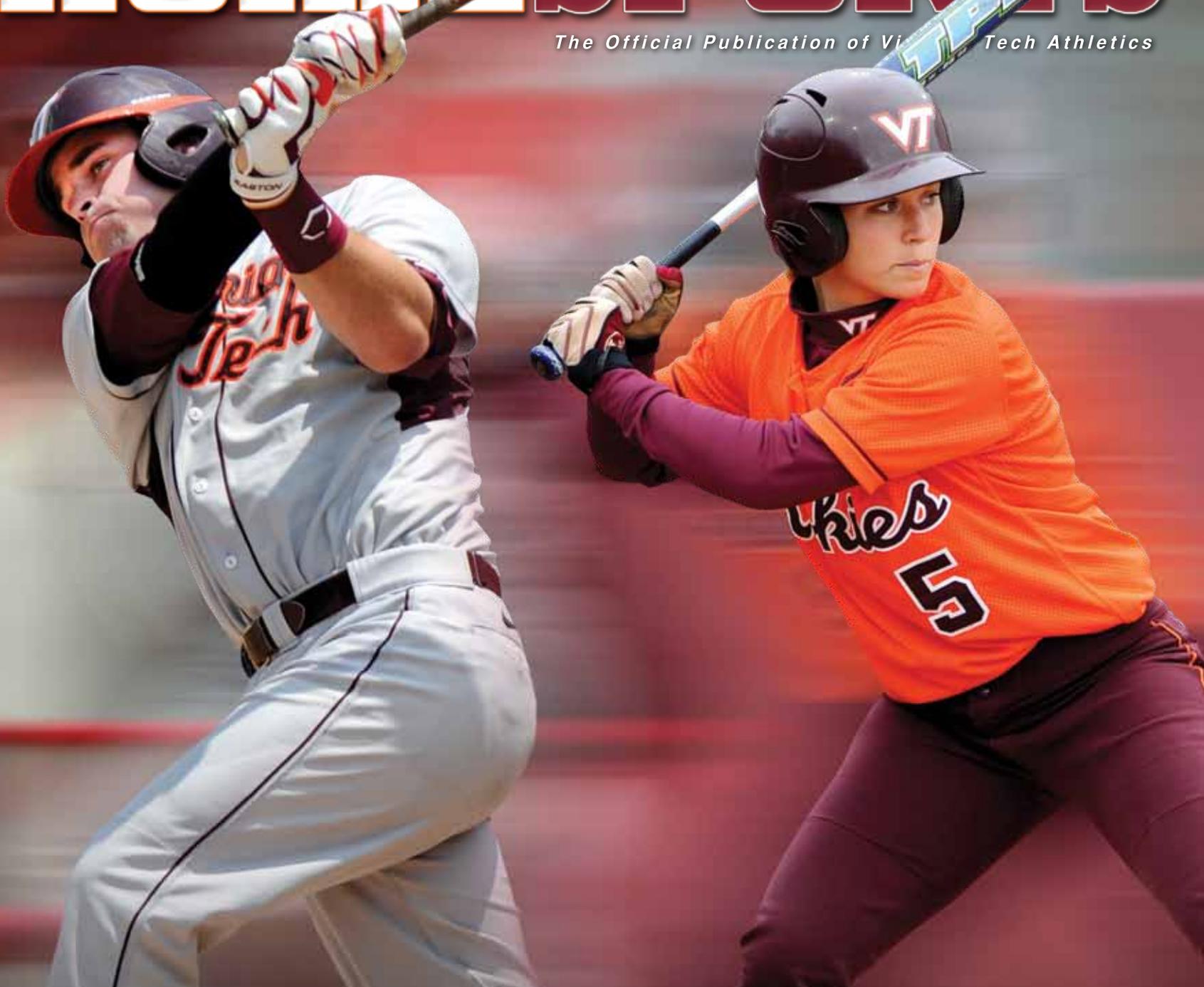


INSIDE
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The Official Publication of Virginia Tech Athletics



SPRING FEVER

The Virginia Tech baseball and softball teams are swinging for success in 2011. Tim Smalling and Richelle McGarva are leading the way.



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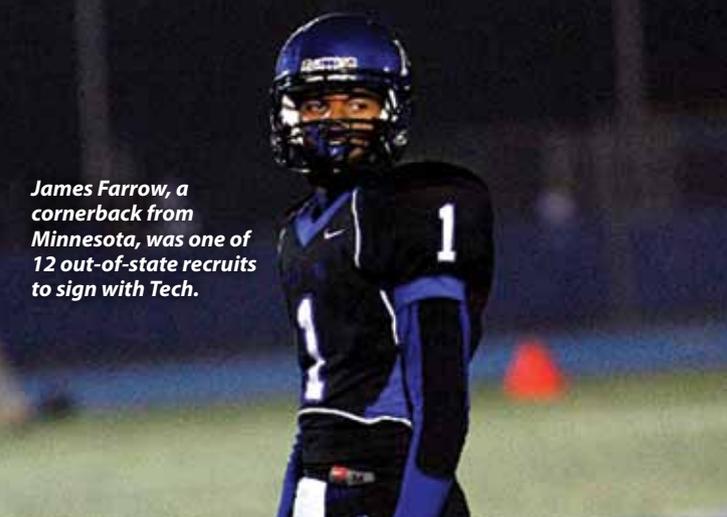
Allison Jarnagin
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Ashleigh Waddle - IMG College

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James Farrow, a cornerback from Minnesota, was one of 12 out-of-state recruits to sign with Tech.



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FEBRUARY

17 Women's Basketball vs. NC State 7:00 p.m.
Breast Cancer Awareness Night
VT/New Tech Fitness Pink Hats for first 1,000 fans
Steve Max's Simon Sez Halftime Show

20 Men's Tennis vs. Penn State Noon
VT Tote Bag Giveaway for first 50 fans

Women's Tennis vs. Davidson 5:00 p.m.
Breast Cancer Awareness Day - 50 VT Pink Hats

27 Women's Basketball vs. Virginia 1:00 p.m.
PACK THE CASSELL! Senior Day!

MARCH

1 Men's Basketball vs. Boston College 9:00 p.m.
Senior Night!
VT Drawstring Bag Giveaway for first 1,000 Students

2 Lacrosse vs. James Madison 4:00 p.m.
First 250 Fans receive VT Lacrosse magnets

12 Lacrosse vs. Boston College Noon
First 100 Fans receive VT Athletics T-shirts

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH**

ESPN College GameDay is coming to Cassell Coliseum!

Doors open at 8:30 am, live national broadcast begins at 10:00 am.
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Men's Basketball vs. Duke

9:00 pm - Cassell Coliseum
Maroon Monsoon! Bimbo Coles Day - Button Giveaway!

Men's Tennis vs. BC
10:30 am
Burrows/Burleson Tennis Center
VT Drawstring Bag Giveaway!

Baseball vs. Niagara (DH)
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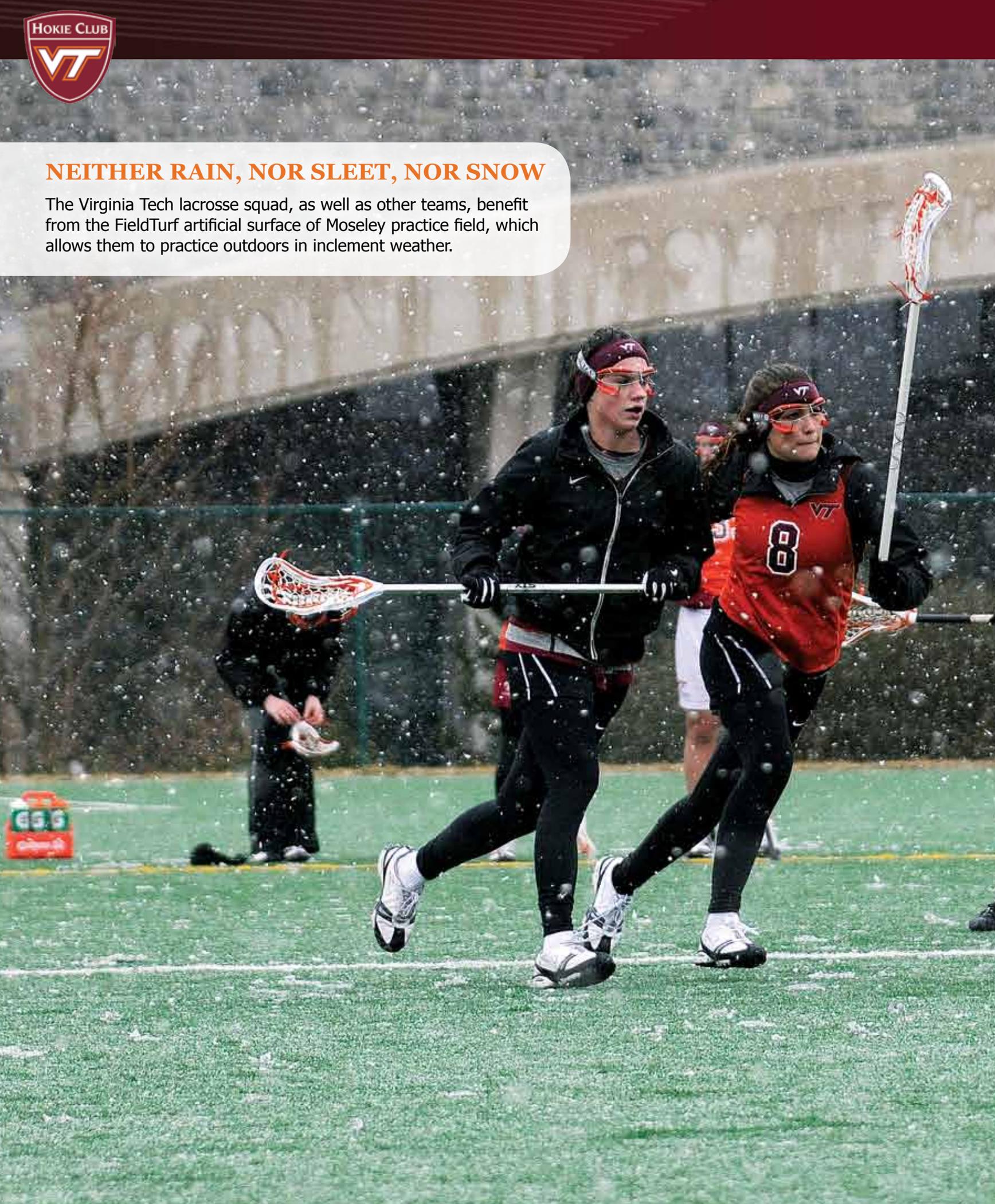
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Brooke Martin - Sophomore - Lacrosse

"As a student of Virginia Tech, whether past, present or future, you are a member of a family based on loyalty, pride and community, and I am so honored to call myself a Hokie."

Jamie Ariosa - Senior - Lacrosse



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NEWS & NOTES

FORMER TECH OFFENSIVE LINEMAN MEETS CHINA'S PRESIDENT

Ed Wang, a former Virginia Tech offensive tackle who now plays for the Buffalo Bills, attended a State Department luncheon in honor of Hu Jintao, the president of China, on Jan. 19 in the Ben Franklin Room at the State Department main office in Washington, D.C. Wang took his parents, Robert and Nancy, who are natives of China and were members of the Chinese Olympic team that competed in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

"It was cool," Wang said. "There were a lot of people there that I didn't know would be there, like Yo-Yo Ma [a famous cellist] and Vera Wang [fashion designer]. It was cool to meet all those people."

Those at the luncheon included Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Attorney General Eric Holder. More importantly, Wang got to meet Jintao. He presented Jintao with an autographed football and spoke briefly to the leader of the world's most populated country. Wang speaks Mandarin fluently.



Former Tech player Ed Wang presented a football to Chinese President Hu Jintao at a State Department luncheon in early January. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden are pictured along with Wang's parents Robert and Nancy (far left).

"I just asked him how he was doing," Wang said. "I told him it was nice to meet him, and my parents got to meet him, too. It was just a great honor to meet him."

Wang also got to engage in one-on-one conversations with Clinton and Biden. He thanked Clinton for making reference to him in a speech in China back in May and talked football with Biden.

"He's a funny guy," Wang said. "He told me he'd have been an All-American [at Delaware] if he had had me blocking in front of him."

Wang became the NFL's first player of full-blooded Chinese descent when the Bills took him in the fifth round of last year's NFL Draft. He has been to China a couple of times and plans on heading back there on Feb. 21 to visit family in Beijing and Shanghai. He's been working with the NFL and Under Armour on a couple of projects related to China.

Wang played in six games for the Bills this past season. A sprained ankle and a torn ligament in his thumb limited his opportunities.

THREE ENROLL IN JANUARY

The Virginia Tech football program added three new members for the spring semester – defensive end Justin Taylor from Norwood, N.C.; offensive lineman Caleb Farris from Fairfield, Va.; and defensive back Adeboye Aromire from Washington, D.C. Taylor and Farris signed with the Hokies last February, with Taylor attending Hargrave Military Academy to take care of some class work and Farris deciding to defer enrollment.

Aromire decided to graduate from high school and enroll at Tech early. He was rated the No. 3 prospect in Washington, D.C., and the No. 37 cornerback prospect in the nation by Rivals.

OLYMPIC SPORTS VIEWING

The Virginia Tech athletics department will be live streaming various Olympic sporting games over hokiesports.com this spring. For those interested in watching select baseball, softball, lacrosse, track and field, men's tennis, women's tennis and wrestling, please subscribe to Hokies All-Access (www.hokiesports.com/allaccess). Here's a list of events slated to be live streamed:

BASEBALL

March 16 - vs. Hartford
March 18 - vs. North Carolina
March 19 - vs. North Carolina
March 20 - vs. North Carolina
March 29 - vs. Radford
April 3 - vs. Virginia
April 17 - vs. Florida State

SOFTBALL

March 23 - vs. Cornell (both games of DH)
April 10 - vs. Georgia Tech
April 30 - vs. Maryland (both games of DH)

LACROSSE

March 2 - vs. James Madison
March 5 - vs. George Washington
March 26 - vs. Old Dominion

TRACK & FIELD

Feb. 25 - ACC Indoor Championships
Feb. 26 - ACC Indoor Championships

MEN'S TENNIS

Feb. 20 - vs. Penn State

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Feb. 19 - vs. Maryland
Feb. 20 - vs. UMBC

WRESTLING

Feb. 12 - vs. NC State
Feb. 12 - vs. Duke

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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EDITOR'S DESK

FEBRUARY A SHORT MONTH THAT WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD DETERMINING TECH'S NCAA FATE

February stands as the shortest month of any year with just 28 days (29 every four years), but for college basketball teams, those 28 days are the most important of the season.

A color commentator on a recent broadcast compared February to James Brown's smash hit, *It's a Man's Man's Man's World*. Not sure if that's the best of comparisons, but you get the point.

February is the time when teams are desperately scrambling for an at-large invitation to the NCAA Tournament. Coaches coach with even more intensity, players play even harder, crowds cheer even louder and reporters gaze at the RPI like it's a Heidi Klum photo shoot.

The Hokies find themselves in good position with the February days trickling away. That speaks to their character because they haven't leaned on excuses. Losing four players for the season because of injuries, including heavy lifters Dorenzo Hudson and JT Thompson, would be an easy one.

Despite being down to eight scholarship players, Tech has displayed some mettle, beating Florida State at home, dodging insults (and other objects) to win impressively at Maryland and holding on late to slip past Miami at home. The Hokies get their usual return from Malcolm Delaney, but also continue to get tremendous output from Jeff Allen and Erick Green. Unsung and underrated role players Victor Davila and Terrell Bell should not go unnoticed.

Green has been the surprise of the bunch. Coming into the season, Tech coach Seth Greenberg joked that Green "didn't

make a 3-pointer in 2010." That's not entirely true, but not far from it. He made six 3-pointers the latter half of his freshman season, but two came against N.C. Central, which shouldn't count. He made just one of his last 14 3-point attempts a year ago.

This season, though, he's averaging better than 10 points a game and shooting it respectably. He's taking care of the basketball – he led the ACC in assist-to-turnover ratio heading to BC.

More importantly, the Hokies went 11-2 in their first 13 games since Green's insertion into the starting lineup for the injured Hudson.

"We're not surprised at all," Green said. "We knew we could do it. I mean, yeah, it hurt with the losses we had. But we still feel like we can play with anybody with the eight scholarship players we have. We just play hard. That's the main thing. We play hard and get after it."

To get an at-large bid, Tech basically needs to continue to win these league games in February because its non-conference slate isn't going to help when it slaps its resume down in front of the NCAA Selection Committee. Kansas State and Oklahoma State have struggled, and Mississippi State never got going.

The Hokies do have opportunities in league play, with a game against Duke on Feb. 26 looming large. That game wraps up the month of February.

"The month of February is a pivotal month," Greenberg said. "You need to get better. Teams that get better [in February] usually play in March."

The month is only 28 days. But it's a time span that will determine Tech's future.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON RECRUITING

Rivals, a popular Web site devoted to recruiting, ranked Tech's 2011 football recruiting class No. 33 nationally, rating four of the Hokies' recruits as "4-star recruits" and 14 as "3-star recruits." The staff signed six defensive linemen and four tight ends. (For more on 2011 recruiting, see pages 25-36)

A small segment of the Tech fan base seemed disappointed in the haul. But Tech's coaches never get caught up in rankings, and they target selectively the players they want, and that strategy has worked in the past.

"I think we do a good job of evaluating the players that we like," head coach Frank Beamer said. "It's like the Pittsburgh Steelers a little bit. You look at their roster, and I don't know how many are high-ranked free agents. But I know they cut a guy loose to the Jets who didn't fit in [Antonio Holmes], and then they replaced him with some other guys you've never heard of at receiver, and all of the sudden, they're pretty good."

Fans should keep rankings in perspective. Texas and Georgia have rosters loaded with 5-star guys, and both had losing seasons. In contrast, Stanford had classes ranked 50th, 20th and 26th by Rivals the past three years and finished in the top five in the polls this season.

Check back in four years. That's the best time to rank a recruiting class. 

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TOP RECRUIT COREY MARSHALL HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON FOOTBALL – AND HIS FUTURE BEYOND THE GAME

Corey Marshall can envision himself in many pictures in the coming years. Racing by an offensive lineman to sack a quarterback. Making a punishing hit on a ball carrier. Or holding a microphone broadcasting a game.

"I'm not going after your job ... at least not yet," Marshall joked during our recent conversation.

The 6-foot-2, 252-pound defensive end from Dinwiddie, Va., plans to study journalism at Virginia Tech and hopes to get into broadcasting at some point. That's after his playing career, which will continue this fall in Blacksburg after a standout career at Dinwiddie High.

Marshall, who was rated the fifth-best player in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* and one of the top defensive prospects nationally, is an articulate, young man who will be popular on the interview circuit once he arrives at Tech. Here's our conversation:

BR: Why Virginia Tech?

