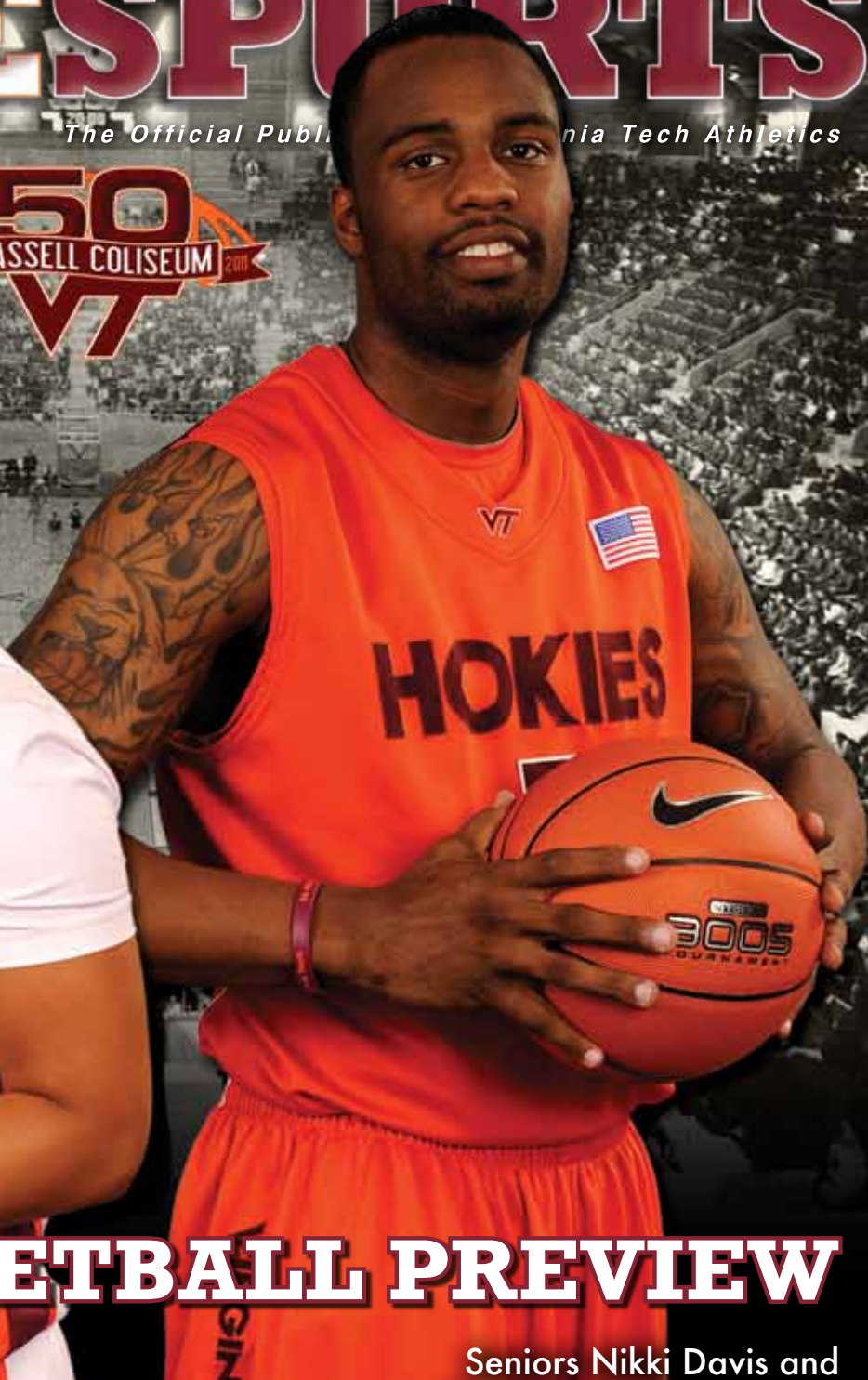


INSIDE

HOKIESPORTS

The Official Publication of Virginia Tech Athletics



2010-11 BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Seniors Nikki Davis and Dorenzo Hudson plan on leading their teams to big things this season, as Tech celebrates the 50 years of Cassell Coliseum

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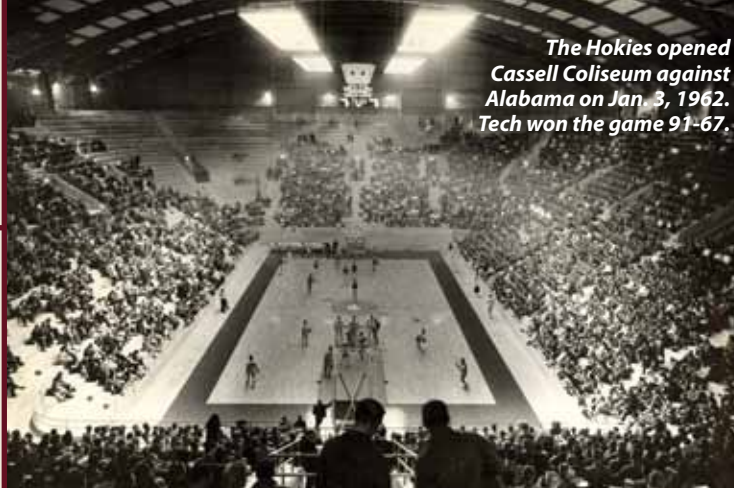
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On the Web...

Ready for basketball games in Cassell Coliseum? Check out the fan guide at hokiesports.com/mbasketball/fanguide

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OCTOBER

17 Women's Soccer vs Duke 5:00 p.m.
VT Silly Bandz Giveaway

30 Volleyball vs Miami 6:00 p.m.
Breast Cancer Awareness Night

Men's Soccer vs Duke 7:00 p.m.
VT Tote Bag Giveaway

31 Women's Soccer vs NC State 1:00 p.m.
Halloween with the Hokies. VT Tote Bag Giveaway

NOVEMBER

5 Volleyball vs Boston College 7:00 p.m.
HokieBird Growth Chart Giveaway

Men's Soccer vs Boston College 7:00 p.m.
VT Silly Bandz Giveaway

6 Volleyball vs Maryland 6:00 p.m.
Coca Cola Healthy Hokies Headband Giveaway

12 Women's Basketball vs Presbyterian 5:30 p.m.
Flippenout Halftime Act

Men's Basketball vs Campbell 7:30 p.m.
Flippenout Halftime Act

UPCOMING EVENT PROMOTIONS



Admission is free to all Olympic sport contests.



TECH STUNS NO. 7 MARYLAND, 1-0

In search of its first conference win of the season, the Virginia Tech women's soccer team shocked the No. 7 Maryland Terrapins with a 1-0 victory at Thompson Field, handing the Terps their first loss of the season and putting an end to their nine-game unbeaten streak.



THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

"Thank you for all of your support over the years. Without you, my Hokie experience would not have been so exhilarating and rewarding!"

Kelly Lynch

Senior - Women's Soccer

"Playing soccer for Virginia Tech against the best teams in the country has been challenging, and yet very rewarding. I credit the opportunity to compete and excel to the continued support of the Hokie Club. Thank you!"

John Snyder

r-Sophomore - Men's Soccer



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Bob Brown

Current Hokie Club Level:

Hokie Benefactor

Hokie Club Member Since:

1975

Currently Resides:

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Family members:

Lynne (wife)

Kris Thornhill, Naples, Fla. (daughter)

Jennifer Wardlaw, Lookout Mountain, Ga. (daughter)

Q: What year did you graduate?

A: 1969



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

A: Virginia Tech has always been a part of my family. We feel like we've grown up with the university. I'm very proud of the respect our university has earned in athletics and academics. I'm proud to be a Hokie.

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 remember squeezing through a hole in the fence behind the end zone bleachers at Victory Stadium with my brother on Thanksgiving Day in Roanoke to watch VPI play VMI. For Lynne, she remembers listening to the Highty Tights practicing on the Drill Field while working in Burruss Hall. She was getting her "PHT" (putting hubby through). She says it gave her chills.

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

A: A tradition is to bring a jug of "Hokie Juice" to home games. It's a special concoction derived from three trips to New Orleans to watch the Hokies play in the Sugar Bowl.

Q: Over the past decade, Virginia Tech athletics has undertaken tremendous facilities growth and renovations. Do you have a favorite project? Why?

A: My favorite is the Lane Stadium expansion. Lynne and I recall saving seats in the cold on the east side for my fraternity as a pledge in 1967. It's been amazing to witness the growth of our beautiful on-campus stadium.

Q: Looking forward at the upcoming 2010-11 academic year, what athletics event or game are you looking forward to the most and why?

A: UNC. We have a home in Greensboro, N.C., and Lynne's brother and sister are UNC alums.

Q: My all-time favorite Virginia Tech football players are ...

A: Football: Don Strock and Michael Vick. I will never forget Strock's 527-yard passing performance in 1972 versus Houston in Lane Stadium. And Michael Vick was amazing. His contribution to Virginia Tech football was a significant part of the Hokies' rise in national college football prominence. Basketball favorites: Allan Bristow and Glen Combs. I remember Allan Bristow and the team's gutsy performance winning the 1973 NIT championship. Also, I remember Glen Combs and the 1967 team's Mideast Regional Final overtime game that could have put in the Hokies in the Final Four.



The Annual Fund:

A critical piece to Virginia Tech's athletics success

The Hokie Club was founded in 1949 by a group of businessmen in the community who shared a common bond and wanted to directly support athletics at Virginia Tech. At this time, the school was known as VPI and the fundraising organization was named the Virginia Tech Student Aid Association. The sole mission of the group was to raise money to support the scholarships of student-athletes. Names have changed in the 61 years since its inception, but the goals of the organization and the importance of the support is still critical to the success of Virginia Tech athletics.

What is the Annual Fund and what is its role today?

Much like in 1949, the Annual Fund plays a very significant role for the Hokie Club and Virginia Tech Athletics. However, to the casual observer, the Annual Fund as a whole takes a backseat to the more well known giving levels that make it up. Most fans know that a Golden Hokie refers to a Hokie Club member that makes a \$2000 annual donation, but what many fail to realize is that the sum total of the seven annual giving levels (Hokie Club, Orange & Maroon Hokie, Bronze Hokie, Silver Hokie, Golden Hokie, Platinum Hokie and Diamond Hokie) make up the Annual Fund.

In all, approximately 10,000 donors to the Hokie Club make up the Annual Fund and this group represents 90 percent of the entire Hokie Club membership. As Lu Merritt, Director of Development for Intercollegiate Athletics said, "Annual giving is the foundation of our fundraising program. Not only does it provide a reliable source of unrestricted revenue for athletic scholarships and the Hokie Club's operating needs, it also identifies many of our most loyal donors."

Annual giving is the foundation of our fundraising program. Not only does it provide a reliable source of unrestricted revenue for athletic scholarships and the Hokie Club's operating needs, it also identifies many of our most loyal donors.

- Lu Merritt

What does an athletics scholarship cost and how much is needed each year to pay the scholarship bill?

For the 2010-11 academic year, the cost of tuition, fees, books, room and board for an in-state student-athlete at Virginia Tech is estimated to be \$17,591 and the cost for an out-of-state student-athlete is projected to be \$31,219. With approximately 500 student-athletes, the scholarship bill for the 2010 academic year will be \$9.6 million.

With the costs of tuition consistently on the rise, the importance of maintaining a healthy Annual Fund that can meet the rising costs is important. During fiscal year 2009, the Hokie Club raised \$10.8 million in annual fund donations. The scholarship bill is paid using these gifts along with the earnings from the athletic endowment fund.

What part do endowed scholarships play in paying the scholarship bill?

Ideally, a school's endowment should pay the entire annual scholarship bill. However, at Virginia Tech, and very commonly at most schools across the nation, the endowment fund is simply not large enough to handle this cost. Currently, the athletic endowment fund is approximately \$32 million. Of that, \$1.7 million in endowment earnings is budgeted to help pay the scholarship bill. This means that approximately 18 percent of the scholarship bill is paid through endowment gifts created by donors and the remainder is paid by the Annual Fund. (An endowment for a scholarship can be created with minimum gift of \$50,000 paid over a five year period.)

Why is this important that the Hokie Club pays the scholarship bill now and in the future?

It is very important that the Hokie Club continues to create opportunities to grow the Annual Fund as the cost to educate student-athletes continues to increase. Whether it is attracting more Annual Fund members, cultivating additional endowment members or motivating current members to increase their annual support, Hokie Club members have responded to the need for additional support in the past and met the funding needs. Lu Merritt is optimistic that our members will continue to help us by recruiting new members. "There is great power in numbers" Merritt said. "Through a collective effort, we are confident that new levels of annual support can be achieved." As it was in the beginning, the goal of raising money to support Virginia Tech's student-athletes is the top priority for the Hokie Club.

To learn more about the annual giving levels and opportunities that exist to support Virginia Tech Athletics through the Hokie Club, visit us at www.hokieclub.com or call the Hokie Club office at (540) 231-6618.

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NEWS & NOTES

HOSLEY EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR GAME AGAINST N.C. STATE

Tech cornerback Jayron Hosley played the best game of his young career in the Hokies' come-from-behind 41-30 victory over N.C. State. The sophomore from Delray Beach, Fla., intercepted three passes, including one in the waning moments to preserve the win. He also finished with six solo tackles and an additional four pass break-ups.

The Walter Camp Football Foundation named Hosley its national defensive player of the week (for games ending Oct. 2) and he was also named the Football Writers Association of America/Bronko Nagurski national defensive player of the week as well. He will be added to the Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List.

Hosley, who became the first Tech player since Garnell Wilds in 2002 to intercept three passes in a game, graded out higher than any defensive player for Tech in the game and accumulated more points on the coaches' productivity chart (63) than any player in the past 15 years. Tech's productivity chart rewards players a certain number of points for positive plays (tackles for a loss, sacks, interceptions, etc.) and deducts for negative plays (missed tackles, penalties, critical errors, etc.).

THOMPSON'S SEASON OVER BEFORE IT BEGINS

Tech forward JT Thompson served an important role for the men's basketball team – he provided energy, intensity and production off the bench for the Hokies. More importantly, he loved that role.

But Thompson won't be doing that this season. The senior from Monroe, N.C., tore

his ACL in a pick-up game on Sept. 13. He underwent surgery on Sept. 21 and will be out the entire season.

Last season, Thompson appeared in all 34 games, starting three of those. He finished fourth on the team in scoring at 7.3 points per game and third on the team in rebounding at 4.6 per game.

Thompson, though, is eligible for a medical hardship waiver and could return to the team next season.

The injuries keep piling up for the Hokies. Allan Chaney, a transfer from Florida who sat out last season, was diagnosed with myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, and both his season and career remain in jeopardy. Also, Cadarian Raines underwent surgery on his foot back in the spring and is still recovering.

"You can control what you control," Tech coach Seth Greenberg said. "These things are out of our control.

"Our starting team is intact. It's where we go from there. Who's going to be our Energizer bunny? What's our frontcourt rotation going to look like? Our backcourt will not be changed unless we move [Terrell] Bell to the 4."

