TEENING OFF
Tech coach Carol Robertson, players Amanda Hollandsworth and Allison Woodward, and assistant Russell Abbott comprise the Tech women’s golf program, which held its inaugural practice at the Pete Dye River Course in late August.

WHAT’S INSIDE:
Expansions and renovations have made Lane Stadium better than ever over the course of 50 seasons.
Nearly 63,000 fans arrived at Lane Stadium for Virginia Tech’s season-opening football game against William & Mary, and they witnessed an efficient, workmanlike performance from the Hokies, who dispatched the Tribe 34-9. Quarterback Michael Brewer threw for 251 yards and two touchdowns, and Shai McKenzie paced a freshman contingent that made multiple contributions, rushing for 106 yards and a score in the win.

“I really can’t say enough about the Hokie Club and those who donate to it. I can’t put it in a sentence. A scholarship means the world to me and all those on scholarship and those working toward one. Just not having to worry about paying for things because all that’s paid through a scholarship check. There’s a peace of mind there, and that allows us to focus on our academics and on football. It means the world, and I’m very appreciative of it.”

Caleb Farris
Senior | Football

“I’m so appreciative of those who give for scholarships. I never thought I’d get a scholarship. When I was younger, I never thought of going to college because I knew I couldn’t pay for it, but when I got that scholarship, it changed everything. I could come here and get a free education and play football. It’s a blessing, so thank you to them.”

Deon Clarke
Junior | Football
Q: A Hokie is ...  
A: I have to explain this a lot to people outside of Tech, and my answer over the years has developed into, "Well, if you don’t know, you haven’t been to Blacksburg." Among many things, a Hokie is someone who embraces orange and maroon, is in the stands before kickoff, is someone who embraces orange and maroon, is in the stands before kickoff, is an electric game and the 2006 Clemson Thursday night game were electric.

Q: What is your best memory of Virginia Carolina that I don’t see a car sporting a Wahoo.  
A: If you have any tailgating traditions?  
A: Our tailgate menu is planned the week before the game. My aunt and uncle drive in from Northern Virginia, my brother from Richmond and my parents from Waverly, so we all meet at our hotel and pile into one car that is decked out with Virginia Tech magnets and flags. We tailgate both before and after the game, and the pregame and postgame reports are always on our radio.

Q: What motivates you to give back to Virginia Tech athletics?  
A: A: I was fortunate to grow up in a very small southeastern Virginia town with a football and track coach as a father. I experienced firsthand the positive influence athletics had on the youth and our community. Nothing beats a fall Saturday in Blacksburg — the hustle, the bustle, the camaraderie and spirit of our fans. I am proud of all of our student-athletes and the time that they devote to my alma mater. That is why my family gives back.

Q: I’m a Hokie Club member because ...  
A: I want to continue our rich tradition of athletics excellence and ensure that Virginia Tech students have the same great experience I had when I was there.

Q: What are you most excited about this football season?  
A: We have a Thursday night home game! I was pretty upset when we didn’t have one scheduled last year. I haven’t missed a Thursday night game in Lane since 1999, so I am really looking forward to the Miami matchup this year.

Q: How did you get involved with the Hokie Club?  
A: I joined the year after I graduated at the minimum giving level because I was just starting graduate school.

Q: Do you have any tailgating traditions?  
A: Our tailgate menu is planned the week before the game. My aunt and uncle drive in from Northern Virginia, my brother from Richmond and my parents from Waverly, so we all meet at our hotel and pile into one car that is decked out with Virginia Tech magnets and flags. We tailgate both before and after the game, and the pregame and postgame reports are always on our radio.

Q: What motivates you to give back to Virginia Tech athletics?  
A: I was fortunate to grow up in a very small southeastern Virginia town with a football and track coach as a father. I experienced firsthand the positive influence athletics had on the youth and our community. Nothing beats a fall Saturday in Blacksburg — the hustle, the bustle, the camaraderie and spirit of our fans. I am proud of all of our student-athletes and the time that they devote to my alma mater. That is why my family gives back.

Q: I’m a Hokie Club member because ...  
A: I want to continue our rich tradition of athletics excellence and ensure that Virginia Tech students have the same great experience I had when I was there.

Q: What are you most excited about this football season?  
A: We have a Thursday night home game! I was pretty upset when we didn’t have one scheduled last year. I haven’t missed a Thursday night game in Lane since 1999, so I am really looking forward to the Miami matchup this year.

Q: How did you get involved with the Hokie Club?  
A: I joined the year after I graduated at the minimum giving level because I was just starting graduate school.

Q: Do you have any tailgating traditions?  
A: Our tailgate menu is planned the week before the game. My aunt and uncle drive in from Northern Virginia, my brother from Richmond and my parents from Waverly, so we all meet at our hotel and pile into one car that is decked out with Virginia Tech magnets and flags. We tailgate both before and after the game, and the pregame and postgame reports are always on our radio.

Q: What motivates you to give back to Virginia Tech athletics?  
A: I was fortunate to grow up in a very small southeastern Virginia town with a football and track coach as a father. I experienced firsthand the positive influence athletics had on the youth and our community. Nothing beats a fall Saturday in Blacksburg — the hustle, the bustle, the camaraderie and spirit of our fans. I am proud of all of our student-athletes and the time that they devote to my alma mater. That is why my family gives back.

Q: I’m a Hokie Club member because ...  
A: I want to continue our rich tradition of athletics excellence and ensure that Virginia Tech students have the same great experience I had when I was there.

Q: What are you most excited about this football season?  
A: We have a Thursday night home game! I was pretty upset when we didn’t have one scheduled last year. I haven’t missed a Thursday night game in Lane since 1999, so I am really looking forward to the Miami matchup this year.

Q: How did you get involved with the Hokie Club?  
A: I joined the year after I graduated at the minimum giving level because I was just starting graduate school.

Q: Do you have any tailgating traditions?  
A: Our tailgate menu is planned the week before the game. My aunt and uncle drive in from Northern Virginia, my brother from Richmond and my parents from Waverly, so we all meet at our hotel and pile into one car that is decked out with Virginia Tech magnets and flags. We tailgate both before and after the game, and the pregame and postgame reports are always on our radio.

Q: What motivates you to give back to Virginia Tech athletics?  
A: I was fortunate to grow up in a very small southeastern Virginia town with a football and track coach as a father. I experienced firsthand the positive influence athletics had on the youth and our community. Nothing beats a fall Saturday in Blacksburg — the hustle, the bustle, the camaraderie and spirit of our fans. I am proud of all of our student-athletes and the time that they devote to my alma mater. That is why my family gives back.

Q: I’m a Hokie Club member because ...  
A: I want to continue our rich tradition of athletics excellence and ensure that Virginia Tech students have the same great experience I had when I was there.

