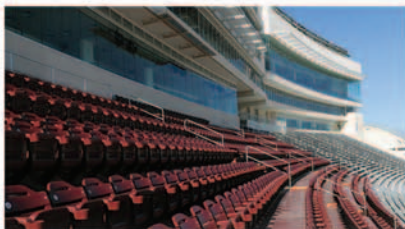
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SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Freshman Torben Laidig has the potential to be one of the best pole vaulters ever at Tech. The Germany native won the event at the ACC's indoor meet and later earned All-America honors at the NCAA indoor meet. He finished second at the league's outdoor meet behind teammate Stephan Munz and earned All-America honors at the NCAA outdoor meet as well. With continued progression, he could very well challenge the school record (18 feet, 2.5 inches) held by Yavgeniy Olhovskiy (2009).





THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

“In Germany, athletics and university studies are completely separate. I think it is great that it is so integrated here. The team spirit impressed me a lot when I first came to Tech. I am glad and proud to be part of the Hokie Nation and am thankful to the Hokie Club for its support.”

Torben Laidig
Freshman | Track & Field

“I love being a Hokie. Thanks for the support!”

George Carter
Junior | Track & Field





The Donor File

Dean & Kelly Farmer

(Dean is the vice president for sales and marketing, Sonny Merryman Inc.)

HOKIE CLUB LEVEL: Golden (also an award-achieving Hokie Representative with the Lynchburg Hokie Club)

CURRENTLY RESIDES: Rustburg, Virginia

WHAT YEAR DID YOU GRADUATE?
Dean (B.A. in history, 1981); Kelly (MBA, 1994)

FAMILY: Kelly (wife)



Q&A

Q: A Hokie is ...

A: Any individual who is committed to assisting Virginia Tech achieve excellence.

Q: The Hokie Nation is real because ...

A: Anybody who experiences Tech's rockin' "Enter Sandman" game-day Lane Stadium entrance quickly realizes the Hokie Nation is a powerful force.

Q: What is your best memory of Virginia Tech athletics?

A: The 2004 football win at Miami - Tech's first ACC championship. Winning an ACC title in a marquee sport was a dream come true for me.

Q: How did you get involved with the Hokie Club?

A: Originally, through my employment with the Virginia Tech Alumni Association back in the 1980s. Jack Prater and John Moody were treasured friends and mentors.

Q: What caused you to become a fan of Virginia Tech?

A: My big sister's admittance to the university right on the heels of Virginia Tech's dramatic 1973 NIT basketball championship.

Q: Do you have any game-day superstitions? If so, what are they?

A: Not a superstition, but I arrive very early and stay late! I have only missed one home game in the past 32 seasons.

Q: Describe your perfect day at Virginia Tech.

A: Winning

Q: Do you have any tailgating traditions? If so, tell us your best.

A: Our tailgate group always celebrates PIG DAY - an all-day-and-night tailgate extravaganza when the Hokies play at Lane Stadium under the lights on Thursday nights.

Q: What motivates you to give back to help Virginia Tech athletics?

A: Immense pride in my alma mater and a strong desire to provide educational

opportunity to the outstanding young men and women who represent and compete for our university at the highest collegiate level. I want our student-athletes to have the necessary resources to be successful and to win.

Q: I'm a Hokie Club member because ...

A: I love Virginia Tech, and I want to win!

Q: My favorite Virginia Tech sports are ...

A: Football, of course - and currently, women's soccer and wrestling. I like winning!

Q: My all-time favorite Virginia Tech football player is ...

A: Bryan Randall - heart of a true Hokie champion!

Q: My all-time favorite Virginia Tech student-athlete from another sport is ...

A: Right now, hoopster Will Johnston. I love his uncompromising effort and commitment to our team and university. All time, though, is my friend Dell Curry - just an exceptional basketball talent and a super nice guy.



LETTER FROM LU

Hokie Nation,

By the time you read this issue, the fiscal year will conclude, and it has been another successful fundraising year. The Athletic Endowment has grown to a record level exceeding \$50 million, as Hokie Club members have endowed new scholarships. The earnings from these combined endowments will help pay the tuition and fees for the upcoming fall semester.

Let me thank each and every one of you for your support this past year. Your commitment as a Hokie Club member enabled more than 500 student-athletes to experience a life-changing opportunity this year in Blacksburg. As we move into a new

fiscal year on July 1, our mission becomes more challenging. University tuition and fees will again increase this fall, and I am asking you to help us meet this challenge. Please continue your investment in our athletics program by not only renewing your membership, but also increasing your annual gift.

Virginia Tech's Graduation Success Rate was 90 percent, the highest among public schools in the ACC this past year. Men's swimming and diving and wrestling won our 17th and 18th ACC championships this year. The Hokies were one of only eight ACC member schools that won conference titles

this year. The Hokies are probably headed for their highest Learfield Sports Directors' Cup finish, a metric which reflects a school's overall athletics excellence.

Your investment is paying good dividends. We are all involved to help our student-athletes and provide the best experience available both in the classroom and on their chosen courts and fields of play. Join me by increasing your gift this year. Thank you and GO HOKIES!!!!

Lu Merritt

Senior Director of Development for Intercollegiate Athletics

Virginia Tech Alumni Day - July 5 - at The Greenbrier Classic




Virginia Tech alumni and friends now have the opportunity to purchase the Alumni Club Badge for The Greenbrier Classic held June 30-July 6 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

The Alumni Club Badge will provide tournament admittance to the Alumni Club for the entire week. This includes the practice rounds on Monday-Wednesday and the competition rounds Thursday-Sunday. To purchase the Alumni Club Badge, go to <http://www.greenbriershopping.com/20grclalca.html>.

Additional Instructions & Tips for Alumni Badges:

- RESERVED concert seating to both Maroon5 and Jimmy Buffet
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- Alcoholic beverages available for purchase
- Enjoy special appearances by Virginia Tech coaches and alumni athletes (Frank Beamer, Chugger Adair, Ned Skinner, Carol Robertson, Kevin Dresser) and Vice President of Alumni Relations Tom Tillar, as well as Virginia Tech Athletic Fund staff in Howards Creek Lodge (located on the 17th Tee/12th Green)
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Babcock tabs Reed-Francois as executive AD

As part of a restructuring within the athletics department, Tech AD Whit Babcock named Desiree Reed-Francois as an executive associate athletics director.

Reed-Francois oversees all of the external units of the department, including marketing and promotions, athletics communications, ticketing, IMG College and video/HokieVision. She began at Tech on June 16.

A member of Babcock's staff at the University of Cincinnati, Reed-Francois was named the Bearcats' interim director of athletics early in 2014 when Babcock left for the AD job at Tech, making her the first Hispanic female (interim) director of athletics in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision. Prior to the appointment, she served as the senior associate athletics director and senior woman administrator at Cincinnati in 2013, with duties that included direct oversight of the football, women's basketball and volleyball programs in addition to the sports communications, marketing and promotions and video services and production departments. She also led the department's strategic planning initiatives and assisted in management of external partnerships.

Prior to working at Cincinnati, Reed-Francois spent four years (2008-12) at the University of Tennessee, where she advanced from associate AD for strategic initiatives to senior associate AD for strategic planning and initiatives. During her 15 years in intercollegiate athletics administration, Reed-Francois has also occupied positions at the University of California, San Jose State, Santa Clara, Fresno State and the University of San Francisco.

A 1994 graduate of UCLA and a member of the Bruins' rowing team, Reed-Francois earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona College of Law. She will be joined in Blacksburg by her husband, Joshua, and son, Jackson.

Construction begins on indoor practice facility

The Tech athletics department received the proper permits, and on June 9, workers from W.M. Jordan Company began work toward the construction of the Hokies' new indoor practice facility.

In the first week, workers installed security fencing around the perimeter of Tech's Steve Johnson Practice Fields and set two trailers that serve as construction headquarters during the project. One of the practice fields – the one adjacent to Tech's football locker room – is the site of the new facility.

Workers also tore down the fencing surrounding that particular practice field, and they dug up the access road that leads around the practice fields and to the equipment room loading and unloading dock. They took down the video (and coaches) tower, dug up the concrete base of

the tower, and started taking down the light poles that lit that particular field.

Tech's football staff plans to conduct practices on the other field, which can be converted into two smaller fields, during construction. They also have access to Lane Stadium, if needed.

The facility, which is being designed by HKS Architects, will be 210 feet wide, 400 feet long and 85 feet high to allow plenty of room for kicking and punting. It also features artificial turf, eight-foot padded walls, wide sidelines, a full scoreboard and 40-second clocks, all of which allow for full scrimmaging.

Athletics department officials expect the cost to be around \$21.3 million. They expect the project to be completed by August of next year in time for the 2015 football season.

Tech with strong numbers in NCAA APR program

Two Tech sports programs finished with a perfect multi-year 1,000 APR score according to data released by the NCAA on May 14.

The APR, which stands for Academic Progress Rate, is a scorecard that tracks classroom performance of Division I sports teams, and it takes into account eligibility and retention of student-athletes over a four-year period for each team in each sport. Teams must meet a certain academic threshold to qualify for the postseason, and they also can face penalties for continued low academic performance. The most recent APRs are multi-year rates based on scores from the 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-2012 and 2012-13 academic years.

The Tech golf and women's soccer teams recorded the 1,000 scores and received Public Recognition Awards, which go to a team with an APR in the top 10 of its respective sport.

In addition to having two teams with perfect multi-year APR scores, Tech had two other teams that scored 990 or better. This group included the men's tennis (993) and men's cross country (993) teams. The Tech men's tennis team ranked tied for third in the ACC, while the men's cross country team was tied for sixth.

The Tech football program scored 977 for its multi-year APR – its highest score ever. Tech eclipsed its previous best score for the seventh straight year. 

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Allen anxious to turn around Tech's basketball fortunes

Someone who carries around two cell phones – smart phones, no less – must be a person of utmost importance, or certainly a celebrity of some sorts.