GREENBERG ADDRESSES CONGRESS

Tech men's basketball coach Seth Greenberg got the rare opportunity to address the members of the U.S. Congress as part of a group pushing for increased funding for cancer research and prevention programs.

Greenberg joined fellow coaches Dave Rose of BYU, Steve Donohue of Boston College and Bruce Weber of Illinois. Together, they teamed with more than 600 cancer survivors and advocates from the American Cancer Society

Cancer Action Network as part of its third annual "Lobby Day" held Sept. 28.

The subject hits close to home to Greenberg. His father passed away from lung cancer, and one of the Hokies' former players, Allen Calloway, passed away in 2009 following a battle with a rare form of cancer that stemmed from a tumor in his calf and eventually spread throughout his body.


"Cancer is a disease that has affected all of us," Greenberg said. "It's very personal to me. It's important that we keep this fight against cancer in the forefront, as the progress that is being made is extraordinary."

Greenberg is an active member of Coaches vs. Cancer. A year ago, he came up with an initiative to raise money for cancer research by selling bracelets honoring Calloway. The fundraiser raised more than \$3,000.

RIVER COURSE RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCLAIM

The Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech, home of the Virginia Tech golf team, has been selected as one of the nation's top collegiate courses. *Golfweek* released its 2010 list of Best Campus Courses and the River Course debuts at No. 18.

The Course at Yale received the top honor. A total of five Atlantic Coast Conference courses made the list – The Duke University Golf Club (No. 10), the new Lonnie Poole Golf Course at N.C. State (No. 22), UNC's Finley Golf Course (No. 24) and the University of Virginia's Birdwood Golf Course (No. 30).

The Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech will host the 2011 NCAA East Regional Golf Championship. 



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FIVE KEYS FOR HOKIES' HOPES OF MAKING IT TO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

On a recent Monday evening, your friendly editor shunned a portion of Monday night football to catch an episode of *Dancing with the Stars*.

Why, we're not sure. Instead of watching Chicago's Devin Hester twinkle-toe his way down the sideline, the family watched Jennifer Grey defy age (has it really been 23 years since *Dirty Dancing* came out?) and Michael Bolton painfully attempt to jive. They said they all loved him, but they lied. The next evening, he got the boot.

Such silliness aside, the subject of dancing fits this column because that's what the Tech men's basketball team hopes to be doing next March. With five starters returning, the Hokies hope to return to the NCAA Tournament, better known by hoops junkies as the "Big Dance."

Tech has a very good shot, even though injuries have robbed the Hokies of JT Thompson (torn ACL) and possibly Allan Chaney (heart inflammation), and limited Cadarian Raines (foot) in the early going. They still return those five starters, including arguably the league's best backcourt in Malcolm Delaney and Dorenzo Hudson. So Tech could be in worse predicaments.

Getting that invitation figures to be difficult – it is for everyone. That said, here are five keys, in no particular order, for the Hokies heading into the 2010-11 campaign:

- **Keeping Jeff Allen on the floor** – As most know, Jeff Allen has been prone to getting into foul trouble throughout his career. A year ago, he averaged a career-low 26.2 minutes per game.

That said, when Allen plays extensive

minutes, he's a double-double machine, and quite honestly, one of the best players in the ACC. Without Thompson around, Allen needs to average around 35 minutes a game. If he does that, he could average a double-double – and only one player in the ACC accomplished that last year (Wake's Al-Farouq Aminu).

"We can't afford to have Jeff pick up two early fouls," Greenberg said. "We don't have JT coming in there to give you 10 minutes. So he can't have hiccups this year."

- **Better shooting and/or shot selection** – The Hokies were 11th in the ACC in field-goal percentage (42.7) and last in 3-point field-goal percentage (30.7). That comes as a surprise considering that Delaney and Hudson are good shooters. The ultra-competitive Delaney shot less than 40 percent a year ago.

"Has he taken bad shots? Yes, but he knows when he takes one and I want him to be aggressive," Greenberg said. "I think that's really, really important. I don't want him to be tentative. I want him to attack."

The Hokies should shoot better this season, considering that guys like Erick Green, Ben Boggs and Manny Atkins now have a season under their belts. They should be able to help Delaney and Hudson.

- **Better on-ball defense** – Tech played great defense last season, holding opponents to under 40 percent from the floor. But after the Rhode Island game, Greenberg lamented about his team's on-ball defense. Expect that to be a point of emphasis because getting beat off the dribble usually leads to others getting in foul trouble. And as stated, the Hokies lack depth.

"We've got to be tougher on the ball," Greenberg admitted.

- **Win a big non-conference game early** – The NCAA selection committee cited Tech's non-conference slate as a reason for exclusion last spring, but Greenberg scheduled aggressively this season, with a trip to Kansas State, a three-game tournament in Anaheim, and a neutral-site game against Mississippi State. Plus, the Hokies drew Purdue in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

"I met with the seniors and I asked them what they wanted for their senior year and they wanted a challenge," Greenberg said.


Kansas State and Purdue should be in the preseason top 10. Many pick Mississippi State to win the SEC West.

The Hokies play these games within a month's span early in the season. Winning at least one of these would be quite helpful come next March if everything else falls into place.

- **Stay in the moment** – It's okay to embrace expectations, but don't get consumed by them. In other words, don't talk about the NCAA Tournament after the season opener against Campbell.

"If we believed in expectations, then last year, we would have come in eighth instead of fourth," Greenberg said. "The reality is we've got to win games on the court."

That means taking it one game at a time – a tired cliché that rings so true. Control what you can control and let everything else sort itself out.

Actually, that's like participating on *Dancing with the Stars* – as your editor got to find out. 

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ANSWERING QUESTIONS AS THE 2010-11 MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON GETS SET TO TIP OFF



Terrell Bell started 33 games a year ago and was one of Tech's most improved players after averaging 6.1 points and 6.1 rebounds per game.

One of the most anticipated seasons in Virginia Tech basketball history begins in just a few weeks, and for Hokie Hoops lovers, it doesn't get any better than this.

You've got an experienced team filled with dynamic, talented players, including a true elite star, and an eye-popping schedule that features a true "who's who" of college basketball powers. From coast to coast, the Hokies will play some of the most exciting teams in the country.

Here's what you need to know in 20 questions:

1. How good is Virginia Tech guard Malcolm Delaney?

In the past 25 years, there have been only two Tech players who could seemingly a.) get to the rim and score, or b.) get to the free-throw line whenever they wanted: Bimbo Coles and Delaney. No question Delaney's one of the top-10 players in Tech basketball history.

2. What is the impact of the loss of forward JT Thompson for the Hokies?

It's a substantial loss. Thompson was fourth on the team in scoring at 7.3 points per game and third on the team in rebounding at 4.6

rebounds per game. He did a lot of the "dirty work" and brought a real toughness to the team. His numbers would have been better this year, too.

3. Can the Hokies keep Jeff Allen on the court this year?

He's one of Tech's most talented and productive players – when he's on the court – so this is essential. Allen was whistled for a school-record 121 fouls last year. His career stats across the board are among the best at Tech. He can do it all. But not when he's sitting on the bench.

4. What is Tech's strength?

You could make the point – although Duke fans would argue – that Tech has the ACC's best backcourt. With Delaney and Doreno Hudson, the Hokies have two dynamic, tough-as-nails kids who can make key plays. They both have championship traits.

5. What is Tech's weakness?

The Hokies were last in the ACC and 301st in the country last season in 3-point field goal percentage (30.4). Tech made just 4.6 3-point baskets per game. Overall, Tech was 11th out of 12 teams in the league in field-goal percentage.

6. Who will be this year's Terrell Bell and be Tech's most improved player?

Bell really stepped up and had a fantastic junior season. This year, it could be Victor Davila. The Hokies are thin in terms of depth in the post. Davila averaged 5.3 points and 4.2 rebounds per game last year. Those numbers should improve dramatically in 2010-2011.



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7. How many games will Tech win?

Tech tied a school record by winning 25 games last season. This year's schedule is tougher, but this team could still win a bunch. Ten teams in the ACC won at least 20 games last year.

8. Who's the best player in the ACC?

Depends on who you ask, right? In Chapel Hill, they'll say Harrison Barnes. In Durham, it's Kyle Singler. In Virginia, it's Delaney. Objectively? Singler led Duke to the national title last year, so it's hard to pick against him, although Delaney might be more valuable to his team than any other guy in the league.

9. Who will win the ACC?

Duke. Singler and Nolan Smith lead the league's most talented team.

10. How many ACC teams will make the NCAA Tournament?

Likely six: Duke, UNC, Virginia Tech, Florida State, N.C. State, and either Clemson or Miami.

11. Who is the surprise team in the ACC?

N.C. State. The Pack has a great frontcourt and has added an impact freshman in C.J. Leslie.

12. Which of the ACC's three new coaches will have the most success in 2011?

Brad Brownell of Clemson. Oliver Purnell took his run-n-gun, pressing scheme to DePaul and in steps Brownell from Wright State. The frenetic tempo may change, and Clemson may have more of a Rick Barnes-era look to it, but the Tigers will be a tough out as always.

13. Is Miami now a basketball city?

This sounds like a reach, but the 'Canes have enough flash (Malcolm Grant and Durand Scott) and beef (Julian Gamble and

Reggie Johnson) to get people's attention, even more so if the TV cameras get a shot of LeBron sitting in the stands watching "The U" in action.

14. What will be the best home game of the year for the Hokies?

Head coach Seth Greenberg hopes it's a win over Purdue on Dec. 1 or over Duke on Feb. 26. Duke and Purdue are solid pre-season Final Four picks and they both visit Cassell. How neat is that?

15. What will be the toughest road game of the year for the Hokies?

Kansas State. The Wildcats, another top-10 team, are coming off one of the best seasons in school history. K-State won a school-record 29 games and advanced to the Elite Eight. Plus, the Wildcats rarely lose at Bramlage Coliseum, dubbed "The Octagon of Doom."

16. What are three potential "swing games" for the Hokies this year?

Well, the field in the 76 classic in Anaheim is loaded. Oklahoma State, Stanford and Murray State will all be tough. Any of those would be a quality win. The Hokies and Mississippi State meet on Dec. 18 in the Bahamas. And Purdue is going to win the Big Ten. It'll likely be a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament, too. A Virginia Tech win at Cassell on Dec. 1 would carry a lot of weight, no?

17. Who's the one guy on Tech's team who should get more pub?

Dorenzo Hudson. How can you not just love 'Zo? He's a physically dominating guard with a tremendous upper body, a great competitive spirit and infectious smile. Every coach in the ACC would take 'Zo on his team right now, and Tech is lucky to have him.

18. Coach Greenberg said he has to change his plans with Thompson out. Who steps up?


It could be Manny Atkins. It could be freshman Jarell Eddie. There are a lot of very good basketball players in Virginia Tech's program right now - that's a product of recruiting in the ACC for seven years.

19. The Hokies are playing some really big, physical, talented non-conference teams like Kansas State, Purdue, Mississippi State, and perhaps Oklahoma State and UNLV. Plus the rugged ACC. Do they have the horses?

The Hokies have a senior-dominated team that returns all five starters. The players wanted to be challenged in a big way with their non-league schedule, and Greenberg has put together one of the most exciting and challenging schedules in school history. There's no question it's "Big Boy Basketball" this year. Bring your lunch pail and a mouth guard. Davila has to play big. Cadarian Raines has to make a big step forward, too.

20. Bottom line. Will the Hokies make the NCAA Tournament this year?

They should. With five starters returning from a team that won 25 games, Tech has a terrific shot to make the 2011 tournament. Yes, the schedule is tougher and the loss of Thompson hurts, but this team certainly has the talent to make the expanded field of 68. The Hokies have the most experienced team in the ACC, and after being snubbed the last two years, this would seem to be the year.

Regardless, it should be fun. The Hokies will make 15 national TV appearances. These are such exciting times for Hokie basketball fans. Signing day in November should be a huge day, followed by five months of incredibly intense basketball. 



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WHAT WILL THEY DO?

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR VIRGINIA TECH STUDENT-ATHLETES

As you enter a residence hall, you see a couple who appear to be extremely intoxicated stumbling down the hallway. A few minutes later, you hear a struggle and the woman screaming "Somebody help me!"

This may seem like a situation from an episode of ABC's hit television show *What Would You Do*, where ordinary people are put on the spot with ethical dilemmas and hidden cameras track their responses. But this is an actual scenario from the Mentors in Violence Prevention training guide.

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a leadership program that encourages students to play a decisive role in solving problems in social settings specifically related to gender violence. The training is focused on an innovative "bystander" model that empowers each student to take an active role in promoting a positive community.

This year, Virginia Tech student-athletes will be tackling scenarios like the one above, as well as many others related to sexual assault, relationship violence, alcohol and consent and sexual harassment through the MVP program. In fact, the incoming freshmen and transfer student-athletes have already had the opportunity to do so.

In July, new members of the football, men's and women's basketball, men's soccer and volleyball teams took part in the program. During the third week of September, new student-athletes from the remainder of the athletics teams also had the opportunity to raise their awareness, challenge their thinking, participate in open and honest dialogue and become empowered, which are the four

goals for the MVP program.

Since 1998, the Virginia Tech athletics department has required incoming student-athletes to attend the Sexual Assault Facts & Education (S.A.F.E) personal development program that focuses on healthy relationships, sexual violence, stalking and cyber stalking. In an effort to increase program effectiveness and engagement among the participants, the athletics department jumped at the opportunity to try a new program with proven success. MVP has also played a role in educating the Marine Corps, Air Force and U.S. Army and several professional sports teams, including the Boston Red Sox, Philadelphia Phillies and New England Patriots.

The Women's Center at Virginia Tech was the true driving force behind bringing the program to campus. Meghan Weyrens Kuhn, student conduct coordinator in the office of student conduct, and Jennifer Underwood, victim services outreach coordinator at the Women's Center, were instrumental in the planning and preparation of the MVP-CLI training and also took part in the training themselves.


"The MVP curriculum resonates not only with the students who participate in the training, but also the trained professional staff members," Weyrens Kuhn said. "The material allows professionals from across university departments to engage with students on tough topics in ways that empower students to step in and create change."

In February, 30 campus administrators, including two from the athletics department, took part in a three-day program

and were trained to facilitate the MVP curriculum as a part of the Mentors in Violence Prevention - Campus Leadership Initiative (MVP-CLI). The CLI adapted a customized version of the MVP program for use with a variety of campus groups through the U.S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women Act Grants.

"As a victim advocate and violence prevention educator, I am inspired to see so many people from across campus come together to help prevent violence against women," Underwood said. "The time and dedication these facilitators put into working with the student athletes is amazing, and I am thankful for the difference they are making with our students and in the community."

One of the many benefits of the MVP curriculum is that it offers a variety of programming topics from sexual harassment and unhealthy relationships to electronic harassment and homophobia. This year, for the first time, Tech coaches will determine which program will be most beneficial for their teams, and the sophomore, junior and senior student-athletes will be taking part in MVP training to meet a portion of their personal development requirements.

The goal is for student-athletes to receive information on a variety of topics during their tenure at Tech, thus better preparing them for what life has in store. While the hope is that none of them will have to use the intervention techniques taught in the MVP program, the reality is some will. The Office of Student-Life believes that MVP will equip student-athletes so they will know what to do when those situations arise. 