CM: "The atmosphere there was just great. I was able to interact with the other players, and we had a really good time. It really felt like family. You could tell the players there were close and were all happy with their time there. Plus, it's just a great school academically. But the big thing was the atmosphere there among the players."

BR: I understand you've been a Tech fan for a long time.

CM: "Since I was 7 or 8. There's always

Corey Marshall is one of Tech's top recruits this year.



Courtesy of Rivals.com

something going on here about Virginia Tech. It's a big thing in this area."

BR: When was your first game in Blacksburg?

CM: "The Virginia game. I came up with Chris Hall [Dinwiddie tight end who also signed with Tech]. It was crazy. It was wild. I can only imagine what it's going to be like running through that tunnel."

BR: Later, on your official visit, what were the highlights? Who was your host?

CM: "Logan Thomas. We had a great time and really clicked. It goes back to what I said before about the family atmosphere."

BR: You were recruited by Coach Cav [Jim Cavanaugh], but you got to know the rest of the coaching staff here. What was that like?

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CM: "Coach Beamer is just what you'd expect. He's straightforward. Tells it like it is. And his staff is a mirror image of him. The stability on the staff is tremendous. It trickles down from him."

BR: That's very perceptive of you, but it's true. Where else did you visit?

CM: "I went to Tennessee, West Virginia, Michigan, N.C. State and Virginia."

BR: People will want to know your thoughts on UVa.

CM: "I went to UVa as a sophomore and met Coach [Al] Groh. It was funny. He threw me in with some seniors, and they kind of threw me around a few times, which was fun. With Coach Groh, I had a good relationship, and we had a good connection. But there was some turmoil there at the end for him. When we went to Georgia Tech, they offered me, too."

BR: How many total offers did you have?

CM: "14."

BR: Is there a player out there, college or pro, who inspires you, or who has a similar game or style as you?

CM: "James Harrison [of the Pittsburgh Steelers] as a pass rusher would be one. John Randle [retired Minnesota Viking] or an Elvis Dumervil [of the Denver Broncos]. They are defensive ends who are disruptive. I'd say I'm like one of those shorter defensive ends who can be disruptive."

BR: And away from football, what do we need to know about your hobbies and your life off the field?

CM: "I like to fish. In fact, I'm planning on a fishing trip up to New York to see my uncle

this spring. I like spending time on a lake, just fishing."

BR: What's your favorite place to fish?

CM: "Nags Head [N.C.]"

BR: So you want to be a broadcaster, too? I saw you announce your commitment to Virginia Tech on *Washington Post Live* on CSN. You're coming for my job?

CM: "No, (laughs), I'm not coming for your job. At least not yet. Maybe I'll work for you next year."

BR: You can be the guy interviewing players after they sign with Tech.

CM: "That would be great."

BR: Who are your favorite announcers?

CM: "Wow, that's a tough one. I like Rich Eisen [of the NFL Network]. He has a great personality, and he's good, although he's a Michigan man. I'd say Rich Eisen, Chris Collinsworth [NBC] and John Madden [former commentator for NBC and ABC]."

BR: You know, the hard part of broadcasting games is when it's lopsided – one way or the other. The Orange Bowl game a few weeks ago was a hard one. Did you watch?

CM: "Oh yeah. That was a tough night. Coach [Bud] Foster will have us in better shape the next time. We'll be better."

BR: You'll be playing for some great coaches in Charley [Wiles] and Bud [Foster], and you were recruited by Coach Cav. Do you realize how many top-flight players Coach Cav has signed over the years?

CM: "He's a pretty amazing guy. He's a great recruiter."

BR: There was some talk about you maybe coming to school early.

CM: "Yes, we looked into that, but my superintendent looked at it, and the way the semesters work here and at Tech, it wasn't going to work out that way."

BR: So, you'll enjoy your final semester in high school and we'll see you at the spring game?

CM: "For sure. Can't wait to get started."

Other recruiting thoughts

• Clearly, defensive linemen were a major focus for this year's class. Virginia Tech signed six defensive linemen on Wednesday. Marshall joins Kris Harley (6-1, 275, Indianapolis, Ind.), Dewayne Alford (6-3, 225, Suffolk, Va.), Matt Roth (6-3, 225, St. Augustine, Fla.), and two young men from Atlantic Community High School in Delray Beach, Fla. – Luther Maddy (6-1, 280), and Wedley Estime (6-3, 215).

• We had our staff go back over the past 11 years and research the college choices of the top-five players in Virginia, as ranked by *The Roanoke Times*. That's a total of 55 players. Since 2001, Virginia Tech has signed 25 of those top-five players. The University of Virginia is second with 11 such signees.

Tech has signed at least one player ranked in the top five each year, with the exception of 2006. That February, Percy Harvin [Florida], Vidal Hazelton [USC], Jarrell Miller [UNC], Damon McDaniel [Florida], and Evan Royster [Penn State] all left the Commonwealth. 

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KEEPING UP WITH COMPLIANCE

The compliance corner answers questions concerning the governance of intercollegiate athletics and its impact on our athletics department. Have a question? Please send it to hokipoki@vt.edu and we'll answer it in upcoming issues.

Now, here are a couple of questions that we've received from Tech alums and fans over the past few months, with responses from Tim Parker, senior assistant AD for compliance:

Q: *A couple of months ago, Kevin in Blacksburg asked about a Texas player who had given up football because of concussions and being allowed to receive aid. According to you, the NCAA allowed this. My question is what if that player wanted to come back and play again? Would the NCAA allow him to do this?*

- Jon in Roanoke, Va.

TP: "Yes, if the medical staff determined that he had recovered to the point of being able to compete again, NCAA rules would permit him to do so. However, any athletically related financial aid that he had received in the interim (while incapacitated) would then retroactively count against the team's financial aid limits."

Q: *I was walking through the new football locker room recently and saw where they had replicas of the bowl rings from each of the past 18 bowls during our recent bowl streak. I was wondering who pays for the bowl rings after a bowl game and can the student-athlete sell the ring for cash? It seems like the Ohio State kids got in a little trouble for doing this.*

- Pam in Christiansburg, Va.

TP: "First, the NCAA allows each school to purchase a bowl or a conference championship ring for each player but

places a limit on how much can be spent. Second, no, a student-athlete cannot sell the ring or anything else for cash or trade it for goods. This applies to rings, tickets, jerseys, etc. Now, once the student-athlete leaves, he or she can sell, trade or do whatever with the materials.

"You're right. This is exactly what got Ohio State in trouble. Five players sold championship rings, jerseys and awards, and they received penalties that included suspending them for five games and forcing them to pay back the value of the things they sold. This money will go to charity."

Q: *Explain the NCAA's logic in not suspending those players for the Sugar Bowl.*

- Jimmy Robertson, Inside Hokie Sports

TP: "This is what people found most puzzling. Rather than begin the suspensions immediately, they were delayed until the first five games of next season.

"Part of the rationale was that the players 'did not receive adequate rules education at the time period the violations occurred.' In other words, the NCAA didn't hold the student-athletes fully responsible for the violations, finding that Ohio State needed to do a better job of educating the student-athletes. Thus, the NCAA said its policy al-

lows players to participate in a championship or bowl game if they were 'not aware they were committing violations.'

"The remainder of the rationale, as I read one NCAA staff member's explanation, was that postseason competitive opportunities -- bowl games and NCAA championships -- are viewed differently than regular-season competitive opportunities (e.g., these opportunities are more special due to their unique nature) when penalties are under consideration. Every effort is made, the spokesman said, to permit players to engage in postseason competition and delay sanctions to the following academic year, where possible.

"Also, consider this. Georgia receiver A.J. Green was suspended the first four games of this past season for selling his 2009 Independence Bowl jersey. So the NCAA's punishment for the Ohio State players was harsher." 

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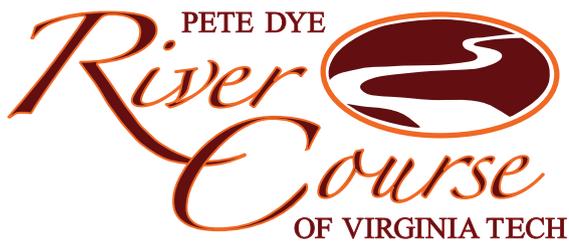
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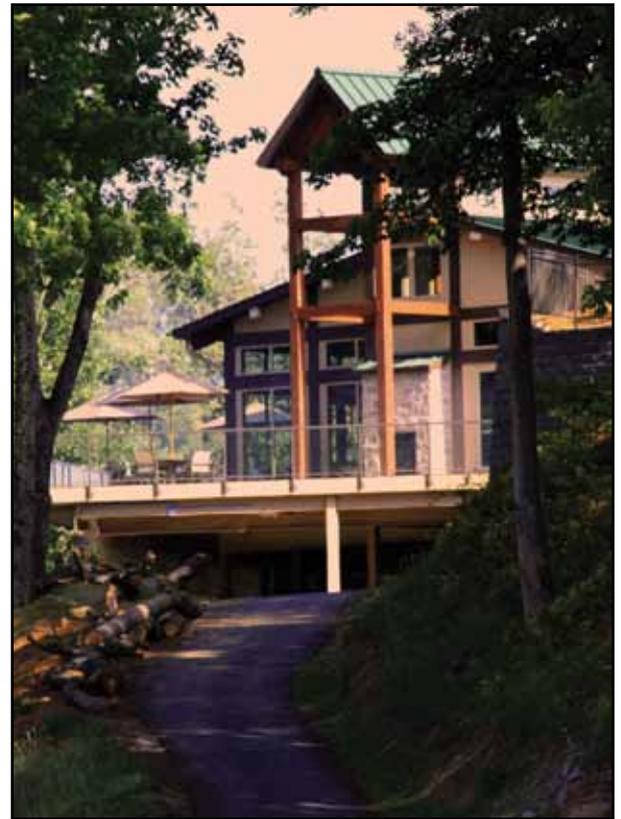
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The beautiful building is hard to miss: a stunning display of concrete and architecture sitting on the corner of Washington Street and Spring Road on Virginia Tech's campus. It features a glass front entrance, domed roof and concrete buttresses practically tethering it to the ground. And on the occasional winter evening, one can stand outside and hear the deafening roar emitting from within.

She is the oldest of Tech's athletics facilities. The grand lady, if you will, of a burgeoning athletics program continuing its rise to national prominence.

She was the brainchild of one man; a visionary who happened to be a farmer's son from Rural Retreat, Va.; a Virginia Tech graduate; and a gentleman who never left Blacksburg once he graduated, serving many roles at Tech as an employee spanning 31 years in the middle of the 20th century.

She is Cassell Coliseum, the home of Virginia Tech's basketball, volleyball and

TOP 10 MOMENTS AT CASSELL COLISEUM

- 1. No. 16 Hokies 76, No. 2 Memphis 72 (Feb. 1, 1986)** – Behind Dell Curry's 28 points and 10,000 screaming fans, Tech beat the Tigers, who were slated to move to No. 1 in the polls. Many consider the crowd for this game the loudest ever at Cassell.
- 2. Tech 64, New Mexico State 61 (March 22, 1995)** – Ace Custis passed the ball to Travis Jackson, who buried a 3-pointer as time expired, sending Tech to New York City, and later, the NIT crown.
- 3. Tech 69, No. 1 Memphis 56 (Jan. 10, 1983)** – Curry and Keith Colbert, both freshmen, played well. But Reggie Steppe's 21 points paced the Hokies in front of a raucous crowd excited about a No. 1 team's first visit to Blacksburg.
- 4. Tech 94, No. 1 UNC 88 (Jan. 13, 2007)** – Zabian Dowdell's 23 points and A.D. Vassallo's 17 off the bench led the Hokies past the Tyler Hansbrough-led Tar Heels.
- 5. Hokies 67, No. 7 Duke 65 (Feb. 18, 2005)** – After getting beat by 35 points just three weeks earlier in Durham, Tech returned home; and Dowdell's 3-pointer with 16 seconds left helped the Hokies to a stunner over J.J. Redick and the Blue Devils.
- 6. Tech 70, Memphis 69 (Feb. 9, 1977)** – The Hokies trailed by 25 points with 15 minutes left and by 11 with 1:54 to go. But Ron Bell's two free throws with six seconds left capped an unbelievable comeback.
- 7. Tech 76, Auburn 61 (March 15, 1999)** – Amy Wetzel scored 18 points as the Hokies, under coach Bonnie Henrickson, rolled Auburn in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in front of nearly 10,000 boisterous fans.
- 8. Hokies 141, Southern Miss 133, 2 OT (Feb. 6, 1988)** – Bimbo Coles scored 51 points as Tech rallied from 18 points down to beat the Golden Eagles in two overtimes. The 141 points are a school record.
- 9. Tech 85, West Virginia 82 (Jan. 29, 1962)** – Rod Thorn and the Mountaineers visited Blacksburg for the first time in 11 years, but Bucky Keller (28 points) and Howard Pardue (26) helped snap WVU's 20-game, Southern Conference winning streak.
- 10. Hokies 90, William & Mary 86, 2 OT (Feb. 10, 1964)** – Down four with five seconds left in regulation, Paul Long took a jumper that fell. After he shot it, John Wetzel got fouled trying for a rebound. He made both free throws to send the game to OT, and Tech later escaped.

(Agree or disagree? Let us know your thoughts. E-mail us at inside@hokiesports.com)



Workers started building the Coliseum in 1961 at the corner of Washington Street and Spring Road. The project cost \$3 million, and Tech played its first game in the building on Jan. 3, 1962.

wrestling programs, and she turned 50 years old this January.

And Stuart Kent Cassell brought her to life.

THE BEGINNING

To say that Mr. Cassell was one of the driving forces behind the building of the Coliseum would be misleading.

“He was *the* driving force behind the project,” said 84-year-young T. Marshall Hahn, the former president at Tech from 1962-74.

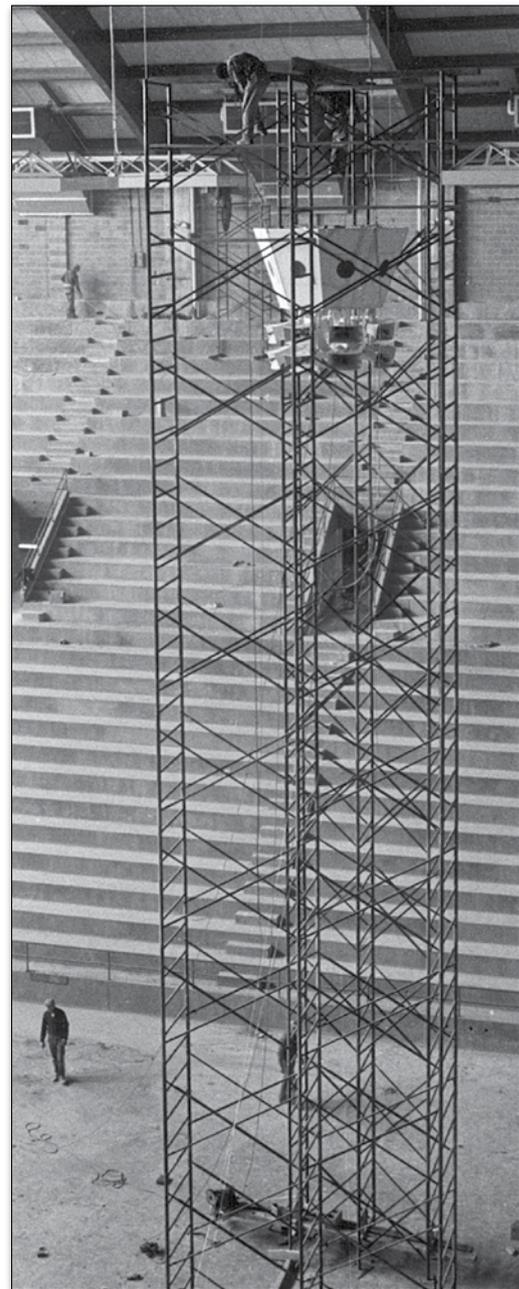
Hahn started his second stint at Tech – he was the head of the physics department from 1954-57 – in July of 1962, which was about the time when workers wrapped up the Coliseum. He envisioned a university that competed in athletics on a national scale, and he quickly learned that he and Cassell shared that same vision.

In the late 1950s, Cassell, who was the

chief business officer at the time and later became the vice president of the school, saw the need for a new basketball arena to replace the outdated War Memorial Gymnasium, built in 1926 to memorialize those who lost their lives in World War I.

Cassell first needed to convince the state legislature in Richmond to allow him to appropriate funds for the project, and those government officials balked at first. So Cassell decided to pitch the project as a “student center” – a place for students to play recreational sports, while also serving as a home for the Hokies’ basketball team.

“There was no way the state was going to fund a new basketball arena,” said Ray Smoot, a 1969 graduate of Tech who has worked in the school’s administration for 32 years and worked with Cassell in the 1970s. “Doing it this way [as a student center] made it palatable for the state to authorize the project.”



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That was just the beginning of the battle. Some wanted an indoor track within the arena, but Cassell wanted no part of that. In fact, most agree Cassell never really intended for the Coliseum to be a student center.

On the contrary, he wanted a 10,000-seat basketball arena. He wanted the largest arena in Virginia, but state government officials viewed 10,000 seats as excessive. They recommended a 6,000-seat arena.

Eventually, both sides compromised on 8,000. Workers broke ground in 1961, and construction started on a project that was to cost nearly \$3 million – a bargain by today's standards.

Cassell, though, was stubborn. He was determined to have 10,000 seats within the arena.

"He found a seat manufacturer that made seats that were a little smaller than the normal seat," Smoot said. "So that's how he got 10,000 seats in there.

"It all really is a great testament to him that he was able to navigate through the political process and to have the vision to look ahead. There really was a need for 10,000 seats."

Cassell and Tech AD Frank Moseley wanted to open the arena – to be christened Virginia Tech Coliseum – on Dec. 8, 1961, against perennial power Kentucky. But the project fell behind. The team, thus, changed its schedule and opened the season with two games on the road and four games at neutral sites (two each in Birmingham, Ala., and Jacksonville, Fla.).

By the end of 1961, the arena was completed enough to play in. So in 1962, Tech was ready for its first game at its new home.

THE FIRST GAME

Tech's administration decided to open the Coliseum on the night of January 3, 1962, for the Hokies' game against an Alabama squad coached by the legendary Wimp Sanderson,

and Howard Pardue still remembers the feelings he had before, during and after the game.

"It's amazing how vividly I remember that night and game," said Pardue, a sophomore then. "There was so much excitement and electricity. We had all white warm-ups, and I remember we came down through the stands and the crowd went wild. I still get chill bumps thinking about it."

Unfortunately for fans, the seats hadn't arrived yet. But Tech's athletics administration decided to go ahead with the game anyway, and the fans, nearly 8,000 of them according to the box score, sat on the concrete, eagerly wanting to see a great team in a new arena.

And it was a great team. Yes, the team had lost Chris Smith, one of the greatest players ever to play at Tech, from the 1960-61 squad, but Tech returned Bucky Keller, a scoring machine at small forward, and Lee Melear, a sweet-shooting left-hander at guard.