“Nah,” Seth Allen said, with a smile. “I use one just for music.”

Those in tune with Tech athletics know Seth Allen, even though he is a relative newcomer to Blacksburg. Those Tech fans unfamiliar with the name will learn that he is, indeed, an important figure, regardless of the number of phones he carries.

Allen transferred to Tech from the University of Maryland in May, and he gives new men's basketball coach Buzz Williams a critical tool to use in the rebuilding of the foundation of Virginia Tech basketball. In fact, from this perspective, the Woodbridge, Virginia, native is the most critical of the seven newcomers who will be on Tech's roster this upcoming season.

Yes, he must sit out this season per NCAA transfer guidelines, but this is a long-term rebuilding project. In Allen, Williams gets a guy who has played in the ACC and a guy who scored in double figures while playing for an ACC school – and he gets him for two years after this one. A point guard, Allen averaged 13.4 points and three assists per game as a sophomore last season. None of those other newcomers bring those types of credentials.

This is what AD Whit Babcock envisioned when he hired Williams as the coach – a person with the ability to bring in top-notch talent and turn around Tech's basketball fortunes. Rest assured, Tech doesn't get a player like Allen without a coach

like Williams. Allen visited Virginia and had visits set up at 2014 NCAA Tournament participants NC State, Baylor, Cincinnati and Arizona. After his visit to Tech, he cancelled all the others.

“I never really considered Virginia Tech until Buzz got the job, and then I started building a relationship with Buzz early and talking to him,” Allen said. “I came here on a visit and liked everything I saw. I could see this program changing for the better, and it's already changed in the 80 days he's been here. I see a bright future here.”

He apparently didn't see such a future at Maryland, even though he played 30 minutes a game. The Terps, who beat the Hokies twice (Allen scored 16 points and had seven assists in the win at Cassell Coliseum on Feb. 1), featured a good, but somewhat underachieving, team. He refused to get into what transpired at Maryland, preferring to take the high road.

“It [his decision] was bigger than basketball for me,” he said.

Allen arrived in Blacksburg for the first summer session. His transition has gone smoothly, especially considering College Park and Blacksburg are about as far apart as it gets in terms of college environments. He takes summer school classes and works out with his teammates. He does wear a protective boot, a precaution after breaking a bone in his foot and missing 12 games this past season.

The upcoming year off figures to be torturous for someone used to being on the court all the time. But it gives him a chance to get stronger and

also to make sure the foot heals properly.

“It's going to be difficult, but at the end, it works out,” Allen said of sitting out the season. “I'm only 19 [years old], and I'm a junior, so this [sitting out] will allow me to be in the grade I'm supposed to be in, and it will allow me to get healthy and learn a lot from Buzz and the other coaches. It'll be tough sitting on the sidelines, but I'm still going to be playing the game mentally. I'm not going to sit out mentally.”

Allen at the least makes the Hokies better in practice this fall, and he also provides leadership. He gives returning players like Devin Wilson, Malik Mueller and Ben Emelogu a person to go to during difficult times.

The Hokies may suffer some of those times this season, as the newcomers adjust to college basketball and the returners adjust to Williams' style. Allen refuses to buy into that. He thinks the team could be good, especially later in the year.

That may be true. But this is a program with three straight last-place finishes in the ACC. So fans approach such predictions with cautious optimism. The 2015-16 season seems a safer bet, considering that at that point, Allen becomes eligible to play.

But that confidence, in addition to his talent, is what this program needs. It's hard not to like and respect a player willing to transfer to a struggling program.

“I want to be a part of the team that changes it and turns it around,” he said.

Suffice it to say, he's just the type of player to lead that effort. 



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Tech's first decade in ACC a success; has programs wanting even more

July 1 will mark the 10th anniversary of Virginia Tech's entrance into the Atlantic Coast Conference. What a decade, eh? It has been a quick and ultra-successful 10 years since the Hokies' logo was first added to the walls at the ACC's office in Greensboro, North Carolina, and while 2004 began a new era in Tech athletics, so, too, does 2014.

If you think about it, 2004 marked the beginning of a clearly definable new chapter in Tech history. And with a new president, athletics director and men's basketball coach on board, 2014 will as well.

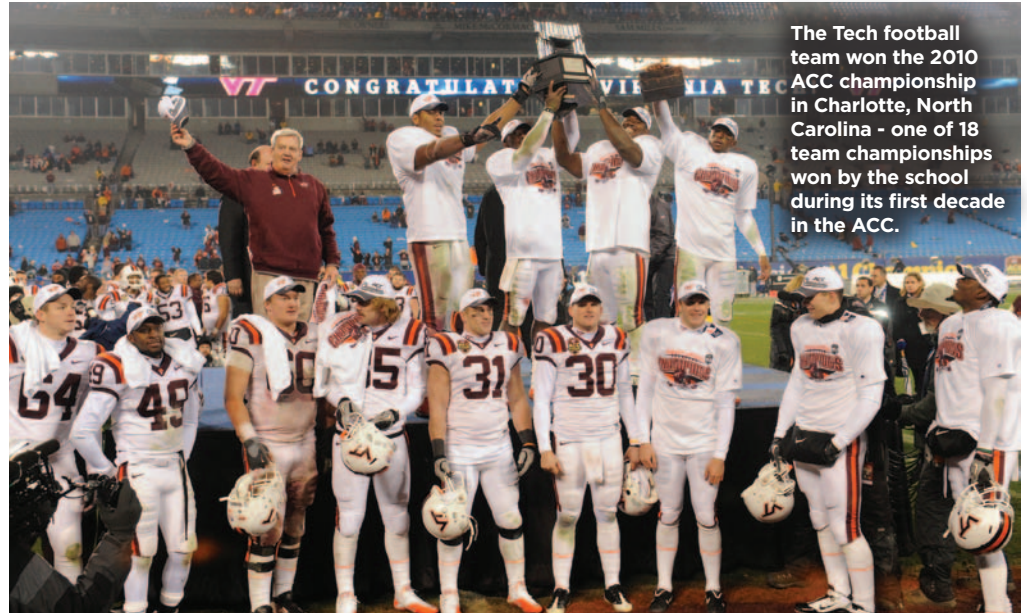
The question in front of all of us is: Can the next 10 years be as successful for Virginia Tech as the past 10? With more schools – including some with some substantially larger budgets – joining the conference, winning league titles will be harder than ever for everyone.

Tech has won 18 ACC titles since 2004, including four in football. Only Florida State – with two – has also won multiple football titles during the past decade. In addition, Tech has won more games – both conference and non-conference games – than any other ACC team since 2004.

Most wins. Most titles. That's a good decade.

Tech has reached the "Final Four" in both men's and women's soccer and had its wrestling and golf teams ranked in the top-10. Its tennis, track and field, cross country, swimming and diving programs have been consistent league title contenders and NCAA participants.

Tech – unlike its conference brothers in Chapel Hill, Atlanta and Coral Gables – has avoided the



The Tech football team won the 2010 ACC championship in Charlotte, North Carolina - one of 18 team championships won by the school during its first decade in the ACC.

NCAA's penalty box, too.

And academically – as David Teel wrote in an excellent piece last month – the Hokies, Clemson, Duke and Georgia Tech are the only ACC schools with a four-year APR of 970 or higher in football, men's basketball, women's basketball and baseball. You can read David's complete story here: <http://www.dailypress.com/sports/teel-blog/dp-teel-time-vt-acc-10,0,6971295,full.story>.

The biggest impact of being in the ACC, of course, is financially. For example, Tech reported revenues of about \$39 million during its final year in the BIG EAST. By comparison, last year Tech's revenues were more than \$70 million. (For reference, please see the USA Today's annual

report on NCAA Finances <http://www.usatoday.com/sports/college/schools/finances/>).

Thanks to ACC revenue distribution and other contracted revenue streams such as Tech's multimedia rights agreement with IMG, which has built-in escalators, Tech's revenue will continue to increase annually.

So on the field, in the classroom, in compliance and in finances, 2004-14 was a tremendous decade for Tech.

What's next?

Well, here is what we do know:

More than 50,000 Hokies have graduated from Tech since 2004. That's a lot of potential season-ticket buying, Hokie Club-joining, key-

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waving Hokie fans. But they're a group that is used to winning and winning big. They're also culturally a different group, one that is more likely to get its news and socially connect via Twitter, Instagram or some other social media site. How teams – and to be honest, companies everywhere – engage that demo will determine success.

New ACC members Notre Dame and Louisville spend more than Tech – a lot more. Per the 2013 figures, Notre Dame's (\$109 million) and Louisville's (\$96 million) revenues for 2013 were greater than any existing ACC team. Florida State (\$91 million) was the only team close. Yes, the ACC's latest expansion will help the league overall in terms of quality athletes, coaches and programs, but it will make it a lot harder for everyone to win ACC titles. Clearly, Tech AD Whit Babcock showed he's willing to ante up in key sports – like men's basketball – and that's a good thing. To compete in this league, the Hokies will have to spend like they've never spent before.

In Babcock and new university president Tim Sands, the Hokies have fresh ideas and perspectives. It's a new day at Tech, both at Burruss Hall and within athletics, and that's why 2014 is similar to 2004 in that there's a

clear demarcation point in the timeline of the Tech program.

I think back to the Hokies' first 10 years in the ACC and think of those four football titles, wins over No. 1-ranked UNC and Duke in basketball, Angela Tincher throwing a no-hitter vs. Team USA, the incredible success of Queen Harrison, the emergence of Tech's various Olympic sports teams, and so many other amazing stories in the pools, on the courts and in the classrooms. During Tech's BIG EAST days from 1994-2004, Tech's average finish in the Learfield Sports Director's Cup was 91st. Now, the Hokies are consistently ranked among the top 10 of schools nationwide, finishing among the top 30-40 programs annually. That's been exciting to watch.