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DESPITE INJURIES, HOKIES HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR 2010-11 SEASON

The Virginia Tech men's basketball team still plans on going into the 2010-11 season with the goal of making the NCAA Tournament.

The road to that goal, though, got a little tougher courtesy of some ill-timed injuries.

In a six-week span, Tech head coach Seth Greenberg received news that Allan Chaney had been diagnosed with myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, that puts his season in doubt, and that JT Thompson had torn his ACL in a pick-up game, rendering his season over before it even started.

Toss in the uncertain status of Cadarian Raines, who underwent surgery on his foot back in the spring and still hasn't returned to the court, and one begins to wonder what the basketball gods have against the Hokies.

"It's disappointing," Greenberg said. "Obviously, you feel for the kids because they have so much invested in it – both the kids who are hurt and their teammates. The teammates are affected by it also.

"But you can control what you control. These things are out of our control."

Greenberg understands that no one is going to be feeling sorry for the Hokies. That's because Tech, coming off a season in which it tied a school record with 25 wins and made it to the quarterfinals of the NIT, still appears to be in good shape heading into the season.

After all, the Hokies return arguably the ACC's best backcourt in Malcolm Delaney and Dorenzo Hudson. And Tech is the only team in the ACC to return all five starters.

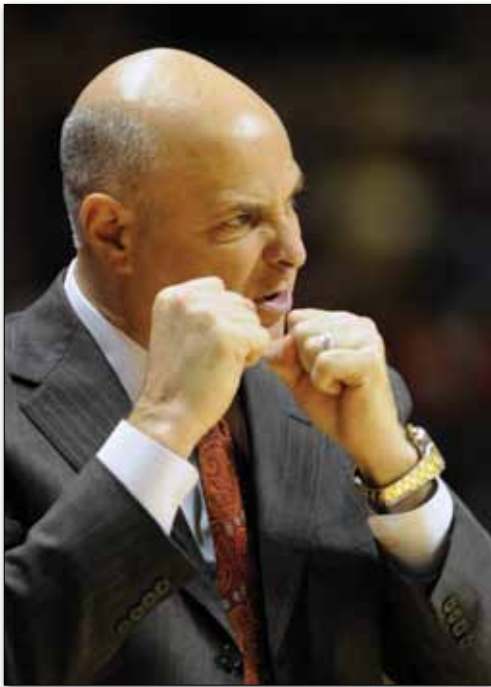
That's why nearly every preseason publication is picking the Hokies to finish in the top two or three of the ACC standings and projecting an NCAA Tournament berth. Greenberg said that's still the goal, even with the preseason adversity facing the team.

"Our goals never change," Greenberg said. "They won't change this year and they won't change next year. If you're in this league, the goal is the same – to compete at the highest level, to win at the highest level, to get to the NCAA Tournament and to advance. That's the goal. It never changes."

Delaney and Hudson headline the team.

Malcolm Delaney earned first-team All-ACC honors a year ago after averaging better than 20 points per game and is primed for a big senior year.





Seth Greenberg and the Hokies have finished higher than predicted in four of Tech's six seasons in the ACC.

Delaney, who handles the point guard duties, earned first-team All-ACC honors after averaging 20.2 points and 4.5 assists per game last season, while Hudson, the shooting guard, earned third-team honors after averaging 15.2 points per game.

"I expect Malcolm and Dorenzo to be one of the elite backcourts in the ACC," Greenberg said.

At small forward, the Hokies also return an experienced player in Terrell Bell, who had a very good season a year ago. He averaged 6.1 points, 6.1 rebounds and two assists per game, and he made a lot of big plays down the stretch.

Bell may be asked to do more this season. Given Tech's lack of post players, he could

find himself playing power forward in certain situations.

The rest of Tech's backcourt features sophomores Erick Green, Ben Boggs and Manny Atkins, along with freshmen Jarell Eddie and Ty Garland. Green, who has been impressive in offseason workouts, and Boggs serve as the back-ups to Delaney and Hudson, respectively, while Atkins is slotted in behind Bell. Garland figures to get a look at both guard spots, while Eddie projects as a small forward, though he may get a look at power forward.

"I'm starting to lock in on who can potentially fit into what places," Greenberg said. "Obviously, we have to change things. We'll probably play with four out [on the perimeter] and shoot more 3's than we have in the past. We went from extending our defense to really containing our inner part because we can't get into foul trouble. I've got to find the sets that we will run that fit this personnel. That's also invigorating as a coach. We're going to have to reinvent ourselves."

That's because Tech's frontcourt consisted of two healthy players heading into fall practice – Jeff Allen and Victor Davila.

Allen, a talented player, may be the key to Tech's season. He averaged 12 points and led the team with 7.4 rebounds per game, but he played a career-low 26.3 minutes per game because of foul trouble. He needs to play around 35 minutes per game because there is no true power forward behind him. If he does that, with his talent, he could average 18 points and 10 boards a game.

The Hokies also need to get more out of Davila, who averaged 5.2 points and 4.2 rebounds per game as a sophomore. He possesses the size and skills to be effective, but he needs to be more consistent.


Greenberg expects to get Raines, who

played sparingly last season because of that foot injury, back at some point before the season starts. But it's going to take time to get him up to speed on the Hokies' schemes and to get him in playing shape. Still, the team needs his 6-foot-9, 240-pound presence inside, if only for 5-10 minutes per game.

"We went from the deepest frontcourt I've ever had to one that now I've got to make sure we don't have bad combinations on the court," Greenberg said. "We've got to make sure we rebound the basketball. We've got to make sure we finish plays. We've got to make sure we don't have to rotate too much [defensively] so we don't get our guys in foul trouble. It poses a whole new set of issues."

Yet Greenberg and the Hokies should feel optimistic heading into the season. Though they lack depth, they possess experience and talent. That's a winning combination.

"Expectations and preseason predictions don't mean anything," Greenberg said. "If they meant anything, then in three of the past six seasons, we would have finished in the bottom half of the league. You win games on the court. You don't win them in the media or by other people's expectations. You win by going out and doing it. Our guys have to do their jobs."

"Expectations are for fans and they're great. I'd much rather have the expectations of being one of the elite teams in the league than the expectation of being preseason No. 12. You've done good things if there is an expectation. It's flattering, but it doesn't mean anything. If we believe in expectations, then last year, we would have come in eighth instead of fourth. The reality is we've got to win games on the court." 

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LARGE NUCLEUS OF TALENTED YOUNGSTERS HAS WOMEN'S HOOPS STAFF FULL OF OPTIMISM

The hallmark of this year's men's basketball team, and the reason why many consider them to be one of the top threats in the ACC, is the large group of experienced and talented upperclassmen who make up a bulk of the roster. It's a group that began as a crop of promising potential, but has been cultivated into a battle-tested and proven team of winners.

It's a model that the women's team is looking to duplicate, and with a combined total of 10 freshmen and sophomores on the 2010-11 roster, it appears to be off to the right start.

"With that youth comes inexperience," seventh-year head coach Beth Dunkenberger said. "They'll have to learn some fundamental concepts on the defensive end and they'll have to really learn each other on the offensive end, whether it's timing in the different sets or how they can set each other up to score. But on the flip side, that youth also brings some energy and some enthusiasm. Hopefully, we'll play off of all that energy to propel us on both ends of the court."

Tech introduced five rookies into the program last season, and watching how they matured and breathed new life into the program proved to be the most entertaining storyline of the Hokies' 15-15 campaign. Following consecutive 2-12 conference records, Tech improved to 4-10 in the ACC last year and is looking to take another step forward for two reasons – the first of which is that same group of freshmen.

"I think the offseason has really helped them," Dunkenberger said of her current sophomores: guards Alyssa Fenyn and Aerial Wilson, forwards Porschia Hadley and Abby Redick, and center Taylor Ayers. "They have logged some major hours in the gym, not only in the weight room and conditioning, but also on the basketball court just working on skills. Whether it's the post players working on back-to-the-basket moves or guards working on extending their range, they've been in there."

The second reason for optimism heading into the upcoming season is another group of reinforcements – five more freshmen who figure to be even better than the previous five.

"I thought our class last year was good, but this one, top to bottom – they're tough," Dunkenberger said. "This group brings speed and athleticism that is way better than anything we've had before. I think the sophomores will definitely help to mentor the freshmen along, but this group of five freshmen has hit the ground running."

Dunkenberger is not the only one who views the collection of newcomers as special. In fact, the class was rated 28th in the nation by hoopgurlz.com, the recruiting arm of espn.com's women's college basketball coverage. Three of the new Hokies – guard Monet Tellier and forwards Nia Evans and Latorri Hines-Allen – were ranked among the ESPNU Top 100 at the time of their signing with Tech. Including forward Brittini Montgomery and point guard Kyani White, the Hokies have the makings of a strong nucleus for years to come.

But that's not meant to look past this year. Reining in all of the new faces will be a pair of seniors who have combined

Alyssa Fenyn averaged 7.5 points per game as a freshman and should greatly improve on those numbers this season.



to start 96 games over the past two seasons – point guard Nikki Davis and center Brittany Gordon.

“I think our seniors are leading the way toward creating good team chemistry,” Dunkenberger said of a trio that also includes forward Elizabeth Basham, who sat out last season with a shoulder injury.

One way they’ve been doing that is by regularly getting the rest of the team into the Hahn-Hurst Basketball Practice Center, a building in its second year of existence and one that Dunkenberger said has been put to good use.

“It’s no secret that the more work you put in, the better you get,” Dunkenberger said. “We have a team full of gym rats. I like coming in here on Saturday and Sunday mornings and seeing players in here working on their games. I actually came in during the second half of the football game against East Carolina and we had players in here working out on their own. I’m very optimistic that the gym time they’ve logged will pay off this season.”

Tech is hoping that the gym time pays off on multiple fronts, whether it’s in small ways like an improved 3-point shooting percentage – “I told the team that I thought we had a lot of 3-point shooters last year, but we didn’t have a lot of 3-point makers,” Dunkenberger quipped – or in bigger ways like getting better at closing out tight games.


“A big emphasis in the offseason has been on being competitive and finding a way to win games,” Dunkenberger explained. “We’ve done a lot of [drills] where we have winners and losers because, last year, we were in several games down the stretch that could have gone either way. Unfortunately, we didn’t pull out some of the games that we really thought could have been season makers. For us to join the rank of postseason teams, we have got to finish games. I know that’s something that has driven our entire team during the offseason. It’s the same thing that drives me every day – to find ways to put us in situations where we can win close games.”

The Hokies have missed out on postseason play for three consecutive seasons. It’s an uncharacteristic streak that hasn’t been matched since 1993, especially considering that Tech went to the postseason every March from 1998 to 2007. Whether or not the Hokies get back to their winning ways this year remains to be seen, but, with another wave of



Brittany Gordon's ability to score and defend in the post will be key if the Hokies want to enjoy future success in ACC play.

talented freshmen joining the fight, it will at least be worth watching to find out.

“Our coaching staff has worked hard to bring some new ideas to the team both on the offensive end and on the defensive end – things that meet and match our personnel,” Dunkenberger concluded. “It will be exciting to see just how far this team can go. They are a fun bunch to watch.” 

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MEN'S BASKETBALL PROFILES



JEFF ALLEN

Senior
Power forward
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Washington, D.C.

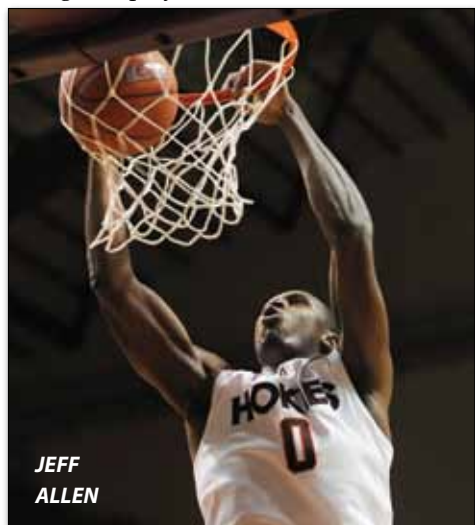
#0

Inside the numbers: Started 31 of 34 games a year ago ... Averaged 12 points and a team-leading 7.4 rebounds per game ... Shot 47 percent from the floor and 25.6 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Hit on 66.4 percent of his free-throw attempts ... Had a team-leading 59 steals and 42 blocked shots ... Scored in double figures 21 times, with a season-best 24 points coming against VMI ... Had eight double-doubles.

Analyzing Allen's game: Allen can be as good as any player in the ACC. He possesses size and strength, and he has a wide array of post moves that enable him to be dominant in the post. His long arms and anticipation make him an excellent rebounder, and he has an uncanny ability to generate steals. But inconsistency and foul trouble have hindered him at times.

Greenberg's take: "Jeff is going to leave here with 1,700 career points, 1,000 career rebounds and finish in the top two or three in steals. Yet people are so negative. Jeff has had a magnificent career. We've got to accentuate what he's done. There are a lot of guys in this league who would like to have Jeff Allen on their roster and I'm one of them.

"We need for him to be more consistent. He can't have hiccups. He's got to be a model citizen, he's got to be a leader and he's got to play like a senior."



JEFF ALLEN



TERRELL BELL

Senior
Forward
6-7, 205
Stone Mountain, Ga.

#1

Inside the numbers: Started in 33 of Tech's 34 games last season at small forward ... Averaged 6.1 points, 6.1 rebounds and two assists per game ... Shot 43.9 percent from the floor and 36.1 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Made 63.2 percent from the free-throw line ... Also had 38 blocked shots and 27 steals ... Scored in double figures in seven games, with his best game coming at Georgia Tech when he scored 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Analyzing Bell's game: Bell settled into his role nicely a year ago and became Tech's best offensive rebounder and one of the team's best defenders. His shooting is a little inconsistent at times, but he excels at getting out on the break and uses his long, athletic frame to attack the offensive glass. He made a lot of key plays for the Hokies last year.

Greenberg's take: "Terrell Bell has been the most consistent in our offseason workouts. He's like Switzerland - he's neutral. He does what he's supposed to do. You don't have to run 4,000 plays for him. He's going to defend. He's going to get to the glass. He's everywhere he's supposed to be every day. He's absolutely zero maintenance."



PAUL DEBNAM

Senior
Guard
6-3, 195
Farmville, Va.

#32

Inside the numbers: Played in 10 games a season ago, starting on Senior Day ... Averaged 1.4 points per game, scoring 14 points for the season ... Hit 5-of-9 from the floor, including both of his 3-pointers ... Had six rebounds and three steals.

Analyzing Debnam's game: Debnam was honored on Senior Day last spring, but he had one more season of eligibility left and Tech's staff and Debnam agreed that he could return for that season. He's

a strong, physical walk-on who brings energy to practice and makes his teammates work. He also keeps things light in the locker room.

Greenberg's take: "Paul is Paul. There is only one Paul. He is an original. He embraces his role. He's unbelievable in the locker room. He's really a good teammate."



MALCOLM DELANEY

Senior
Guard
6-3, 190
Baltimore, Md.