Calvin Jacobs and Barry Benfield took care of things in the post, and two football stand-outs, Mike Cahill and Jake Adams, provided some toughness. Pardue – who was in range once he got in the gym – and scrappy point guard Frank Alvis made the Hokies a well-balanced group.

Not to mention, legendary coach Chuck Noe manned the bench with his shrewd assistant Bill Matthews, a former Tech player.

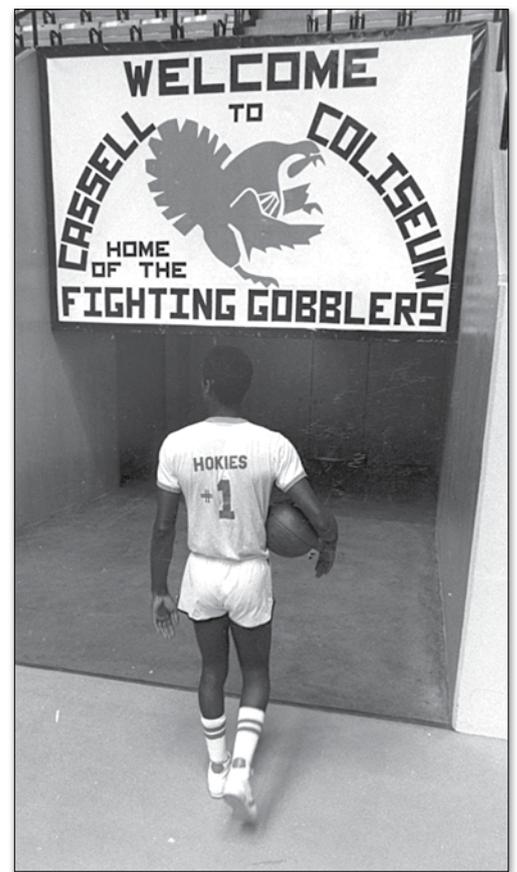
Before the game, conversation centered on who would score the first points in the new arena. Everyone wanted to be the first.

It turned out to be one of the least likely players.

Tech won the opening tip and the ball went to Alvis. He dribbled up the court, and with no one guarding him, he pulled up for a 15-footer.

Swish.

"The tip came to me, and I guess my man



Cassell Coliseum used to be the home of the "Fighting Gobblers," but in the early 1980s, the school started going by the nickname "Hokies."

got lost in the shuffle somehow," the Athens, W.Va., native said. "So I just pulled up and shot it.

"I'm not sure it was that big of a deal at the time. But years later, I was interviewed for a story about the Coliseum, and I said, 'Well, I scored the first two points in the Coliseum.' It became a big deal about 10 or 15 years after I graduated."

Alvis' bucket started an avalanche for the Hokies, who rolled past the Tide, 91-67.



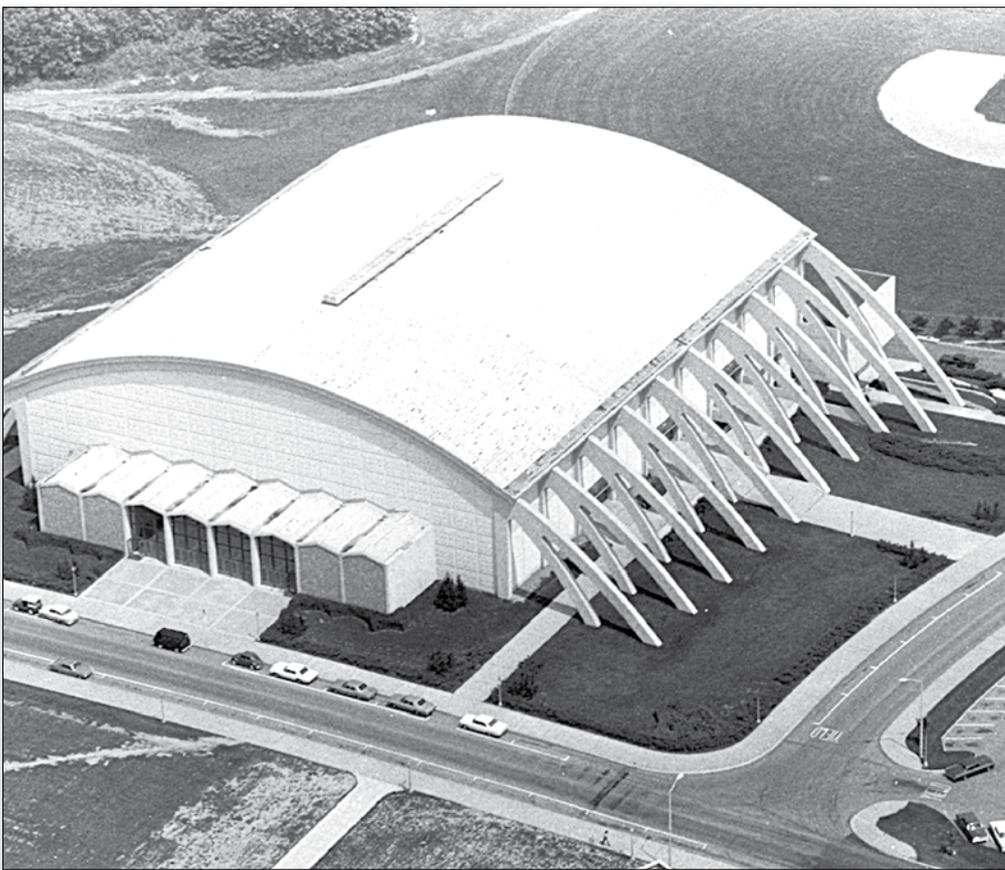
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A lot has changed at Virginia Tech over the years, including the baseball field, which used to be behind Cassell Coliseum. But the Cassell looks today just like it did 50 years ago.

Keller scored 22 points and Pardue finished with 20.

The crowd was deafening, as it often was for games at War Memorial Gym. Tech fans continuously packed the Coliseum for the remainder of that season, and largely as a result, the team won every single home game. Tech finished 19-6 that season.

But this team began the tradition of winning inside the Coliseum. Tech basketball teams won the first 16 games in the arena (which, by the way, extended the home winning streak, in both War Memorial and the Coliseum, to 41 games).

"I'm still proud to be a part of the first team to play in the new arena," Melear said. "There was nothing this big in Virginia at the time. We were kind of behind the times, and the new Coliseum was the showplace in Virginia."

Pardue agreed.

"It showed we were serious about building a basketball program," he said.

UNDENIABLE SUCCESS

The Coliseum was renamed on Nov. 5, 1976, and dedicated on Sept. 17, 1977, to Stuart Cassell, who passed away unexpectedly in October of 1976. The university made this decision to honor Cassell for his hard work and leadership not just to athletics, but also to the school as a whole.

It now serves as home to Tech's volleyball and wrestling programs. But one thing hasn't changed. In the 50 years since that January night, Tech's home has become a graveyard for opponents mainly because of good players, good coaches and a rather rabid fan base.

Particularly in hoops, certain games within its confines will never be forgotten. In December of 1962, Pardue, Melear and company destroyed fifth-ranked Mississippi State, 82-65. Two years later, Tech beat third-ranked Vanderbilt.

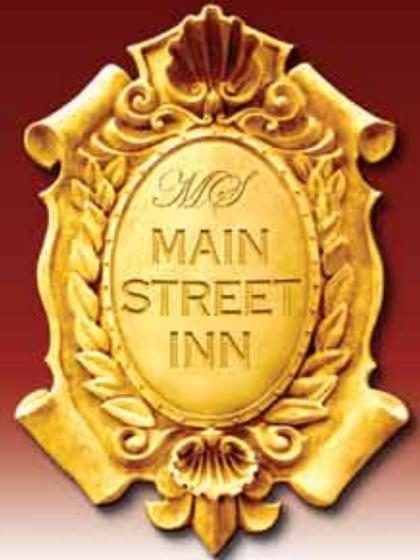
In the late 1970s, Ron Bell rallied Tech from a 25-point deficit with 15 minutes to go (and an 11-point deficit with 1:54 left) to an unbelievable 70-69 victory over Memphis State. A year later, Bell and Tic Price led the Hokies to an 87-71 blasting of 10th-ranked Syracuse.

In the 1980s, Dale Solomon, Dell Curry and Bimbo Coles provided some incredible memories. Curry helped Tech stun top-ranked Memphis 69-56 in 1983, and his 28 points lifted Tech to a 76-72 victory over the second-ranked Tigers in 1986.

The 1990s, of course, provided more thrills, especially under Bill Foster. In 1995, Travis Jackson's jumper buried New Mexico State in the NIT, and Tech fans stormed the floor, as the Hokies advanced to Madison Square Garden, where they would ultimately capture the NIT crown.

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Many consider that game and the 1986 game against Memphis as the loudest the Coliseum has ever been.

"That's my fondest memory of playing in Cassell," said Ace Custis, who had his jersey number retired after a great career from 1993-97. "Travis hitting that 3-point shot to send us to the NIT Final Four ... it happened in slow motion to me. Then to see the crowd rush the floor was just amazing. That's a memory I will always hold on to."

The home court advantage isn't exclusive to the men's team. In 1998-99, the Tech women's team went unbeaten at home, a season that included two NCAA Tournament wins over St. Peters and Auburn – both in front of large crowds. The Tech women finished a school-best 28-3 that season.

The men's team added even more memories in a big way since joining the ACC, with wins over No. 7 Duke in 2005 and No. 1 North Carolina in 2007.

How difficult a place is Cassell Coliseum for opponents? Well, Sanderson and Alabama came back to Cassell Coliseum in 1989 and again lost.

"I told our people we ain't *never* comin' back here," Sanderson told Bill Roth in a Kroger Roth Report last year. "You go ahead and check. 'Bama ain't come back since. This is a damn tough place to play."

THE FUTURE

On Jan. 8 of this year, the Virginia Tech men's basketball program won its 500th game at Cassell. The arena has become synonymous with winning. In 50 years, the Hokies have incurred just one losing season at home.

The winning also extends to the women's basketball program. Tech started women's basketball in 1977, and since then, the women's team has posted a 330-127 mark at the Cassell.

The building itself looks much as it did 50 years ago in large part because the Tech athletics department continues to make improvements. Work was done on the roof in 1996, and restoration and sealing of the concrete exterior took place in 1997. Inside, the athletics department has upgraded locker rooms, added video boards and renovated the concourse area – all within the past decade.

"That's the thing that has surprised me," Pardue said. "It still looks new. Jim Weaver [Tech AD] and the administration have made sure it still looks good. It's still impressive. It's a great arena for basketball."

Pardue, who hadn't been back to Blacksburg since being inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 1992, came back for the Florida State game, as

the athletics department recognized the 1961-62 team for being the first to play in Cassell. Melear, Cahill, Alvis and Jacobs also came back.

The athletics department has been recognizing other basketball greats throughout the season to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Cassell. Allan Bristow, Curry and Custis were honored, and Coles will be recognized at the Duke game on Feb. 26. Also, former coach Charlie Moir, the school's all-time winningest coach, was recognized.

Cassell Coliseum figures to be the Hokies' hoops home for quite some time into the future. There are no plans to build a fancy new arena, and really, there isn't a need.

Thanks to Stuart Cassell's foresight 50 years ago, Tech's Cassell provides for everything the athletics department needs.

"It's so well-suited for its purpose," Hahn said. "You just couldn't have better viewing lines, and you couldn't have a better fan-friendly environment. It makes sense to add to the facility instead of spending \$100 million on a building that wouldn't have as great a viewing lines and marginal extra capacity.

"Stuart knew what he was doing when he planned that building." 

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The advertisement displays a variety of Virginia Tech basketball apparel. On the left, there are long sleeve t-shirts in maroon and white. In the center, there are several t-shirts in orange, white, and maroon. On the right, there are women's and men's jerseys in maroon with white and orange accents. A basketball is shown in the bottom right corner.

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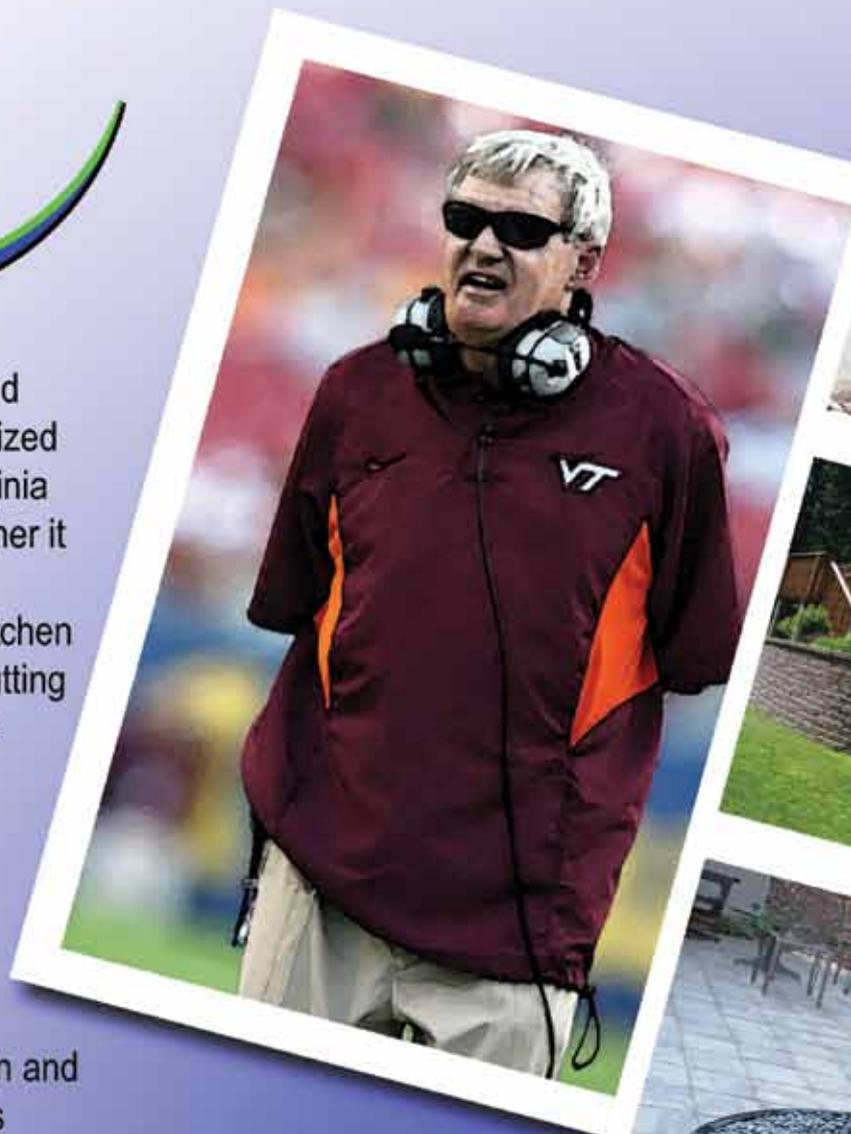


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ALLEN ECLIPSES MILESTONE IN SOLID SENIOR SEASON

With his 15 points in Tech's win over N.C. State, Jeff Allen eclipsed the 1,500-point mark for his career.

It has taken a while, but Tech forward Jeff Allen is starting to get recognized for his production on the basketball court – and not the extra-curricular stuff that has brought him unwanted attention in the past.

Thanks to a string of great performances, Allen eclipsed the 1,500-point mark for his career with his 15-point, 11-rebound outing in the Hokies' 77-69 victory at N.C. State on Feb. 2. In doing so, he became the 16th player in Tech history to score more than 1,500 career points.

His best work of late came against Florida State and then against Georgia Tech, Miami and the Wolfpack in consecutive games. He had 24 points and 11 rebounds against the Seminoles and then had back-to-back 18-point, 11-rebound outings against the Yellow Jackets and the Hurricanes before his strong outing against the Wolfpack.

"He really took us to the woodshed," FSU coach Leonard Hamilton said after a Jan. 8 game. "We had very little answer for him. We've normally been able to keep him in check. But he played with a tremendous amount of maturity and executed well. He was very patient in his game and that was one reason why they kept us at bay."

Maturity and patience haven't been used to describe Allen in the past. But those two adjectives are big reasons why he ranks among the ACC leaders in several categories.

The N.C. State game marked his 10th double-double of the season – he had nine double-doubles all of last season. He has 38 in his career heading into the BC game on Feb. 5, easily the ACC's leader ahead of the 25 by Maryland's Jordan Williams.

"It's turned out a little better than I expected," Allen said of his season. "The difference between now and the beginning of the season was we had more people. So now that we have less people, I have more of a role and I have to continue having more of a role."

"I came in with the goal of being a scorer and a rebounder. It's key right now, though. It has to happen for us to be successful."

Perhaps more importantly, Allen has been able to stay on the court this season, averaging a career-best 30 minutes per game, and he also

has avoided any other sort of trouble. He incurred two separate suspensions in the past for certain incidents, one his freshman year and one his sophomore year.

"Jeff's got a new attitude," guard Malcolm Delaney said. "He's more mature, and he knows he has a bright future. He knows what he has to do. He has goals just like everyone else playing college basketball, and he's finally realized how good he was. He had to go back to being that player. His attitude has changed and his work ethic has changed. He's a new player."

His missteps shouldn't deter from a career that statistically is one of the best ever by a Tech player. He'll rank in the top 15 in career scoring at Tech by season's end, barring injury, and he already ranks

in the top five in rebounding, blocked shots and steals.

"The guy's going to leave here one of the all-time best players in the history of the school statistically," Tech coach Seth Greenberg said. "Obviously, he's had some hiccups. But I think he understands this is his last time through these doors. I really believe that he does feel that way and he wants to get the most out of this experience."

Heading into the final weeks of the season, that certainly appears to be the case.

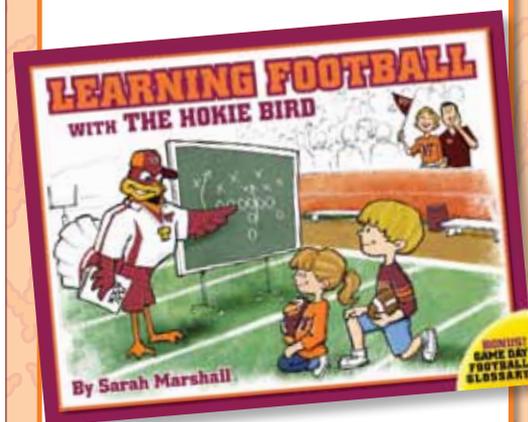
GREEN'S FAST START AS A STARTER

Erick Green entered the starting lineup on Dec. 12 against Penn State and immediately became a more productive player.



Tech hasn't missed a beat since Erick Green's insertion into the starting lineup for an injured Dorengo Hudson, as the Hokies finished 5-3 in the first half of ACC play.

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The sophomore from Winchester, Va., scored in double figures in his first 10 games. The streak ended when he scored nine points in the Hokies' 72-57 loss at Georgia Tech, a game in which he made just 3 of 15 from the floor and missed all four of his 3-point attempts.