But even more exciting is what's in store for Tech fans in the coming years. A resurgence – or perhaps the better word is "renaissance" – in men's basketball is underway, and the same is occurring in other sports. The leadership on campus, and the demographics of the Tech alumni base has never been stronger.

So, on July 1, take a moment to toast the success of the past 10 years. It's been a very remarkable time. But understand the next 10 have a chance to be even sweeter.

THE VOICE'S MAILBAG

Bill,

Assuming Michael Brewer (or whoever) is at least adequate at quarterback, I think Tech can win the division! The schedule stinks from a fan standpoint (we don't play any of the good teams in the ACC), but that's good in terms of getting back to the ACC title game. We need the offense to get better, and we will be in Charlotte. Thanks and GO HOKIES! Paul, Roanoke, Virginia.

Paul:

My keys for the Hokies' success this fall deal with offensive efficiency. They are:

A.) Run the ball better. Tech finished 13th in the ACC last year, averaging just 119.8 yards rushing per game and just 3.2 yards per carry.

B.) Fewer interceptions. Tech quarterbacks threw 15 interceptions last season.

C.) Better kicking. No ACC team attempted more field goals last year than Tech (26) and no team missed more either. The Hokies misfired on 11 field goals last season! Eleven misses in one season is a historically bad number for Tech.


So when you add up interceptions (15), missed field goals (11) and failed fourth-down conversions (7), you basically have 33 turnovers for the season. That's not a recipe for winning.

The run game is the key to it all, so let's see how that group performs. Thanks for your note.

Dear Bill,

I want to ask you about stability on the offensive line. There has been a problem at Tech with recruiting great offensive linemen, or at least getting really good play from the guys we have. We have had three different o-line coaches in the past three seasons, so for guys like David Wang or Caleb Farris, they've had a different position coach each season. Do you think that's had an impact on offensive line recruiting, and thus, performance? I'm eager to hear your answer. Tom, Radford, Virginia.

Tom,

Any time you have three coaches in three seasons, it can be a real challenge for the players. However, Curt Newsome (2012), Jeff Grimes (2013) and Stacy Searels (2014) are excellent coaches, so that's probably not much of an issue. Tech's missed on some offensive line recruits. It's been a combination of things, but last year, the Hokies got Grimes more involved in offensive line recruiting, regardless of the geographic area of the prospect. Tech signed a nice group of linemen in February, and that's a major focus for 2015 as well. 

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Tech's Top 10

2013-14 **VT** EDITION

Here are the top 10 moments of the 2013-14 academic year as compiled by the magazine staff, with help from several in the athletics communications office:



1.

1. WOMEN'S SOCCER SQUAD MAKES IT TO THE COLLEGE CUP

The Tech women's soccer team had its best season in the program's history, winning a school-record 19 games, scoring a school-record 56 goals and crowning its first All-American (Jazmine Reeves).

Oh, and the Hokies made it to the College Cup for the first time, too.

A No. 1 seed, the Hokies advanced to the College Cup by beating UMBC, West Virginia, Santa Clara and Duke - all at home. Then in a national semifinal match against Florida State, they lost a 3-2 heartbreaker. A fluke-like goal in the 82nd minute by FSU's Jamia Fields turned out to be the game winner, as the ball ricocheted off the post, hit Tech goalkeeper Dayle Colpitts and rolled into the net.

Tech nearly tied the match in the waning moments. With 1:05 remaining, Reeves launched a shot that beat FSU goalkeeper Kelsey Wys, but unfortunately, it hit the crossbar. Reeves also hit the post with another shot during the match.

Tech's accomplishment came after many wrote the Hokies off before the season. Tech was picked to finish ninth in the ACC, but advanced to the ACC Tournament championship match before falling to FSU in that one.

into the season. Still, Carter earned All-America honors for the second time in his career and finished his season with an 18-1 record.

3. TECH MEN WIN ACC SWIMMING AND DIVING TITLE

To get an appreciation for how much it meant to Tech's male swimmers and divers to win the ACC title, one needs to watch the video of the celebration at the Greensboro Aquatic Center.

The Hokies won just one gold medal - Jan Switkowski in the 500-yard freestyle event - but they used superior team depth, solid performances in the relays and immense diving talent to edge NC State by 38 points. It marked the program's first ACC title and its first conference title since 2000 when Tech was a member of the Atlantic 10 Conference.

Tech and NC State swapped the lead multiple times over the final two days of the competition. But the Hokies took the lead for good on the final day when four swimmers earned points in the 200 breaststroke, led by Harrison Cefalo's third-place finish. Then, in the final event of the competition - the 400 freestyle relay - the Hokies needed only to finish, but the team of Joe Bonk, Lucas Bureau, Switkowski and Owen Burns came in third to seal the championship for Tech.

Coach Ned Skinner was named the ACC Men's Coach of the Year, while Switkowski was tabbed the ACC Men's Freshman of the Year.

4. TECH WRESTLERS ROLL TO ACC TITLE

The 2014 ACC Wrestling Championship, held at Cassell Coliseum, figured to be a three-horse race between Tech, Virginia and Pittsburgh, but the Hokies pulled away and easily won their second straight ACC title. Tech finished with 87 points, 20 ahead of second-place Pittsburgh.

All four Tech wrestlers who made it to the finals won. Dennis Gustafson won the championship at 133 pounds, and Carter knocked off Pittsburgh's Edgar Bright



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2. CARTER CLAIMS SECOND AT NCAA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Devin Carter came back from a devastating hamstring injury suffered in early December to win an ACC title, and he nearly won the NCAA championship at 141 pounds as well.

Carter became the first Tech wrestler to advance to a championship match at the NAAs after he pinned Buffalo's Nick Flannery in the first round, beat No. 13 seed Stephen Dutton of Michigan 11-7, knocked off No. 12 seed Richard Duson of Franklin & Marshall 4-3, and dominated No. 9 seed Evan Henderson 12-3 in the semifinals to advance to the championship match.

He suffered his only loss of the season when he fell to Ohio State's Logan Stieber, a two-time national champion coming



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at 141 pounds. That turned out to be the clincher, and the Hokies added titles at 149 pounds (Zach Neibert) and 197 pounds (Chris Penny). Gustafson, Neibert and Penny all won their first ACC titles, and four others made it to the podium in what turned out to be a true team rout.

Carter, who won his third ACC title, was named the event's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

5. WOMEN'S SOCCER ROUTS THEN-NO. 1 UVA

Reeves scored two first-half goals, and the Virginia Tech women's soccer team roared to a 4-2 rout of then-No. 1 Virginia in the semifinals of the ACC tournament in Cary, North Carolina.

The Cavaliers were unbeaten at the time, and Tech had not scored against UVA since 2009. But Reeves gave Tech a 2-1 halftime lead with a goal at the 17:13 mark, and Murielle Tiernan and Katie Yensen added goals in the second half to complete the rout.

The win marked Tech's first over UVA since a 2-0 victory in 2009, and it marked the Hokies' first ACC semifinal win since 2008.

6. SCHULTZE MINES MORE ACC GOLD

Martina Schultze made the most of her final season at Virginia Tech, claiming a pair of gold medals in the pole vault, first at the ACC's Indoor Track and Field Championships in Clemson, South Carolina, and then at the league's outdoor meet held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in late April.

The two gold medals are the latest in a terrific career in which Schultze has won five ACC titles in the pole vault and earned six All-America honors. In fact, Schultze has earned All-America status at every NCAA Championships during her career. Her six All-America plaques are one short of the school record (Kristi Castlin, 2006-09).

7. VINCENT MAKES HISTORY

Winning a golf tournament is hard enough, and yet Scott Vincent did that three times this past year.

On Oct. 13, the junior from Harare, Zimbabwe, shot 4-under-par in his final round and finished at 13-under-par to win the Bank of Tennessee Intercollegiate held at Blackthorn Club in Johnson City, Tennessee. The win marked his third of the season, and he became the first golfer in Tech history to win three tournaments in the same season.

Vincent went on to finish in the top 10 of nine tournaments, and he earned first-team All-America honors by the Golf Coaches Association of America as a result. He became Tech's first first-team All-American.

8. WOMEN'S HOOPS SQUAD WITH IMPROBABLE WIN AT UNC

The Tech women's basketball team had struggled in ACC play for much of the season heading into a game against North Carolina in Chapel Hill - Tech was 2-11 in league play at that point - and few expected the Hokies to get past the Tar Heels, who were ranked eighth in one poll and 11th in another.

But Tech got 24 points from Vanessa Panousis and notched an unlikely 50-47 victory on Feb. 23. Panousis hit 7 of 12 shots from the floor, including four 3-pointers, and dished out three assists. Defensively, the Hokies held UNC to its lowest scoring output of the season. The Tar Heels came in averaging 84.2 points per game.

The win marked Tech's first over a ranked team on the road since beating Maryland in College Park, Maryland, in 2012.

9. HOKIES GRAB GRIDIRON VICTORY AT MIAMI

Tech had lost football games against Duke and at Boston College before heading to Miami to take on the then-No. 14 Hurricanes, so optimism wasn't exactly abounding in Blacksburg. But Tech's offense surprisingly stole the show and the Hokies romped to a 42-24 win.


Trey Edmunds ran for 74 yards and four touchdowns and Logan Thomas threw for 366 yards and two scores, as the Hokies racked up a season-high 549 yards. More importantly, Tech did not turn the ball over, and Miami turned it over twice.

Tech beat a top-15 opponent for the first time since 2009 when it beat then-No. 9 Miami 31-7 at Lane Stadium. It beat a top-15 team on the road for the first time since 2006 when it knocked off then-No. 14 Wake Forest 27-6 in Winston-Salem.

10. TECH VOLLEYBALL BEATS THEN-NO. 18 FSU

The Virginia Tech volleyball team hadn't beaten a ranked team in more than three years, but the Hokies ended that streak on Nov. 9 when they knocked off then-No. 18 Florida State. The two teams split the first two sets, but the Hokies won the final two by scores of 25-21 and 25-15.