#23

Inside the numbers: Started 33 of 34 games, missing the Seton Hall game with a sprained ankle that he suffered early in the Longwood game ... Averaged 20.2 points, 3.7 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game ... Shot 38.7 percent from the floor and 30.6 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Made 84.2 percent from the free-throw line ... Led the team in scoring and assists ... Also had 41 steals ... Scored 30 points or more on five occasions and scored 20 points or more 19 times.

Analyzing Delaney's game: Delaney earned first-team All-ACC recognition after leading the league in scoring. He's a tremendous offensive player, with the ability to score in a variety of ways. His shot selection is questionable at times, which leads to a shooting percentage that is not indicative of his shooting ability. He's also a solid defender and good ball distributor. He could be an All-American this season.

Greenberg's take: "We ask so much of him. There's not a school in the country that asks more than we do of Malcolm. We're asking him to start the play and finish the play. We're asking him to play the ball and give us toughness. We're asking him to lead. It's a lot to ask. Yet he brings it every night."



PAUL DEBNAM



DORENZO HUDSON

Senior Guard
6-5, 220
Charlotte, N.C.

#5

Inside the numbers: Started 33 games at shooting guard, missing one game because of an ankle injury ... Averaged 15.2 points, 3.5 rebounds and 1.9 assists per game last season ... Shot 43.7 percent from the floor and 29.2 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Connected on 75.5 percent of his free-throw attempts ... Also had 25 steals and eight blocked shots ... Scored in double figures in 24 games, including a 41-point effort against Seton Hall in Cancun.

Analyzing Hudson's game: Hudson was easily the Hokies' most improved player last season. He displayed a varied offensive game. He uses his body to draw contact and he makes his free throws. He also plays good defense. A little more consistency from beyond the 3-point arc and he could be in for another great year.

Greenberg's take: "Dorenzo is just a pleasure. He's emerged as a really good leader. He's extremely prideful. He runs the court as hard as any guy I've had. He's got a toughness about him. I want to see him guard the ball better. I expect Malcolm and Dorenzo to be one of the elite backcourts in the ACC."



JT THOMPSON

Senior Forward
6-6, 210
Monroe, N.C.

#33

Inside the numbers: Played in 34 games, starting three of those ... Averaged 7.3 points and 4.6 rebounds per game ... Shot 47.8 percent from the floor, including 50 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Hit 67.6 percent of his free-throw attempts ... Blocked 10 shots, dished out 19 assists and had 27 steals.

Analyzing Thompson's game: Unfortunately, Thompson will miss this season after tearing his ACL during a pick-up game in early September. He is eligible for a medical hardship waiver, which he should receive. When healthy, Thompson brings energy and passion off the bench. He does a lot of the dirty work that many

college players shun. He knows his role and embraces it. He's a "glue" guy for Tech.

Greenberg's take: "I am extremely disappointed for JT. He is a huge part of what we have been able to accomplish over the past three years. His work ethic, energy, toughness and skill level will most definitely be missed."



VICTOR DAVILA

Junior Power forward
6-8, 245
Canovanas, Puerto Rico

#14

Inside the numbers: Played in 34 games, starting in 33 of those as Tech's center ... Averaged 5.3 points and 4.2 rebounds per game ... Shot 47.7 percent from the floor and 53.8 percent from the free-throw line ... Also blocked 26 shots and had 13 assists ... Scored in double figures four times.

Analyzing Davila's game: Davila possesses a nice array of offensive skills, with good footwork on his moves and decent range on his shot. He also gives Tech much-needed size inside. But his problem has been his lack of aggressiveness and confidence in his abilities. If he shows those, he could double his numbers this season.

Greenberg's take: "Consistency is the key. He started off well last season and he finished well. But in the middle, he wasn't as productive as I would have liked. He's got great hands and good footwork. Physically, he's strong. We need him to be a 10-point, six-rebound guy every night. He's more than capable."



VICTOR DAVILA



ALLAN CHANEY

r-Sophomore Forward
6-9, 235
Baltimore, Md.

#3

Inside the numbers: Sat out the season after transferring from the University of Florida ... Appeared in 23 games at Florida, starting twice ... Averaged three points, 2.1 rebounds and 9.8 minutes per game ... He missed nine games with a sprained foot.

Analyzing Chaney's game: Chaney probably will not play this season after being diagnosed with myocarditis, an inflammatory disease of the heart muscle, in early September. When healthy, he's an active offensive rebounder and brings small forward skills to the power forward position. His status probably won't be determined before press time.

Greenberg's take: "His long-term health is the most important thing right now. I'm not planning on him playing this year. He had the potential to be a double-double guy."



MANNY ATKINS

Sophomore Guard/forward
6-7, 200
Stone Mountain, Ga.

#25

Inside the numbers: Played in 23 games, starting one of those ... Started the Georgia Tech game because of an injury to Dorenzo Hudson ... Averaged 2.2 points and 1.3 rebounds per game ... Shot 44.3 percent from the floor and 35.3 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Made just 46.2 percent from the free-throw line ... Also had 14 assists and 14 steals.

Analyzing Atkins' game: Atkins is long and athletic and shows an ability to be a tremendous shooter. He also can be a terrific defender if he makes a commitment to it. He played well in the start against Georgia Tech, grabbing seven rebounds and dishing out five assists. He could be in line for a significant increase in playing time this season.

Greenberg's take: "He plays hard and he can make open shots. He's got to take good care of the basketball. But every time he was given an opportunity last year, he embraced it, and that's exciting. He

does give us some toughness, which is important.”



BEN BOGGS
 Sophomore Guard
 6-4, 200
 Roanoke, Va.

#24

Inside the numbers: Played in 25 games as a freshman last season ... Averaged 2.2 points and 1.4 rebounds per game ... Shot 34.1 percent from the floor and 25 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Connected on 81 percent from the free-throw line ... Had 10 steals.

Analyzing Boggs' game: Boggs is a hard worker and a tough player who is solid in just about every role. He missed most of his senior season of high school with a broken leg and that set him back some entering last season, but he's stronger now. He shows an ability to be a consistent jump shooter.

Greenberg's take: "Ben is shooting the ball really well. He's getting it off quick. He's our best post feeder. I want him to be

a physical defender. He has a toughness about him. He's shot ready. Dorenzo and Ben are, by far, the guys who have put in the most time shooting the ball."



ERICK GREEN
 Sophomore Guard
 6-4, 185
 Winchester, Va.

#11

Inside the numbers: Played in 34 games last season, starting the Seton Hall game in Chapel Hill after Delaney went down with an ankle injury ... Averaged 2.6 points and less than an assist and rebound per game ... Shot 29.3 percent from the floor and 27.5 percent from beyond the 3-point arc ... Made 68 percent of his free-throw attempts ... Had 17 steals.

Analyzing Green's game: Green is a pure point guard who thinks pass first. He played sparingly a year ago, though, because of Delaney's emergence at point guard. He's a very good passer who excels at getting others involved and shows the ability to be a good defender. He

needs to work on his perimeter shooting and continue to get stronger.

Greenberg's take: "Erick Green has taken a huge step forward. He's more confident. He's stronger. His basketball IQ has improved. He's shooting the ball really well. I expect him to really do some special things."



CADARIAN RAINES
 Sophomore Forward
 6-9, 238
 Petersburg, Va.

#4

Inside the numbers: Played in 21 games last season ... Averaged 1.5 points and 1.8 rebounds per game ... Shot 35.3 percent from the floor and 50 percent from the free-throw line ... Blocked 16 shots and had four steals ... Averaged 15.8 points, 9.8 rebounds, 3.8 blocks and 1.8 assists per game at Petersburg High his senior season.

Analyzing Raines' game: Raines underwent surgery in the spring on his foot and is still out while trying to recover.

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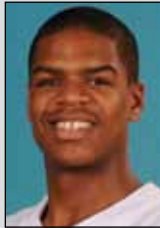
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When healthy, he provides excellent size and strength in the interior and uses his shot-blocking ability to protect the basket. He still needs to polish his offensive skills and work on finishing around the basket.

Greenberg's take: "He's a high-energy guy who was a developing basketball player. This [the injury] has definitely slowed his progress. I need for him to be a physical post defender and protect the front of the rim. I need him to rebound on both ends. I need for him to be a great screener. I need some physicality up front from him."



**JARELL
EDDIE**

Freshman **#31**
Guard/forward
6-7, 209
Charlotte, N.C.

Inside the numbers: Averaged 23 points per game in leading The Cannon School to a 16-14 record in a competitive division ... Scored at least 20 points in nine straight games during one stretch ...

Averaged 25 points per game as a junior and scored 2,700 points in his career.

Analyzing Eddie's game: Eddie comes to Tech with the reputation as a big-time scorer. He has size, shoots the ball with range and is physically stronger than most wing players. He rebounds the ball well for his position. The question will be whether he becomes a tough enough defender to get on the court early.

Greenberg's take: "Jarell has a little AD [Vassallo] in him. He can make shots. He's got to understand the speed of the game and finish plays on both ends. He's getting acclimated with the intensity you need to play with to be successful to play for me. He's got a great work ethic and desire to be good."




**TYRONE
GARLAND**

Freshman **#21**
Guard
6-1, 170
Philadelphia, Pa.

Inside the numbers: Averaged 25 points per game in leading his team to a

19-10 record ... Finished his career with 2,198 points. Came up 10 points short of passing Wilt Chamberlain into second place as the all-time leading scorer in the history of the fabled Public League ... Scored more than 30 points in five games and more than 40 on one occasion ... Averaged 29 points per game as a junior.

Analyzing Garland's game: Garland is the typical Philly guard. He plays with toughness, and like Eddie, is a big-time scorer who can score in a variety of ways, particularly off the dribble. He possesses a great feel for the game and he loves to compete. In many ways, he reminds Tech's staff of Jamon Gordon, though he's more offensive-minded.

Greenberg's take: "Ty is strong and tough. I want him to stay really aggressive. He's going through a learning curve with defensive fundamentals and concepts. He'll go through a learning curve with execution and sets. But he's tough and he's competitive. He's just a wonderful person." 

You can see full stats from previous seasons plus a photo gallery of player images at www.hokiesports.com/mbasketball/players



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PROFILES


**ELIZABETH
BASHAM**

 Senior
Forward
6-2

Abingdon, Va.

#42

Inside the numbers: Missed all of last season with a shoulder injury, but averaged just more than 10 minutes played per game in 25 contests as a sophomore in 2008-09.

Analyzing Basham's game: Basham has been through two surgeries on her right shoulder since she last played at the end of the 2008-09 season. She had the first operation following that season and looked to be on track to play last year, but she suffered a setback early on and went under the knife a second time.

Dunkenberger's take: "We have been very conservative as we have brought her back, but it looks like the surgery completely repaired her shoulder. The thing she brings to our team with a good, strong arm is her ability to stretch the defense from that forward spot. She's one of the team's best 3-point shooters and she keeps people from doubling down on that low block."


**NIKKI
DAVIS**

 Senior
Guard
5-7

Lexington, Ky.

#12

Inside the numbers: Led the team with 116 assists last season, while averaging 6.4 points per game ... Erupted for 29 points, the seventh most in a single game by a Tech player, at Miami on Jan. 24, including a Hokie record of 14 made free throws in an ACC contest.

Analyzing Davis' game: Davis begins her second season as the starting point guard, where she will not only distribute the ball, but also be counted on as one of the team's main scoring options. She was hampered by a balky knee for the second half of last season, but she had minor surgery to clean it up and has rediscovered her quick first step.

Dunkenberger's take: "Nikki has

worked extremely hard. She and Brittany Gordon both have done a great job of leading during the offseason. She brings a very determined attitude that seems to be infectious with our team. We've got a lot of players who can score this year, and I think Nikki is certainly one of them."


**BRITTANY
GORDON**

 Senior
Center
6-4

Howard County, Md.

#23

Inside the numbers: The lone returning player to have started all 30 games last season ... Averaged 6.4 points per contest, while shooting 49 percent from the field ... Ranked third on the team in rebounding at 5.1 boards per game ... Also blocked 20 shots.

Analyzing Gordon's game: Thrown into the starting lineup early in her sophomore year – probably before she was ready for it – Gordon has matured into a solid post player while guarding some of the country's best bigs on opposing ACC teams. She finally has some depth behind her on the roster this season.

Dunkenberger's take: "The most notable difference between this season and last season is that we've got a lot of players now who can score in the paint, and Brittany leads the way. She has been a tremendous leader on and off the court."


**SHANEL
HARRISON**

 Junior
Guard
6-0

Washington, D.C.

#33

Inside the numbers: Played in all 30 games a year ago, starting 10 of the final 11 ... Finished fourth on the team in scoring at 7.3 points per game and led the team with 31 blocked shots ... Is the leading returning rebounder (5.2 boards per game) after ranking second behind the departed Utahya Drye.

Analyzing Harrison's game: Harrison made the biggest improvement of any Hokie last year and earned herself a start-

ing role by the end of the season. Her effort became a lot more consistent and she routinely got the Cassell crowd pumped up with a key put-back, loose ball or blocked shot.

Dunkenberger's take: "She improved so much and she did it by playing hard on both ends of the court. When she does that, she really picks up her offensive production – her defense really fuels her offense. What we're working hard on is that Shanel starts this season the way she finished last season. When she plays hard, she's fun to watch and she fuels everybody on our team."


**TAYLOR
AYERS**

 Sophomore
Center
6-2

Augusta, Ga.

#32

Inside the numbers: Played in 19 games, posting averages of 1.5 points and 1.8 rebounds in 5.9 minutes per contest ... Scored a season-high five points against No. 25 Georgia Tech and grabbed a season-high five rebounds against George Mason.

Analyzing Ayers' game: Ayers saw little time off the bench as a freshman, but she has gotten herself into better shape and will look to play more minutes in her second campaign. She demonstrated a nose for the ball around the rim, as well as the ability to put it in the hoop while among traffic.

Dunkenberger's take: "Taylor has come a long way. She has worked extremely hard on her conditioning and her fitness level has improved drastically. She has a natural ability to score in the paint. She has touch around the basket and she's got great hands when she rebounds."


**ALYSSA
FENYN**

 Sophomore
Guard
6-0

Newark, N.Y.

#13

Inside the numbers: Started 22 games and finished third on the team in scoring at 7.5 points per game behind departed

seniors Utahya Drye and Lindsay Biggs ... Ranked fourth on the team in rebounding (4.3 boards per game), assists (48) and steals (29) ... Ranked among the top 10 freshmen in the ACC in both scoring and rebounding.

Analyzing Fenyn's game: Fenyn started from day one and was one of the most versatile and athletic players on the team as a freshman. She shot just 1-of-15 from beyond the arc, but she made her living as a slasher. Because of that and the fouls she induces, she must improve upon her 56 percent free-throw shooting.

Dunkenberger's take: "Alyssa has worked as hard as any player in the off-season. She's logged major gym time seven days a week. The thing that she's got to work on the most is being consistent from the outside. She's used to being able to attack and score in the paint off the bounce, but she's really worked on her outside game."



PORSCHIA HADLEY
#22
Sophomore
Forward/Center
6-3
Montezuma, Ga.

Inside the numbers: Played in 28 games as a freshman and led the team in field-goal accuracy at 49.5 percent ... Averaged 4.4 points and 2.9 rebounds per game, while swatting 15 shots ... Scored a career-high 15 points at No. 10 Florida State.