Q: What are you most excited about this football season?  
A: We have a Thursday night home game! I was pretty upset when we didn’t have one scheduled last year. I haven’t missed a Thursday night game in Lane since 1999, so I am really looking forward to the Miami matchup this year.

Q: How did you get involved with the Hokie Club?  
A: I joined the year after I graduated at the minimum giving level because I was just starting graduate school.

Q: Do you have any tailgating traditions?  
A: Our tailgate menu is planned the week before the game. My aunt and uncle drive in from Northern Virginia, my brother from Richmond and my parents from Waverly, so we all meet at our hotel and pile into one car that is decked out with Virginia Tech magnets and flags. We tailgate both before and after the game, and the pregame and postgame reports are always on our radio.

Q: What motivates you to give back to Virginia Tech athletics?  
A: I was fortunate to grow up in a very small southeastern Virginia town with a football and track coach as a father. I experienced firsthand the positive influence athletics had on the youth and our community. Nothing beats a fall Saturday in Blacksburg — the hustle, the bustle, the camaraderie and spirit of our fans. I am proud of all of our student-athletes and the time that they devote to my alma mater. That is why my family gives back.

Q: I’m a Hokie Club member because ...  
A: I want to continue our rich tradition of athletics excellence and ensure that Virginia Tech students have the same great experience I had when I was there.

Q: What are you most excited about this football season?  
A: We have a Thursday night home game! I was pretty upset when we didn’t have one scheduled last year. I haven’t missed a Thursday night game in Lane since 1999, so I am really looking forward to the Miami matchup this year.
Tech AD Whit Babcock announced on Aug. 27 the signing of head football coach Frank Beamer to a two-year contract extension, ensuring that the longtime coach can remain at the head of the helm through Jan. 1, 2019.

The move came just three days before the Hokies’ season opener against William & Mary. “This well-deserved extension is a reward for 27 tremendous years, certainly, but also is based upon my observations and work with him these past seven months,” Babcock said in a statement. “His integrity and work ethic is even better than advertised, and he still has that competitive fire and wants to move Virginia Tech forward. I believe in him and support him, his staff and our team. We look forward to a successful 2014 season and beyond.”

Other than the additional two years, the remainder of the terms of Beamer’s contract stay pretty much the same. Beamer, the winningest active coach in the Football Bowl Subdivision, is in his 28th season with the program. Under his leadership, Tech has won seven conference championships, earned six BCS appearances and finished ranked in the top 20 in 16 of the past 21 seasons.

“Just as impressive has been his program’s performance in the classroom. The Hokies scored a 977 on the NCAA’s multi-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) – the program’s highest score ever. In 11 of the past 13 years, Tech has graduated at least 70 percent of its football recruiting class. “I can honestly tell you that our program currently stands atop a rock-solid foundation,” said Beamer, who turns 68 in October. “This coaching staff is the best I’ve ever had. We’ve had an influx of talented, young student-athletes into our program, and we’ve been at work recruiting more just like them. So I’m confident in the character and talent of our coaches, players and support staff.

“Then, you see this impressive, state-of-the-art indoor practice facility on its way up, which shows the continuing dedication from this university, its people and our fans, and our future can only be bright. I’m proud of where we’ve been, and I’m extremely excited about where we’re going.”

Tech freshman worried about more than football

Melvin Keihn had enough to concern himself with when he arrived on Tech’s campus in early July. He needed to take care of his classes. He needed to get to lifting sessions and position meetings on time. He needed to show the coaching staff his skills once practice started in August. But those days, the young man from Towson, Maryland, has a more pressing concern – and he can do little about it.

Keihn was born in the West African nation of Liberia, and he moved to the United States when he was 8 to live with his father (his parents are divorced) to avoid becoming a casualty of a civil war occurring in the country at the time. His mother remains in Liberia, a nation now receiving worldwide attention because of the Ebola virus outbreak.

“The disease, which has no cure, has killed nearly 1,500 people so far, with roughly half of those in Liberia. Thus, Keihn’s concern for his mother is warranted.

“Not only her, but also everyone has to be careful about that,” Keihn said. “If you shake someone’s hand or talk with someone, the virus can spread easily. So I worry about her and all my brothers and sisters. You have to be careful with what you do and be careful about who you’re surrounded by and how you interact with them.”

Keihn, who played seven snaps on special teams in the Hokies’ season opener against William & Mary, hasn’t seen his mother since he left Liberia more than 10 years ago. He moved in with his father, who lived in Washington, District of Columbia, and later, the family moved to Woodlawn, Maryland, just outside of Baltimore. Later on, Keihn lived with his high school coach, Biff Poggi, at the Gilman School. Keihn’s ultimate goal is to get his mother to the U.S. In the short term, he focuses on football and academics, with concern for his mother never far from his thoughts.

“Sometimes, it’s hard to keep focused, worrying about the health issues, and at the same time, going to school and playing football,” he said. “It’s a lot to take care of, but at the same time, I’m using that as motivation and trying to get through everything I can to get her up here when I get a chance to.”
The Virginia Tech football team won its season opener against William & Mary rather easily. The Hokies rolled up 488 total yards, ran for 222 yards and only gave up 193 yards defensively.

But of all the numbers that came out of that game, the ones that intrigue this writer the most were this – Tech played nearly as many true freshmen (10) as it did seniors (12).

That might come as a surprise to some, but Tech’s coaches said they were going to play a lot of the 2014 recruiting class and lived up to that. Seventeen true freshmen made the dress squad for the season opener, and 10 got in the game, gaining experience in hopes of helping the rest of this season.

In other words, the future is now.

“If they’re [the freshmen] that good and they can help us, then let’s play them,” said running backs coach Shane Beamer, who played freshmen Marshawn Williams and Shai McKenzie at tailback. “We’re all about competition. We’re always trying to upgrade the talent on this football team. If there is a guy that has come in as a freshman and gives us a better chance to win, then let’s play him. That’s our mindset right now.”

Playing Williams and McKenzie made sense because we’ve upgraded the talent. Sometimes, sheer talent is. "I told my guys [the returning running backs] before spring practice that this was a critical spring because we had guys coming in that were good and were going to compete," Beamer said. "They want to play from day 1. We do lack depth in some issues, but I think we played those guys because we’ve upgraded the talent.”

Tech’s staff also played two true freshman receivers (Isaiah Ford and Cam Phillips) and a freshman kicker (Joey Slye). All were expected to play. Tech lacked big plays out of its receivers last season, and Ford and Phillips possess that ability. Ford actually started and deserved to, given his performances in practices and scrimmages, and Slye won the kicking job over last season’s starter, Trey Edmunds, has been slow to return from a broken leg suffered late last season, and both Chris Mangus and Jerome Wright have left the program, thus exacerbating the need to play Williams and McKenzie.