In that 10-game stretch, though, he averaged 14 points and 3.4 assists per game. He shot 51.5 percent from the floor and 81 percent from the free-throw line.

His best performance came on Jan. 20 when he tallied a career-high 24 points in Tech's 74-57 road victory at Maryland. He connected on 12 of 16 from the floor.

"I've got to thank my team for that," he said. "They saw me and helped me out. I saw a big basket, and that's my new goal. I want to see a big basket every time I step on the floor."

"I think, with Erick Green coming into the lineup, Erick has made Malcolm better and Malcolm has taken a lot of pressure off of Erick," Greenberg said. "As a backcourt, they've really complemented each other well."

DELANEY REACHES MILESTONE

Delaney's greatness has been written about many times in this publication,

but the senior from Baltimore, Md., accomplished something that only three other players in school history have accomplished – scoring 2,000 points.

Delaney reached that plateau on a jumper with 56 seconds left in the victory over N.C. State. He joined Bimbo Coles, Dell Curry and Dale Solomon as the only Hokies to reach 2,000 career points.

"It's good to be up there with those guys," Delaney said on the postgame radio show. "That's what coming back for your senior season can do. It gives you an opportunity to accomplish what most can't, so I'm glad to be up there with those guys."

He finished with 22 points, hitting 7 of 16 from the floor, including 2 of 6 from beyond the 3-point arc, and all six of his free-throw attempts.

ATKINS, EDDIE WITH CAREER GAMES AGAINST WAKE

The Hokies got major production from their bench in a 94-65 pounding of Wake Forest at Cassell Coliseum on Jan. 15. Paced by sophomore Manny Atkins and freshman Jarell Eddie, Tech's bench contributed 39 points.

Atkins, who had been bothered by

a sore shoulder, scored a career-high 16 points. That performance, which surpassed his previous career high of 12 against Mount St. Mary's earlier this season, came on the heels of a nine-point performance against North Carolina in which he hit three 3-pointers in 23 minutes.

"Knocking down those shots did build my confidence and let me come into this game and play with more confidence," Atkins said after the Wake game. "I'm a ball player and I'm coming in to play. Coming out of high school, I was known as a shooter and now I'm getting that back."

Eddie scored a career-high 12 points – his first game in double figures.

"I just did what I can do," Eddie said. "I came out and played and was able to make some shots early. That got my confidence up."

"I want to get his motor going," Greenberg said of Eddie. "He needs to get his motor going. It's playing hard on defense, it's running the floor, it's putting your nose in there, it's being ready to play and paying attention to the scouting report ... it's all those things. He's learning that." 



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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT RECRUITING

As told by Jim Cavanaugh, Tech's whips and rovers coach who also doubles as the Hokies' recruiting coordinator

1. THE NCAA PLACES STRICT LIMITATIONS ON COACHES.

"I don't think people understand the rules governing phone calls and contact periods versus evaluation periods, things like that. Basically, when you can talk to someone in person and when you can talk to someone on the phone is governed by the NCAA.

"Unless it's a contact period, when the NCAA allows unlimited calls, you only get one phone call a week. And if something comes up ... let's say something comes up as far as a kid coming to a game and you've already used your one phone call for the week. Well, you can't call that kid back. So that makes it tough.

"Now, you could e-mail the kid, but kids don't check e-mail. They check Facebook. Now, if you e-mail off Facebook, you've got a chance."

2. FACEBOOK IS BEING USED MORE AND MORE BY COACHES.

"A lot of coaches use the e-mail part of Facebook, but you cannot write on that young man's wall. That's not allowed by the NCAA. One head coach in our state made that mistake.

"The NCAA outlawed texting, but when you could text, that helped with logistics. Facebook became popular, I believe, when you couldn't text. We have staff members who use Facebook as a medium to e-mail recruits.

"Coaches have to adapt in recruiting. We have to adapt to the vehicles kids use. How do they communicate? Cell phones and Facebook."

3. CELL PHONES AREN'T NECESSARILY A GREAT THING.

"From my point of view, what cell phones have done is eliminate contact with the parents. You used to call the home phone, and when the mom or dad picked it up, you talked to them before they went and got their son. That doesn't happen anymore. I think that's a bad thing because I love talking to both. You don't get a chance to fill the parents in on what's going on with the recruiting process. Then you could have a more informed parent. But once you've



Photo courtesy of Dean Hoffmeyer
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Chris Hall (right) was a very good quarterback at Dinwiddie High [Va.] School, but Jim Cavanaugh and the Hokies were up front in letting him know that they wanted to move him to tight end.

talked to the young man on his cell phone, you've used your hit for the week. Now, during a contact period, when there are unlimited calls, then you can do both."

4. THE MOM MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS.

"If you asked coaches, the answer you're going to get in most cases is mom. I think every recruit has someone he's talking to. He's telling one person what's going on. In most cases, that's the mom, but not 100 percent. I always try to find out who the kid talks to. Now, sometimes, there isn't a person, but that's rare."

5. LOSING RECRUITS HANGS WITH YOU FOR A WHILE.

"Sometimes, it has to do with you knowing a kid has made a decision for the wrong reason. That's what bothers me. You know a kid is going to a school because of a cer-

tain factor that will not exist a year later.

"The one that gets me is when they've been guaranteed to play a certain position, and then once the kid signs, they move him. That's usually the most common, and that bugs me to death. We let the kids know. Chris Hall is a good example. He knew the whole deal. He knew we were recruiting him as a tight end.

"Another thing kids don't realize is 'out of sight, out of mind.' In other words, kids go away to school, and those coaches can mess with you and move you to another position because they may never set foot at your high school again. The in-state coaches are the fairest. I'm held to a higher degree of honor. If I take a kid from the city of Richmond and say he's going to play a certain position, and if I don't live up to it, I'm going to hear about it from the people at his high school. Not only is it not fair to the kid, but it makes it harder to get kids from that school in the future." 

Kyshoen Jarrett, a cornerback from Pennsylvania, was one of five All-Americans who signed with the Hokies on Signing Day.



Courtesy of Rivals.com

FIVE ALL-AMERICANS HEADLINE HOKIES' 2011 FOOTBALL RECRUITING HAUL

Last spring, Virginia Tech's coaching staff went into the critical spring recruiting period handcuffed by numbers.

A small senior class left the staff unable to dole out many scholarship offers, and most observers of the recruiting scene fully expected the Hokies' coaches to land no more than 14 prospects in the 2011 class.

But head coach Frank Beamer always manages to make the numbers work to get the players he wants.

Having said that, the Tech football program added 20 prospects to the fold, as announced by the athletics department on Feb. 2, better known as National Signing Day. Of those 20, one graduated from high school early and enrolled for the spring semester in Blacksburg, and deferring enrollment until January of 2012 remains an option for a couple of others.

"For a year when we had a limited number of scholarships, I think we got an excellent class," Beamer said. "I'm really pleased with the guys we got. As always, every year, there are a couple that you would have liked to have gotten. I'm sure everyone says that, and that's the case with us, too. We missed on a couple of good players, but we got a lot of really good players and guys I think have a great future at Virginia Tech."

The class obviously features numerous prospects at need positions for the Hokies. For example, Tech's staff signed six defensive linemen, five defensive backs and four tight ends, as they seek to replenish somewhat thin positions. The rest of the class includes three wide receivers, a tailback and an offensive lineman.

But Tech didn't just add to the program in terms of numbers. The Hokies also added in terms of talent.

The class includes five who earned All-America honors by *SuperPrep* and four who received *PrepStar* All-America honors. The prospects who made the *SuperPrep* All-America team include Corey Marshall, a 6-foot-2, 252-pound defensive end from Dinwiddie, Va.; Kris Harley, a 6-1, 275-pounder from Indianapolis, Ind.; Kyshoen Jarrett, a 5-10, 175-pounder from Tannersville, Pa.; Adeboye Aromire, a 6-0, 180-pounder from Washington, D.C.; and Ronny Vandyke, a 6-3, 200-pounder from Lorton, Va. Aromire, who graduated from high school early and is attending classes at Tech, did not make the *PrepStar* squad.

Marshall probably headlines the class after recording more than 100 tackles, including 49 for

a loss, combined in each of the past two seasons. He and Harley both dominated on the defensive front at their respective high schools and could play early because the staff wants to shore up the defensive front following a season in which several teams ran the ball successfully against the Hokies.

"I think they're two tremendous players," Beamer said. "They're athletic, they can redirect and they can play. We'll see how quickly they can learn the system, and see how things fill out at their positions after spring practice. Certainly, the talent level of those kids is extremely good."

But they're not the only ones who could see time. Beamer never shies away from playing freshmen – defensive back Kyle Fuller and defensive tackle Derrick Hopkins played last season – and if any of these young men prove worthy in August practices, then they'll be on the field in 2011.

GOING BEYOND THE BORDERS

A year ago, Tech's staff signed 13 players from the commonwealth of Virginia, continuing a trend in which 51 Virginia natives signed with the program over a three-year stretch starting in 2007.

This year, Tech's staff inked eight players from the commonwealth, including six of the top-25 prospects in Virginia, according to Doug Doughty, who covers recruiting for *The Roanoke Times* and *SuperPrep*. Marshall was the top-rated of the bunch, coming in at No. 5 on the list.

"I think we did very well," Tech recruiting coordinator Jim Cavanaugh said. "Did we get everyone? No. There are several we would have liked to have had. But the

TOP FIVE

1. Corey Marshall – Marshall is a typical Tech defensive end. He's not the biggest guy in the world, but he runs well, and he's relentless. He's also productive, having recorded more than 100 tackles each of the past two seasons at Dinwiddie High. Nearly half of those tackles were for a loss.

2. Kris Harley – Indianapolis was good to the Hokies once (Darren Evans), so Tech's staff went back again, this time getting Harley away from an impressive list of schools (Southern Cal and Oklahoma offered). He's a big guy, with quick feet and quick hands, and he pursues well. He has the potential to play quickly at a need spot for Tech.

3. Kyshoen Jarrett – A coaching change at Pittsburgh turned out to be Tech's gain, as Jarrett decided to back out of a commitment to the Panthers once Dave Wannstedt was let go. A bigger corner, he possesses speed, and he plays the ball well in the air. He's not afraid to deliver a blow to a running back either.

4. Ronny Vandyke – Vandyke missed his junior year with a shoulder injury, but Tech's staff knew about his skills and snared him before anyone else saw him during his great senior season. He excels closer to the line of scrimmage, where he can be around the football. He'll likely be a free safety or a rover at Tech.

5. Adeboye Aromire – Like Jarrett, he's a bigger cornerback who loves being around the football. He's physical, and he's versatile. Given his size, range and ball skills, he could play several positions in Tech's scheme. He graduated from high school early and enrolled at Tech for the spring semester.

ones we got are very good."

Interestingly, Tech's staff went to some unfamiliar places to get players. They signed at least one player each from Minnesota, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Florida. In the case of Pennsylvania and Florida, these are places where they've scaled back recruiting in recent years.

Of course, there were some unique situations in play. Jarrett, for example, de-committed from Pittsburgh following

head coach Dave Wannstedt's firing. James Farrow, a 6-0, 170-pound cornerback from Minnesota, de-committed from Minnesota and contacted Tech's staff. The Golden Gophers ended up firing head coach Tim Brewster. Ryan Malleck, a 6-5, 240-pound tight end from New Jersey, de-committed from Maryland after the Terps forced out head coach Ralph Friedgen.

Harley, the All-American defensive tackle from Indianapolis, goes to the same high school as former Tech running back



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Dewayne Alford	DE	6-3	225	Suffolk, Va.	Nansemond River	Curt Newsome
Adeboye Aromire	CB	6-0	180	Washington, D.C.	H.D. Woodson	Kevin Sherman
Kevin Asante	WR	6-0	185	Charlotte, N.C.	Mallard Creek	Kevin Sherman
Michael Cole	DB	6-1	200	Roanoke, Va.	Cave Spring	Bryan Stinespring
Wedley Estime	DE/OLB	6-3	215	Delray Beach, Fla.	Atlantic Community	Charley Wiles
James Farrow	CB	6-0	170	Chanhassen, Minn.	Minnetonka	Torrian Gray
Jake Goins	OT	6-5	288	Midlothian, Va.	Manchester	Jim Cavanaugh
Chris Hall	TE	6-5	232	Petersburg, Va.	Dinwiddie	Jim Cavanaugh
Kris Harley	DT	6-1	275	Indianapolis, Ind.	Warren Central	Charley Wiles
Michael Holmes	RB	6-1	200	Harrisonburg, Va.	Harrisonburg	Curt Newsome
Kyshoen Jarrett	CB	5-10	175	Tannersville, Pa.	East Stroudsburg South	Torrian Gray
Demitri Knowles	WR	6-0	175	Lynchburg, Va.	Liberty Christian Academy	Bryan Stinespring
Robert Lockhart	WR	6-2	175	Delray Beach, Fla.	West Boca Raton	Torrian Gray
Luther Maddy	DT	6-1	280	Delray Beach, Fla.	Atlantic Community	Charley Wiles
Ryan Malleck	TE	6-5	240	Point Pleasant, N.J.	Point Pleasant Borough	Bryan Stinespring
Corey Marshall	DE	6-2	252	Petersburg, Va.	Dinwiddie	Jim Cavanaugh
Darius Redman	TE	6-4	240	Washington, D.C.	H.D. Woodson	Kevin Sherman
Christian Reeves	TE	6-3	215	McDonough, Ga.	Eagles Landing Christian Academy	Torrian Gray
Matt Roth	DE	6-3	225	St. Augustine, Fla.	Nease	Charley Wiles
Ronny Vandyke	DB	6-3	200	Lorton, Va.	South County	Bud Foster

SLEEPERS ZZZZZZZZ

- 1. Ryan Malleck** – Maryland’s decision to oust Ralph Friedgen worked in Tech’s favor, as the Hokies landed a big tight end with good speed and great hands. He’ll need to work on being more physical at the point of attack, but his ball skills and ability to make tough catches should be of great benefit to Tech’s offense.
- 2. Robert Lockhart** – Lockhart got more and more attention toward the end of the process after catching four passes for 67 yards and two touchdowns in the Palm Beach-Treasure Coast All-Star game to earn MVP honors. He is not big, but he’s a phenomenal athlete. He’s got great speed and soft hands, and could get on the field quickly.
- 3. Michael Holmes** – Frank Beamer compared Holmes to former Hokie Lee Suggs, and that’s a lofty comparison. But Holmes has been the most productive high school tailback in the state the past two years. Holmes is more of a runner between the tackles than a pure breakaway threat, but Suggs racked up plenty of yardage with that same style.
- 4. Darius Redman** – Redman is a big, physical tight end who possesses the strength to contribute early as a blocker. He has the frame to get even bigger. He has solid hands, but perhaps more impressively, it takes more than one man to bring him down. He’s a little raw, but possesses a lot of potential.
- 5. Wedley Estime** – Estime may be the perfect sleeper. He played one year of high school football, and yet his highlight tape was incredible. The things that jump out are that he can run and he goes all out. He needs to get much bigger and much stronger, and he might not help right away. But down the road, he could be a very good player.

Darren Evans, and defensive linemen Wedley Estime and Luther Maddy attend the same high school as current Hokies Jayron Hosley and Mark Leal.

“I think that says something about Virginia Tech,” Beamer said. “Certainly, recruiting the state of Virginia is a priority.

“But when you’re the only team in the

country that has won 10 games the past seven years, your name gets out there. Kids from Minnesota and New Jersey and Florida and Indiana ... they become familiar with your program. We’re really surprised we were able to attract the quality of guys from outside the state that we did this year.”

D-LINE AND TIGHT END NEEDS

In keeping with another trend, Tech’s staff went heavy on the defensive line, signing six. This has been a focus for Tech’s staff for three straight years now. In fact, the coaches have signed 17 defensive line prospects in that time span, though some didn’t make it to Tech (e.g. DeAntre Rhodes) and others have been moved to the offensive line (e.g. David Wang).

Marshall and Harley headline this group for a couple of reasons – they’re big, quick, fast and can get off blocks. Other defensive line signees include Dewayne Alford, a 6-3, 225-pounder from Suffolk, Va., and Matt Roth, a 6-3, 225-pounder from St. Augustine, Fla.

The staff also added the two defensive linemen from Atlantic Community High in Delray Beach, Fla. – Estime, a 6-3, 215-pounder, and Maddy, a 6-1, 280-pounder.

“It’s hard to find bigger guys who can run,” Cavanaugh said. “That’s why those dominating defensive ends go high in the NFL Draft. They’re hard to find. They can disrupt a game. Look at the success our defensive ends have had over the years. They’re disruptors.”

In addition to the defensive line, Tech’s staff focused on the tight end position, signing four of them. That group includes Malleck; Chris Hall, a 6-5, 232-pounder from Dinwiddie, Va.; Darius Redman, a 6-4, 240-pounder from Washington, D.C.; and Christian Reeves, a 6-3, 215-pounder from Georgia. Hall played quarterback at Dinwiddie High, and Reeves played receiver at his high school in McDonough, Ga., but both possess the traits needed to be successful tight ends.

HOST	ALSO CONSIDERED	NOTABLE
Derrick Hopkins	JMU, ODU	Rated the No. 30 prospect in Virginia by <i>Rivals</i>
N/A	Maryland, Clemson, Georgia, Illinois	Ranked the No. 3 prospect in Washington, D.C., by <i>Rivals</i>
Nick Dew	WVU, N.C. State, UNC	First-team All-Mecklenburg Co. by <i>The Charlotte Observer</i>
Trey Gresh	Penn State, UVa, Duke	Ranked the No. 15 prospect in Virginia by <i>The Roanoke Times</i>
Jayron Hosley	Minnesota	Ranked the No. 35 player in the area by <i>The Palm Beach Post</i>
Zack McCray	Minnesota, WVU, Michigan State, Wisconsin	No. 54 prospect in Midwest by <i>SuperPrep</i>
Matt Arkema	UVa, Maryland, Clemson	Rated the No. 21 prospect in Virginia by <i>The Roanoke Times</i> and <i>SuperPrep</i>
Logan Thomas	Marshall, UVa	Rated the No. 18 prospect in Virginia by <i>The Roanoke Times</i>
Zack McCray	UNC, USC, Ohio State, Purdue	<i>SuperPrep</i> and <i>PrepStar</i> All-American
Tony Gregory	JMU, Marshall, UNC, UVa	Two-time Group AA player of the year
Kyle Fuller	Pittsburgh, Illinois, Rutgers, Penn State	<i>SuperPrep</i> and <i>PrepStar</i> All-American
Zack McCray	UVa	No. 27 prospect in Va. by <i>The Roanoke Times</i>
Jayron Hosley	Kansas State, Nebraska	First-team all-area by <i>The Palm Beach Post</i>
Jayron Hosley	Western Michigan	First-team all-area by <i>The Palm Beach Post</i>
Trey Gresh	Maryland, Miami	No. 16 prospect in New Jersey by <i>SuperPrep</i>
Logan Thomas	UVa, WVU, Michigan, Tenn.	<i>SuperPrep</i> and <i>PrepStar</i> All-American
Nick Dew	UVa, UNC, Marshall, Temple	No. 17 prospect in Washington, D.C., by <i>SuperPrep</i>
Matt Arkema	Michigan, Vandy, UCF	No. 48 prospect in Georgia by <i>SuperPrep</i>
Chase Williams	South Carolina, WVU, Purdue	No. 14 weakside DE prospect in nation by <i>Rivals</i>
Tariq Edwards	Maryland, Pittsburgh	<i>SuperPrep</i> and <i>PrepStar</i> All-American

The Hokies' staff has come up short on tight end numbers in the past few years in large part because they keep moving them to other positions. Chris Drager [defensive end], Andrew Lanier [offensive tackle] and Greg Nosal [offensive guard] are recent examples, and all turned out to be very good players at their current respective spots.