Analyzing Hadley's game: Hadley plays a very poised game and rarely seems to miss a shot or take a bad one. However, there were times last year where she would almost disappear and one forgot that she was on the floor. Becoming more aggressive will be instrumental to her development.

Dunkenberger's take: "She's really worked to finish as she is attacking the basket. You saw her shoot a lot of little fade-away shots and avoid some contact last year, but she's worked in the weight room. She's really worked on becoming a more physical player and being able not to just face up, but also to attack the basket."



ABBY REDICK
#2
Sophomore
Forward
6-1
Roanoke, Va.

Inside the numbers: Played in all 30 games, averaging 2.5 points and 3.2 rebounds in 13.6 minutes per game ... Must improve upon her shooting percentages, which included 34 percent from the field, 17 percent from the 3-point line and 52 percent from the free-throw line.

Analyzing Redick's game: Redick's contributions to the Hokies are not necessarily seen in the numbers. She is more of a "glue" player who does a little bit of everything and holds the team together. Vocally and physically, she more closely resembled an upperclassmen than a freshman.

Dunkenberger's take: "Abby is a very smart player. We've been able to work a lot on her perimeter game. I think she'll be able to play the 3 and the 4 for us this year and face the basket a lot more. Her outside shot looks good. She's worked extremely hard in the off-season. She brings a lot of intangibles to the court."



AERIAL WILSON
#3
Sophomore
Guard
5-8
Cocoa, Fla.

Inside the numbers: Averaged 2.5 points in 10.2 minutes per game as freshman, while playing in 25 contests ... Had a career-high nine points against NC Central, and later scored eight against No. 25 Georgia Tech.

Analyzing Wilson's game: Wilson was an elite scorer in high school, but her adjustment to college was made tougher because she was playing out of position as the backup point guard. With this year's addition of freshman Kyani White, Wilson should be able to slide back to the two-guard spot to which she is more accustomed.

Dunkenberger's take: "You could almost watch her grow up over the course of last season. By the end of the season, she was very confident in her ball handling and a lot more confident with her shot. I see her scoring a lot more consistently this

year. It's just a level of confidence that she's gotten through a year of going through the rigors of the ACC."



NIA EVANS
#20
Freshman
Forward
6-0
Decatur, Ga.

Inside the numbers: A McDonald's All-America nominee who rated as the No. 97 prospect nationally following her junior season ... Averaged 13.3 points, 9.8 rebounds, 1.9 steals and 1.9 blocks per game as a senior at Redan High School, where she led her team to a 58-1 combined record her junior and senior seasons.

Analyzing Evans' game: Evans should compete for playing time from the start because she can contribute on both ends of the court. Because she rarely suffered a defeat in high school, she also possesses a winning attitude that will hopefully rub off on the rest of the Hokies.

Dunkenberger's take: "Nia is so fast, athletic and strong. She's physical and aggressive, and she can finish in the paint. She brings a championship mindset to our team. She's going to be a good one."



LATORRI HINES-ALLEN
#43
Freshman
Forward
6-1
Montclair, N.J.

Inside the numbers: Rated as the No. 88 recruit in the nation following her junior season ... Averaged 14 points and 12 rebounds per game during the 2008-09 season at Montclair High School, where she led the team to a 23-6 record and the North Jersey Section 1 state championship.

Analyzing Hines-Allen's game: Hines-Allen missed her senior season after suffering an ACL injury in the summer of 2009 while playing for her AAU team. She is on schedule to be 100 percent full go for the start of the season and will provide depth in the frontcourt.

Dunkenberger's take: "Latorri is just a great athlete in the paint. She overpowers people and she is a great rebounder. She's a next-level athlete with athleticism that you can't teach."



BRITINI MONTGOMERY

Freshman **#21**
Forward
6-3
Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Inside the numbers: A McDonald's All-America nominee who rated No. 31 among power forwards nationally as a junior ... Averaged 15 points and 14 rebounds per game last season at Ft. Pierce Central High School ... A three-time Palm Beach All-Area selection.

Analyzing Montgomery's game: Montgomery is a long, lean shot blocker and rebounder who has the potential to be a difference maker in the paint, especially on the defensive end.

Dunkenberger's take: "Coming in, I thought Brittini might have the most to learn among the freshmen, but she has really impressed me in practice. She's a quick learner."



MONET TELLIER

Freshman **#31**
Guard
5-11
Charlotte, N.C.

Inside the numbers: Rated as the No. 54 prospect nationally as a junior ... Named the North Carolina Basketball Coaches Association 2010 state player of the year ... Averaged 17.6 points, 10 rebounds and 4.4 steals per game last season at East Mecklenburg High School, which she led to a 28-3 record.

Analyzing Tellier's game: Dunkenberger raves about Tellier's energy level and how hard she plays. That, when combined with her talent and build, will make her an instant contributor.

Dunkenberger's take: "Monet is a very physical, very aggressive guard. I think her energy is what separates her from a lot of people. She's a very explosive player."




KYANI WHITE

Freshman **#11**
Guard
5-6
Manassas, Va.

Inside the numbers: A McDonald's All-America nominee who averaged 18.4 points, 8.8 assists, 5.8 rebounds and 6.4 steals in her career at Stonewall Jackson High School ... Connected on a total of 239 3-point shots in her career ... *The Washington Post* 2010 All-Area Player of the Year.

Analyzing White's game: White will see minutes immediately as a backup point guard not only because of her offensive prowess, but also because one of her biggest strengths is her ability to get after it on the defensive end of the court.

Dunkenberger's take: "Kyani will be one of the best ball handlers to ever put on a Virginia Tech uniform. She is a true point guard who can pass and who has outside range. She's a playmaker." 

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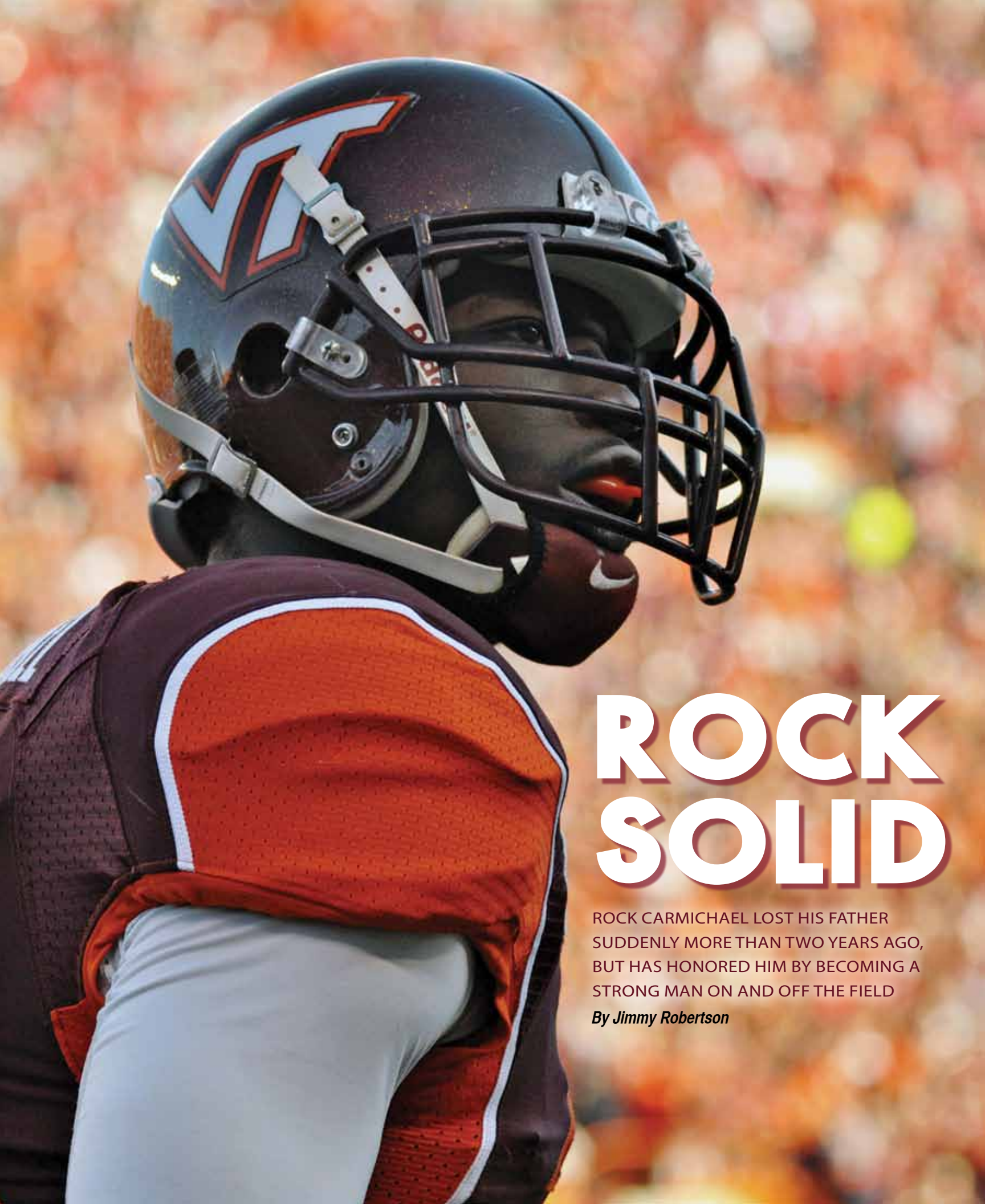


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ROCK SOLID

ROCK CARMICHAEL LOST HIS FATHER
SUDDENLY MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO,
BUT HAS HONORED HIM BY BECOMING A
STRONG MAN ON AND OFF THE FIELD

By Jimmy Robertson

“You scared?”

He often hears that voice, one that no one else hears. It comes across as a tiny whisper that reverberates loudly within his mind.

He remembers the day his father first asked him that question. He came to Virginia Tech as a receiver, fully expecting to be the next Eddie Royal. But Tech’s staff saw something in him that he never saw in himself and shuttled him to cornerback.

He wasn’t sure he liked the position or the lengthy line of those in front of him – guys like Brandon Flowers, Macho Harris and Stephan Virgil. So he called his best friend to tell him.

His dad responds back, “You scared?”

“Nah, nah, I ain’t scared,” he remembers answering back.

The truth is Rashad Carmichael actually wasn’t scared. Never really has been.

He wasn’t scared when Tech’s staff moved him to corner. He wasn’t scared when he constantly chased receivers in practice on a regular basis for two years. He wasn’t scared a few weeks ago when pass-happy East Carolina started driving down the field late in the game, with his team clinging to a lead and trying to avert a disastrous 0-3 start in his final season. And he wasn’t scared when ECU quarterback Dominique Davis confidently looked his way and whistled a football in the direction of Justin Jones, a 6-foot-8 giant of a receiver who stood nearly a foot taller than Carmichael.

Instead, Carmichael channeled his inner David, stepped in front of the intended giant, intercepted the pass and sprinted toward victory, intensely arm-fighting Davis those final 10 yards to the end zone.

Carmichael knows his dad is proud. He knows his dad saw the play. He knows his dad enjoys the best view in the house, as he does every game.

Bernard Carmichael looks down from above. The clock in his own game of life unfortunately expired a couple of years ago.

That’s why Rashad Carmichael – known by everyone as “Rock” – enjoys it when his father’s voice slips into his mind. It keeps him believing that his father never left.

Carmichael remembers the call. It came in the middle of the summer in 2008. His younger brother, Nygee, buzzed him, and Carmichael could hear the fear in his brother’s voice.

“He told me that dad didn’t look good and that he was scared,” Carmichael said. “Right then and there, I knew.”



Bernard Carmichael provided guidance, discipline, work ethic and much more to his sons, and those traits helped both Nygee (bottom left) and Rock (standing) earn football scholarships to Towson and Virginia Tech, respectively.

He actually knew roughly two weeks earlier. His father, a retired member of the U.S. Air Force, resembled most military men. He shunned great displays of emotion.

But on this occasion, he called Rock, who was working out with his teammates in Blacksburg, and begged him to come home for the weekend. Then, he gathered his three sons together and told them that he felt poorly and didn’t know how much longer he had. Rock thought of the conversation as odd and shrugged it off.

Two weeks later, he got a call from his father around 6 o’clock on a Sunday evening.

“He said, ‘I’m doing alright,’” Rock said. “He was always asking about practice. Then he told me, ‘I’ve got to go, but I’ll talk to you later. I love you.’ I told him that I loved him.

“But after I got off the phone, I knew something wasn’t right. That’s not the kind of person he is. I could feel something.”

Then came the call from his brother. And then came the thump on the door.

Bernard Carmichael passed away on July 13 of a heart attack at the youthful age of 40. Mae Carmichael, worried about her oldest son in Blacksburg, called Jason Worlids, a teammate and one of Rock’s

closest friends, and told him the news. She wanted him to go to Carmichael's apartment. She didn't want her son to be alone.

Worilds told her he would tell Rock the news. So about 10 o'clock that Sunday evening, he went over to Carmichael's place and gently tapped on the door.

"I looked through the hole and I knew," Carmichael said. "I didn't even answer. I left him outside for about 30 minutes. I was just sitting on the floor. Then I opened the door and he [Worilds] told me. It was crazy."

The loss of his father left him at a loss. He had lost his father, his best friend and his mentor.

He had lost his "Rock."

"He helped me a lot in everything," Carmichael said. "He was a dad at times when he needed to do the father stuff, but mostly, he was a big brother to me. He looked on the best side of everything. He taught me to respect my family and do the right thing. That's the kind of person he was. He made me like that."

The family buried Bernard Carmichael in a veterans' cemetery near Fort Meade in Maryland, where he was last stationed and near the family home in Clinton, Md. Several members of Tech's football team attended, along with team chaplain Johnny Shelton.

An honor guard presented the United States flag to Mae Carmichael. Then they fired a three-volley salute. The Rifle Squad Detail Leader picked up the shell casings.

Rock Carmichael keeps those casings beside his father's Bible on the nightstand next to his bed.

"You scared?"

Carmichael laughs as he says it. More than two years after his father's funeral, he fields the question as to why he didn't leave Virginia Tech and return to Maryland to look out for his family.

"I can hear him saying now, 'Are you scared? Are you scared?'" Carmichael said. "I never thought about leaving. My mom wouldn't let me leave, and I knew that's not what he would have wanted anyway."

"It wasn't an option," Mae Carmichael said. "He felt like he needed to be there for us, but he knew he needed to go back to school. I'm sure he was frustrated and overwhelmed, but he needed to go back."

If for nothing else, he needed to fulfill his father's wishes. After all, Bernard Carmichael is the man who launched Rock toward a career in football at a young age.

There were the legendary workouts – ones that involved predawn running and

sit-ups and push-ups. On occasion, he took his sons to a local park and had them run around the lake.

The toughest, though, came when he broke out the inner tube, tire and rope, with the inner tube serving as a vest. He attached the rope to the tire, and Rock and his brother took turns dragging that tire around. They even took that tire with them on vacations to visit Carmichael's grandmother in South Carolina.