Of course, depth isn’t the overriding decision to play someone as a true freshman. Sometimes, it’s pure excitement. "The way we play nickel defense now, you’ve got to have a certain number of defensive backs ready to play,” defensive back coach Torrian Gray said. "If you get an injury and you don’t have enough guys, then you’ve got to catch those guys [the freshmen] up to speed. Those guys are talented and will continue to progress as the season goes along, so we thought they were ready to take that step.

"They give us depth. They give us security. They’re going to help us out on special teams. That all factors in. Then next year, those guys are going to be better for having gone through this.”

Finally, defensive end Melvin Keihn also played, but only on special teams. Tech’s staff wants better play on special teams and obviously wasn’t afraid to use Keihn in that role.

Playing true freshmen appears to be the new trend in college football. Tennessee played 21 in its season opener. Southern Cal played 12. Oregon played nine.

Tech now has played 21 combined the past two seasons. Four years ago, the Hokies played just two (Derrick Hopkins and Kyle Fuller). In the end, it doesn’t matter. You play your best and try to win – and Tech’s staff thinks this current group of true freshmen can do exactly that.
Tech offense hoping to stay in tune for 2014 season

There were times during the 2013 football season when Virginia Tech offensive coordinator Scot Loeffler felt as if he was conducting an orchestra without all the musical instruments. It’s difficult to conduct an award-winning symphony if it doesn’t have ... for instance ... a brass section. Because of injuries, attrition, inexperience and a dip in talent at some spots, Virginia Tech’s offense never truly had the look Loeffler wanted last year.

But in 2014, with an influx of young talent, the Hokies’ attack will reflect more of Loeffler’s personality. More no-huddle? You bet. Productive in the red zone? No doubt. Efficient, with fewer turnovers? Must happen. That’s what Loeffler has seen so far in 2014. “I think we’ve made a lot of improvements from last year,” Loeffler said. “We needed to run the ball better and protect the ball. Those were the two main areas we needed to improve over last year. And we needed to get better at some positions, too. I think we have. I know we have.”

With a new quarterback, excited new tailbacks and dynamic talent at tight end – which is one of Loeffler’s favorite weapons – the Hokies feel they’ve made a big upgrade in their talent level with the additional offensive threats. “They [Tech’s freshmen] are going to make typical freshman mistakes,” Loeffler said. “For example, in the first game against William & Mary, Cam [Phillips] lined up wrong, and so that took a touchdown off the board. Things like that happen with freshmen, and we need to get those things cleaned up as the season progresses. But they [Tech’s freshmen] are smart guys who are ready into it.”

One of the smartest players on the team is quarterback Michael Brewer, the levelheaded, even-keeled Texan who transferred to Virginia Tech from Texas Tech. Brewer quietly completed 23 of 30 for 253 yards in his debut, with two touchdowns and an interception.

“We have a very cerebral guy behind center,” Loeffler said. “He’s a decision maker. He’s the CEO of the offense. He knows what’s going on. We need to get better at those intangibles that great quarterbacks have." Loeffler said. “But what he does have are the intangibles and the mental makeup we want.”

Lineage plays a role in that. Brewer’s father, Robert, played quarterback at Texas in the early 1980s, and he earned MVP honors in leading Texas to a 14-12 comeback win over Alabama in the 1982 Cotton Bowl. His grandfather, Charlie, also played quarterback at Texas. He played for legendary coach Darrell Royal in the 1930s.

Michael Brewer’s last one game as a high school quarterback, winning four straight state championships. So, he, like his father and grandfather, is used to success. “He was born with some traits that quarterbacks have,” Loeffler said. “Leadership, poise and the mentality to put everything together. I think there’s some bloodlines, for sure.”

Loeffler also told me he’s “super excited” about the potential this year of Virginia Tech’s tight ends after seeing them in action during the first few weeks of this season. “We have athletic tight ends who can get out in space and we can form them in many different sets,” he said. “That’s a huge advantage for us.”

Freshman tight end Bucky Hodges is one of the most unique athletes and prospects Tech’s had in a while. He came to Tech as a quarterback out of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Midway through his redshirt year, Tech’s coaches asked him to play on the scout team and emulate North Carolina tight end Eric Ebron.

He did so, and now the Hokies have a terrific weapon, particularly in the red zone. “You can’t cover him one-on-one,” Loeffler said. “He’s athletic, smart and loves the game. He’s going to get better and better week by week." Ryan Mallick’s return from last year’s shoulder injury is a tremendous boost to the position as well. Tech’s offense wasn’t the same last year when he went down with that injury last August.

Mallick not only helps Tech in the passing game, but also in the running game. He has improved tremendously as a blocker. “Ryan is a quiet leader who has a great hold on our football team,” Loeffler said. “He doesn’t speak a lot but when he does people listen.”

So what are the other areas to watch during the early part of this season? “For us to be successful with our young talent, we need to stay in phase with the chains,” Loeffler said. “In each game, we want to have just two plays of third-and-11-plus, and just four plays that are third-and-7 to 10 yards. You want to look back after the [William & Mary] game and see that 10 times, we had third-down-and-7 to 10 yards.”

In other words, this team, with its young talent, has to be good on first down. “We can’t jump offside and be first-and-15, or second-and-15,” Loeffler said. “You have to stay on schedule on first and second down. In college football, your odds of converting a third-and-15 are just about 17 percent. We need to stay on schedule, which is to have positive plays on first down.”

Football salaries aside, Loeffler is most excited about the infusion of talent he has to work with this year, including Hodges, freshman backs Shai McKenzie and Matthew Williams, and rookie receivers like Isaiah Ford and Phillips.

“We have some guys with a lot of talent, but they’re young. So our goal throughout the season, every week, will be to protect the football and run it,” Loeffler said. “We know [defensive coordinator] Bud [Foster] is going to play great defense on the other side. Our charge is to run the football and not turn it over.”

And where the Hokies are as a team right now in September is nowhere near how good they can be in October or November. And that is very encouraging. “I believe the great teams and great players have a hunger to improve each week,” Loeffler said. “We need do that. In week 10, we need to get better for week 11. If we do that, our young guys will gel, and we’ll have a really good team.”

Strings? Check. Brass? Check. Woodwinds? Yep. Percussion? For sure. Loeffler’s symphony seemingly has all the parts for 2014. Now we need to see how well these guys play together over the next three months.
G: I have noticed over the years that freshmen rarely, if ever, serve as hosts for football recruits on official visits. Is there some reason for this? Is there an NCAA rule, or is this just left up to the discretion of the coaching staff? Just curious. Thanks, Jed in Christiansburg, Virginia.

TP: “Good question. The NCAA does not prohibit a freshman from serving as the host of a recruit on an official visit, and it does happen from time to time here at Virginia Tech. In most of those cases, the freshman went to the same high school as the recruit on the official visit, so there is a previous relationship there. But mostly, coaches feel more comfortable pairing upperclassmen with recruits on visits. Upperclassmen generally are more mature and have a better feel for the program – and can do a better job of ‘selling’ that to recruits.”