"It's hard to find tight ends these days," Cavanaugh said. "The high school coaches are all going to these four wides [four wide-receiver sets]. But we like tight ends. They can do a lot of things. They're good on special teams. Chris Drager is a great example. He was a tight end, and we moved him to defense. He plays on a lot of our special teams.

"I think this group has good size. They're athletic and they can catch."

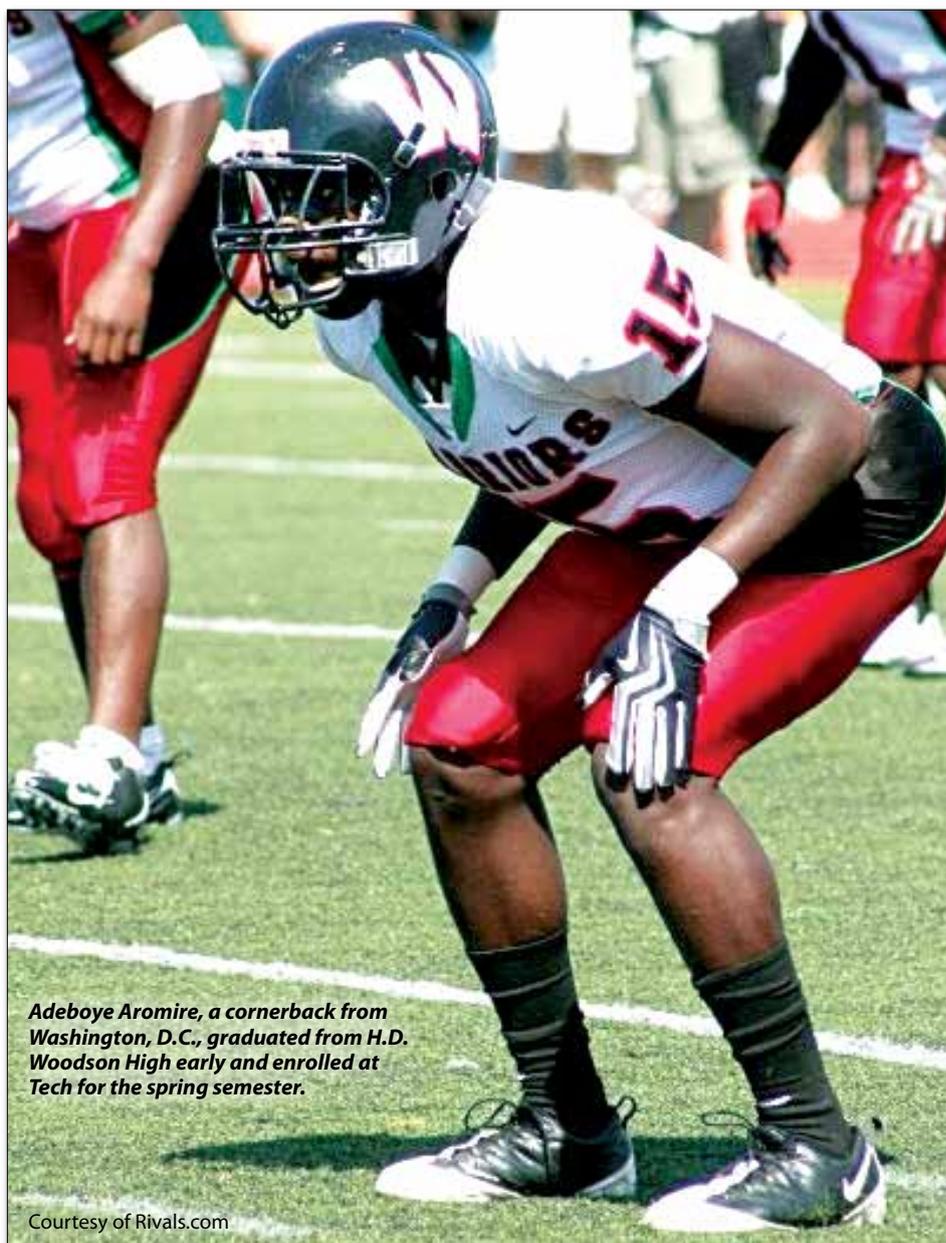
Tech's other big need came at the corner-back positions, and the staff signed three good ones in Jarrett and Aromire, two *SuperPrep* All-Americans, and Farrow, the No. 40 "athlete" in the Midwest by *Rivals*. All possess size and speed.

"In our scheme, we put a lot of pressure on our corners, and you just try to find guys who can play man coverage," Cavanaugh said. "I like the ones we got."

Tech's staff also bolstered the secondary by signing potential safeties in Vandyke and Michael Cole, both of whom were rated No. 11 and No. 15 in Virginia, respectively by *The Roanoke Times*.

LOOKING AT OFFENSE

Outside of tight end, the staff went light on offense, signing one tailback in Michael Holmes, a 6-1, 200-pounder from Harrisonburg, Va. The departure of Ryan Williams and Darren Evans made tailback a



Adebayo Aromire, a cornerback from Washington, D.C., graduated from H.D. Woodson High early and enrolled at Tech for the spring semester.

Courtesy of Rivals.com

need, and the Hokies landed the state's most productive in Holmes, who rushed for 5,600 yards and scored 82 touchdowns his final two seasons at Harrisonburg High School.

The staff also brought in three receivers in Robert Lockhart, a 6-2, 175-pounder from Delray Beach, Fla.; Demitri Knowles, a 6-1, 175-pounder from Lynchburg, Va., who has only played football for two years; and Kevin

Asante, a 6-0, 175-pounder from Charlotte, N.C. They give the staff three big and fast prospects to work with in the future.

The only other signee on the offensive side of the ball was Goins, a 6-5, 288-pounder from Midlothian, Va., who was one of the best offensive linemen in the state.

Tech's staff figures to make the offensive line, which loses four starters, and linebacker

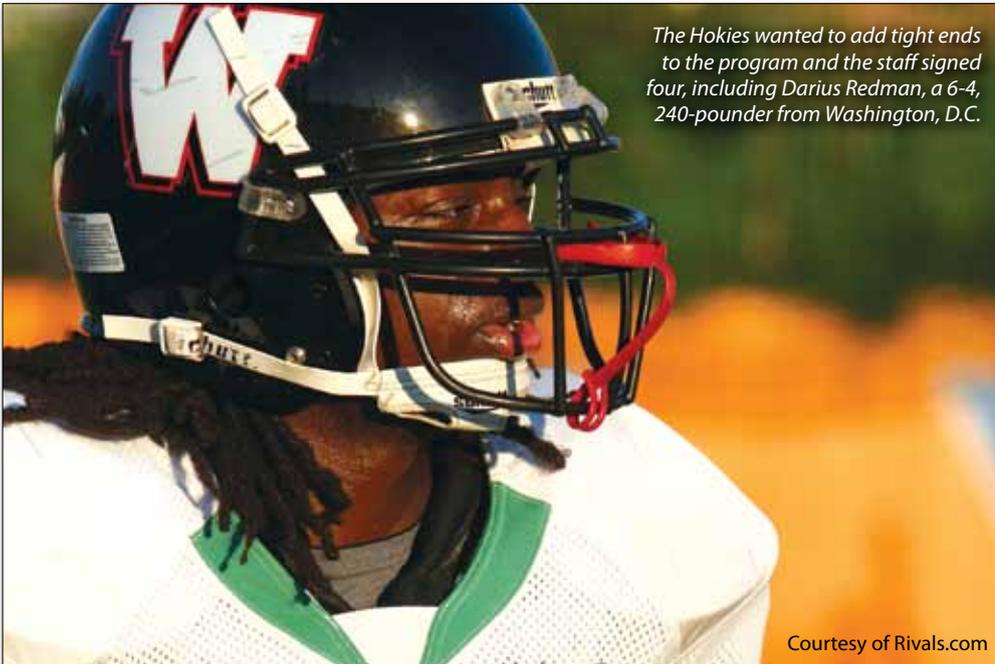
a point of emphasis with the next recruiting class. They tried to land a couple of high-quality linebackers, but came up short.

"Offensive line will be a priority next year. We lose some good ones next year," Beamer said. "At linebacker, we have some guys in the program, and a couple of them, we're interested in seeing what happens in the spring. You wouldn't mind having another linebacker, but we have some numbers to work with in the spring."

As for the 2011 crop, Rivals rated it No. 33 nationally, and most recruiting services will probably rate the class between No. 25-35 nationally. That has Tech's fan base a little upset, as they want to see the Hokies take the next step on the national stage and realize that more great players help toward that goal.

But Tech's football boss doesn't get caught up in ratings.

"The bottom line is to be able to win," he said. "I feel proud of the fact that we've been able to win in a consistent fashion, and I take it as a compliment that a lot of the conversation is about taking the next step. That wasn't in the conversation a few years back. Winning ACC championships wasn't in the conversation a few years back. I take it as a compliment that we're talking about what it takes to take that next step." 



The Hokies wanted to add tight ends to the program and the staff signed four, including Darius Redman, a 6-4, 240-pounder from Washington, D.C.

Courtesy of Rivals.com

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2011 RECRUITING CLASS

Here are the profiles for the members of the recruiting class:

Stats: Had 90 tackles, including 12 for a loss, and five sacks as a senior ... Recorded 61 tackles and six sacks as a junior.

Top honors: A second-team All-Tidewater selection by *The Virginian*



DEWAYNE ALFORD

6-3, 225, DE
Nansemond River HS
Suffolk, Va.

Pilot this season ... Ranked the No. 32 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* ... Rated the No. 30 prospect in Virginia by Rivals ... Listed the No. 38 prospect in Virginia by *SuperPrep*.

Why he chose Tech: "It seemed like home to me. I wasn't heavily recruited. I had two other offers, but it wouldn't have mattered. I would have still picked Virginia Tech. They had what I wanted to study, and it was just a good fit athletically and academically. I think I can become the player I want to be there."

On "grayshirting" and enrolling next January: "It wasn't a problem with me. I'll keep working hard, and I'll take some classes here. I'll get my body in the best shape possible, so that the curve won't be as hard. Plus, it'll give me a chance at a master's degree, if I want."

On his projected position at Tech: "They're looking at me as a defensive end. I feel good about that. I can't wait to get in there and get better. I can't wait to start working hard and reach my max potential."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I have some stuff I have to get down. Coaches have told me that when they see me play, I'm playing off my athleticism. So I need to get my technique down and refine my skills. I think I have good speed off the ball and quick hand movement, but I need to become more physical and not just rely on finesse."

Notables: Born Jan. 12, 1993, in Savannah, Ga. ... Son of Dewayne and Linda Alford ... Has a younger brother, Alan ... Contemplated major is human nutrition, foods and exercise ... Became the first Nansemond River grad to sign with an ACC school for football ... Played for Tracey Parker, who was former defensive end Chris Ellis' high school coach at Bethel High.

Stats: Finished with 1,003 yards receiving and 14 touchdowns his senior season.

Top honors: First-team All-Mecklenburg County by *The Charlotte*



KEVIN ASANTE

6-0, 185, WR
Mallard Creek HS
Charlotte, N.C.

Observer ... A second-team All-Observer selection by *The Charlotte Observer* ... An all-conference pick in I-MECK 4A.

Why he chose Tech: "When I got there, it was the place I wanted to be. It's a great opportunity for

me, and I want to go there and do big things."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I'd say speed for me. I can catch. It's trouble for a cornerback if he's on me one-on-one. I'm used to seeing double teams. I think I'm strong and tough, too. I need to become a more precise route runner and learn how to read defenders better."

On the difference between his junior and senior season: "The offensive coordinator. He was real good. He could study defenses like a science, and he could see players. If you could play, it didn't matter what grade you were in. He would play you."

On his most memorable moment: "I have two. I scored with 1.5 seconds before halftime in one of our games. I told the coach I wanted to score before halftime, and he decided to go for it. The other team was playing a prevent defense, and I was able to run through all those defenders for a 60-yard touchdown.

"The other one was against our rivals. I scored on the first play of the game and went on to score four touchdowns in the game."

On his favorite players: "I'd say André Johnson [a receiver for the Houston Texans] and Calvin Johnson [a receiver for the Detroit Lions]. They're both strong and fast and can beat cornerbacks like it's nothing."

Notables: Born Oct. 28, 1992, in Brooklyn, N.Y. ... Son of Michael Asante and Betty Adrafie ... Has five older brothers ... Contemplated major is engineering or something related to coaching.

Stats: Had three interceptions and eight pass breakups as a senior ... Recorded 71 tackles and two interceptions as a junior.

Top honors: Rated the No. 3 prospect in Washington, D.C., and the No.



ADEBOYE AROMIRE

6-0, 180, CB
H.D. Woodson HS
Washington, D.C.

37 cornerback prospect in the nation by Rivals ... Listed as the No. 33 cornerback prospect in the nation by *SuperPrep* ... Ranked the No. 47 cornerback prospect in the nation by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... A second-team All-Met

selection by *The Washington Post* as a defensive back.

Why he chose Tech: "Virginia Tech is prestigious academically, and they have my major [biology]. Athletically, I can come in and prosper as a defensive back. We have a great defensive backs coach and a defensive coordinator who runs a prolific system. They send a lot of players to the league [NFL], and with Rock [Carmichael] leaving, I can come in and compete for playing time."

On enrolling early at Tech: "I thought it was the best situation for me. I'll have a semester down as opposed to my other classmates, and I'll be going through winter workouts and spring ball. I'm definitely trying to compete for playing time next year."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I have good technique and good footwork. I have good ball skills, and I'm a hard hitter. I have a nose for the ball. I think my footwork and technique can always be better."

On his favorite player: "Darelle Revis [New York Jets]. He's the best in the game. He's a lockdown corner, and you don't see many of those. He's got smooth technique, and he makes things look effortless. Things are second nature to him."

On his most memorable moment: "I'd say winning our third straight city championship. We beat Dunbar, and I had a good game. I had five tackles and returned a fumble 39 yards for a touchdown."

Notables: Born March 10, 1993, in Landover, Md. ... Son of Modupe Aromire ... Has an older brother who ran track at Florida before transferring to Maryland and two sisters ... Contemplated major is biology, with plans of becoming a pharmacist.

Stats: Recorded 88 tackles, three interceptions and four fumble recoveries his senior season ... On offense, he racked up 1,400 all-purpose yards and scored 16 touchdowns ... Finished with 68 tackles as a junior

... Also rushed for 576 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior.

Top honors: Ranked the No. 15 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* ... Rated the No. 16 prospect in Virginia by *SuperPrep* ... Listed the

No. 21 prospect in Virginia by Rivals ... First-team All-Group AA as a senior by *The Associated Press*.

Why he chose Tech: "After visiting all the schools, it just seemed like home. The coaches have a close bond with the players, and it is close to home for me. I just had an overall feeling that it was the right place for me."

On his projected position at Tech: "I think I'll be on the defensive side of the ball. I see myself as an outside linebacker [whip linebacker] after I put on some weight. I played safety in high school, but I'd like to move to outside linebacker. I feel more comfortable in the box."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I have good speed for my size, and I have a nose for the ball and can make plays. That's why I think I'm a fit on defense. I made plays on offense but feel more natural on defense. I'm probably like everyone else - I need to get bigger and faster - and I'll need to learn to adjust to the speed of the game."

On his most memorable moment: "My junior year, we beat Northside in the third game of the year. The previous year, we had gone 2-8. Everyone stepped up, and we pulled the win off and went on to win the regional championship."

Notables: Born Feb. 22, 1993, in Roanoke, Va. ... Son of Jim and Mary Cole ... Has a younger brother, James ... Plays both the piano and guitar ... Contemplated major is biology, with thoughts of going into pre-med.

Stats: Recorded 70 tackles and 11 sacks as a senior ... Also forced four fumbles and broke up two passes.

Top honors: Ranked the No. 35 prospect in the South Florida area by *The Palm Beach Post* ... Rated the No. 140 defensive end prospect in the country by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc.



WEDLEY ESTIME

6-3, 215, DE
Atlantic Community HS
Delray Beach, Fla.

Why he chose Tech: "It was an opportunity, and I thought it was best for me. I like where they're going

to play me and how they're going to use me. I feel like they're going to get me prepared for the next level, which is what I want to do. I think they can help me accomplish my dreams."

On his high school's connection with Tech: "That was very helpful. It shows that they [Tech's coaches] know what they're doing. I talked with Jayron [Hosley] and Mark [Leal], but they didn't have to tell me much. I saw everything I needed to see for myself."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I go hard. That's the big thing. I go hard on every play. I need to work on everything. I need to improve my technique and my stance. I need to improve everything."

On his most memorable moment: "We had a great season here. Everyone gave it everything they had, and we've got a great coaching staff here."

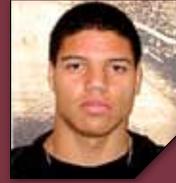
"If I had to pick one game, we beat Treasure Coast 6-0, and our defense had three or four goal-line stands. We scored when the quarterback fumbled the snap. I pushed him, and someone else picked up the ball and ran it in for the touchdown."

On his favorite players: "I watch Jason Pierre-Paul [New York Giants], Julius Peppers [Chicago Bears] and Dwight Freeney [Indianapolis Colts]. I like the way they play the game. They're good at what they do, and I see the things they do and try to use that to help me tighten my game."

Notables: Born Sept. 29, 1992, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti ... Contemplated major is business.

Stats: Had 50 tackles with four interceptions as a senior ... Registered 33 tackles and three interceptions as a junior ... Averaged 46 yards per kick return as a junior, returning three for touchdowns.

Top honors: Rated the No. 2 prospect in Minnesota and the No. 40 athlete prospect nationally by Rivals ... Listed as the No. 45 cornerback prospect in the nation by Scout ... Ranked the No. 54 cornerback prospect in the Midwest by *SuperPrep*.



JAMES FARROW

6-0, 170, CB
Minnetonka HS
Chanhassen, Minn.

Why he chose Tech: "I could go on for days, but the big thing was my relationship with Coach [Torrian] Gray. It was big to me to be recruited by my position coach as opposed to a recruiting coordinator or an offensive line coach or someone like that."