Seniors Victoria Hamsher and Samantha Gostling combined for 34 of Tech's 63 kills. Hamsher hit .484 on the attack for the Hokies, with 19 kills and just four errors on 31 attempts. Gostling was also consistent on the attack, with 16 kills and four errors on 39 attempts to hit .308. Juniors Kathryn Caine and LaTasha Samson-Akpan were just shy of the double-digit mark, tallying nine kills each.

Tech's previous win over a ranked opponent also came against Florida State. In 2010, the Seminoles were ranked 25th, but Tech prevailed in five sets, winning the last one 15-13. 



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Billy Hite, who worked 33 years as Tech's running backs coach and played a large role in developing the Hokies' tradition of excellence in the backfield, is retiring after 36 years at the school.



Group of longtime athletics department employees decides to retire

by Jimmy Robertson

The laugh is unmistakable; that deep, baritone rumble that surfaces whenever he tells one of his endless supply of tales. Its pure genuineness makes him a favorite among people of all ages, races and various backgrounds. It served him well when trying to coerce high school football players to come to Virginia Tech, and it made him a favorite among the fans at Orange & Maroon Tour stops and Blacksburg Sports Club engagements.

So it brought forth a tinge of sadness when ever-popular Billy Hite, one of the all-time great ambassadors of the Virginia Tech football program, announced he would be retiring from the school as of July 1. His retirement will mark the end of a remarkable 36-year tenure at Tech.

Hite is one of several prominent athletics department officials who have retired or will be retiring in the coming weeks. The group includes former Monogram Club director Russ Whitenack, who retired in April, assistant softball coach Al

Brauns, equipment manager Lester Karlin and men's basketball administrative assistant Sharon Spradlin, all of whom also will be retiring July 1. In addition, Clara Kinzie, a member of the housekeeping crew at Lane Stadium, is retiring after more than eight years of working in athletics.

Given his stature within the football program, Hite, though, is probably the most well known of the group.

"It's been a great run for me and my family the last 36 years," Hite said. "I want to thank all the coaches that I had the opportunity to work with, and I want to thank all the players that played at Virginia Tech. I personally want to thank all the players that I had the opportunity to coach. I also want to thank the Hokie Nation for all the help and support and all the great things they do for Virginia Tech."

Hite, who turned 63 in April, started working at Tech in 1978 as an assistant football coach and wound up becoming the longest-tenured

assistant in college football. He got into coaching in 1974 at his alma mater, North Carolina, under then-coach Bill Dooley, and he followed Dooley to Tech, serving as the running backs coach.

Dooley left following Tech's Peach Bowl win over NC State in 1986, and Tech AD Dutch Baughman hired current coach Frank Beamer.

"We got back from the Peach Bowl at 7 o'clock on a Friday night, and my phone rang at 7:15 and he [Beamer] asked me to meet him at 9 o'clock the next morning," Hite said. "I met with him for 15 or 20 minutes, and he hired me right there on the spot."

Hite never left, turning down a couple of opportunities to become a head coach at the Division I-AA level (now the Football Championship Subdivision level) to stay at Tech.

"Anne [his wife] and I had been married for seven months [when he followed Dooley to Tech], and we bought our first house," Hite said. "I told her not to get to know anybody in this town

because we were going to be here a year or two and we were going to be out of here. Thirty-six years later, I'm still sitting here. I never dreamed I'd be in one place this long. I think I was the longest-tenured assistant coach in the country until I moved into another position, and that's something I'm very proud of."

Hite did serve as the head coach for one game during his career on the Tech coaching staff. In 1989, he filled in as the acting head coach when Beamer was sidelined following coronary angioplasty surgery and had to miss a home game versus Tulane. He didn't let the program down, as he led the Hokies to an emotional 30-13 victory.

"I'm the only undefeated head coach in the country right now," Hite laughed.

Hite received two promotions over the years, becoming the assistant head coach one year after Beamer's arrival and then the associate head coach in 2000. As a coach, he mentored some of the best running backs in Tech history. In fact, he helped produce nine of Tech's top 11 career rushing leaders, including Cyrus Lawrence, Kevin Jones, Maurice Williams, Branden Ore, and Lee Suggs, and he was on the sidelines for more Tech football games than any other coach. He also coached in 21 bowl games.

He said his most memorable moment as a coach came in 1995 when the Hokies beat Miami 13-7 at Lane Stadium. It marked the Hokies' first victory over the 'Canes, and Tech later went on to beat Texas in the Sugar Bowl.

"I think that's the most important game we ever won here," Hite said.

In 2011, Hite moved into an administrative role, becoming the assistant to the head coach. Last year, he moved into a role as the director of alumni relations for athletics, serving as a liaison between the athletics department and former players and organizing the lettermen's reunion each spring game weekend.

Billy and Anne Hite plan to stay in Blacksburg, and he is looking for the next challenge in life, whatever it may be.

"I'm looking for some new opportunities outside of coaching," he said. "I'm looking for a new challenge in my life. I don't know what it will be, but I'm looking forward to it."

Like Hite, Karlin, a Norfolk, Virginia, native, came to Tech in 1978 after being hired by Dooley to handle the equipment needs for the football team. He graduated from Tech in 1974 with a degree in health and physical education, and after working as an equipment manager in the old World Football League and then a stint in sales, Karlin returned to Blacksburg in 1978 to work for Dooley.

He has worked in Tech's equipment room ever

since, a span of 36 years, and has attended 438 straight football games.

"I've done it for 36 seasons, and it's time [to retire]," Karlin said. "It's become too much. I'm here seven days a week during the season. I'm still hoping to remain a part of it in some way, but I think it's time for a change."



Lester Karlin, who has handled equipment issues for the football program since 1978, is retiring after 36 years at Tech.

Karlin's career in athletics equipment actually began while he served as a manager for the football team at Norview High School. Once graduating from high school, he spent two years at Danville Community College before gaining admittance into Tech.

When he got to Tech, he received a suggestion from the Norview athletics director at the time, who told him to give the Tech athletics department a call and see if they needed any help.

"So I called them, and they told me to come on up," Karlin said. "I ended up being a position manager for Coach [Tommy] Brasher [Tech's defensive line coach at the time]. Then when I got my degree, I wanted to keep working with equipment. I went to the World Football League, and I really enjoyed it. I learned a lot about equipment."

When Karlin got the job at Tech under Dooley, he called it his dream job. He specifically works with the football program and has been responsible for the annual budget dedicated to equipment and for the football equipment itself.

But the best part of his job has been the relationships he formed with the players over the years. Even today, he remains close friends with guys like Bruce Smith, Dickie Holway, John Gambone and Paul Adams. When former

players come back, their first stop is usually the equipment room to visit with Karlin.

"They usually want a free t-shirt," he joked.

In 2012, the Tech athletics department started sponsoring an auction for game-day experiences with members of the equipment room staff, and all the proceeds went to a Virginia Tech Athletic

Fund endowment, which funds student-athlete scholarships. The ultimate goal was, and still is, to establish an endowment in the name of Karlin.

Karlin and his wife, Suzie, will remain in Blacksburg. He has no specific plans for his free time other than working in his yard and continuing his association with the Blacksburg Fire Department, which he loves.

The 70-year-old Brauns just wrapped up his 19th year of working in the department, with the past 16 of those coming as a member of the softball coaching staff. His decision to retire caught some by surprise, as those who know Brauns best know that he loves coaching softball.

"I made it quickly," Brauns said of the decision. "It wasn't planned or anything. It just hit me. I thought maybe it's time, and I decided to do it."

"Everyone I know has been retired for 10 years, and I'm still out here working at 70. I want to spend a little time on my own and not have to do something before I croak. I figured I better do it before it's all over. Seventy is a good time to retire."

Brauns, a Uniontown, Pennsylvania, native, said that this will be the third time he has retired. A former Marine and a Vietnam War veteran, Brauns went to college a little later in life than

most, and when he graduated from Penn State University in 1973 with a degree in criminology, he went to work as a state probation officer in Virginia. He retired from that and got into business for himself. He once owned a local restaurant and bar in downtown Blacksburg



Al Brauns coached Tech's outfielders for the past 16 years, but is deciding to call it a career after 19 years with the athletics department.

before deciding to get out of that business.

Brauns came to Tech to work in the equipment room under Karlin in the early 1990s, but when Tech started its softball program in the mid-1990s, Brauns went to work as an assistant under the program's first coach, Scot Thomas. Brauns was a natural, having played fast pitch softball in the 1960s and early 1970s.

"I was just doing that for fun," Brauns said of working in the equipment room. "I wanted to do something and found out there was an opening downstairs [in the equipment room]. I had an opportunity to do something different and be involved in sports. I didn't do it for the money.

"When I got the opportunity with Scot, I was at the baseball tournament, and he called me. I didn't have any hesitation. I thought it would be fun."

Since then, Brauns has been a part of a staff that has earned four NFCA Regional Coaching Staff of the Year honors and made it to seven NCAA tournaments and a Women's College World Series appearance (2008). He has worked primarily with the outfielders and helped with the slap hitters over the years. He is also in charge of field maintenance, team travel, the program's budget, the program's equipment, and he has a heavy hand in recruiting. The longtime assistant coach also runs Tech's summer softball camps, which have seen a huge spike in attendance over

the past few years.

He leaves with innumerable memories, though ones from that World Series appearance and from Tech's 1-0 upset of the U.S. Olympic softball team in an exhibition in Oklahoma City earlier in 2008 tend to surface. The Hokies snapped the U.S. team's 185-game winning streak.

"Between the World Series and the night we beat the Olympic team ... I don't know if anything could top that," Brauns said. "Going to the World Series was unbelievable, and the way we got there, just winning the regional in Tennessee and winning the super-regionals in Michigan. I don't know if anything could top going to the World Series, and the night we beat the Olympic team ... that was just so surreal."

Brauns and his wife of 28 years, Michelle, plan on staying in Blacksburg. They have a son, Adam, who is a senior at Tech, and Brauns has two other sons, Eric and Jason, along with two grandchildren.