G: I read recently where [former Virginia Tech basketball player] Trevor Thompson is trying to get a waiver to play next season at Ohio State after transferring from Tech. How is that going to happen? I thought he had to sit out a year like Seth Allen is doing for us this year. Thanks, Katie in Christiansburg, Virginia.

TP: “My understanding – from media reports – is that Trevor is appealing for a waiver from the NCAA rule requiring basketball transfers to sit out from competition for one academic year, arguing that he transferred to be closer to his father, who underwent surgery to repair some damage from a neck fracture suffered several years ago and now needs additional surgery. “There are some issues that come into play with any waiver like this. No. 1, in this type of situation, the NCAA committee that will rule on this request normally requires that the student-athlete transferring move within 100 miles of where the relative lives. Trevor’s father lives in Indianapolis, which is about 175 miles from Columbus. “Also, the committee will look at the timing or progression of any illness. Was the surgery scheduled before or after the transfer? Determining the role of the illness in the actual transfer decision will be pivotal. “Regardless of the final ruling in Trevor’s case, he will not lose one of his four opportunities to play. He will still have three seasons of eligibility remaining for Ohio State, even if he is required to sit out during the 2014-15 season.”

G: So, now that the five power conferences have more autonomy to make their own rules, what happens next? Are football and basketball players going to start getting paid? Thanks, Bruce in Blacksburg.

TP: “The NCAA Division I Board of Directors did vote to allow schools in the “Power Five” conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac 12, SEC) to write some of their own rules. Many of these will be more permissive than current Division I rules, some will be more restrictive. “These measures will permit the five conferences to decide on things such as the composition of scholarships, insurance benefits for players, staff sizes, recruiting rules, and mandatory hours spent engaged in required athletically-related activities. All other Division I schools – on a conference-by-conference basis – will have the ability to utilize any permissive amendment adopted by the Power Five. “Initial proposals via autonomous legislation will emerge very quickly. In order to be voted on at the next NCAA convention (January 2015 in Washington, D.C.), these legislative amendments must be submitted by the five conferences no later than Oct. 1. “An increase in the value of a full athletics scholarship is likely to be the first significant issue addressed. How this will play out is still very much up in the air. Stay tuned.”

Q: So now that the five power conferences have more autonomy to make their own rules, what happens next? Are football and basketball players going to start getting paid? Thanks, Bruce in Blacksburg.

TP: “Good question. The NCAA does not prohibit a freshman from serving as the host of a recruit on an official visit, and it does happen from time to time here at Virginia Tech. In most of those cases, the freshman went to the same high school as the recruit on the official visit, so there is a previous relationship there. But mostly, coaches feel more comfortable pairing upperclassmen with recruits on visits. Upperclassmen generally are more mature and have a better feel for the program – and can do a better job of ‘selling’ that to recruits.”

G: I read recently where [former Virginia Tech basketball player] Trevor Thompson is trying to get a waiver to play next season at Ohio State after transferring from Tech. How is that going to happen? I thought he had to sit out a year like Seth Allen is doing for us this year. Thanks, Katie in Christiansburg, Virginia.

TP: “My understanding – from media reports – is that Trevor is appealing for a waiver from the NCAA rule requiring basketball transfers to sit out from competition for one academic year, arguing that he transferred to be closer to his father, who underwent surgery to repair some damage from a neck fracture suffered several years ago and now needs additional surgery. “There are some issues that come into play with any waiver like this. No. 1, in this type of situation, the NCAA committee that will rule on this request normally requires that the student-athlete transferring move within 100 miles of where the relative lives. Trevor’s father lives in Indianapolis, which is about 175 miles from Columbus. “Also, the committee will look at the timing or progression of any illness. Was the surgery scheduled before or after the transfer? Determining the role of the illness in the actual transfer decision will be pivotal. “Regardless of the final ruling in Trevor’s case, he will not lose one of his four opportunities to play. He will still have three seasons of eligibility remaining for Ohio State, even if he is required to sit out during the 2014-15 season.”

G: So, now that the five power conferences have more autonomy to make their own rules, what happens next? Are football and basketball players going to start getting paid? Thanks, Bruce in Blacksburg.

TP: “The NCAA Division I Board of Directors did vote to allow schools in the “Power Five” conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac 12, SEC) to write some of their own rules. Many of these will be more permissive than current Division I rules, some will be more restrictive. “These measures will permit the five conferences to decide on things such as the composition of scholarships, insurance benefits for players, staff sizes, recruiting rules, and mandatory hours spent engaged in required athletically-related activities. All other Division I schools – on a conference-by-conference basis – will have the ability to utilize any permissive amendment adopted by the Power Five. “Initial proposals via autonomous legislation will emerge very quickly. In order to be voted on at the next NCAA convention (January 2015 in Washington, D.C.), these legislative amendments must be submitted by the five conferences no later than Oct. 1. “An increase in the value of a full athletics scholarship is likely to be the first significant issue addressed. How this will play out is still very much up in the air. Stay tuned.”

Q: how do you turn your desire to help others into a lifelong mission?
What led you to pursue a path toward the goal of eventually becoming a guidance counselor?

“I started in human development because I knew I wanted to do some type of social science. Then I started doing research on what type of jobs you could get, and it was teacher, social worker and all the general social science jobs when you think of helping others. Then I came across guidance counselor.

“I had a very positive experience with my guidance counselor in high school. She had a positive impact in my life, and that was something that motivated me and shed light on what role I want to play in an adolescent’s life. So I started looking into becoming a school counselor.

“The summer before my senior year, I interned at my high school back home, and I loved it. It was fast-paced, and every day was different. I like the team atmosphere, just coming off team-building stuff with secure my whole life. After that, I was set on becoming a school counselor.”

You have a busy fall planned aside from participating on the women’s soccer team and taking graduate school classes. Please tell us about it.

“I’ll be doing an internship at Auburn High School in Riner this fall. I did my practicum [a course of study that involves applying classroom knowledge], which was less hours but the same course of study that involves applying classroom knowledge, at my high school back home, and I loved it. It was fast-paced, and every day was different. I like the team atmosphere, just coming off team-building stuff with secure my whole life.”

“An intern role is different than a practicum. I’ll be working one-on-one with students, working with and will be responsible for, and I’ll probably be working on my own caseload and my own students that I’m working with. It’s more ingrained in the school. I’ll have my own caseload and my own students that I’m working with and will be responsible for, and I’ll probably be working one-on-one with students, working with groups of students, doing classroom guidance and doing career exploration. I’ll probably be making sure seniors are on track for graduation. It’s going to be a lot of fun, especially for me since I have an interest in high school and those grade levels.”