On meeting Collin Carroll, another native of Minnesota: "I met Collin on my visit. Actually, I played against his brother twice this season, so I had a chance to meet his parents, too. They're a great family, and it's nice to be able to have someone from your area there with you."

On his projected position at Tech: "I'm coming in as a cornerback. I think I have the feet and the hips and the speed to play corner. Coach [Mike] Gentry will fill me out, I'm sure, so I might be a free safety. But most likely, I'll be a cornerback."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I have good football IQ. I have speed and height, and those things can't be taught. But I think my football IQ sets me apart. I probably need to work on getting out of coverage and playing the run quicker. I need to get bigger, faster and stronger, too."

Notables: Born Oct. 5, 1992, in Minneapolis, Minn. ... Son of Lonnie and Mary Farrow ... His father played receiver at Minnesota ... Has an older brother [Marcus] and a younger sister [Olivia] ... Contemplated major is business.

Top honors: A first-team selection to the All-Met team by *The Richmond Times Dispatch* ... Ranked the No. 17 prospect in Virginia and the No. 67 offensive tackle prospect in the nation by Rivals ... Rated the No.



JAKE GOINS

6-5, 288, OT
Manchester HS
Midlothian, Va.

21 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* and *SuperPrep* ... First-team All-Group AAA by The Associated Press ... Played for the South squad in the Chesapeake Bowl held Jan. 3 at Towson University.

Why he chose Tech: "I had been up there for a couple of visits [before committing] and really liked it a lot. They seem like a family there and everyone treated me good. Everyone was nice, and everyone in that community there loves Virginia Tech."

On his projected position: "I'm guessing tackle at first, and then if that doesn't work out, then guard. I've never played guard before, and I would prefer tackle, but I wouldn't have a problem either way."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I have good feet for my size, and I like to run down field with a running back or a receiver and get a block. Every coach told me that when they were watching video of me, they'd see me in the video somewhere."

"I need to keep working on my strength and my speed. I need to work on getting to the next level and blocking linebackers, stuff like that."

On his favorite players: "As an offensive lineman, I watched Jake Long [Miami Dolphins] a lot when he played at Michigan. But my all-time favorite player is Pat Tillman [Arizona Cardinals safety]. He gave up everything for his country [Tillman quit the NFL and joined the Army and was killed in Afghanistan in 2004]. You look back at it and what he did was awesome. He gave up millions to protect his country. That's cool."

Notables: Born Feb. 19, 1993, in Henrico, Va. ... Son of Keith and Dee Goins ... Has a younger brother, Zach ... Contemplated major is international business, with hopes of working and traveling.

Stats: Playing quarterback, he completed 144 of 271 passes for 2,068 yards, with 18 touchdowns and 11 interceptions his senior season ... Also rushed for 1,056 yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior ... Threw for

2,677 yards and 23 touchdowns, with 13 interceptions his junior season ... Also rushed for 451 yards and six touchdowns.

Top honors: Rated the No. 18 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* ... Ranked the No. 24 prospect

in Virginia by Rivals and *SuperPrep* ... Second-team All-Group AAA by The Associated Press as a utility player ... A first-team All-Met selection by *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* ... The Central Region offensive player of the year.

Why he chose Tech: "The way the atmosphere was, I felt like I was at home. The coaches are great, and they were my No. 1 school growing up. All those things were determining factors."

On playing tight end at Tech: "I'm fine with it. I'll do whatever I can to help the team. I don't think it'll be a big transition. I used to play receiver my first two years in high school. I'll have to get used to coming out of a stance and blocking, but we ran a spread offense, and catching a snap is just like catching a pass."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I like to overpower people. I like to impose my will when I have the ball in my hands, whether it's running or throwing. I'll need to work on blocking, and catching passes from a quarterback."

On his most memorable moment: "Just my whole senior season. We all came together to get where we got [Group AAA semifinals] and we almost beat the team [Phoebus High] that won it. We made a couple of mistakes in the fourth quarter or it would have been a different game."

Notables: Born July 21, 1992, in Petersburg, Va. ... Son of George Graves and Lisa Lumumba ... Has an older brother and a younger brother ... Is a terrific bowler and has bowled three perfect games ... Major is undecided.

Stats: Finished with 46 tackles, including seven for a loss, his senior season ... Recorded 91 tackles, including 19 for a loss, and 7.5 sacks as a junior when his team won the Class 5A title.



KRIS HARLEY

6-1, 275, DT
Warren Central HS
Indianapolis, Ind.

Top honors: A *SuperPrep* and *PrepStar* All-American ... Ranked the No. 12 defensive tackle prospect in the nation by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... Listed the No. 22 prospect in the Midwest by *SuperPrep* ... Rated the

No. 18 defensive tackle prospect in the country by Scout ... Named first-team Class 5A in Indiana as a defensive tackle.

Why he chose Tech: "I liked the campus and the people there. They made me feel like a part of the family. And I wanted to play for Coach [Bud] Foster and for Coach [Charley] Wiles. I wanted to be a part of that defense."

On his projected position at Tech: "I'll be at defensive tackle. That's fine with me. I like the physicality of it. I love contact."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think my biggest strength is that I'm explosive and I never give up. I'm relentless. I don't give up on a play until it is over. I probably need to work on getting off blocks a little better."

On his favorite player: "My favorite player is Dwight Freeney [of the Indianapolis Colts]. I've been told I play like him. He never quits until a play is over with."

On his most memorable moment: "It had to be last year when we won the state. It was fourth-and-goal in double overtime, and we were on the one-inch line. We called for a quarterback sneak, and I was the fullback on the play. I went up behind him and helped push him in, which is probably illegal. After he scored, I ran 100 yards to the other end zone and just fell down. That was the best moment ever."

Notables: Born Sept. 22, 1992, in Marion, Ind. ... Son of Eddie and Terilyn Hoke ... Has an older brother and sister and a younger brother ... Contemplated major is management.

Stats: Tallied 36 tackles and four interceptions his senior season ... Also played on offense as a senior, rushing for 1,200 yards and catching 500 yards worth of passes ... Finished with 43 tackles, 12 break-ups and four interceptions as a junior ... As a sophomore, had 45 tackles and two interceptions.



KYSHOEN JARRETT

5-10, 175, CB
East Stroudsburg South
Tannersville, Pa.

Top honors: A *SuperPrep* and *PrepStar* All-American ... Listed as the No. 6 prospect in Pennsylvania and No. 12 cornerback prospect

in the nation by *SuperPrep* ... Rated the No. 18 cornerback prospect in the nation and the No. 5 prospect in Pennsylvania by Rivals ... Ranked the No. 17 cornerback prospect in the nation by Scout.

Why he chose Tech: "It was a great fit for me. After everything that happened with Pittsburgh and Coach [Dave] Wannstedt getting fired [Jarrett had been committed to Pittsburgh], Virginia Tech was the first to call me. I just felt it was a great place and a great fit for me. The visit just reaffirmed that."

On his projected position at Tech: "I'm a cornerback, and I feel like I bring some things to the position. I like being on an island and shutting down a receiver. The position was a little out of the ordinary for me - I didn't play until I was a freshman. But I love it."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "Everyone doubts my speed, but I have better game speed than timed speed. I think I'm good at jamming receivers at the line of scrimmage, too. But I think I need to get better at every aspect of the game, and Coach [Torrian] Gray will help me do that."

On his most memorable moment: "It was our third game, and we were playing Scranton. On offense, I had a 70-yard touchdown, and on defense, I got an interception to end the game."

Notables: Born May 4, 1993, in Bronx, N.Y. ... Son of Vinise Capers and Shoen Jarrett ... Has three older brothers ... Contemplated major is business management.

Stats: Rushed 2,878 yards and scored 41 total touchdowns this past season ... Had 2,749 yards rushing and 41 total touchdowns as a junior ... Rushed for a career-high 413 yards in a game against Robert E. Lee High as a junior.



MICHAEL HOLMES

6-1, 200, RB
Harrisonburg HS
Harrisonburg, Va.

Top honors: Two-time Group AA offensive player of the year ... Rated the No. 16 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* and No. 17 by *SuperPrep* ... Listed as the No. 25 prospect in Virginia by Rivals

... Ranked the No. 77 running back in the nation by Scout ... A two-time Region III player of the year.

Why he chose Tech: "I liked the staff, and I liked the football program. The coaches were nice and straight with you."

On the impact of Darren Evans' and Ryan Williams' departures: "That really didn't impact my decision. I had made my decision before then. I would have worked hard and tried to earn playing time even if they were coming back."

On his production as a tailback: "That shows I had good teammates and a good offensive line. I didn't think I could do that, but really, everyone else made it possible."

On his favorite player: "My favorite player is Michael Vick [Philadelphia Eagles]. He's a great overall player. He can throw it, and he can break tackles running it. My favorite running back is Adrian Peterson [Minnesota Vikings] because he's such a hard runner."

On his most memorable moment: "I scored the game-winning touchdown in the playoffs against Amherst this year. There were 20 seconds left, and we were losing. The quarterback threw it to me, and I caught it and went about 45 yards [actually, 44] to win the game [28-23]."

Notables: Born June 2, 1993, in Staunton, Va. ... Son of Michael and Tonya Holmes ... Has a younger brother and a younger sister ... Contemplated major is biology because of an affinity for animals.

Stats: Had 25 catches for 338 yards and six touchdowns as a senior.

Top honors: Rated the No. 27 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* and No. 33 by *SuperPrep* ... Listed the No. 183 wide receiver prospect nationally by Scout ... A second-team all-state selection in Division I of the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association.



DEMETRI KNOWLES

6-0, 175, WR
Liberty Christian Acad.
Lynchburg, Va.

Why he chose Tech: "I like the football program and the track program. I

liked the feeling I got when I talked to the coaches. That was the main reason."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I run good routes, and I get off the ball well. I think I have good hands. Obviously, I need to work on knowing the game better. I've only been playing two years."

On how he got started in football after coming from the Bahamas: "When I was in the Bahamas, I went to a camp and won a trip to Baltimore to watch the Ravens. Then my dad started looking into Christian schools in the United States that had football, and that's how I ended up here at LCA and playing football."

On the sports he played as a kid: "I swam competitively, and then I started doing track. I did individual sports when I was younger. At first, I didn't like football, but now I do. I like the whole brotherhood aspect, and things are changing all the time [within a game]. So many things can happen, and that's exciting to me."

On the adjustment of coming to the States: "I traveled a lot with swimming and track, so I was used to being away from my parents. When I moved here, I was homesick for about two weeks, but then I got used to it."

Notables: Born Oct. 9, 1992, in Freeport, Bahamas ... Son of Keith and Jacqueline Knowles ... Has an older and younger brother ... Taught himself to play the piano ... Contemplated major is marketing.

Stats: Caught 34 passes for 686 yards and six touchdowns as a senior ... Played on defense and had 86 tackles and six interceptions ... Also had four forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.



ROBERT LOCKHART

6-2, 175, WR
West Boca Raton HS
Delray Beach, Fla.

Top honors: Rated the No. 42 wide receiver prospect in the nation by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... A first-team all-area selection by *The Palm Beach Post* ... A Class 6A-5A-4A Palm Beach All-County selection as a

defensive back by *The Sun Sentinel*.

Why he chose Tech: "It's the place where I felt most comfortable with the players and the coaches. I liked the environment there. I thought Virginia Tech was the best fit for me."

On his MVP performance in the Palm Beach County-Treasure Coast All-Star game (he caught four passes, two for touchdowns): "Recruiters knew about me before that game, but I wanted to go out and prove myself. I wanted people to say, 'Who's that guy?' I thought I played well, but I would have played better."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I can do it all. I'm good after the catch, and I catch the ball at its highest point. I'm a deep threat. I think I need to get stronger. I weigh 180 now, and I probably need to get to 200. I'm not sure, though. I just need to get stronger."

On his favorite player: "Michael Crabtree [San Francisco 49ers receiver]. He's a great route runner and he catches the ball at its highest point. He can make plays after the catch, too."

On his most memorable moment: "I'd say our team banquet. We were a close group, and it was a chance to say good-bye to everyone."

Notables: Born Jan. 31, 1992, in Boca Raton, Fla. ... Son of Robert, Sr., and Lyn Lockhart ... Has two older sisters ... Is an outstanding basketball player who averages more than 20 points per game ... Major is undecided.

Stats: Recorded 78 tackles and 13 sacks his senior season.

Top honors: Rated as the No. 130 defensive tackle in the country by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... Ranked the No. 32 player in the area by *The Palm Beach Post* ... Named a Class 6A-5A-3A football second-team All-Palm Beach County selection by *The Sun-Sentinel* ... Named first-team all-area as a defensive lineman by *The Palm Beach Post*.



LUTHER MADDY

6-1, 280, DT
Atlantic Community HS
Delray Beach, Fla.

Why he chose Tech:

"After my visit, I loved it. I talked with the coaches, and I had a good feeling. I felt like it was the place where I belonged."

On his high school's connection with Tech: "That was a big factor [in his decision]. I talked with Mark [Leal] and Jayron [Hosley] a lot, and they told me what a great school it was. They told me that, since I was from Atlantic, I needed to come up there and do my thing."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I'd say my quickness is one of my strong points. I also use my hands well, and I have good feet and good technique. I need to work on staying low. Sometimes, I get too high. I need to be more consistent with that."

On his favorite player: "Warren Sapp [former Tampa Bay Buccaneer and Oakland Raider]. Every snap, he goes hard. The line of scrimmage is his. He's consistent and aggressive. I just love the way he played."

On his most memorable moment: "I'd say just this entire year. We were a very strong group, and we had a great season. We made it to the playoffs and lost in the second round in the final few seconds. We had a great season, and I really enjoyed it."

Notables: Born Jan. 18, 1993, in Boynton Beach, Fla. ... Son of Junelle and Nuraline Maddy ... Has five brothers and a sister ... Contemplated major is business.

Stats: Caught 36 passes for 652 yards and nine touchdowns his senior season ... Had 63 tackles, four sacks and three interceptions on defense ... Caught 23 passes for 500 yards and three touchdowns as a junior.



RYAN MALLECK

6-5, 240, TE
Point Pleasant Borough HS
Point Pleasant, N.J.

Top honors: Listed as the No. 16 prospect in New Jersey by *SuperPrep* ... Rated the No. 22 prospect in New Jersey by Rivals ... Ranked the No. 40 tight end prospect in the country by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... Rated

the No. 48 tight end prospect in the nation by Scout.

Why he chose Tech: "It came down to the coaching staff. I felt comfortable with Coach [Frank] Beamer and Coach [Bryan] Stinespring. The facilities were nice, too. I haven't seen any other school that had facilities like Virginia Tech. They blew the others away. For me, it was an easy decision."

On thinking about staying closer to home because of his dad's health: "That wasn't much of an issue. He had a heart transplant back in August, and he's doing well. It's not that far to Virginia, and we have family in Virginia, so when he and my mom come down for games, they're going to stay with them."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I can stretch the field. I can get vertical, and I think I can get down the field fast. I probably need to work on my blocking. I haven't done much of it because I was basically split out as a receiver here. But I'm willing to do it."

On his favorite player: "Jeremy Shockey [New Orleans Saints tight end]. I grew up watching him when he was with the Giants. I love how he plays. He's one of my favorites."

Notables: Born July 22, 1993, in Teaneck, N.J. ... Son of Stephen and Karen Malleck ... Has an older brother, Steve, and a younger sister, Kerry ... Also plays basketball and had been receiving interest from Division III schools in that sport ... Major is undecided.

Stats: Recorded 122 tackles, including 27 for a loss, and 14 sacks as a senior ... Also caused six fumbles ... Finished with 112 tackles, including 21 for a loss, as a junior.



COREY MARSHALL

6-2, 252, DE
Dinwiddie HS
Petersburg, Va.

Top honors: A *SuperPrep* and *PrepStar* All-American ... Ranked the No. 5 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* and *SuperPrep* ... Listed the No. 7 prospect in Virginia and the No. 21 defensive end prospect in the nation

by Rivals ... First-team All-Group AAA by *The Associated Press* ... A first-team All-Met selection by *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

Why he chose Tech: "When you go to Virginia Tech, the atmosphere is great. It's a great environment to further your education, and Coach [Bud] Foster and his staff are such great teachers. I feel like I can learn a lot and improve myself as a player."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I get off the ball quick, and I try to set the tone. I know how to use leverage. I'm only 6-2, but I feel like I have an advantage by using leverage and using hand placement. I can get to the quarterback in a variety of different ways."

"I need to work on the mental aspect of the game and improve my technique. I need to get bigger, too."

On his favorite players: "I like Elvis Dumervil [of the Denver Broncos] and John Randle [retired from the Minnesota Vikings]. They're two smaller, almost hybrid types, and they know how to use leverage and speed to be successful."

On his most memorable moment: "We played Liberty-Bealeton in the playoffs my sophomore year and the score was 14-14. I stripped the running back, picked up the ball and ran it back for a touchdown. I also had a sack and an interception, and we made the state semis."

Notables: Born Many 18, 1993, in Dinwiddie, Va. ... Son of Joyce Marshall ... Has a younger brother and sister ... Contemplated major is journalism ... Is a huge fan of NFL Network's Rich Eisen.

Stats: Hauled in nine passes for 195 yards and four touchdowns this past season ... Caught 11 passes as a junior.

Top honors: Listed the No. 17 prospect in the Mid-Atlantic by *SuperPrep* ... Rated the No. 65 tight end prospect in the nation by Scout ... Ranked the No. 69 tight end prospect in the country by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... A second-team All-Met selection by *The Washington Post* as a tight end.



DARIUS REDMAN

6-4, 240, TE
H.D. Woodson HS
Washington, D.C.

Why he chose Tech: "It's a great school. When I first met the coaches, they were straight up with me and I liked that. I knew how good a school it was, so all those things made me want to go to Virginia Tech. And there have been some players from H.D. Woodson who have gone there and done well. Josh Morgan [a former Tech receiver now with the San Francisco 49ers] is from here and he's in the NFL now."

On his projected position at Tech: "I'm a tight end. I like everything about the position. You have to block, and you have to be able to run routes. I feel like I'm a mismatch against a linebacker. I think I can stretch a defense."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I run good routes, and I have a good work ethic. I have to get every pass that comes my way. I probably need to work on getting out of my breaks quicker."

On his favorite player: "It's Vernon Davis [former Maryland tight end now with San Francisco]. I love the way he gets yards after the catch and just his speed. He's a wide receiver in a tight end's body. I've met him a couple of times at his camp, and he's a nice guy."

On his most memorable moment: "My junior year, I scored on an 85-yard touchdown catch, and that was a school record for a tight end. That was my first touchdown on varsity."

Notables: Born May 9, 1993, in Washington, D.C. ... Son of Michael and Denise Redman ... Has two older brothers and an older sister ... Major is undecided.

Stats: Caught 43 passes for 872 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior ... Caught 26 passes for 584 yards and four touchdowns as a junior.