He hasn't quite decided what he'll do with the extra time on his hands, but looks forward to contemplating it.

"I'm going to get in my recliner and prop my feet up, and I'm going to decide," he laughed. "It may take me a long time to decide, so I may be in that recliner for a while. I don't know. I have all kinds of interests and hobbies. There's a chance of getting back into business. I don't know. We'll see."



Russ Whitenack

Whitenack, who was the longest-tenured Tech employee, came to Blacksburg in 1972 from Miami, where the Massapequa, New York, native had been working as a track and field coach at a junior high school. He landed

an assistant coaching job at Tech under then-coach Marty Pushkin.

Two years later, Pushkin left to take a job at West Virginia, and Whitenack, a 1969 graduate of the University of Tennessee, got the head gig at Tech – and never left.

"The reason I came to Virginia Tech, to be honest about it, was to get my master's degree and then I planned to go back to Florida and hopefully get a job at one of the junior colleges," Whitenack said. "I never ever thought it would work out that I would get to stay. It was just a matter of being at the right place at the right time. I couldn't have been luckier."

Whitenack, 69, guided the Tech men's program for the next 28 years, while also serving a stint as the women's coach in the 1980s and early 1990s. Early on in his tenure, he worked as the associate

director of Tech's summer All-Sports Camp for three years and the director for one year.

Under his leadership, the men's track and field program produced 20 All-Americans, and he led the Hokies to two Metro Conference indoor championships (1993 and 1994). He was named the Metro's Coach of the Year during the 1992 outdoor season.

He accomplished all this despite the program not having much in the way of resources. In fact, Tech did not have an actual track for years. He took his teams to Blacksburg High School to work out, or had them work out at Rector Field House.

Despite a lack of resources, the Hokies often performed well against bigger schools in the big meets – a source of pride for Whitenack.

"A couple of years, we went down to Florida State, and we had five scholarships and they were fully funded, plus a handful of football guys," Whitenack said. "We would compete right up to the last event and scared the heck out of them a couple of times. We would go into the relays with a lead, and they would end up beating us – but not by much.

"There were a couple of years ... I know their coach, and he would come up to me and say, 'I can't believe you challenged us that much.' We just had phenomenal kids, usually from Virginia, and they didn't let the lack of a facility really hurt them."

The athletics department built a nice, new track adjacent to Rector in 1997 and also added an indoor track. After Tech joined the Atlantic 10 for all sports except football in the late 1990s, it became the premier track and field force in the conference. The Hokies won the indoor and outdoor titles for four straight years, and Whitenack received coach of the year honors after each of those victories.

In 2001, Whitenack moved out of coaching and into an administrative role as the director of the Monogram Club, a club of former letter winners at Tech. The club serves as a way to keep a line of communication open between former letter winners and the athletics department. He organized football pregame tailgates and orchestrated reunions and other get-togethers for the former athletes of various sports at Tech.

He also helped take care of the luxury suite holders at Lane Stadium. With his office being in Lane Stadium, he had easy access to the suites, and he prepared them for game days.

"At first, I was hesitant to take the job [with the Monogram Club] because I didn't think it would be enough work, and I like to be active," Whitenack said. "Then Jim Weaver [former Tech AD] came back and said he had some other things for me to do. I really enjoyed meeting all those people in the suites, and I enjoyed working with and meeting the people who were in the

Monogram Club, too. Many of them are good friends of mine, and they say they're going to come down and see us."

Whitenack and his wife sold their home in Blacksburg and bought a home on Norris Lake, just north of Knoxville, Tennessee. They plan on fixing their home the way they want it, while mixing in some kayaking, jet skiing and boating on the side.



Sharon Spradlin

To most Tech fans, the members of the Virginia Tech men's basketball team were just players. To Sharon Spradlin, they were her "boys."

Spradlin is retiring after working 27 years in the athletics department, including the final 21 as the administrative assistant in the men's basketball office. Those 27 years came after a 13-year stint working at First National Bank of Christiansburg.

Spradlin started working in the athletics department in 1987, serving as an administrative assistant in the sports information office. In 1993, an opportunity presented itself for her to move to the men's basketball office, where she ultimately

helped then-head coach Bill Foster and his staff manage the day-to-day operations.

"I liked basketball, and it was a great opportunity for me," she said. "I just thought the world of Coach Foster."

Foster's low-key, humorous, Southern charm meshed perfectly with Spradlin's easy-going demeanor, and she played her role in the program's successes in the early and mid 1990s. She cited the 1995 NIT championship season as her most memorable moment – and not just because Tech won the title. She enjoyed her relationship with the staff and with the players, whom she treated as her own.

"Just that whole season was so memorable," she said. "The players were great, and Coach Foster treated you like family, no matter what your position.

"All of the coaches that I worked for treated me great. They really did. I worked for five different coaches [Foster, Bobby Hussey, Ricky Stokes, Seth Greenberg and James Johnson], and they were all great to work with."

Spradlin plans on taking some time off before deciding to pursue her next venture in life. She and her husband, Steve, own a family business centered around real estate, and she has plenty of grandchildren to keep her occupied.

But nothing will take the place of her "boys."

"I've been fortunate to be around so many wonderful student-athletes," she said. "I've had such a good rapport with them. It's been great to watch them grow year by year. They're like family to me."

In addition to those five, Kinzie, a member of




Clara Kinzie

the housekeeping crew, decided to retire after more than eight years of working in athletics. She had been working at a local church prior to coming to athletics in April of 2006, and she has been a member of the Lane Stadium housekeeping crew

ever since.

Kinzie plans on spending time with her daughters, traveling around and attending music concerts.

Overall, the group of five combined to amass nearly 170 years of service to Tech athletics. Whitenack led the way, having worked 42 years, and Karlin and Hite both worked 36 years.

Of course, their contributions will not be forgotten. But the good people whom they are will be missed more. 



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Martina Schultze became an All-American for the sixth time in her career after a bronze medal performance in the pole vault at the NCAA outdoor meet.

Schultze finishes third at NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships

by Jimmy Robertson

Martina Schultze's amazing season ended in style, as she finished in third place in the pole vault event at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Eugene, Oregon, on June 11-14.

Schultze, a native of Uhingen, Germany, wearnd All-America recognition for the sixth time in her career. That leaves her tied for second with former track standouts Queen Harrison and Brittany Pryor on Tech's all-time list, just one back of Kristi Castlin, who was a seven-time All-American during her career from 2006-09.

Schultze cleared 14 feet, 3.25 inches (4.35 meters), but could not clear 14 feet, 5.25 inches to advance. Annika Roloff of Akron won the event, with a vault of 14 feet, 5.25 inches, while Indiana's Kelsie Ahbe finished second.

Behind Schultze, the Tech women's team finished in 34th position at the meet. In addition to Schultze, two other Tech women's track and field athletes – Sabine Kopplin and Eva Vivod – earned All-America honors.

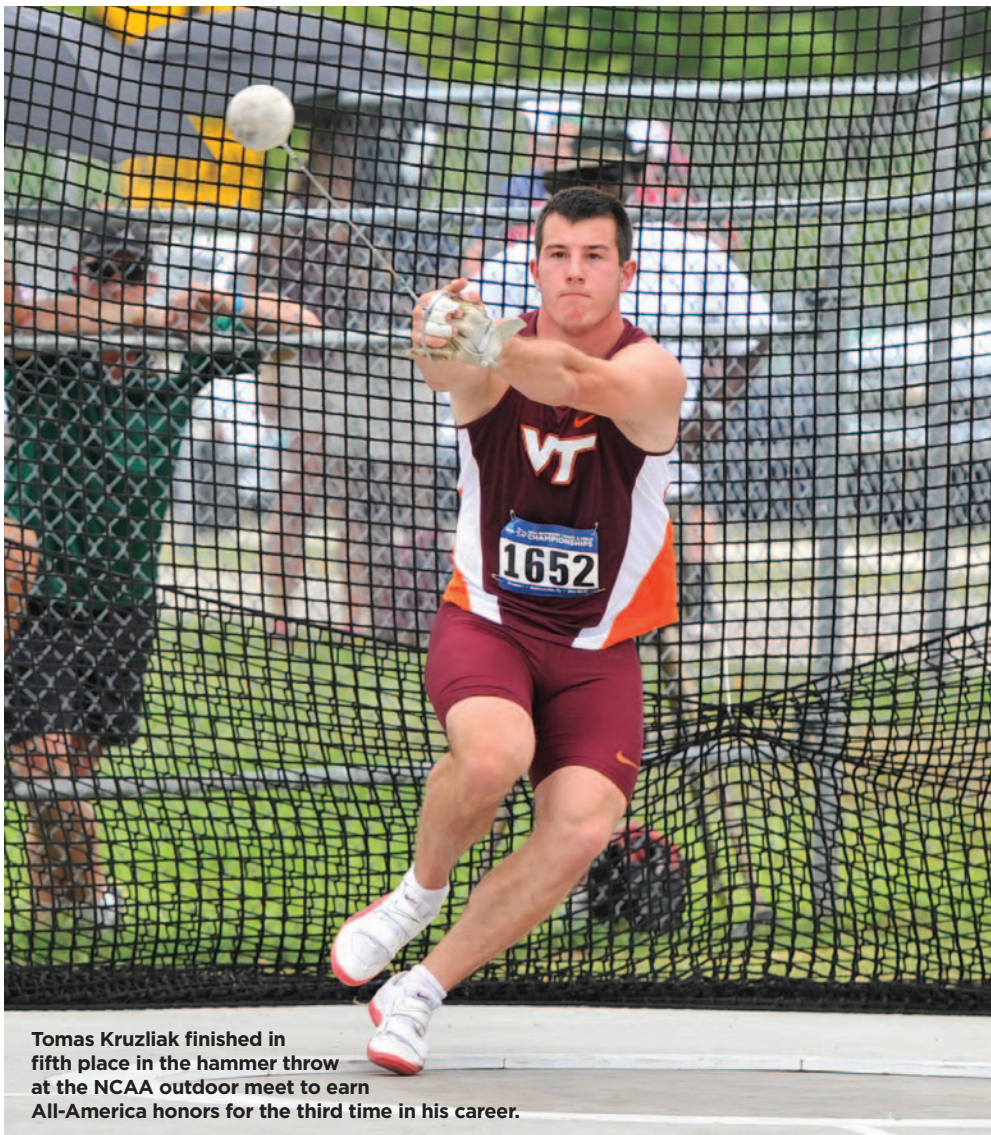
Kopplin, a sophomore from Filderstadt, Germany, earned first-team All-America honors after finishing seventh in the javelin with a toss of 173 feet, 4 inches (52.84 meters). Kopplin, a transfer from Nevada, was competing in her second NCAA Championships. She finished in 17th place at the 2011 NCAA outdoor meet.