Then in the spring, you’ll be at a different school, right? And then you’ll start applying for jobs?

“Yes, I’ll be going to a different county. I’m thinking Salem or Roanoke County, because my school, the Roanoke Higher Education Center [a collaborative effort among 16 in-state schools, including Virginia Tech], is based out of Roanoke, and there’s a collaborative effort among 16 in-state schools, including Virginia Tech. I’m based out of Roanoke, so I commute back and forth. I can go to my school during the day and then to my classes at night. I don’t know what school, but I’ll be in an elementary school.

“As far as the job situation, I’m really just trying to get through the fall. I plan to start looking and applying for jobs over winter break. I don’t have anything set in stone. I don’t have anchors anywhere. It would be nice to go home. I’m originally from New Jersey, and it would be nice to go back so that I could be near my family. But I don’t have a plan set in stone. I’ll just go with the flow and go with any opportunities that present themselves.”

What is it about finance and accounting that you like so much?

“It’s more that you have an equation, numbers that you like pretty quickly. It’s more mathematical than anything. That’s what appeals to me. A lot of people hate accounting, but I’m not one of those people.”

What are your future plans?

“I’ve been giving it a little bit of thought, and one of the reasons I want to double major in finance and accounting is that I want to get my CPA [certified public accountant] license after college. I think that would give me a few options of what I could do in the accounting field.

“Beyond that, I haven’t thought about it too much. I still don’t know if I want to leave my one passion, which is tennis, because I’ve been doing that the last 14 years of my life. There’s still a chance I could do something with tennis. I don’t want to throw that out the window. I don’t think I’ll be playing professionally, but I could still be a teaching pro. There are a lot of things I could do with tennis. So I’m still deciding.”

Inside Hokie Sports
The Tech women’s golf team held its inaugural practice on Aug. 28 at the Pete Dye River Course – the latest step in the development of the program as it heads toward competition in 2015.

by Jimmy Robertson

Those looking to develop their patience in all facets of life may want to schedule a session with Tech women’s golf coach Carol Robertson, who holds an undergraduate degree in public administration, a master’s in sport management, and thanks to recent life experiences, a Ph.D. on the subject of patience. In addition to raising a 3-year-old son with her husband, a trying task for any first-time parents, Robertson spent the past 13 agonizing months waiting to perform her passion – coaching young women golfers.

Those who hold an undergraduate degree in public administration, a master’s in sport management, and thanks to recent life experiences, a Ph.D. on the subject of patience. In addition to raising a 3-year-old son with her husband, a trying task for any first-time parents, Robertson spent the past 13 agonizing months waiting to perform her passion – coaching young women golfers.

Robertson spent the past 13 agonizing months waiting to perform her passion – coaching young women golfers.

In fact, in a nice gesture, Hardwick stopped his practice and had his players introduce themselves to Hollandsworth and Woodward. The two of them may compete against the men’s team this fall and spring when the men’s schedule allows for it.

“Jay [Hardwick] and I have briefly talked about it, and he’s all for it,” Robertson said. “They’re pretty busy with their competitive season, but when they’re not out in season in late fall or early spring, they’d be able to do some of that. We’d like to have a little insider tournament to get the competitive juices flowing.

“It’s going to take some creative thinking and motivational practices to keep them motivated. Imagine a football team going and working out and doing all those things, and them saying, ‘Sorry you don’t get to bash people on Saturday.’

“We have the same competitive spirit, and you want to go out and represent Virginia Tech and beat some people. So we’ll have to find a way to simulate that for the next year.”

Though teammates, Hollandsworth and Woodward are not roommates. They live in the same dorm – Cochrane Hall – but live on different floors. That decision affords them the opportunity to meet other people since they figure to be seeing each other with regularity over the next eight months.

The two, though, were acquainted before coming to Tech. Both have competed in the Scott Robertson Memorial Tournament, a prestigious junior tournament held in Roanoke, Virginia, each spring. Two years ago, they came across each other in a long drive competition. Woodward behaved itself 270 yards and expected to win it, but Hollandsworth cranked one 306 and ended up victorious.

“I was like, ‘Sorry,’” Hollandsworth said, laughing.

“Amanda got me. She pounded it,” Woodward said. “I hit it around 270, and I was happy with that. I’ll go home thinking that’s pretty good. But man, she can pound it. I thought I was a long-ball hitter until I played with her, so I’m so stoked.

“I was like, ‘Sorry,’” Hollandsworth said, laughing.

“Amanda got me. She pounded it,” Woodward said. “I hit it around 270, and I was happy with that. I’ll go home thinking that’s pretty good. But man, she can pound it. I thought I was a long-ball hitter until I played with her, so I’m so stoked.

“‘Sorry you don’t get to bash people on Saturday.’

“They’re pretty busy with their competitive season, but when they’re not out in season in late fall or early spring, they’d be able to do some of that. We’d like to have a little insider tournament to get the competitive juices flowing.

“We have the same competitive spirit, and you want to go out and represent Virginia Tech and beat some people. So we’ll have to find a way to simulate that for the next year.”

Though teammates, Hollandsworth and Woodward are not roommates. They live in the same dorm – Cochrane Hall – but live on different floors. That decision affords them the opportunity to meet other people since they figure to be seeing each other with regularity over the next eight months.

The two, though, were acquainted before coming to Tech. Both have competed in the Scott Robertson Memorial Tournament, a prestigious junior tournament held in Roanoke, Virginia, each spring. Two years ago, they came across each other in a long drive competition. Woodward behaved itself 270 yards and expected to win it, but Hollandsworth cranked one 306 and ended up victorious.

“I was like, ‘Sorry,’” Hollandsworth said, laughing.

“Amanda got me. She pounded it,” Woodward said. “I hit it around 270, and I was happy with that. I’ll go home thinking that’s pretty good. But man, she can pound it. I thought I was a long-ball hitter until I played with her, so I’m so stoked.

“All this will make them better golfers a year down the road and four years down the road. Pray for us, and we’ll be in the 2015 NCAA to be out here [the River Course] and play. It’s nice to have known them since they were little girls.

“Coach Robertson was the No. 1 reason I was going to go to ODU,” Hollandsworth said. “The beach might have been a little factor in that, too, but mostly, it was Coach Robertson. She’s going to be the difference in my golf game, I’m sure.

“Their verbal commitment and signs with the Hokies, bringing her within 30 minutes of her hometown. Robertson left to become Tech’s head coach. Robertson left to become Tech’s head coach. Robertson left to become Tech’s head coach. Robertson left to become Tech’s head coach.

“Sorry you don’t get to bash people on Saturday.”