Top honors: Rated the No. 29 tight end prospect in the nation and the No. 48 overall prospect in Georgia by Rivals ... Listed the No. 35 tight end prospect in the nation by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... Ranked the No. 48 prospect in Georgia by *SuperPrep*.



CHRISTIAN REEVES

6-3, 215, TE
Eagles Landing Christian Acad.
McDonough, Ga.

Why he chose Tech: "It really was the complete package. They had everything I was looking for - great coaches, a great school academically and a great football program. They were well rounded. I really liked the coaches a lot. That was probably the big thing."

On his projected position at Tech: "I'll be on the offensive side of the ball, either at H-back or tight end or possibly receiver. It just depends on how my body develops. I have the frame to get bigger."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I would say my ball skills and body control are my biggest strengths. When the ball is in the air, I'm going to go up and go get it. I have good hands and good speed, too. I probably need to improve my first step [off the line of scrimmage] and learn to read coverages better."

On his most memorable moment: "We finished 10-0 this season and won the regional championship. We beat the No. 2-ranked team, and I had one of my best games. I played both ways [cornerback and receiver] and had a good all-around game. I caught seven or eight passes for 140 yards and a touchdown and a 2-point conversion."

Notables: Born Jan 20, 1993, in Atlanta, Ga. ... Son of Scott and Michelle Reeves ... Has one older brother and two younger brothers and a younger sister ... Contemplated major is business.

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Stats: Recorded 65 tackles, including 17 for a loss, his senior season ... Also forced two fumbles, had a fumble recovery and an interception and scored a touchdown ... Had 88 tackles, including 27 for a loss,



MATT ROTH

6-3, 225, DE
Nease HS
St. Augustine, Fla.

and 13.5 sacks his junior season ... Also forced four fumbles that season.

Top honors: Rated the No. 14 defensive end prospect in the nation and the No. 72 overall prospect in Florida by Rivals ... Ranked the No. 29 defensive end prospect in the country by ESPN.com/Scouts, Inc. ... Listed the No. 100 prospect in the nation by Scout ... A first-team selection to the *St. Augustine Record's* 2010 All-County team.

Why he chose Tech: "It's a top football program, and that's the level I want to play on. They also have one of the best building construction programs in the country, and that's what I want to study."

On his projected position at Tech: "They're looking at me as a defensive end, and that's where I want to play. I like rushing the passer."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I feel like I have a great first step and get off on the ball quickly, and I use my hands well. I know how to use leverage to stop the run. I need to get bigger and stronger to compete on that level and to get off blocks better."

On his favorite player: "I would say Jared Allen [of the Minnesota Vikings]. He's got a high motor and plays with intensity. He's always making plays."

On his most memorable moment: "I dropped into coverage during one of our games, and the ball was tipped. I intercepted it and took it about 30 yards for a touchdown."

Notables: Born Feb. 19, 1993, in Ocala, Fla. ... Son of Jeff and Annette Roth ... Has a younger sister, Samantha ... Plans on majoring in building construction, with thoughts of getting into design or being a supervisor.

Stats: Finished with 106 tackles, including 13 for a loss, his senior season ... Also intercepted three passes, returning two for touchdowns, and he blocked three punts.



RONNY VANDYKE

6-3, 200, DB
South County HS
Lorton, Va.

Top honors: A *SuperPrep* and *PrepStar* All-American ... Ranked the No. 21 safety prospect in the nation and the No. 8 prospect in Virginia by Rivals ... Rated the No. 11 prospect in Virginia by *The Roanoke Times* and *SuperPrep* ...

First-team All-Group AAA by The Associated Press ... A first-team All-Met selection by *The Washington Post* as a defensive back

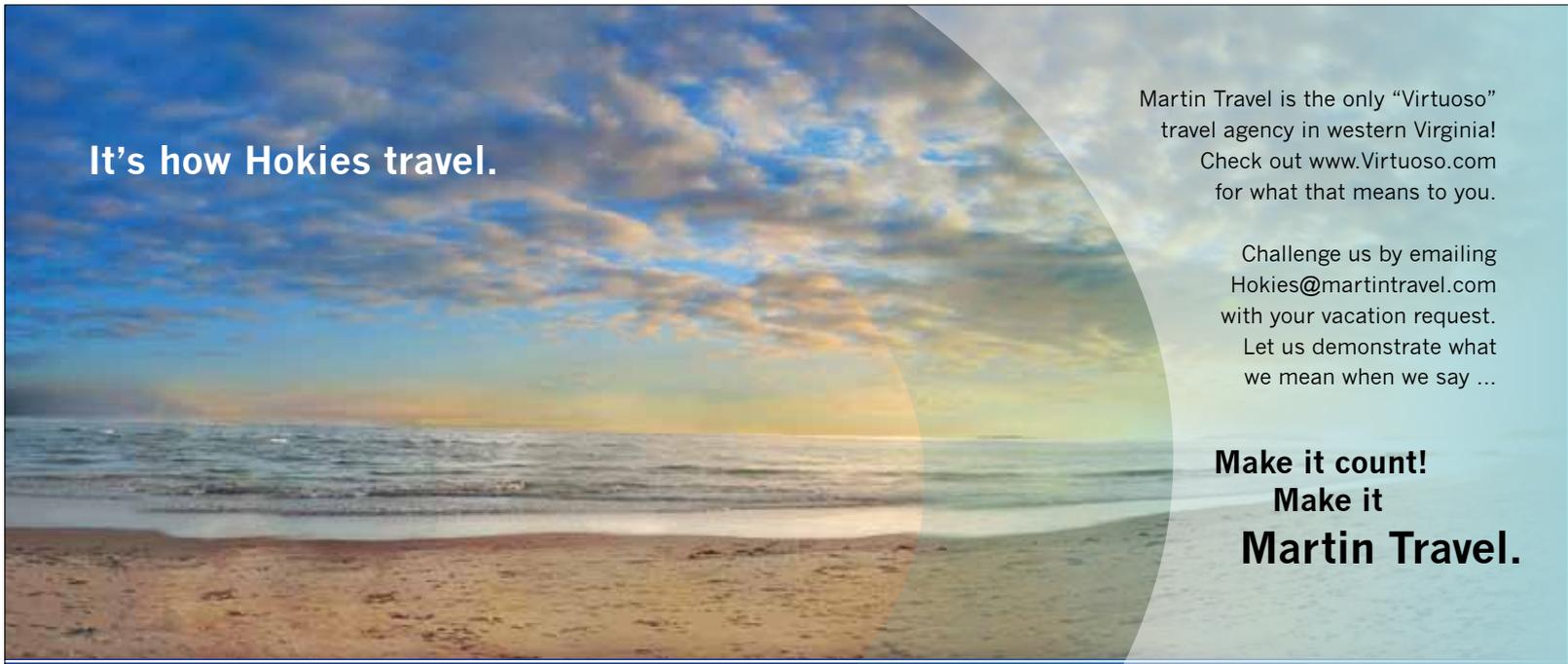
Why he chose Tech: "When I went down there first as a sophomore, I felt good about the school. They were always a consistent option for me. Then I got to know the staff, and the terminology they use on defense is similar to what we used. It just felt like it was the place for me to be."

On his projected position at Tech: "Coach [Bud] Foster told me I'm athletic enough to be a rover or free safety. I'll probably start out at rover. I was a whip in high school, but it doesn't matter to me. Wherever I can get on the field the fastest."

On his strengths and weaknesses: "I think I tackle well in space, and I'm good at reading my keys. I'm a good leader. I probably need to be more vocal because you have to talk on defense. There are always things you can do to be a better all-around player."

On missing his junior season: "We were in two-a-days, and I was going to get off a block. He got underneath my arm, and I tried to pull away and I dislocated my shoulder. I knew it as soon as it happened. I had to have surgery, and I couldn't believe it. But it's good now."

Notables: Born Nov. 3, 1992, in Fairfax, Va. ... Son of James Solomon Vandyke and Gifty Addy ... Has an older sister, a younger sister and a younger brother ... Contemplated major is psychology or mechanical engineering.



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As a four-year starter, senior Michael Seaborn's experience at second base and in the lineup will be a key strength for the 2011 Hokies.

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Changed. That is one word that describes Virginia Tech baseball, as well as the collegiate baseball landscape as a whole, heading into the 2011 season.

Changed is the mindset of the program. No longer are the Hokies a team trying to build a program and on the outside looking in.

Recapping the highlights from a year ago – Tech earned a top-25 ranking for the first time since 1992, climbing as high as 12th in both the *Baseball America* and Rivals.com polls on May 17; Tech finished one game shy of the ACC title game, dropping a 10-inning, 9-8 decision to N.C. State on May 30; and Tech earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2000 and won a pair of games for the first time since 1954 before losing to eventual 2010 NCAA champion South Carolina on June 6.

“Last year was a breakthrough year. It finally legitimized our program and its

changing into a winning culture,” Hughes said. “We broke through a lot of thresholds that we could never get through. Winning on the road, beating top-10 opponents, being nationally recognized. Those things haven’t happened around here in awhile.

“Now, to complete the evolution of becoming a top-25 program, you have to sustain your success over the long haul. That means when you get decimated in the draft, you still continue to be a winner at the highest levels of college baseball. That’s our next step. Our next goal as a program is to sustain our success.”

Also changed, as Hughes undoubtedly knows, is the 2011 Hokie roster, which will see 11 newcomers to the squad, seven players back who didn’t see action in 2010, and two new coaches in the dugout.

Gone are a school-record seven players lost to the Major League Draft, the second most of any school in the conference. Gone

are four pitchers, who combined for 58 percent of the innings, 61 percent of the strikeouts, 63 percent of the wins and 71 percent of the starts. And gone are seven offensive players who produced 55 percent of the runs and hits, 52 percent of the runs driven in and 54 percent of the home runs.

"The draft says a lot about where our program's going," Hughes said. "I think we had 10 guys drafted in the last 10 recruiting classes before we got here, and then our first recruiting class, we have eight guys drafted (senior Tim Smalling returned to Tech). So, that says everything about our program and how we're viewed because they want our guys to play at the next level.

"But in terms of playing time and experience, there is no question that there will be a lot of guys out there that haven't played key roles in our program, but we believe in them. As far as experience and playing time, it is a new roster."

One strength of the 2011 Hokies will be their infield, which returns one of the most experienced double-play combinations in the nation in senior second baseman Michael Seaborn and shortstop Smalling. Each has started at least 150 collegiate games, and last season, each ranked in the top 15 in assists (Seaborn, 9th with 163 and Smalling, 13th with 152) in the ACC.

"They've got to be one of the oldest double-play combinations in the country. I think they're both 23-years old," Hughes said. "I say that in jest. However that does bring a lot of experience and a lot of productivity in the middle of our defense and in the middle of our lineup."

Hughes is correct in his assessment of the pair's age, as the two were born on the same day – October 14, 1987. Separated by 745 miles on that day (Smalling in Clifton, N.J. and Seaborn in Atlanta, Ga.), they have come a long way. Each started his college

SIX THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TIM SMALLING

1. I was drafted in the 14th round by the Washington Nationals in last year's MLB draft, but I decided to return to Blacksburg for my senior season. Now I'll have my degree and get to play some great baseball in the ACC.

2. I played for the University of Arkansas for two years. After my sophomore year, I decided to transfer, and Virginia Tech was an easy choice. I was very impressed with Coach Hughes and the rest of the coaching staff. We hit it off right away. Sitting out a year due to the transfer was tough, but in the end it was well worth it. I wouldn't trade my time at Virginia Tech for anything.

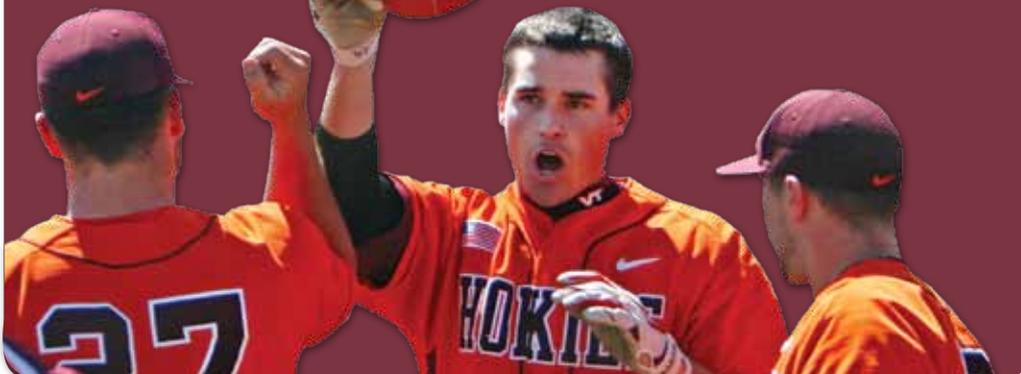
3. I am very particular and protective about my glove. As an infielder, it's my lifeline. I have used the same model glove

for the last eight years. I guess it's like my baby. I don't like anyone else using it.

4. I never step on the foul line when taking the field. I've always considered it bad luck. I usually hop over the dirt cutout when coming on and off the field.

5. My nickname is "Smalls". People have called me that since I was very young. It was my dad's nickname when he played. I can't even count the times that I've heard "You're killin' me Smalls" since *The Sandlot* came out.

6. I have a very loving and supporting family and would not be in the situation I am in today without them. My parents and sisters (Amanda, Kellie and Megan) have always been my biggest fans. I can't thank them enough for all the support I have received from them throughout the years.



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days at SEC schools (Arkansas and Kentucky, respectively), but the two will be less than 100 feet apart for at least 56 games this season.

"I think if you look at our infield, that is as experienced as an infield can be," Hughes said. "With guys like Smalling and Seaborn, then you add in Tony Balisteri, Ronnie Shaban, Matt Blow, all these guys have played a lot of baseball for us and are good players. No doubt, you look at our infield and that is the strength of our team."

Another strength will be the Hokies' depth in the pitching staff, primarily in the bullpen.

"I think the other strength of our program this year will be the back end of our bullpen," Hughes said. "We've got guys like Brandon Fisher, Jake Joyce, Ronnie Shaban and Sean McDermott, who will be at the back end of our bullpen. There is a lot of experience there."

"It will really allow us to shorten a game, and I have tremendous confidence in all those guys as competitors and I have a lot of confidence in their stuff."

The best out of the pen last year was Ben Rowen, who was one of four Tech pitchers selected in the draft and was 5-2 with six saves and a 2.67 ERA in 54 innings.

This year's quartet took care of business last season in its limited roles out of the pen. They combined for a 4-1 record in almost 70 innings of work and in 52 appearances in relief, struck out 60 batters.



Junior Ronnie Shaban is Tech's top offensive weapon back from a season ago, but he will also see innings out of the bullpen.

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However, it will be important getting to the bullpen, as the Hokies lost their entire starting weekend rotation. Hughes, though, is very optimistic about finding those replacements.

"When you lose your starting rotation early to the draft, it creates opportunities for a lot of really good players," he said. "I am really anxious to see who is going to step up and take advantage of the opportunity that they are presented with."

Lastly, Hughes sees the schedule as a strength for the Hokies, as his team will play 20 games against NCAA Tournament teams from a year ago, and 15 of those will be at English Field. Tech will serve as hosts to North Carolina, Virginia, Florida State, Clemson and Georgia Tech.

"I think this year, we have the best home schedule since I've been here," he said.

But above all, the elephant in the college baseball room, which has changed the entire environment even before teams take the field later this month, is a new rule. It involves the college bat, went into effect January 1, and is expected to speed up the game, keep runs down and bring some strategy back to the game.

During the 1998 College World Series, 62 home runs were hit in the 14 tournament games in Omaha, which included nine in a

35-run slugfest in the title game. Since then, the NCAA has made several rule changes involving the metal bats, requiring them to perform more like wooden bats.

In the latest rule change, the new standard measures bat performance and is known as BBCOR (Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution). So, instead of the former standard, which measured the exit speed of a batted ball, the new one measures the "trampoline" effect, or how much the ball bounces off the bat.

"Will this change the way I coach? Yeah," Hughes said. "When you got to play for a run, if runs are few and far between and that three-run inning is not going to happen for you very often like it used to, you better start playing for a run.

"So, our bunt game is going to be critical, our bunt defense is going to be critical, and it's not going to be only at the end of a game. We're going to have to start manufacturing with our legs. Then, we're going to have to do a better job of controlling the running game because everyone's going to change."

And Hughes' thoughts on how this change will affect the college baseball landscape?

"I'm curious, at the end of the year, where things are going to be statistically,"

he said. "I hope it's a drastic change so that people start speaking up and we get back to what it used to be.

"But if the fall is any indication on what the bats are going to do for the game, it's going to change the game dramatically. I would say offensive productivity is going to be cut by 50 percent by the end of the year. That's my prediction after looking at a sampling of five weeks in the fall with those bats."

Only twice has a Tech team returned to the NCAA Tournament in back-to-back seasons, 1976-77 and 1999-2000, and Hughes suggests that is where he expects this team to be this season.

"We need to continue to win and I'm really looking forward to this season because it's huge for our program to make that jump to be a consistent winner, to survive drafts and roster changes, and still maintain a level of success," he said. "Our challenge is to win consistently at the highest levels, no matter what happens to our roster.

"You get smacked with the draft, you come back the next year with young guys and win. Because you're getting good players, you develop good players, you cultivate a winning environment so that the draft or injuries can't prevent you from being a really good program from year to year. And to me, that is what a top-25 program does." 

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assay (v.) to examine or analyze

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SOFTBALL

PREVIEW

A photograph of a softball pitcher in a white Virginia Tech uniform, captured in the middle of a pitch. She is wearing a white jersey with "VIRGINIA TECH" in red lettering, white pants with a red and black belt, and a brown leather softball glove. Her right arm is raised high, holding a yellow softball, while her left arm is extended forward. The background shows a blurred green field and a red fence.

PITCHING AND SPEED KEY FOR TECH SOFTBALL SQUAD IN 2011

Kenzie Roark, who won 10 games a year ago and led the squad with a 3.06 ERA, will be an anchor on Tech's pitching staff this upcoming season.

Over the first five weeks of the 2011 softball season, Virginia Tech will visit seven cities in five states and play a total of 27 games on the road, including its ACC opener at North Carolina the weekend of March 19-20.

Those travel dates include five tournaments spanning from North and South Carolina to Florida and across the country to Arizona. The Hokies will face at least five NCAA participants from a year ago, including Super Regional qualifier Arizona State in its Diamond Devil Invitational on March 12.

"We've scheduled like this for years. The biggest reason is because this sport is not meant to be played in cold weather," head coach Scot Thomas said. "But this is also the best way to prepare us for the ACC schedule and build up our RPI.

"This schedule puts us in the position to be successful, which will help us get better each week and get on a roll heading into ACC play."

If Virginia Tech wants to return to the postseason, it will need to receive consistent performances from its pitching staff, which returns three Hokies to the mound who threw 95 percent of the innings in 2010 and won 24 of the 25 games from a year ago. The trio includes a pair of seniors – Kenzie Roark and Ashton Ward – and sophomore Jasmin Harrell.