Vivod earned second-team All-America honors in the javelin. The Maribor, Slovenia, native finished in 11th place with a throw of 160 feet, 11 inches (49.06 meters).

Shannon Morton, Sarah Rapp and Hanna Green also competed for the Hokies. Morton, a sophomore from Chesapeake, Virginia, was 20th in the 1,500-meter race with a time of 4 minutes, 25.42 seconds, while Rapp, a junior from Raleigh, North Carolina, came in 21st in the 10,000-meter race with a time of 34:10.96. Green placed 13th in the preliminaries of the 800-meter run with a time of 2:05.45 and did not qualify for the finals.

On the men's side, Tech finished tied for 36th, with four athletes earning All-America honors.

Tomas Kruzliak, the defending national champion in the hammer throw, came in fifth this time, but still earned All-America honors. The sophomore from Nitra, Slovakia, recorded his best attempt on his first throw, one in which he tossed



Tomas Kruzliak finished in fifth place in the hammer throw at the NCAA outdoor meet to earn All-America honors for the third time in his career.

the hammer 227 feet, 11 inches (69.47 meters). His second attempt went 226 feet, 7 inches. After faulting on his third attempt, he threw his fourth try 223 feet, 3 inches. He faulted on his fifth attempt, and recorded a throw of 219 feet, 1 inch on his final toss.

Matthias Tayala of Kent State won the hammer throw in surprising fashion. On his final throw, Tayala uncorked a toss of 241 feet, 4 inches to edge second-place finisher Nick Miller of Oklahoma State by nearly four feet.

Grant Pollock, a junior from Richmond, Virginia, also earned All-America honors after finishing sixth in the 1,500-meter race. He ran the race in a time of 3:40.41, coming just 1.33 seconds from being the gold medalist. Still, his finish enabled him to earn All-America honors for the second time this season. He was part of the distance medley relay team that earned All-America recognition at the NCAA indoor meet.

Torben Laidig and Stephan Munz both claimed second-team All-America status for the Hokies after finishing 15th and 16th in the

pole vault, respectively. Both cleared 17 feet, 8.5 inches (5.40 meters) on their second attempt, but were unable to advance any further. Laidig, a freshman from Schwabisch Hall, Germany, earned his second All-America honor this season, as he finished in sixth place at the NCAA Indoor Championships. Munz, a native of Goppingen, Germany, won the ACC title during the outdoor season and is an All-American for the first time.

Jared Berman, Darrell Wesh and Lee Degfae also competed for the Tech men's team. Berman, a redshirt junior from Fairfax, Virginia, finished in 16th place in the 3,000-meter race with a time of 8:53.72. Wesh, a senior from Virginia Beach, Virginia, finished 11th in the semifinals of the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.21 seconds and failed to qualify for the finals. Degfae, a redshirt senior from Alexandria, Virginia, came in 19th in the 5,000-meter race with a time of 14:13.17. He missed out on All-America honors by 10 seconds.

Tech's seven All-Americans during the outdoor season equaled the number of All-Americans it had during the indoor season. 

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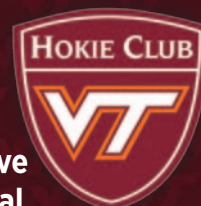


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ATHLETE
of the
YEAR



DEVIN CARTER

R-Junior
Christiansburg, Virginia

On Dec. 6, in a match against Virginia's Joe Spisak at the Las Vegas Invitational, Devin Carter felt pain in his hamstring and knew the injury was serious.

Sure enough, he needed surgery to repair an avulsion, or a tearing away, of his hamstring from his pelvis, and doctors told him that it would take at least six months to recover. That meant his wrestling season would be over.

But Carter refused to accept that and rehabbed feverishly to get back on the mat. Days before the ACC Championship, Carter received clearance to begin competing, completing an astounding recovery. The Christiansburg, Virginia, native went on to win his third ACC championship, become a two-time All-American and nearly win a national championship.

For that, Carter is the Inside Hokie Sports' Athlete of the Year.

Carter becomes the first wrestler to be named the magazine's athlete of the year since the publication's staff started doing this in 1995. Previous winners include Erick Green, Alexander Ziegler (twice), Angela Tincher (twice), Spyridon Jullien (twice), Marcel Lomincky (twice), Dorotea Habazin, Queen Harrison, Kevin Jones, Bryant Matthews, Lee Suggs, Andre Davis, Corey Moore, Katie Ollendick, Jim Druckenmiller and Cornell Brown.

After he came back from the injury, Carter nearly did the unthinkable in late March – win a national championship. Despite not being 100 percent, the No. 4 seed at 141 pounds pinned Buffalo's Nick Flannery in the first round at the NCAA Wrestling Championship and methodically beat No. 13 seed Stephen Dutton of Michigan by an 11-7 score. In the quarterfinals, he escaped No. 12 seed Richard Duson of Franklin & Marshall 4-3 to advance to the semifinals of the weight class.


In the semifinals, Carter faced a familiar opponent in No. 9 seed Evan Henderson of North Carolina, who had upset the top seed in the quarterfinals. But Carter had beaten Henderson numerous times before, and beat him again, this time by a 12-3 count.

That set up the championship match against No. 2 seed Logan Stieber of Ohio State – a two-time national champion coming into the match. Winded, and on a tired leg, Carter fell 10-1 to Stieber and finished second in the nation at 141 pounds. That marked the best finish ever by a Tech wrestler at the NCAA Championship.

Carter won his third ACC title three weeks prior to the NAAs, beating Maryland's Shyheim Brown 23-8 in the semifinals and outlasting Pittsburgh's Edgar Bright 6-1 in the finals. The win over Bright sealed the team title for the Hokies, who won the championship for the second straight year, and Carter took home the Most Outstanding Wrestler honor at the meet.

Carter finished the year with an 18-1 record. Nine of those wins came by pin, two by technical fall and two by major decision.

Off the mat, Carter was named the ACC's Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He graduated this spring with a degree in psychology and is pursuing a master's degree.

Carter takes an 89-13 record into his senior season, including a perfect 11-0 mark in ACC competition. 

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BASEBALL

**ATHLETE
of the
YEAR**




MARK ZAGUNIS

Junior
Cinnaminson, New Jersey

Other than taking home a national award, there was nothing else Mark Zagunis could have done this season for Virginia Tech, and his selection by the Chicago Cubs with the 78th overall pick in the 2014 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft only solidifies his spot as the baseball team's Athlete of the Year.

In 2014, Zagunis became the first Hokie to be named a Johnny Bench Award semifinalist – the prestigious award that goes to the nation's top catcher – and he was named an All-ACC second-team catcher, becoming the first Tech player to be named all-conference twice at the same position as a member of the league. He also repeated his selection as a Capital One Academic All-District III first-team catcher.

During the season, Zagunis notched career hit No. 200 to become just the seventh Hokie to reach the milestone as a junior, and he finished tied with the fourth-most career hits (Trey McCoy, 213). He also led the team in batting average for the second time in three seasons, joining Johnny Oates (1966 and 1967) as the only other catcher at the school to lead the team in batting in two different seasons.

At the end of the regular season, Zagunis was the only ACC player with at least 20 multi-hit games and more than 10 multi-run games, and he either led the team or was second in every major offensive category. The two that stick out the most were his 10.5 toughest-to-strikeout ratio, which was among the nation's best, and that he never grounded into a double play – the only Hokie with more than 90 at-bats not to do so. 



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KYLIE MCGOLDRICK


Junior
Stratford, New Jersey

After a breakout season last year, Kylie McGoldrick continued her impressive offensive display in 2014 and helped lead Tech to its third straight NCAA postseason berth and its seventh overall.

Just one of two Hokies to start in all 59 games, the junior led the team with a .345 batting average and also had team highs with 59 hits, 45 runs scored, 97 total bases, a .444 on-base percentage, 11 hit-by-pitches and 10 game-winning runs scored. She was second on the team in doubles (12), home runs (8) and stolen bases (7).

Her 45 runs scored were just four shy of the school record for a single season (49 by Carmen Farmer in 2002), while her 11 hit-by-pitches are second in a single season to Misty Hall's 14 in 2010. That number moved McGoldrick's career hit-by-pitch number to 24, just two shy of the all-time mark held by Courtney Liddle.

Looking ahead, with a similar senior year in 2015, McGoldrick could make an attempt at two more all-time career marks: doubles (16 shy of Michelle Meadows' 48 from 1997-2000) and runs scored (45 shy of Bronwyn Blair's 151 from 1998-2001).

Postseason accolades accompanied the Stratford, New Jersey, native's efforts, as she earned an All-ACC third-team selection and repeated as a National Fastpitch Coaches Association Mid-Atlantic Region first-team honoree. 

ATHLETE
of the
YEAR


DEVIN WILSON

Freshman
 McKees Rocks,
 Pennsylvania


There weren't a lot of positives that came out of the men's basketball season for the Hokies, who finished in last place in the ACC for the third consecutive year. But Devin Wilson played quality basketball for much of the season and was rewarded with a spot on both of the ACC's All-Rookie Teams.