“Finally,” Robertson said. “When I was proud to accept this job, I should have – but it didn’t – occur to me that I would be here several months without players to coach. I miss it. I’ve missed it so much. It’s about these kids and the months without players to coach. I miss it. I’ve

“I think this redshirt year will be a great, great benefit for them,” Robertson said. “They have all the tools to be a top Division-I ACC golfer. They need the structure and the time and the development year to prove that.”

“Finally,” Robertson said. “When I was proud to accept this job, I should have – but it didn’t – occur to me that I would be here several months without players to coach. I miss it. I’ve missed it so much. It’s about these kids and the months without players to coach. I miss it. I’ve

Robertson has waited a year to get them here. She’ll have to wait another year to see them compete.

But she’s banking that her patience will be rewarded. In a big way, too.

IHS extra | women’s golf squad holds first practice

IHS extra | women’s golf squad holds first practice

IHS extra | women’s golf squad holds first practice

IHS extra | women’s golf squad holds first practice

IHS extra | women’s golf squad holds first practice

IHS extra | women’s golf squad holds first practice

IHS extra | women’s golf squad holds first practice
It is the first building that students coming to Virginia Tech’s campus for the first time, or those returning to campus to continue their studies, see. They drive along U.S. 460, an asphalt path that meanders through a pastoral setting, and the building rises up, roughly a mile in the distance. The highway leads to a stoplight, and students, or perhaps those riding with their parents, take a right onto Southgate Drive, one of the main arteries into Tech’s campus. The building towers over everything else, commanding one’s attention, and those seeing it for the first time usually gape in awe.

Lane Stadium is an impressive display of concrete, steel, glass, lights, and of course, Hokie stone, the defining architectural feature of nearly every building on this campus wedged into the Blue Ridge mountains of Southwest Virginia. It is beautiful and awesome, and yet intimidating.

Lane Stadium is a building, a football stadium, and a home to one of the nation’s best football programs over the past two decades. Yet it is certainly so much more.

Yes, the concrete, steel and Hokie stone comprise it. But what goes on inside its cavernous walls define it.

Those who attend football games know this, and as they drive into Southgate and approach the stadium, they can feel the sensations. They envision fans draped in maroon and orange hunkered around their grills in the parking lots. They see kids in oversized jerseys tossing pigskins. They almost hear the rhythmic pulsing of “Enter Sandman” and their feet probably start tapping the floorboard of their vehicles. They can’t wait to start jumping. This season marks the 50th in which Lane Stadium has been Tech’s football home. The venue just keeps getting better with age.

35,000-seat football stadium to be built not far from Miles Stadium, Tech’s football home at that time, and just south of Cassell Coliseum. Miles Stadium only seated around 15,000.

Hahn checked when recalling that meeting with the Board.

“I think probably they thought I was crazy, but they were too polite to say so,” he said. “The question was raised – how in the world would we get 35,000 people in and out of Blacksburg? There was only one road in and one road out at that time. There were some doubters, but the Board of Visitors was enthusiastic at that time about the progress we were making, and they agreed we should saddle up and get moving immediately.”

The university’s athletics department found itself trying to work through tumultuous times in the early 1960s. Tech won the Southern Conference football championship in 1963, but the league had been weakened when some of the bigger schools – North Carolina, Clemson, NC State, Duke and Maryland – left in the mid-1950s and formed a conference called the Atlantic Coast Conference. At the time, Tech was the lone charter member of the Southern Conference remaining.

In the spring of 1964, Tech officials decided to withdraw from the Southern Conference. The move allowed Tech the flexibility to schedule like institutions in the region, with the hopes being that playing, and winning, some of those games would make the school more attractive to the ACC.

Dr. T. Marshall Hahn was more than just a Virginia Tech president, the 12th in the university’s history. The man also was a visionary.

Now 87, Hahn took over the presidency at Tech in 1962 at the ripe old age of 35 – still the youngest Tech president to date. Perhaps emboldened by youth, Hahn quickly stamped his mark on the athletics area.

Hahn, along with trusted sidekick Stuart Cassell, oversaw the finishing of the construction of Cassell Coliseum, the school’s basketball home, in 1964. Then he decided to embark on another project – one much loftier than Cassell Coliseum.

In 1963, Hahn pitched a project to Tech’s Board of Visitors that called for the construction of a 35,000-seat football stadium to be built not far from Miles Stadium, Tech’s football home at that time, and just south of Cassell Coliseum. Miles Stadium only seated around 15,000.

Hahn chuckled when recalling that meeting with the Board.

“The university emerged into national distinction, its reputation lagged in time behind where the university had actually reached, and anything we could do to link the name of the university with comparable universities would be helpful,” he said. “Successful intercollegiate athletics certainly was very effective in that area.

“We also needed the space where the dormitories are on the site of the old Miles Stadium [behind War Memorial Gym]. We needed that area to build additional student residences. We were trying to avoid spreading too far, so that the distances between the dormitories and the buildings where the students took classes wouldn’t be so far.”

Thus, he and his staff made the pitch for the new football stadium. The Board of Visitors ultimately agreed to Hahn’s proposal.

There was one slight problem, though.

“We didn’t have any money to speak of,” Hahn said.

ENTER MR. EDWARD H. LANE

Hahn refuses to take a lot of credit for his role in the construction of Lane Stadium. Instead, he points to two other men who played integral roles – Cassell, who played a key role in the building which bears his name, and Edward H. Lane.
Both men performed numerous tasks related to the project, but for simplicity’s sake, Tech fans should look at their roles this way – Cassell worked with the architect and contractors to keep costs down, while Lane raised the money. The Board of Visitors, concerned about costs, liked this two-pronged approach.

“We worked with a contractor – I can’t remember his name right now – but he agreed to construction progress payments and agreed that there would be no penalty if we had to stop midstream until we raised more money,” Hahn said. “I recommended to the Board that we build the stadium in the location where it is now. We actually had bulldozers standing by the last game of the season.”

Workers actually began construction on the stadium in April of 1964. Following the 1964 season, workers raised the old Mile Stadium, making it imperative that the new stadium be at least ready for play in time for the 1965 season.

Fortunately, there were no delays in construction. A lot of credit for that goes to Lane, a former student at Tech who founded a company in Altavista, Virginia, with his father. Lane spearheaded an educational foundation project that raised more than $3 million for the construction. He himself made a sizable contribution to the project.

“We went down to Altavista to see Ed and made the pitch, and he and his family made a substantial gift as a stimulus to his thousands of fellow alumni to get on the wagon, too,” Hahn said. “He was very helpful.”

“Back in those days, they had the ‘Big Five Championship’ – Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, William & Mary, Richmond and VMI,” Smoot said. “They were the five major state teams. That went on for several years. There wasn’t any playoff or anything like that, but I remember the newspaper always had the Big Five standings. Those five teams played each other, at least to an extent. They didn’t always play each other, but they did most of the time.”