It was she who gave him his nickname when he was practically a little tyke. She kept the boys when Bernard Carmichael was stationed overseas, and she shortened Rashad to "Ra" and then "Ra Ra."

"Nah, you ain't going to be called 'Ra Ra,'" Bernard said upon his return.

Grandma then said, "Rock" and that stuck. That also pleased Bernard Carmichael.

After all, they were his soldiers – and they loved it. That tire ultimately became the Carmichael family version of Tech's lunch pail.

"It was always fun. We always wanted to do it," Carmichael said of the workouts. "He'd say, 'I ain't making you do this. If you want to come out here, then come on out.' We'd always go out and go to work. It paid off, too."

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The work paid off in the form of a scholarship. While scouting one of Carmichael's high school teammates, Tech's staff got a close look at Carmichael during a one-day camp in Blacksburg and head coach Frank Beamer offered him a scholarship.

Carmichael had no other options – not one. No other school showed any interest.

"I don't know what I would have done [without the offer]," Carmichael said. "I can't tell you. All my eggs were in one basket. I got a shot and ran with it."

He actually stumbled at first, especially after the staff moved him to cornerback. He had played very little cornerback in high school. As a result, he took a repetitive beating from Royal, Josh Morgan and Justin Harper, all of whom now play in the NFL.

But if Bernard Carmichael taught his son anything, it was not to be afraid of work. Rock immersed himself in film study, and he tethered himself to Flowers and Harris during practices and meetings.

And he could hear his dad motivating him.

"You scared?"

On the contrary, his opponents now fear him. A year ago, he turned out to be Tech's most improved player, leading the team with six interceptions and adding in 55 tackles. People took notice, too. He earned honorable mention All-ACC honors.

"Hard work and watching film and being prepared," Carmichael clicked off as the reasons for his success. "I was prepared for my chance, and once I got going, I felt like I was at home."

The Virginia Tech hat sits next to the Bible as well.

It's a simple display with a complex meaning. These things help keep Bernard Carmichael close by.

His father loved that hat. So Rock keeps the hat, the casings and the Bible within his grasp. For him, they prevent the necessity of going back to a cold cemetery for a visit. Instead for Rock, Bernard Carmichael is buried next to him deeply inside his heart.

“ He [his father] helped me a lot in everything. He was a dad at times when he needed to do the father stuff, but mostly, he was a big brother to me. He looked on the best side of everything. He taught me to respect my family and do the right thing. That's the kind of person he was. He made me like that. ”
– Rashad Carmichael

"I don't like going back to see him," Rock said.

"It's like saying good-bye all over again. We haven't gotten to that point yet," Mae Carmichael admitted. "It's painful."

Instead, Rock prefers to listen, hearing his father's voice at just the perfect time. It provokes a smile, even the silliest of conversations.

"He used to say that, 'Man, as soon as you get on the field, I'm going to get a big maroon RV,'" Carmichael said, smiling and shaking his head. "He'd say, 'I'm going to come to every game. I'm not going in, though. I'm going to watch it outside in my RV and listen to the crowd. That's

all I want to do.' I can still hear him saying that."

Carmichael insists his father was at Lane Stadium in May, when he graduated with a degree in human development. His mom and aunts and uncles also poured into Blacksburg for the big day. Not surprisingly, a tight family grew tighter when Bernard Carmichael passed away more than two years ago.

These days, Carmichael's focus is simply family and football. His return for a touchdown against East Carolina marked the second score of his career. Moments later, he intercepted another pass, the eighth of his career.

His dad approved.

"It's weird, but I can feel him," Carmichael said. "That stuff is real. You can feel it on your heart. I can't really explain it."

He calls his mom three or four times a day, checking on her and asking, if nothing else, what she's having for lunch. Mae Carmichael appreciates the loving efforts of her oldest son.

"I told him that he didn't need to do that," she said. "I told him to let me worry about things here."


"He said, 'That's not how it works, Mom. You let me do the worrying.'"

Rock also keeps close tabs on Nygee at Towson. He makes sure that 12-year-old Shaikh has his grades straight.

He wasn't ready to assume these roles. Instead, they chose him.

He's the man of the house now. He's the brother, the friend, the leader and the disciplinarian.

He is the Rock.

Somehow, you get the feeling that his dad won't let him forget that. After all, he's only a whisper away. 

Bud Foster's Lunch Pail Defense Foundation



The purpose of The Lunch Pail Defense Foundation, a recently formed non-profit corporation headquartered in Blacksburg, VA, is to annually fund a need-based academic college scholarship to an eligible student from the New River Valley. In short, the eligible student will personify the focus and fortitude embodied in the spirit of "The Lunch Pail" by demonstrating hard work, good character and determination to succeed in all areas of life.



To find out more about the scholarship and eligibility please visit <http://lunchpaildefense.com>.

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THEY **NOW?**

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

FORMER PLAYER RO WALDRON TRANSITIONED FROM PLAYING AND COACHING TO BUSINESS

Often, what one learns while in the coaching profession actually serves one well in the workforce.

So after years of selling 17- and 18-year-old kids on attending his schools as a football coach, Ronayne "Ro" Waldron found selling real estate to prospective buyers and developers to be an easy transition.

Waldron, a terrific offensive lineman first for Jimmy Sharpe and then Bill Dooley back in the late 1970s, has parlayed the communication skills he honed from six years of coaching following his graduation from Tech in 1981 into a lucrative career in commercial real estate. Today, Waldron serves as a senior vice president for sales and leasing at McShea & Company, Inc., a company in Gaithersburg, Md., that provides commercial real estate services and support.

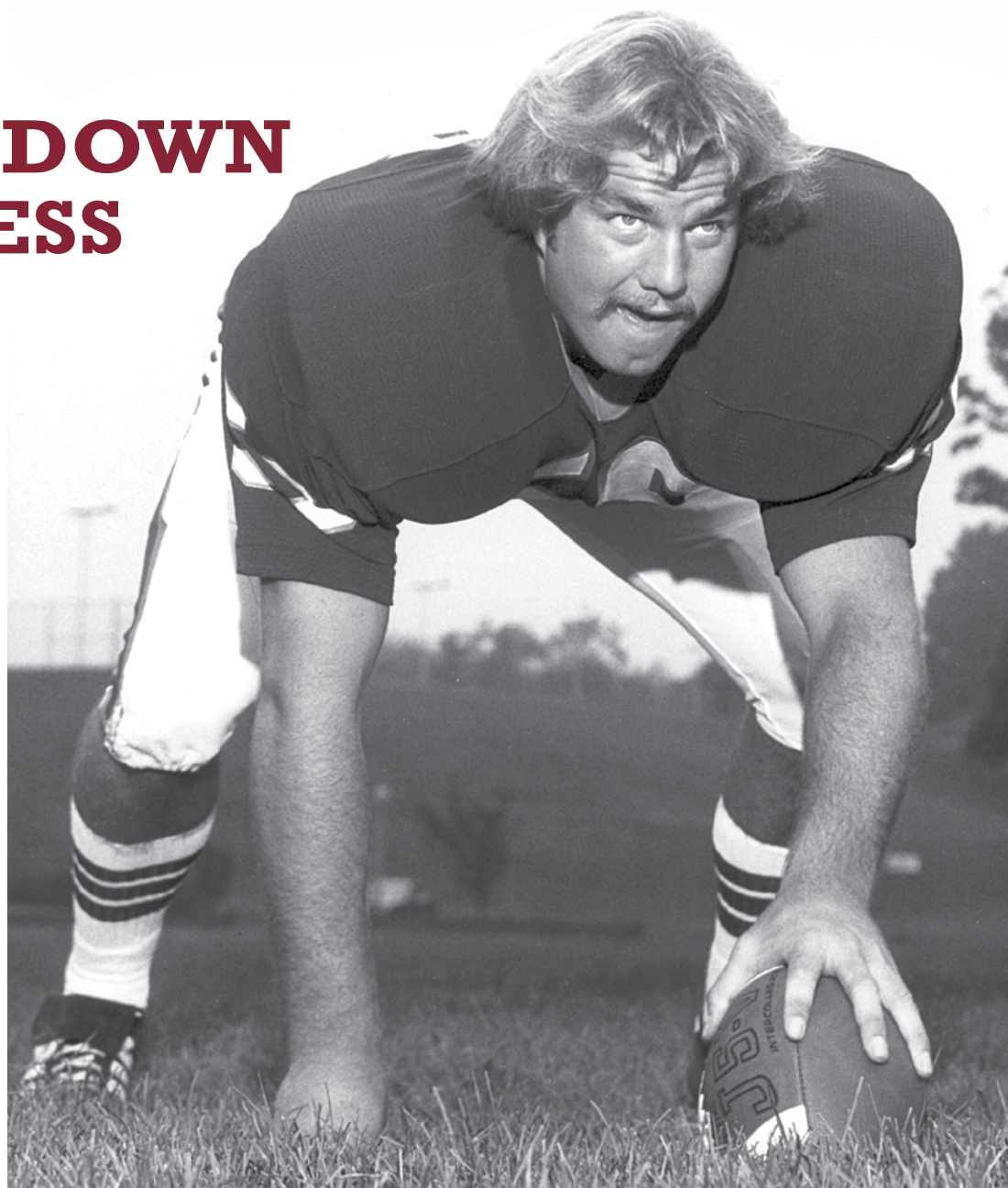
"Coaching was fun, but I didn't have a burning desire to stay in it," Waldron said. "I decided to get out and I wanted to stay in this [suburban Maryland] area. I was always good at sales, and a guy gave me a chance."

Waldron never envisioned a career in real estate during his playing days at Tech. In fact, his vision centered on football.

He grew up in Silver Spring, Md., as the son of legendary high school coach Doonie Waldron, who led St. John's College High to five Metro championships in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He became an accomplished high school standout and visited SEC powers Georgia and Alabama before committing to Tech following a recruitment spearheaded by Sharpe and assistant Danny Ford.

"My father was a coach in this area, so I got exposed to the coaches at Tech," Waldron said. "I visited Alabama and Georgia, and when I visited Virginia Tech, I just felt at home with the students and fellow athletes. I fell in love with the place."

Waldron redshirted his first season at Tech and played sparingly as a redshirt freshman along the offensive line in 1977. That season turned out to be Sharpe's last, as the school fired him and named Dooley



the head coach. Waldron became a three-year starter under Dooley, blocking for the likes of Roscoe Coles and Cyrus Lawrence, the school's all-time leading rusher.

"Those three years under Dooley, that's when I really made my move playing-wise," Waldron said. "I liked Dooley a lot. I like the way he did things, and he was excellent to me."

In Waldron's first three seasons, the Hokies had losing records. But things turned around his senior season in 1980, as Tech went 8-4. The Hokies blitzed Virginia 30-0 that season and rolled West Virginia 34-11. They closed out the regular season with a 21-6 victory over VMI and received a bowl invitation from the Peach Bowl – the school's first bowl invitation since the 1968 Independence Bowl.

"That was a new deal for us," Waldron

said, citing the invitation as one of his greatest moments at Tech. "It was the culmination of a lot of hard work. Then I remember playing in the Peach Bowl and sitting there at the end of the game. I didn't want it all to end."

Tech fell 20-10 to Miami in that game. The 'Canes were led by quarterback Jim Kelly, who went on to enjoy a Hall of Fame career with the Buffalo Bills.

After graduating in the spring of 1981 with a degree in physical education, Waldron decided to stick around at Tech as a graduate assistant under Dooley. After a year, he landed a full-time gig with Jerry Claiborne at Kentucky, where he served as the assistant coach for offensive guards and centers.

Waldron was part of a huge turnaround at Kentucky under Claiborne. The Wildcats

went 3-9 in Claiborne's first season, but then went 6-4-1 the second year, going to the Hall of Fame Bowl and falling to West Virginia. The third season, the Wildcats went 9-3 and beat Wisconsin in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

They also went to Knoxville and beat a pretty good Tennessee team that season.

"They had Reggie White [NFL Hall of Famer] and we beat them," Waldron said. "It was in 1984. I remember it because that's the last time Kentucky has beaten Tennessee."

Waldron learned a lot from Claiborne, but after three years with the legend, he decided to strike out on his own. At the age of 28, he took the head coaching job at Catholic University, a Division III school outside of Washington, D.C.

In doing so, Waldron became the youngest head coach in America.

"I wanted to get back closer to home," said Waldron, who hired his father as the quarterbacks coach. "The opportunity presented itself and I grabbed it. I thought I had all the ingredients to be a head coach."

Unfortunately, after two sub-par seasons, Waldron became the youngest former head coach in America.

"I like to tell people that I got out because of health reasons – the alumni got sick of me," he joked.


Waldron then took a job with McShea & Company, Inc., in 1987 and has been

there ever since. He and his wife, Paula – a Virginia Tech grad herself – live in Silver Spring and have a daughter, Grace, who is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland.

Waldron still maintains a huge interest in football and he's found a way to combine that with another passion – writing. He puts together a weekly blog entitled "Words of Encouragement" that combines things that he learned while coaching and playing with the sports events of today. He sends it out through an e-mail list of clients, friends and former teammates and uses it not only as a way to satisfy his writing fix, but also to keep in touch.

"Deep inside, I'm a frustrated writer," he said, laughing. "I've always liked writing, and it's [the blog] kind of taken off. I do spoofs on daily life and just whatever I can dig up. It's a lot of fun and it's a way to keep in touch with people."

He still keeps up with his alma mater, usually coming down for a game at least once a season. Despite the Hokies' early-season struggles, he remains excited about the program.

"I could always see the program going up," Waldron said. "But Coach Beamer has taken it to unprecedented heights. As a former player, that's exciting just to see the direction things are going." 



Paula & Ronayne Waldron

Photo credit Grace Waldron

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FOOTBALL

EXTRA



TUNNEL EXPERIENCE INDESCRIBABLE

TECH PLAYERS STRUGGLE TO DESCRIBE THE FEELINGS AS THEY RUN OUT OF THE AVERY TUNNEL BEFORE A GAME

Exciting. Unique. Electric. Surreal. After thinking and fumbling over the decision for one word to describe the feeling and experience of being in the Avery Tunnel before a game at Lane Stadium, this is what some of those who frequent the 200-foot long, claustrophobic tunnel just before kickoff can come up with. As players' screams and rambunctious shoving fill the crowded passageway, the loud roar from the stadium swarms the small space as 66,000 strong shoot to their feet when Metallica's Enter Sandman begins to blare out of the stadium's sound system. Emotions run high for everyone, even those watching from miles away, as players, coaches and special guests spill out onto the field and another fall Saturday in Blacksburg begins.

The dimly lit, cave-like tunnel is decorated with a stripe of maroon and orange on each side of the faded white walls and Plexiglas plaques that bear the names of each year's seniors, starting with the class of 1990. It is one of the best-known places on campus

yet it is also a place many know nothing about. Even the people who travel through it the most do not know the story

Senior defensive tackle John Graves let out a long laugh when asked if he knew the name of the tunnel he has walked through countless times during his career. Graves had no idea it had a formal name, also admitting to missing the sign each time he has passed. Few take notice to the small plaque that hangs above the entryway, a sign that honors longtime fans R.T. and Brenda Avery, who gave back to their beloved program and school in a major way when it needed it.