Wilson started all 31 games this past season and enjoyed a record-breaking first year for the Hokies, snapping Tech freshman records for minutes played (1,081), total assists (148) and free throws attempted (185). Wilson's 1,081 minutes broke the previous record of 1,024 held by former Tech great Dell Curry, who set the mark during the 1982-83 season.

Wilson broke the record for assists in a season by a freshman when he dished out five assists in the Hokies' 57-53 loss to Virginia on Feb. 18. Those five assists gave him 114 for the season at the time and enabled him to break the old record of 113

set by Hank Thorns during the 2007-08 season. He finished with 148 for an average of 4.8 per game, a number that ranked third in the ACC.

Wilson broke the Tech freshman record for free-throw attempts in the Hokies' 60-56 loss to North Carolina on March 1. He went 8 of 12 from the line in that game and scored 15 points. He finished the regular season with 178 attempts, besting Dale Solomon's previous record of 164, which came during the 1978-79 season.

Wilson averaged 9.2 points, 4.8 assists and 3.2 rebounds per game, while shooting 37.3 percent from the floor and 65.9 percent from the free-throw line. For his efforts, he was named to the league's two all-freshman teams at the conclusion of the regular season – one by the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association (ACSMA) and one by the league's coaches. He became one of just four players in Tech history to earn a spot on an ACC all-rookie squad. 

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ATHLETE
of the
YEAR



UJU
UGOKA

Senior
Lagos, Nigeria


It was a record-setting year for senior Uju Ugoka, who snags the magazine's women's basketball athlete of the year honor while playing in her first, and last, full season with the Hokies.

Ugoka started in all but one game for Tech (29) and managed to set the school record for field goals made in a single season with 213, breaking the old mark set by Renee Dennis back in 1986-87. Ugoka's 533 points scored was the fifth-best output by a Hokie in a single season, while her 18.4 points per game average was fourth.

The 6-foot-1 forward was not just a scoring machine, as she also finished second on Tech's single-season list with 277 rebounds, 12

shy of the top spot, and her 9.6 per game average was the fourth-best for a season in school history.

In addition, Ugoka set a school record with 16 double-doubles throughout the season and tied the school record with six straight at one stretch. She averaged 9.2 rebounds per game for her career – the best ever mark at the school and a number that is a full rebound ahead of Tamie Edwards' 7.9 per game average (1980-83).

For her efforts, Ugoka, who finished seventh in the league in scoring and third in rebounds, earned second-team All-ACC honors by both the Blue Ribbon Panel and the coaches, and she was named to the All-ACC Academic Team. 




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MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

**ATHLETE
of the
YEAR**



THOMAS CURTIN


Junior
Leesburg, Virginia

Thomas Curtin got off to a bit of a slow start to the cross country season. In fact, he missed four of the first five races of the season heading into the ACC Cross Country Championship in early November.

But Curtin ran with a purpose at the ACC meet, finishing second overall and guiding the defending champion Hokies to a fifth-place finish. He ran the 8K course in a time of 24 minutes, 2.20 seconds and finished nearly 25 seconds behind winner Andrew Colley of NC State.

Curtin continued to run well at the next meet

– the NCAA Southeast Regional. He finished in fourth place, running the 10K course in a time of 28:46.70, and he finished just nine seconds behind the winner. Again, behind him, the Tech men's team finished in fifth place, and he qualified individually for the NCAA Division I Championship. At the NCAAs, Curtin finished the 10k race in 69th with a time of 32:01.40.

Curtin earned All-ACC honors for the second straight year, as he improved on his finishes at both the ACC and NCAA meets from last year. 

ATHLETE
of the
YEAR



SARAH RAPP

Junior
Raleigh, North Carolina

Sarah Rapp came within 10 seconds of being just the fourth Tech women's All-American in the sport of cross country and the first since 2008. Yet that shouldn't diminish what turned out to be a fine season for the Raleigh, North Carolina, native.

Rapp was Tech's lone female to qualify for the NCAA Championship, getting an at-large qualifying bid after finishing eighth at the NCAA regional. At the NCAA Championship, she finished in 55th place in a field of 254 runners, running the 6K course in a time of 20 minutes, 56.1 seconds. She missed All-America honors by 10 seconds as the 40th finisher came across the finish line in a time of 20:46. The top 40 finishers receive All-America recognition.

Rapp came in 13th at the ACC Championship, running the 6K race in a time of 20:51.60. At the NCAA Southeast Regional held in Charlottesville, Virginia, she finished in eighth place with a personal-best time of 20:34.40.

Rapp's best finish came at the Mountaineer Open, where she finished second, and she took third at the Virginia Tech Alumni Invitational. She led the women's team in four of the events in which she competed this past season. 

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JACK TYLER

R-Senior
Oakton, Virginia


The Virginia Tech football team featured an outstanding defense this past season, one that ranked in the top 11 nationally in five different categories, including fourth in total defense (283.6 ypg). That defense had several quality players, but Jack Tyler really served as the heart and soul of the unit.

For the second consecutive season, Tyler led the Hokies in tackles, amassing 100 (35 solo), including 11 for a loss. The 11 tackles for a loss ranked tied for second on the team. He also recorded 4.5 sacks and 12 quarterback hurries, and he forced a fumble.

Tyler had no fewer than four tackles in any

game this past season. He finished with 11 tackles on four separate occasions, and his 11 tackles, including two for a loss, and a sack against Maryland probably served as his best game.


Tyler finished with 286 tackles in his career (123 solo), including 32.5 for a loss, and 8.5 sacks.

Following his senior season, Tyler earned second-team All-ACC honors by both the league's coaches and by the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association (ACSMA). He also was a semifinalist for the Bursworth Trophy, which goes annually to the top player who began his collegiate career as a walk-on. 



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GOLF

**ATHLETE
of the
YEAR**



SCOTT VINCENT

Junior
Harare, Zimbabwe

Scott Vincent's name came up numerous times in discussions for the magazine's overall athlete of the year. For sure, he had that type of year.

Vincent won three times this season – the first Tech golfer to do that in the history of the program – and finished in the top seven on five other occasions. In large part because of his play, the Virginia Tech golf team secured an NCAA berth for the eighth straight year.


Vincent won the season-opening tournament – the Golfweek Conference Challenge – in Iowa and played well the rest of the season. He also won the VCU Shootout and the Bank of Tennessee Intercollegiate, where he shot 13-under-par for the tournament, which was his best score of the season.

Vincent finished second at the Augusta Invitational in early April and sixth at the ACC Men's Golf

Championship in late April. His 5-under-par score helped the Hokies to a fourth-place finish at the conference tournament.

At the NCAA regional held in Auburn, Ala., Vincent shot 3-under-par and finished in third place out of 75 golfers. The Hokies advanced to the NCAA Men's Golf Championship held in Kansas, and Vincent shot 1-over-par to finish in 35th there.

After the season, Vincent was named to the PING All-America team, earning a first-team nod after a season in which he finished ranked in the top 20 nationally for much of the year. He became the Hokies' first first-team All-American.

Vincent led the Hokies in scoring average this season at 70.51. His career scoring average of just under 72 currently stands as a school record. 

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LACROSSE

**ATHLETE
of the
YEAR**




MEGAN WILL

Junior
Bel Air, Maryland

The 2013 magazine's choice for lacrosse athlete of the year did nothing but improve upon her numbers during her junior campaign, all but solidifying her spot as the 2014 selection as well. Megan Will led the Hokies in all major offensive categories and has certainly set herself up for a run next season at her cousin Dawn's all-time records.

Will scored 48 goals, the fourth-most ever in a single season at the school, and dished out a team-high 17 assists to push her point total to 65, also the fourth-most in a single season at Tech. Her totals included a team-high seven free-position goals and two game winners.

Of her team-high 12 hat tricks during the year, six of them were against ACC competition, which included ending the season on a four-game streak and scoring at least three in nine of her last 10 contests.

Dawn Will (1997-2000) set Tech records for career goals (186) and career points (221), and Megan enters her senior year with 120 and 156, respectively. An average season will easily see her finish in the second spot in both categories, as she needs 20 goals and 32 points. She's already passed Dawn in career assists and could finish in the top five at Tech in that category as well. 

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KYLE RENFRO

Senior
Forest, Virginia


The Virginia Tech men's soccer team did not allow many goals this past season, and a lot of its success on the defensive end of the pitch came about because of the stellar play of goalkeeper Kyle Renfro.

Renfro started all 17 games for the Hokies and led the team with 1,642 minutes played. He recorded 88 saves and allowed just 23 goals. His 88 saves led the ACC and his save percentage of 79.3 percent ranked fourth in the league. More impressively, he recorded five shutouts.

Renfro made a career-high 10 saves on two occasions this year in ties against then-No. 16 Clemson and then-No. 19 Virginia. He also made nine saves in a loss to then-No. 5 Maryland. In addition, he saved two penalty kicks this season.

Following the season, Renfro earned first-team All-ACC honors for his efforts.

Renfro also took care of things in the classroom. He was named an NSCAA Scholar All-American, becoming the first Tech player to be named a first-team NSCAA Scholar All-American since Dustin Dyer in 2005. To be named to a Scholar All-America team, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.30 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) throughout his or her career, start more than 50 percent of all games and be a significant contributor to the team.

Renfro departs Tech ranked third in career saves with 305 and third in shutouts with 14. 



JAZMINE REEVES

Senior
Dover, Delaware


The Virginia Tech women's soccer team had its best season in school history, winning a school-record 19 games, scoring a school-record 56 goals and making it to the College Cup – NCAA soccer's version of the Final Four – for the first time.

And most of that success came about because of the play of the program's first All-American – Jazmine Reeves.

Reeves, who started 25 of 27 games, tied for the team lead in goals with 11, and she also added five assists. Her 11 goals were the fourth-most goals scored in a single season at Tech, and she finished tied for third on the team with two game-winning goals.