That 1965 season marked the start of Hokie dominance at its new home. Tech also did not lose a game at Lane Stadium in 1966 (though the Hokies tied West Virginia 13 at 13). The 1966 season marked the first season for a familiar name among Hokie Notables – current head coach Frank Beamer. He played on the freshman team in 1965, but did not play in that freshman game at Lane Stadium on Sept. 24 that year.

“Coach [Jerry] Claiborne brought in six quarterbacks that year, and I was the sixth,” Beamer joked when asked about the game. “The next week, they moved me to defensive back.”

Construction workers worked furiously just to get the stadium ready for play for the 1965 season. They knew it wouldn’t be anywhere near completion, but hoped to get enough done to allow for competition.

In short, that is exactly what happened. On Sept. 24, 1965, Tech’s freshman team played the first game ever at the stadium against Maryland’s freshman team. The school’s varsity team took the field on Oct. 2 against William & Mary.

THE FIRST GAME

Old photos and video footage reveal a partially completed stadium. A chunk of the west side wasn’t completed. The north end zone, as Tech fans today know it, consisted of a small hill. The south end zone opened to a parking lot. The east side didn’t have seats yet, so fans sat on concrete or the ground. The three-level press box wasn’t finished, but was completed enough to allow for media members and coaches to do their jobs. The scoreboard was rudimentary compared to today’s behemoth.

Perhaps because of the unfinished state of the stadium, or perhaps because football wasn’t America’s obsession back then the way it seems to be today, a couple of Tech players said there wasn’t the excitement one might have expected leading up to that first varsity game against William & Mary.

“There wasn’t too much excitement for the first game in the new stadium,” said Bill Edwards, a linebacker and one of three captains on the 1965 team. “There was probably more excitement for the Virginia game because it was the dedication and it was the first time in some time that we [the current Tech team] had played Virginia on the campus of Virginia Tech.”

Mike Saunders, a former Enman and also a captain on the 1965 squad, expressed similar sentiments.

“There was a lot of excitement, but I’m not so sure it was any more ‘special’ than any other game going in,” he said. “We had played in a lot of stadiums that size or bigger – or comparable, let’s put it that way. We had been in those kinds of environments, but the fact that we had our own was pretty neat.”

Ray Smoot, a legend in Tech circles for his work within the university as the head of the Virginia Tech Foundation, was also at that first game. He remembers that day well.

“It was my first college varsity football game,” he said. “I was a freshman then. I also remember that the stadium wasn’t completed. The east side wasn’t completed, and I don’t think the press box was finished.”

“The other thing that I remember was that the ball game was boring (laughs).”

Tech managed to win the first varsity game at the stadium, beating William & Mary 9-7. The Hokies trailed 7-0 at halftime, but scored nine points in the fourth quarter. Kinder Jr 131b hit a 34-yard field goal with 4:31 left in the game, and then quarterback Bobby Owens scored on a 13-yard run with 3.7 seconds left to lift the team to the 9-7 victory. Owens’ touchdown capped an eight-play, 80-yard drive that took less than two minutes.

Tech went on to win its other two home games that season. The Hokies knocked off rival Virginia 22-14 and returned home a week in which the stadium was dedicated and named after Mr. Lane. He insisted it be named not for him, but for his family.

The Hokies closed the 1965 season with a win over VMI in Roanoke. That gave Tech the sweep of in-state schools – something of utmost importance in those days.

“Of course, it looks so great today because of the extensive work that has been done recently,” Hahn said. “I thought it was the best time of my tenure to do something like that. We had played for the national championship in 1969 and had gotten the invitation to join the ACC in 2003. So we were able to move forward and it made it become a reality.”

Weaver made a point to say that the inclusion of a new academic center within the west side of the stadium really sold university officials and the Board of Visitors. Tech’s previous academic center for athletes was a small room housed on the west side of Cassell Coliseum, and Weaver wanted something nicer both to help student-athletes with their studies and thus boost graduation rates and also for recruiting purposes.

“It was the most important because I knew how desperately we needed it,” Weaver said. “The academic support area was on the third floor of Cassell Coliseum, and it was just too small and it wasn’t first class enough to do what it needed to do.”

“When you are engaged in the recruiting process, you’ve got to have a facility that parents can understand. Now it’s going to help their child, and I think, when you go to the west side now and go up to that third floor, it says a lot about our commitment to academics. It’s simply a terrific addition.”

Factoring in north end zone bleacher seating and a new playing field (2002), Weaver committed nearly $100 million to Lane Stadium during his time as the AD.

“No, not really,” Weaver said when asked if he ever hesitated at such a commitment. “I felt like we were in good shape financially – as good as we could be. I thought we needed to do it while the enthusiasm was there and while we were playing as well as we were.”

“The last 25 years were a major sweep of in-state schools – something of utmost importance in those days. We had been in those kinds of environments, but the fact that we had our own was pretty neat.”

University officials and then-athletics director Frank Mosley started a project that called for the addition of 20,000 seats to the east side of the stadium. It would add approximately 12,500 seats, an upper concourse area and a snack bar, all at a cost of $52.5 million.

The project was supposed to be completed in time for the 1979 home opener against Appalachian State, but delays pushed the project back. It was finished in time for the 1980 season and brought the capacity of Lane Stadium to more than 50,000.

The big expansion projects, though, occurred in Jim Weaver’s tenure. The former Tech AD, who retired at the end of 2011, took advantage of the program’s success in the late 1990s and early 2000s – and the money that those successes subsequently produced – and pushed through two major stadium initiatives.

In 2002, a $37 million project resulted in the addition of 11,000 seats built into a double-decked structure in the south end zone. The project included 15 luxury suites, two indoor club areas, a new Pro Shop and a media center. Workers started the project in 2001 and finished before the 2002 season.

Then, in 2004, Weaver spearheaded a project that saw the demolition of the press box tower on the west side. The press box was replaced by a structure that ran the entire length of the west side stands and included additional luxury suites, private club seating areas, a president’s area, a press area, offices for the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, a ticket office, a new lighting system, and more. It took two years to complete, cost $52.5 million to finish and increased capacity to more than 66,000.
ENTER SANDMAN

Every Tech fan has a favorite Lane Stadium memory. Saunders and Edwards, two of the three captains of the 1965 team, vividly remember the 1964 season finale against Boston College – the team runs out of the tunnel before kickoff. For the past 14 years, Tech fans have become part of the stadium’s "Enter Sandman" culture.

Since 2000, the athletics department has started playing the first part of the Metallica song as the team runs out of the tunnel. The fans start jumping as soon as the song begins. It is a scene beyond description, and the song serves as the university’s de facto school anthem.

The marketing folks at Tech now play the snippet late in games when the Hokies need a big play. They played it late in a 2009 game against Nebraska. Quarterback Tyrod Taylor hit Danny Coale for an 81-yard gain, and three plays later, Taylor found Dyrell Roberts for the winning touchdown with 21 seconds left.