Roark was the team's leader in starts (30), innings pitched (176), strikeouts (143), complete games (13), shutouts (4) and ERA (3.06). She won a total of 10 games, including four of her last six starts, and was named to the ACC's all-tournament team thanks in part to an eight-inning, five-hit shutout against second-seeded Virginia in a 1-0 Hokies' victory.

"Kenzie is going to have to be our No. 1, for sure, someone we can lean on," Thomas said. "But I think if we can stay healthy for the first time in a couple of years, hopefully, we can work as a staff. It will be more of a pitching staff by committee."

Harrell, in her first season at Tech, tossed 141.1 innings and struck out 93 batters. She finished with an 11-10 record and set a school record with 19 relief appearances, while completing eight of her 17 starts. Ward also returns and registered a 3-0 mark, while Tech won all six games in which she started.

"We are hoping that Jasmin can come back strong after having a great fall," Thomas said. "We're also hoping that Ashley can step up and give us some innings along with [freshman] Kat Banks, who has been really good so far.

"There might be games where we pitch two or three pitchers, and they are going to have to give it their best."

Offensively, the Hokies were among the

top four in many categories in the ACC, which includes second in conference-only games in slugging percentage and home runs. However, Tech was sixth in on-base percentage and had the second-highest number in strikeouts in overall and ACC-only games.

"Last year was a misnomer because we were injured so much, and since we had so many people hurt, we were never able to get a consistent lineup in there," Thomas said. "And that hurt us.

"But one of our main focuses from the beginning of fall has been hitting the ball with more power. So, we are hoping that will show up, maybe not in the home run category, but in extra-base hits."

Speed, which is needed for extra-base hits, could be the key for the Hokies this season, as they swiped 79 bags last year and all four Hokies who were in double figures return for the 2011 season.

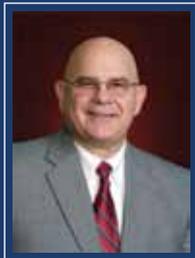
Senior centerfielder Richelle McGarva used her speed last season to lead the team with 13 doubles, 50 hits and 82 total bases and also stole 14 bases. Also, among returners, she had the highest average (.279) and drove in the most runs (31).

Sophomores Bkaye Smith (second base) and Sarah Ashby (outfield) used their legs to steal 24 and 15 bags, respectively, but will need to improve their on-base percentage (.295 and .211) to produce even



Sophomore Bkaye Smith, a second baseman from Cameron, N.C., hit .260 as a freshman and stole a team-high 24 bases. Tech hopes to use that speed even more in 2011.

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SIX THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT RICHELLE MCGARVA



1. I was born and raised in Canada and was a member of the Canadian Junior National Team that played in the World Championships in the summer of 2007.
2. After getting my associate in arts in education degree at Lake City Community College (now Florida Gateway College), I transferred to Virginia Tech, because I wanted more of a challenge athletically and academically.
3. If the team is winning, I make sure that I wash my sliders (spandex worn under her pants) before the next game. If we lose, I change them immediately.
4. My nickname on the team is "Richekke", after coach mistakenly spelled my name wrong on our plane tickets my first year at Tech. The ticket agent was confused by the name and called it out. And, of course, it stuck.
5. Willed by a former teammate, I am one of the leaders in the pregame team cheer, which requires me to dance the same routine inside the circle.
6. When announced during starting lineups at home, I enjoy crowd surfing through my teammates before running out onto the field.

more runs for the Hokies.

Ward also played in the outfield and was actually one of three players on the team to start all 58 games last season with Smith and the departed Kristin Graham. The ACC all-tournament team member had 12 stolen bases, scored 21 runs, drew 19 walks, second most on the squad, and sported a .324 on-base percentage.

"Scoring speed will definitely be one of our top strengths this season," Thomas said. "Our speed from first-to-third, or second-to-home, not so much base-to-base. We should be able to steal some bases, but I think we have some really good base runners in a two-base scenario, and that's how we will score some runs."

The question arises, though, if these runners get on, steal bases and move into scoring position, who will drive them in? Gone are Misty Hall and her team-high 34 RBI, along with Graham (27) and Whitney Davis (17).

"We lost Misty and Whitney, but I think the kids that are coming in to replace them are at their stature or better, and the kids coming in are just as good as what we lost,"

Thomas said. "We expect Courtney Liddle, Bkaye Smith and Richelle McGarva to have great seasons, but we have some other great kids.

"Kristina Cruz has really worked hard and had a great fall, and I am looking forward to the sophomores, who now have a year under their belts to step it up for us."

Thomas is also interested in how the freshmen, two in particular, will handle the spring.

"Dani Anderson had an incredible fall, hitting some home runs and just doing some things like Misty used to do for us. She is just a solid, steady shortstop," he said. "Kat Banks is just an incredibly raw athlete and is probably the fastest kid on the team. She can hit with power and has incredible bat speed.

"But this is a great team to work with. They work hard. I am excited about the season, and I know they are too. So it should be good as long as we stay healthy and keep things moving in the right direction. This will be a fun bunch to watch."

And Hokie fans, again, will have 13 dates from March through May to come out and see them play. 

No More Unbeatens; Hokies Edge Memphis State

By Chris Colston

(Reprinted from Vol. 3, No. 22 edition of the Hokie Huddler)

In a school year when Virginia Tech defeated arch-rival Virginia by 18 points in both basketball and football, there was no way the Hokies were going to let the Wahoos upstage them.

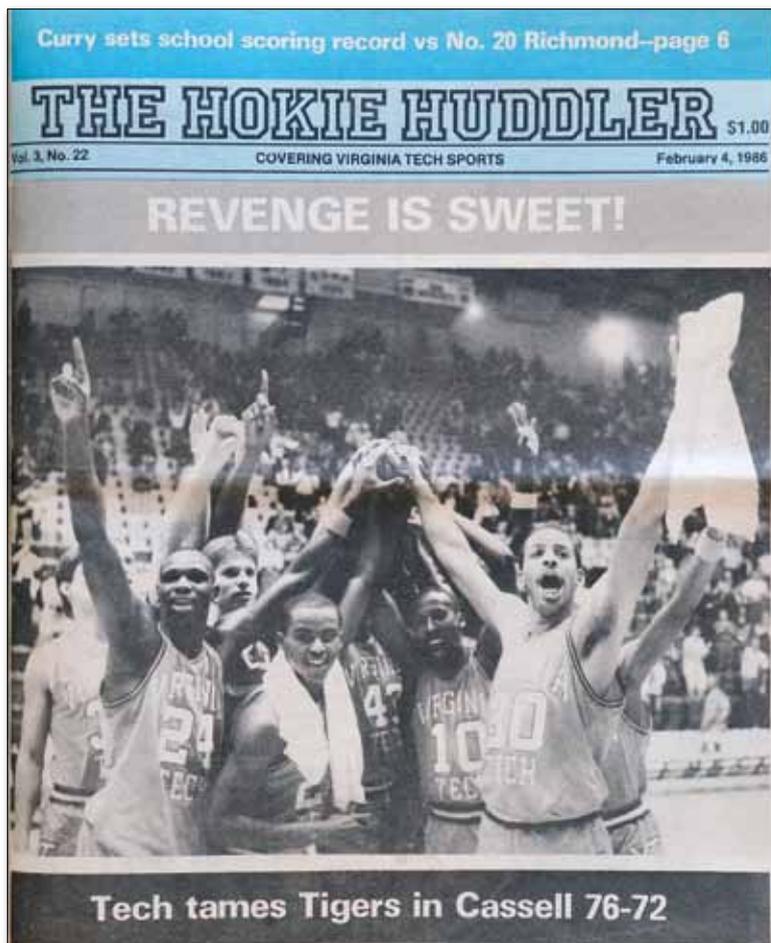
Thursday night, Virginia pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the year by beating undefeated and top-ranked North Carolina by 13 points.

But Saturday, it was Tech's turn. By edging second-ranked Memphis State 76-72, the Hokies became the second state school in three days to defeat an unbeaten ball club. Now there are none.

Rebounding, the shooting of Dell Curry and the return of center Roy Brow gave 16th-ranked Tech (18-4, 4-2) its best win of the Curry-Colbert-Beecher era. The general consensus in the postgame locker room gave this game the edge over Tech's 1983 win over MSU, when the Tigers were ranked No. 1.

"They were both great, but this time was better because we got a measure of revenge," Curry said.

Keith Colbert agreed, but for a different reason. "We didn't

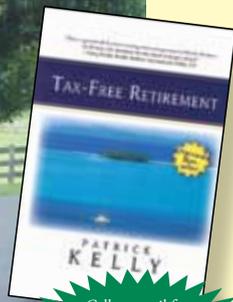


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go to the NCAA's that year. We're having a better season now and we're trying to win the Metro championship," he said. "This one was more important."

It was also a confidence booster. The Hokies suffered their worst defeat in 10 years last Monday in Memphis, getting blasted 83-61. A fullcourt press led by Andre Turner caused 22 turnovers and had Tech rattled.

"They handled our press much better today," Tigers coach Dana Kirk said, and senior forward Bobby Beecher attributed the success to more aggressiveness. "We rammed the ball down their throats," he said. "We weren't tentative. Once we got the ball past midcourt, we got some easy buckets."

Johnny Fort, who had only two turnovers in 27 minutes, said the key was patience. "We just concentrated on getting the ball in the middle and taking our time," he said. "I told the guys just to get the ball to me."

Although Tech had three more giveaways than MSU, the Hokies more than made up for that on the boards. Curry, Colbert and Beecher alone out-rebounded the whole Tiger team, and the Hokie forwards combined for 10 offensive rebounds. "They had

too many second shots," Kirk said. "Our inability to rebound really hurt us."

Tech's 42-31 advantage marked the first time in six games they've out-rebounded a Metro opponent. "I just used my quickness to get position," said Colbert, who had 11 rebounds.

"Keith was over the square (of the backboard) on a couple of those," Tech coach Charlie Moir said.

Beecher had a game-high 13 rebounds, while Curry had his second straight nine-rebound outing. It was his second straight 28-point outing, too.

"Curry hit shots we normally let people take," Kirk said. "And he makes them with ease."

Tech center Dave Burgess had a feeling Curry would have a big game. "Memphis made a mistake by talking about Dell in the papers," he said Thursday night. "I think he'll come back strong. Dell could have his best game of the year. He might get 45 points."

As it turned out, 10 for 19 field-goal shooting and 8 of 10 free throws were enough. "I didn't think (Dwight) Boyd had to talk about me like he did in the newspaper," Curry said. "It really made

me bear down and show them what kind of player I was."

Curry was referring to some of the comments taped to the walls in the Hokie locker room. Boyd had said Curry was "lazy," and that was just one of the articles Moir and Co. used to motivate their squad. Newspaper clippings from Tech's 1983 win over the Tigers filled the walls. A recent clipping of a *USA Today* feature describing Andre Turner's play vs. Tech last Monday was highlighted in yellow magic marker.

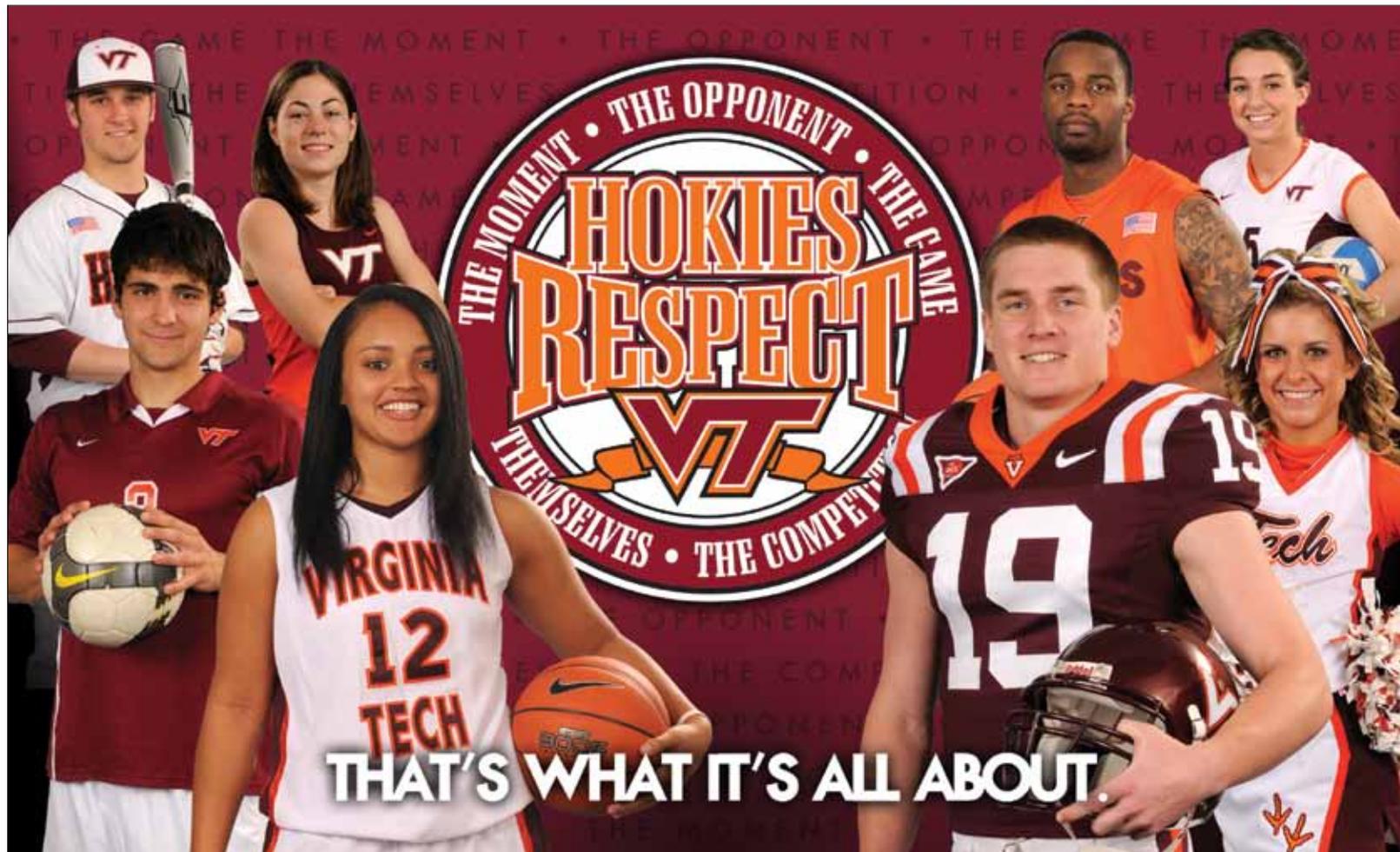
Tech even broke out their orange outfits, which the Hokies don't often wear for home games.

"They're our big-game uniforms," Colbert said. "We save them for special occasions."

"It was a great win for our program," Moir said. "We've got two tough games with Louisville coming up, but we're right in the race. If we'd have won at Cincinnati, in fact, we'd be tied for first place in the conference.

"I'm still losing sleep over that one."

Saturday night, however, the only lost sleep in Blacksburg was due to excess celebration. **VT**



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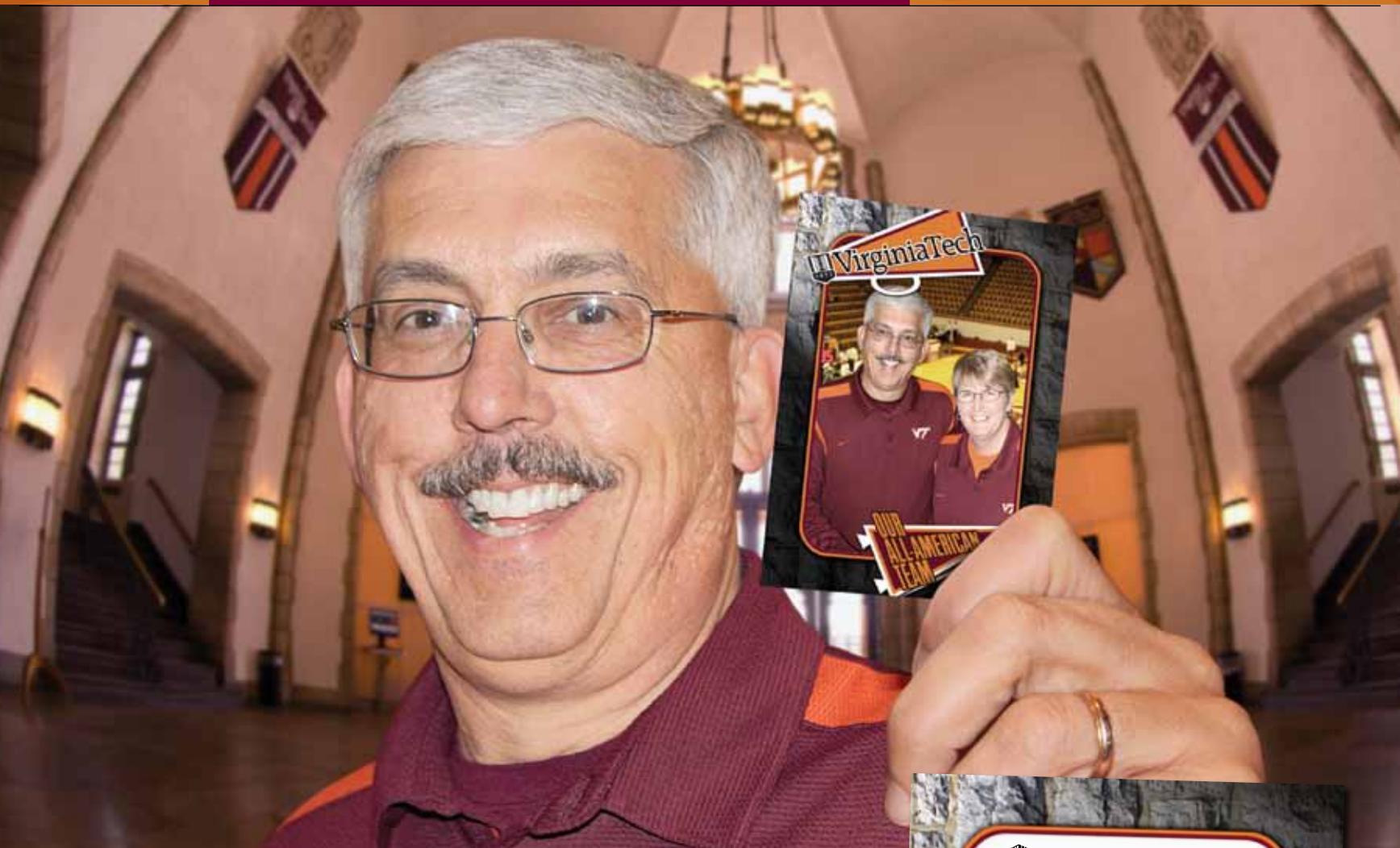
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