Reeves' best performances probably came in the ACC tournament. In the quarterfinals, she headed in the game-winning goal to lift Tech to a 2-1 double-overtime win over Notre Dame. In the semifinals, she scored two goals in the Hokies' stunning 4-2 upset of then-No. 1 Virginia.

Reeves was named to the all-tournament team following that performance. She later was named a first-team All-American by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, making her the Hokies' first All-American in women's soccer. Reeves also became the first Tech women's soccer player to be named a semifinalist for the Missouri Athletic Club's Hermann Trophy, the highest intercollegiate soccer award.

Reeves closed her career by appearing in a school-record 91 matches. She scored the second-most points in Tech history (69), tallied the third-most assists (19) and the fourth-most goals (25). 



RYAN HAWKINS

Senior
Charlotte,
North Carolina

As he prepares to dive into the next phase of his life, Ryan Hawkins can derive plenty of satisfaction in looking at the Virginia Tech record books, seeing his name plastered everywhere and understanding his impact on the Hokies' swimming and diving program.


Hawkins' final year ended in grand fashion, as the young man earned three All-America honors at the NCAA Championship. Thanks largely to his performances, the Hokies finished in 20th place nationally, and that finish came on the heels of the Tech men's team claiming the ACC title at the league meet for the first time in program history.

At the NAAs, Hawkins finished in fifth place in the platform event with 440.85 points, 10th place in the 1-meter event with 363.35 points and 12th place in the 3-meter event with 408.40 points. He earned All-America honors in the

platform and honorable mention All-America status in the other two diving events.

Hawkins got the Hokies out to a quick start at the ACC Championship with two bronze medals and a fifth-place finish during the diving competition held a week before the swimming portion of the Championship. He finished third in the platform and 3-meter events and fifth in the 1-meter. In his career, he scored points in every single diving event at the ACC Championship.

Hawkins got it done in the classroom as well. The architecture major made the All-ACC Academic Team for swimming and diving all four years.

Hawkins owns the school record in the 3-meter diving event, and he closed his career with seven All-America honors – the most in school history by a Tech diver. 



KAYLEA ARNETT

Junior
Spring Hill, Texas

Naming an athlete of the year for women's swimming and diving may have been the easiest of chores. Of course, a young woman who earns three All-America honors tends to make things easy.

Kaylea Arnett had one of the greatest seasons of any Tech student-athlete, with her trio of All-America honors in diving at the NCAA Championship. Her best finish came in the 1-meter event, where she scored 332.70 points to finish in third place. The bronze-medal performance marked the best finish ever by any Tech swimmer or diver at the NAAs.


She went on to claim honorable mention All-America honors in two other events at the NCAA Championship. She scored 366.05 points to finish 10th in the 3-meter event, and she scored 266.80 points to come in 15th in the platform event. Behind her performances, the Tech women's team finished 24th overall at the national meet.

Before the NCAA meet, Arnett dominated on the conference level, being named the ACC Women's

Championship Most Valuable Diver for the third straight year. She became just the third athlete in ACC history to capture the award three times.

Arnett won gold in the 1-meter event at the ACC meet for the third straight year, and she also won the title in the 3-meter event. In the 1-meter, she led coming out of the preliminaries and then posted a score of 355.65 points in the finals to break her own school record and top the second-place finisher by 20 points. In the 3-meter, she dominated in the finals, scoring 395.95 points to break her own school record in that event. She also became the first Tech female to win the 3-meter event at the league championship meet.

For good measure, she also finished in third place in the platform event at the ACC meet with 311.75 points. She helped Tech claim fifth place as a team.

Arnett won the league's overall Women's Diver of the Year award as well, giving her two of this particular award. She also won this honor as a freshman. 



AMERIGO CONTINI


Sophomore
Parma, Italy

The Virginia Tech men's tennis program made the NCAA Championship for the eighth consecutive year, and while the Hokies used the talents of a lot of good players to make NCAA play this season, they got a particularly strong season from sophomore Amerigo Contini.

Contini, who was ranked No. 20 national in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings heading into the NCAA Championship, followed an outstanding freshman campaign – one in which he was named the ACC Freshman of the Year – by going 19-8 overall in dual matches. He played all his matches at the No. 1 spot for the Hokies.

Contini played well in the very difficult ACC,

going 8-4 against league opponents and ultimately earning first-team All-ACC honors. For the season, he went 13-6 against ranked opponents, including six opponents ranked in the top 30. Including fall competition, Contini finished with a 26-11 mark.

Contini was the only Hokie to qualify for the NCAA Singles Championship, where he won a match against Illinois' Tim Kopinski before seeing his season come to an end in a second-round loss to Florida's Florent Diep in three sets. Contini became one of just six Hokies in school history to qualify for the singles competition in multiple seasons, following his appearance at last season's event. 



FRANCESCA FUSINATO


Freshman
Feltre, Italy

It didn't take long for freshman Francesca Fusinato to make an impact on the Virginia Tech women's tennis program. In her first collegiate season, she spent the majority of her playing time at the No. 1 spot in the Hokies' lineup.

Fusinato wasn't intimidated by the competition in the difficult ACC, finishing 4-4 in conference matches. In dual matches this past season, she went 12-5, and including fall competition, she was 18-6. She went 8-2 out of the No. 1 spot and 3-3 at No. 2.

Following the season, she earned third-team All-ACC honors for the Hokies, who went 13-13 this season. She spent the majority of the spring ranked in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings, finishing at No. 120 out of 125 ranked players.

Fusinato's signature win came against then-No. 65 Maria Belaya of William & Mary. Her 6-4, 6-1 win over Belaya helped the Hokies to a 7-0 victory over the then-No. 43 Tribe.

Fusinato also went 11-9 in doubles competition this past season. She and Raluca Mita teamed to go 7-4, including a 4-3 mark in dual matches and 3-1 in tournament action. 

ATHLETE
of the
YEAR


GRANT POLLOCK

Junior
Richmond, Virginia


Distance runner Grant Pollock quietly enjoyed a banner season for the Tech men's cross country and track and field teams, claiming two gold medals during the academic year in two separate events and earning two All-America honors in two different events as well.

Pollock was the last competitor for Tech this season, competing in the 1,500-meter race on the final day of the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Eugene, Oregon, in mid-June. He finished in sixth place in a time of 3 minutes, 40.41 seconds, coming just 1.33 seconds from being the gold medalist. Still, his finish enabled him to earn All-America honors in the event.

His other All-America nod came at the NCAA Indoor Championships held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in March. He participated as part of the Tech men's distance relay team, and that group came in sixth in a time of 9:42.82. The quartet of Pollock, Lee Degfae, Tihut Degfae and Martin Dally earned All-America honors as a result.

During the indoor season, Pollock won the gold medal in the mile at the ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Clemson, South Carolina, in late February/early March. His time of 4:09.30 was just 28 hundredths of a second better than that of Notre Dame's J.P. Malette and enabled Pollock to win his first ACC gold medal.

During the outdoor season, Pollock won the 1,500-meter race at the ACC Outdoor Championships held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in late April. His time of 3:50.34 edged Graham Crawford's of NC State by four tenths of a second. The win marked his second straight in the event, as he defended the title that he won in 2013.

Pollock also competed for the cross country team. He finished 33rd at the ACC Championships and 28th at the NCAA Southeast Regional. 



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ATHLETE
of the
YEAR



MARTINA SCHULTZE

Junior
Uhingen, Germany

Very few Tech student-athletes have dominated in their craft the way in which Martina Schultze has dominated in the pole vault the past three years. And this year may have been her best yet.


Schultze finished in third place in the pole vault at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Eugene, Oregon, in mid-June. She cleared 14 feet, 3.25 inches (4.35 meters), but could not clear 14 feet, 5.25 inches to advance. Still, she earned first-team All-America honors, giving her six All-America nods during her career. Only Kristi Castlin, who was a seven-time All-American from 2006-09, earned more during a career at Tech.

Schultze won both pole vault titles at the ACC's meets this season. She claimed gold during the outdoor season at the league meet held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in April, hitting a mark of 14 feet, 4.25 inches (4.38 meters) to

secure the championship. She became just the second woman in ACC track and field history to win three straight outdoor titles, and the title marked her fifth straight in ACC meets.

At the ACC indoor meet held in Clemson, South Carolina, in late February, she claimed gold with a mark of 14 feet, 5.25 inches (4.40 meters). Duke's Megan Clark hit the same height, but fell to second place based on misses. The vault was the best of the season for Schultze.

Schultze earned All-America honors at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico, finishing in seventh place after a mark of 14 feet, 1.25 inches (4.30 meters).

Schultze has five ACC titles, six All-America honors and the school record in the pole vault, a mark of 14 feet, 7.25 inches (4.45 meters) that she set last year. 

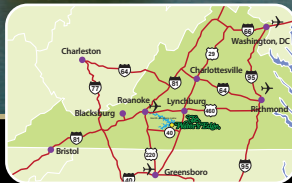
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VOLLEYBALL

ATHLETE
of the
YEAR



VICTORIA HAMSHER

Senior
Nazareth, Pennsylvania


The Virginia Tech volleyball team won 22 games this past season, including 10 in the ACC, and Victoria Hamsher played a major role in that success.

Hamsher earned first-team All-ACC honors after a season in which she recorded an attack percentage of .405 – a percentage that led the ACC and ranked 21st nationally. The percentage is also a single-season record at Tech.

In addition, Hamsher averaged 2.66 kills per set, tallied 21 aces and 73 blocks. She recorded double digits in kills 18 times this season, including a career-high 19 versus Florida State. The

Hokies upset the then-No. 18 Seminoles 25-21, 20-25, 25-21 and 25-15 in their only win over a ranked team this past season.

Hamsher then earned honorable mention All-America honors this season from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. It marked the first time in her career that she earned All-America honors.

Hamsher departs Tech having etched her name in the school's record books. She ranks second in career attack percentage (.338), second in block assists (376) and fifth in career blocks (425). 



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