Though the Avery's name went on the tunnel in the late 90s, it was actually built as part of the original stadium in 1964. It was there for the first game and has been an iconic piece of Virginia Tech football ever since. It is the same tunnel that head coach Frank Beamer passed through on September 24, 1965, for the first game ever played in Lane Stadium. Beamer admitted no one back then had any idea that the stadium and entrance would ever become what it has, because in that time, when cheerleaders and a marching band were what got the fans riled up, a larger, new place to play was excitement enough.


Few have had the honor of a firsthand tunnel experience, but those who have been through know it's not an experience that anyone else can understand. For someone like Graves, who has traveled the tunnel numerous times over the past four years to someone like R.T. Avery, who once took the opportunity to enter the field with his team on game day, they explain the experience exactly the same. At a loss for words, both can conclude that there are none that translate.

"I was real curious when I was younger, as a freshman, of how it was to go through the tunnel," Graves said. "Everybody just said wait until you go through it. It's something that you can't even describe. You can't even put in words. When I went through it, it was exactly what they told me. You can't put it in words."

It's an emotional time in Lane Stadium as the clock continues to tick down to kickoff and a blanket of anticipation and excitement covers the stands. The video of the team trickling into the Avery Tunnel begins to show on the scoreboard inside the stadium, as anxious fans watch the players disappear into the passageway, awaiting a glimpse of them on the inside. Standing just a few feet back in the tunnel, there is no view of the world outside, just a sea of maroon with a

possible peep of grass from the right angle. As the team waits, being anything but patient, it almost seems like the crowd goes quiet for a split second before the music begins. At the first sound of its beloved Enter Sandman, the roaring crowd takes off from its seats to welcome its team.

"It feels like the crowd is going to come through the tunnel," senior quarterback Tyrod Taylor said after asking if the stands actually sit on top of the tunnel because of the noise and movement the fans and nearby student section provides.

Moments before the exit, Coach Beamer stands still at the front of the line, awaiting the signal. A mellow Taylor shadow boxes alone in the front of the pack after taking a few silent moments to himself. Graves looks ready to go, letting it all build up and sink in as he anticipates that first snap. Though there's not room for much movement and no chance for a conversation, more players than not are yelling and jumping, getting as loud as possible, eager to spill out of that tunnel and erupt on Hokie Nation to put all the week's hard work and preparation on display. Making sure they touch the Hokie Stone that hangs just inside the 8-by-8 doorway before they hit the field, the squad spills out, the wait is over and the team is ready to put on the show its diehards came to see. 



Reaching up and touching the Hokie stone as they come out of the tunnel is a thrill for all Tech players. The sign reads, "For those who have passed, for those to come ... reach for excellence."

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BASEBALL

EXTRA



A CLUB AGAINST CANCER

TECH BASEBALL COACHES AND PLAYERS SHAVE THEIR HEADS TO SUPPORT CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Heading into this particular fall practice, Tech head baseball coach Pete Hughes and the Hokies were sporting a different look.

At an event held in front of a large crowd at English Field on Sept. 20, Hughes and members of the team shaved their heads, though not for vanity purposes. On the contrary, they decided to go with the shaved look in a show of support for childhood cancer research. As most probably know by now, September served as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

The team came to learn of the devastating effects of cancer on children through their association with Levi Mayo, a 10-year-old boy from Craig County, Va. In 2008, Hughes and the Hokies adopted Mayo as a team member. Mayo was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor when he was 4 years old, underwent surgery and nearly died during the treatments. He lost all his daily functions, such as talking, walking and even swallowing.

Though the long-term effects will stay with him forever, Mayo is cancer-free now and has re-learned all those daily functions. He attends the Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center in Roanoke and is doing well academically.

But it's the Hokies who have learned more.

"I think we all realize how lucky we are," Hughes said. "We've got it good, and our players realize they have it good as Virginia Tech student-athletes. That's what our players realize when Levi is around. It makes you realize that you shouldn't take anything for granted."

Hughes came up with the idea to have his players shave their heads as a way also to help Mayo's mother, Melina Brown, raise money for cancer research. In early September, Brown traveled to Los Angeles to partici-

pate in an event called "46 Mommas Shave For The Brave." The event was designed to raise money for childhood cancer research and to bring attention to childhood cancer. The significance of the number "46" – every day, 46 parents in the United States are told their child has cancer.

"Melina told me, 'Why don't you guys shave your heads with us?'" Hughes said. "I said, 'We're in.' We decided to piggy-back off what she was doing and see how much we could raise for as good of a cause as there is.

"Our players were great about this. I told them that they didn't have to shave their heads – I wasn't going to make them – and that I was just trying to help Melina. But every single player did it and they all took pride in doing something good. That's what it's all about."

Brown, who is passionate about raising money for cancer research, has raised more than \$6,500 toward her goal of \$10,000. Following the event at English Field, Hughes presented her with a check

in the amount of \$500.

The event was also part of Hughes' "19 Ways" program. He challenged his players to come up with 19 ways to make a difference in the community this year. Hughes wears No. 19 on game days as a way to honor his mother, whose favorite number was 19.

Hughes' mother and father both passed away from cancer, so the subject hits home for him. He holds a golf tournament each summer near Boston, with all the proceeds going to The Jimmy Fund, an organization in Boston that supports cancer research and care at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

In a fitting tribute, Hughes let Mayo shave his head.

"I had to talk him into it," Hughes said. "He didn't want to do it. Then he said he'd do it if I'd have lunch with him at his school. I told him he drove a hard bargain, but I'd do it.

"That's okay, though. Six years ago, Levi was bald, but not by choice. To have him cut my hair was an honor."



Tech baseball coach Pete Hughes let Levi Mayo shave his head as part of the baseball program's outreach event to bring attention to childhood cancer and cancer research.

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TECH'S DRIVING FORCE

AFTER A SLOW START TO HIS CAREER, CLARKE BENTLEY HAS BECOME THE MAN BEHIND THE WHEEL OF TECH'S SOCCER TEAM IN HIS SENIOR SEASON

By Jimmy Robertson

Three seemingly short years ago, the season for the Virginia Tech men's soccer program lasted longer than any season in school history, as the Hokies embarked on an exhilarating ride to the College Cup, soccer's version of the Final Four.

While on that trip, Clarke Bentley was a mere passenger, just a freshman enjoying the spin.

These days, though, he's got the keys to Tech's program and he's trying to drive the Hokies back to respectability.

Tech sat with a 3-6-1 record as of press time, but that mark included a 1-1-1 record in the ACC. Yet even that is a surprising improvement over the previous two seasons, as the Hokies field one of the youngest rosters in the ACC. Tech is still trying to recover after being humbled by the NCAA following some rules violations under former coach Oliver Weiss.

Sitting in the driver's seat this season is

“He's showing leadership and making plays. He's encouraging his teammates to get them to be better, and that makes us better as a team. His personal performance has just been impressive in all phases.”

— Tech Head Coach Michael Brizendine

Bentley, a slight young man from Georgia. As steady as the Hokies' improvement has been, it comes as no less of a shock that Bentley is leading this year's excursion.

“He was a young man whom we always saw talent in,” men's soccer coach Mike Brizendine said. “But he was childish in his ways. The transformation has been unbelievable.”

Brizendine knows this firsthand. He played a large role in recruiting Bentley from the Atlanta suburbs to Virginia Tech four years ago, seeing a player who was good on the ball and who possessed good speed and sharp vision. More importantly, he felt Bentley really understood the game.

And he does. He's been playing it since he was 4 years old. But his laid-back attitude prevented him from creating a huge impact at Tech from the start.

“I like to have my fair share of laughs, for sure,” Bentley said. “I think it [being a leader] was more of an attitude or persona that you adopt as an older guy. You accept that you have to be responsible and cognizant of all that's going on. You look at all the pieces and you try to help the team in any way you can.”

“Being the laid-back guy that I was, I wasn't the best guy for that at the time. If you don't buy into that attitude, then you're not fit to lead.”

His first season was practically a waste.

Bentley played in just three matches – none in ACC play. He scored a couple of goals in garbage time against Appalachian State. He then came down with a case of tonsillitis and later contracted mononucleosis, but the late-season match against Appalachian State came after the NCAA's cutoff date for receiving a medical hardship waiver. So he truly wasted a year.

That's not to say he didn't have a blast – everyone enjoys being a part of a winning team. But the fun came from being part of that great Tech team and not so much from his performance on the field.

“Achievement wise, I didn't achieve much,” Bentley said. “But for the team, it was phenomenal. Being on the team and traveling and making those trips to NCAA Tournament games was outstanding. It's something I'll never forget.”

Then came a disastrous sophomore season, at least for the program. Bentley himself made 11 starts and appeared in 19

matches, scoring three goals on the season. But the team failed to win an ACC match, and the following spring, Weiss resigned. Brizendine got the job a week after Weiss' resignation.

“I like to accept things with optimism,” Bentley said. “When Briz got the job, some of the older guys called each other on the phone. It was like, ‘We didn't win an ACC game last year, so change can be good.’ One thing that is a positive of Briz is his personality and his ability to level with the players.”

During the transition, the Hokies struggled, winning just two ACC matches in Brizendine's first season. Bentley enjoyed a decent campaign last season as a junior – he finished with three goals and eight points, starting 14 matches and playing in 19.

But Brizendine wanted more. He expected more. But he was coming to the conclusion that Bentley wasn't going to live up to his immense talents.

“With Clarke, it's always been a question about his mindset,” Brizendine said. “It's never been a question of talent. He's always had that. He had the skills when he first showed up on campus. What I wanted to see was more of a commitment. I wanted to see him become more invested.”

Bentley went all in this past summer. Most of his classmates were gone – only

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a few players remain off that College Cup team – and Bentley found himself surrounded by freshmen and sophomores who needed some guidance during off-season and preseason workouts. He suddenly found himself fielding questions and providing examples on what to do.

He suddenly found himself in the role of a leader.

“I got to thinking ‘Why should I not be this guy? Why should I not help these freshmen adapt as quickly as they can?’” Bentley said. “At one point in the summer practices, we were two or three weeks in and I stopped practice and talked to them. I told them that this wasn’t club soccer anymore. The speed of play picks up. Everything is faster and we needed to be faster. Some of the new players were over-complicating things. It’s instrumental when you’re trying to adapt to the college game to know that everything is going to be faster.

“Over those four weeks, everything started to dawn on me that I should be accepting more responsibility.”

This season, he’s become what Brizendine expected. He has scored two goals, both coming at critical moments. His goal against Clemson helped the Hokies secure a tie, and then he scored against N.C. State in Tech’s 2-1 victory.

And he accepts the blame when Tech loses.

“We’re a young team and young guys are going to make mistakes,” Bentley said. “Someone needed to put their hand up and say, ‘Hey, I could have done this better or that better.’ If freshmen make

mistakes, it’s okay. But for me and some of the older guys, we need to be a little harder on ourselves.

“That’s fine. I don’t mind that at all. You have to accept things that are negative about something that you’ve done in order to move on.”


“That tells me he’s invested,” Brizendine said. “It’s personal to him. When we win, he’s ecstatic. When we lose, he takes it personally.

“He’s showing leadership and making plays. He’s encouraging his teammates to get them to be better, and that makes us

better as a team. His personal performance has just been impressive in all phases.”

Despite Bentley’s tremendous play, the Hokies have been a little up and down in 2010, but they couldn’t have been expected to make another drive to the College Cup. After all, they feature 13 freshmen on the roster and play in the toughest conference in the country.

For the Hokies, this season is more about a ride to respectability. For sure, it’s not been the easiest of jaunts.

At least in Bentley, though, they’ve got the right person behind the wheel. 



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SWIMMING & DIVING PREVIEW



H₂OKIES ADD TOP RECRUIT WITH AQUATIC CENTER

NEW SWIMMING AND DIVING FACILITY TO AID TECH'S CHANCES IN UPCOMING SEASON

Usually when scouting out a team's chances in a preseason preview, it is common to point to newcomers who will make an impact – a hotshot new freshman or a valuable transfer from another school – as harbingers of success. However, in the case of the 2010-11 Virginia Tech men's and women's swimming and diving teams, the most influential new member of the squad isn't a person, but rather a building – the state-of-the-art Christiansburg Aquatic Center (CAC) that the Hokies now call home.

A joint venture between the town of Christiansburg and Virginia Tech, the CAC officially opened its doors to the community in July and it will serve as the host of the Hokies' home meets following decades spent at War Memorial Pool on the Tech campus. It's a project that was years in the making, and its completion has been greeted

with open arms and rave reviews.

"Moving to the CAC has been incredible," Virginia Tech head coach Ned Skinner said. "The team has met it with full support. It is a beautiful facility that was done in a first-class manner, and we have completely elevated the way we are training our swimmers and divers."

The one and only downside to the new pool is shuttling Tech's approximately 60 student-athletes the five miles from campus to the facility every day – a task being aided by a fleet of vans. But once the Hokies get there, they benefit in three major ways.

For one, there's the 'wow' factor. It's hard not to notice the mammoth scoreboard and video board that adorn the wall adjacent to the plethora of diving boards and platforms.

"It's pretty impressive," Skinner said of the combo, the money for which was donated by a fundraising group called the Hackin' Hokies, Too. "It's probably one of only 10 in the nation. You can put the

swimmer's name, split, time and place on one board, and then you have this other board – basically a television screen – that you can run instant replays on."

The lighting and windows create a bright and welcoming environment for the nearly 1,000 spectators that the balcony seating can hold, an element that ties into the second reason for the building's creation – the general practicality of it all. It was simply time for a new facility.

"No disrespect to War Memorial," Skinner said. "It was a great 'home-field advantage' for us. But the problem was that we could only cram about 300 people in there. Plus it was hot, it was stuffy and it had that old-pool smell. Modern-day technology in major swimming facilities can manage the airflow, so you walk into our pool now and it's a comfortable temperature. The air flows throughout the building such that, even when you're swimming hard, you're still able to breathe as if you're outdoors."

And that, in turn, connects to the main advantage of the CAC, the ease in which it

allows the swimmers and divers to hone their craft and become better at what they do. That's possible not just because of the better air quality and the amenities available, such as a therapy pool, weight-training areas and cardio rooms, but also the possibilities it allows for the Hokies during their practices.

The CAC features a full-size, 50-meter Olympic-style pool, which is double the length of the pool at War Memorial. Though all collegiate competitions take place in 25-yard lanes – that distance is achieved by properly positioning the pair of 6-foot bulkheads – the long-course option allows the swimmers to work on their endurance.

"For the first three practices every week, we go long-course because it lengthens out your stroke and it's good for creating base conditioning," Skinner said. "It's also key in training for national and international competitions. But when we move the bulkheads, we have access to 17 25-yard lanes, plus the diving well. We can have the entire team – swimmers and divers, men and women – training at the same time. That was virtually impossible before we had this pool."

That has allowed for the Hokies – particularly the divers – to be more efficient with

their time. Because they have access to a full range of platforms at one, three, five, seven and 10 meters, the divers can safely and properly work their way up in height. War Memorial's highest platform was five meters, so diving coach Ron Piemonte and his squad had to wait for 10-meter practice when they drove to a facility in Charlotte once every two months.

All of this has given the Hokies a better opportunity to succeed, and it won't be long until they get the chance to show how much it's paid off. With the new season beginning on Oct. 16, Tech begins its path toward improving upon an impressive campaign last year.

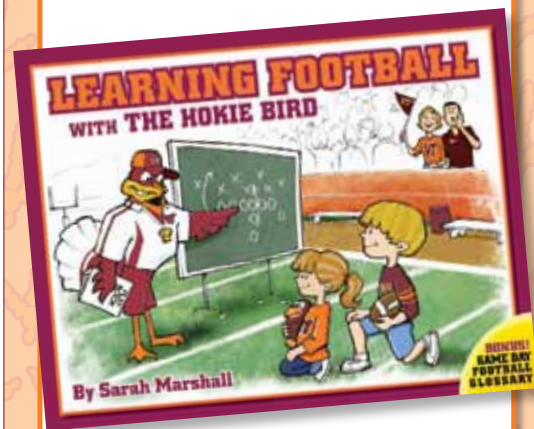
The women finished 24th at the NCAA Championships last season, while the youthful men scored their most amount of points ever at the ACC Championships, topping 400 for the first time and placing fourth. Skinner is excited about both sides as the new schedule approaches.

"The women are poised for another great year, both at the ACCs and the NAAs," he said. "We pride ourselves on being in the upper echelon of our conference and we want to maintain that accolade. We have balance in all of our events, which is always so important, and we don't see major holes in our lineup.



Erika Hajnal earned All-America honors a year ago, and now that she's able to train at a better facility in the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, she could be even more dominant this season.

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"The men are on the verge of greatness. We virtually return 90 percent of our points from the ACCs and we add, what on paper, is a fantastic recruiting class. If you look at points scored by freshmen and sophomores from all teams in our conference last year, Virginia Tech is among the tops in that category."

Here's a closer look at some of the Hokies to keep an eye on this season:

WOMEN TO WATCH

Erika Hajnal – The Hokies' NCAA hopes begin with Hajnal. She's participated in multiple events at the season's biggest meet during each of her first two seasons, most recently earning All-America status in the 400 individual medley as a sophomore. She also dominates in the freestyle, having won both the 500 and the 1,650 events at the 2010 ACC Championships.

Katarina Filova – A freestyle sprinter, Filova competed in four events at the NCAA Championships during her rookie season last year and will look to do so again as a sophomore. She earned honorable mention All-America status as an individual by finishing 16th in the 200, and also as a member of the 10th-place 800 freestyle relay team.

Lauren Ritter – Now a senior co-captain, Ritter will look to improve upon a junior season in which she qualified for the NCAA Championships in three distance freestyle events. She was also a member of the 10th-place 800 freestyle relay team in 2010.

Emily Ferguson – Ferguson is a freestyle sprinter who is poised to break through in her junior season. Though she contributed mostly in relays last year, she gained valuable experience at the U.S. nationals in July.

Sarah Milton – Milton returns for her senior season as the captain of the diving squad. Expect her to improve upon a junior effort in which she took fourth in the platform and eighth in the 3-meter at the NCAA Zone A Championships.


MEN TO WATCH

Greg Mahon – Mahon was a highly touted freshman who lived up to the hype last year, taking bronze in the 100 butterfly at the ACC Championships and posting top-10 finishes in four other events. He continues to look strong as he enters his second season.

Logan Shinholser – Another sophomore who burst onto the scene as a freshman, Shinholser returns to lead a talented diving troupe. He specializes in the platform, having broken the school record during a silver medal showing at the 2010 ACC Championships before taking first at the NCAA Zone A Championships.

Ryan Hawkins – Hawkins, a freshman, joins Shinholser and the divers and will serve as a replacement to the graduated Mikey McDonald. Hawkins was one of the top diving recruits in the country and participated at the U.S. nationals this past summer.

Charlie Higgins – Higgins begins his junior year as a back-to-back NCAA Championship participant. The school record holder in both the 100 and 200 backstroke, Higgins will continue to be a major player for the Hokies.

Tom Sheranek – A 6-foot-7 sophomore, Sheranek is coming off of a magnificent summer in which he qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials in both the 100 and 200 backstroke. He placed fourth in the 200 at the ACC Championships as a freshman. 

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12-10, TECH WIN OVER WEST VIRGINIA WAS NO FLUKE

By Chris Colston

(Reprinted from Vol. 7, No. 7 edition of the Hokie Huddler)

Some knelt on one knee with their head down. Some took a West Virginia banner and stomped on it gleefully.

Some showed off some fine synchronized hopping at midfield. Others were content to simply roll around on the artificial turf of Mountaineer Field like an alligator with a bad back itch.

They peered into the lenses of video cameras and made funny faces. They sprinted to the corner of the stadium, where the Tech faithful stood and cheered them. They prayed in the end zone.

You'd a thunk they had just won a gazillion dollars or something.

Close. Redshirt freshman Mickey Thomas kicked four field goals, and lowly Virginia Tech beat ninth-ranked West Virginia in Morgantown 12-10.

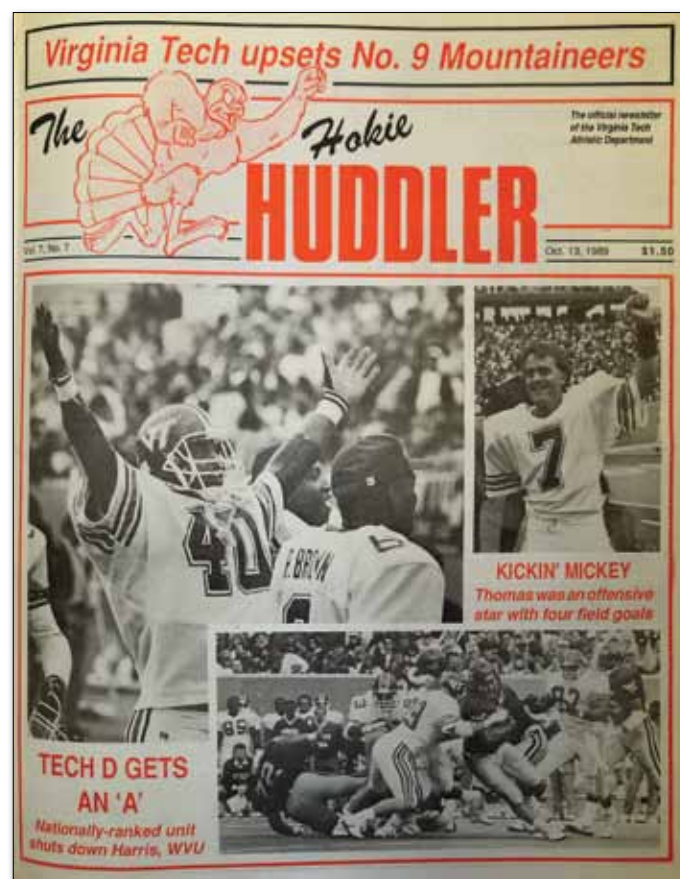
That's why a bunch of 18-, 19-, 20- and 21-year-old guys were permitted to publicly act like so many blithering idiots.

If you're enough of a fan to subscribe to the *Hokie Huddler*, then you know this one was an all-time shocker.

Tech was without its starting quarterback, tailback and senior leader in its secondary.

But it didn't matter.

News of the upset was heard all the way in Seoul, South Korea, via the Armed Services Network. I know, because my brother, Steve, is there photographing a special report for WSLs-TV (Roanoke), and



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he called to tell me. Collect.

The game was no fluke. With Cam Young, a Billy Kilmer-play alike, Tech's offense controlled the ball for nearly 36 minutes.

Yes, with the wildly talented Will Furrer, the Hokies (3-1-1) always were a threat to break open a big play. That's not as likely with Young, but like Larry Bird, he realizes this and doesn't try to do what he cannot do.

Instead, he's content to patiently keep the chains moving.

If Young doesn't see a receiver open, he won't force a pass; he'll tuck the ball and run.

And he showed last weekend that although he's an old dog (fifth-year senior), he can learn a new trick; say a hook-slide.

Anyway, with this Tech defense, you don't need to be the Houston Cougars. If you can keep it out of a hole and not turn the ball over – and score once in awhile – you can win.

Defensively, the Hokies have a strange mix. There's stubby Bryan Campbell, who rolls around the carpet, unblockable, until he trips up the man with the ball.

There's Scott Hill, with forearms thicker than Major Harris' calves, scooting around blockers like they were wooden soldiers.

There are the junior ends, Al Chamblee and Jimmy Whitten, who could start for just about anybody. Maybe even West Virginia.

Linebacker Randy Cockrell plays like a healthy Shane Conlan, and he has all his own teeth. Bobby Martin, who DOES have the teeth of Shane Conlan, scoops up tackles like Godzilla scoops up unsuspecting villagers.

And the young defensive backs came through. Believe it or not, senior cornerback Roger Brown wasn't missed against the Mountaineers. Greg Lassiter did an exceptional job of staying with his man, as did

John Granby and Damien Russell.

A true freshman, Kirk Alexander, even got in the act, with a 44-yard interception return.

Defensive stars abound: Darwin Herdman, Leslie Bailey, Jerome Preston, Anthony Pack, James Hargrove and Karl Borden.

"A total team effort," is how Hopkins described the victory. "The biggest win since I've been here." He's been here three years, and there is no doubt about that.

It was one of the five best wins in decades. 



Tony Kennedy was a part of Tech's squad that upset No. 9 West Virginia in 1989.

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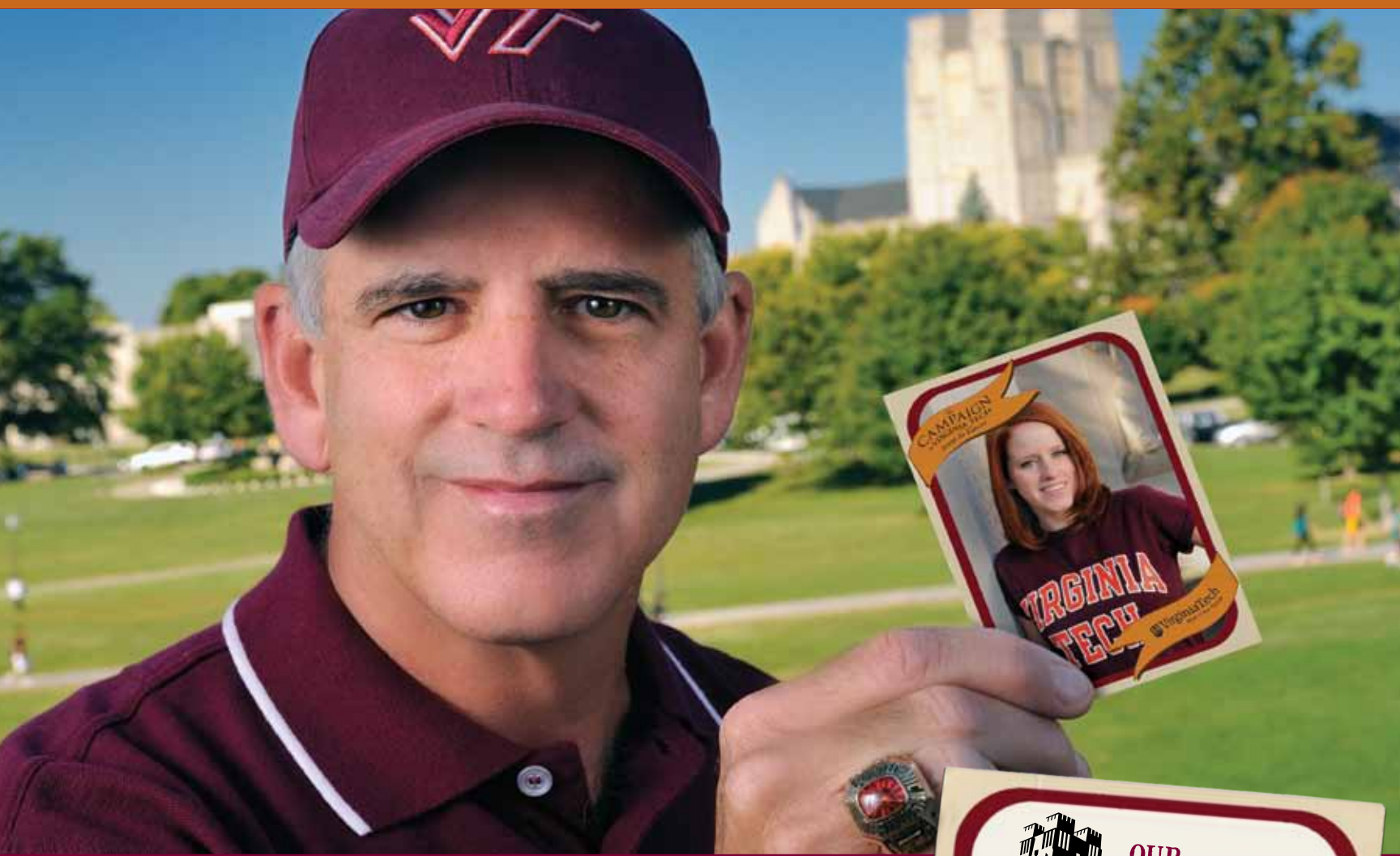
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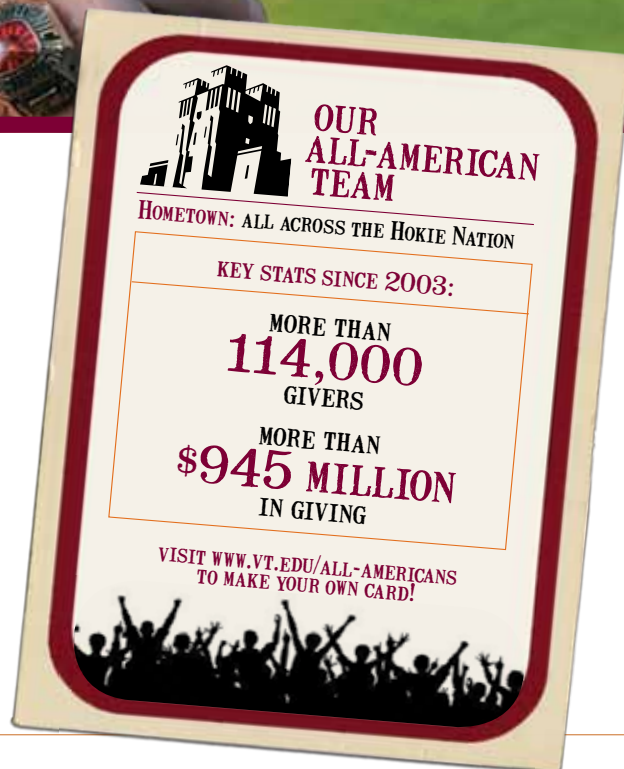
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Kerry Donnelly is a member of the All-American team of donors that helps Virginia Tech excel in both athletics and academics.

Along with his wife, Mary, Kerry has endowed an athletic scholarship. But they also have contributed to the college from which Kerry earned his biological sciences degree, alumni initiatives, and the Parents' Fund, which benefits all Virginia Tech students, including the Donnelly's sophomore daughter, Sarah.

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