It still serves as Weaver’s most favorite moment. "That would rank at the top of the list for me," he admitted. "Not so much how it ended, but just to play a first-rate opponent like that and be able to win – that really kept the momentum rolling for us."

Beamer’s had many “Enter Sandman” moments, but one came on one of the saddest days of his life. In 2004, his mother, Herma, passed away only hours before Tech took the field against Maryland in a Thursday night affair. Beamer elected to coach the game, and his team wasn’t about to lose on this night, blasting the Terrapins 55-6.

No one will forget the 1999 season when ESPN first started playing the first part of the Metallica song as the team runs out of the tunnel before kickoff. For the past 14 years, Tech fans have become part of the stadium’s “Enter Sandman” culture.

It still serves as Weaver’s most favorite moment. "That would rank at the top of the list for me," he admitted. "Not so much how it ended, but just to play a first-rate opponent like that and be able to win – that really kept the momentum rolling for us."

Beamer’s had many “Enter Sandman” moments, but one came on one of the saddest days of his life. In 2004, his mother, Herma, passed away only hours before Tech took the field against Maryland in a Thursday night affair. Beamer elected to coach the game, and his team wasn’t about to lose on this night, blasting the Terrapins 55-6.

The marketing folks at Tech now play the snippet late in games when the Hokies need a big play. They played it late in a 2009 game against Nebraska. Quarterback Tyrod Taylor hit Danny Coale for an 81-yard gain, and three plays later, Taylor found Dyrell Roberts for the winning touchdown with 21 seconds left.

It still serves as Weaver’s most favorite moment. "That would rank at the top of the list for me," he admitted. "Not so much how it ended, but just to play a first-rate opponent like that and be able to win – that really kept the momentum rolling for us."

Beamer’s had many “Enter Sandman” moments, but one came on one of the saddest days of his life. In 2004, his mother, Herma, passed away only hours before Tech took the field against Maryland in a Thursday night affair. Beamer elected to coach the game, and his team wasn’t about to lose on this night, blasting the Terrapins 55-6.
Inside Hokie Sports

that setting.

Knowing that the entire nation is watching, Tech fans bring it on that night. The playing of “Enter Sandman” on Thursday night at Lane Stadium makes for one of the special moments in a college football season.

“The Thursday night games have been special,” Beamer admitted. “The atmosphere has always been good.

“But that night, it’s usually beyond good.”

THE FUTURE

What will Lane Stadium look like 10 years from now? 20 years? 50 years? No one really knows.

No projects are eminent. Sure, speculation centers on taking out the bleacher seating in the north end zone and building a structure similar to that in the south end zone. Some talk of bowling in the north end zone, thus enclosing the stadium.

That assumes, though, that the current athletics department administration wants to add seats. Doing so seems unrealistic at the moment, given the nationwide problem that many schools are facing when it comes to selling tickets. Current AD Whit Babcock has no plans to expand the stadium, and credited Weaver and former university president Dr. Charles Steger for keeping the stadium at its current capacity.

“One thing that hasn’t changed is that setting. Knowing that the entire nation is watching, Tech fans bring it on that night. The playing of “Enter Sandman” on Thursday night at Lane Stadium makes for one of the special moments in a college football season,” Babcock told The Daily Press’ David Teel in an article recently. “So they had great foresight on that.”

Today, Lane Stadium simply looks fantastic, like the beauty queen who never ages. Tech officials have done a terrific job of balancing the stadium’s modern look while implementing those features that pay tribute to its wonderful past. It beckons Tech fans of all ages and races and backgrounds to come in and reside within its walls each autumn, to come and experience something that cannot be experienced by watching a 60-inch black box bolted to a slab of drywall at one’s home.

Those who have played on its field can attest to it, even the ones who played 50 seasons ago.

“It’s exciting for us,” Edwards said. “It’s exciting to see what’s there 50 years later, something that we were a part of and realizing our humble beginnings of playing that first game at Lane Stadium, with the way it was. Over the years, going back to games and seeing where the school is and where the stadium is … it’s always been a great home-field advantage.”

“What we really can’t believe is what Frank and others have done with the program, with what we know used to be there,” Saunders said. “It’s still the same field, but we feel pretty proud of having played in the first game and are really blown away by where it is now in terms of all the hoopla and all that goes on.”

The 2014 season is Tech’s 50th at Lane Stadium. Nearly everyone would agree – the stadium has never been more golden.

**Lane Stadium “Firsts”**

- First game – Oct. 2, 1965 vs. William & Mary (Tech won 9-7)
- First score – Jon Utin (34-yard FG vs. William & Mary)
- First touchdown – Bobby Owens (13-yard run vs. William & Mary)
- First televised game – 1966, vs. Florida State (a 23-21 win)
- First loss – 1967, Miami (14-7)
- First CBS game – 1968, vs. Miami (a 14-8 loss)
- First ESPN game – 1990, vs. Virginia (a 38-13 win)
- First Big East game – 1992, vs. West Virginia (a 16-7 loss)
- First Big East win – 1993, vs. Temple (55-7)
- First ESPN Thursday night game – 1994, vs. West Virginia (a 54-6 win)
- First ESPN GameDay appearance – 1999, vs. Syracuse (a 62-0 win)
- First ACC game and win – 2004, vs. Duke (a 41-17 win)

**Martin Travel**

**It’s HOW Hokies. Travel.**

Whether you’re planning a family getaway, or you’re ready to get on the road and cheer the Hokies to victory, Martin Travel has you covered. Ensure your place in the stands or in the sand with one of our travel packages.

**Virginia Tech Away Game Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 6</th>
<th>October 4</th>
<th>October 16</th>
<th>November 15</th>
<th>November 22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VT vs. OHIO STATE</td>
<td>VT vs. UNC</td>
<td>VT vs. PITTSBURGH</td>
<td>VT vs. DUKE</td>
<td>VT vs. WAKE FOREST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The World is ON SALE!!** Join us each month for a NEW travel special.

For more information, visit MartinTravel.com or stop by your local store.

**MartinTravel.com**

- Roanoke | 540-343-5400
  3535 Franklin Rd. SW, STE. A
  Roanoke, VA 24014
- Blacksburg | 540-951-7854
  1344 S. MAIN ST, STE. 3
  Blacksburg, VA 24060
- Martinsville | 276-632-6126
  156 East Market St.
  Martinsville, VA 24112

**OVER 2,000 CARS IN ONE LOCATION**

- 40 YEARS SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
- OVER 2,000 VEHICLES IN ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION
- 11 NEW CAR FRANCHISES & USED CAR SUPER STORE
- STRAIGHTFORWARD PRICING
- WE’LL BUY YOUR CAR TODAY!
- 98% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION RATING

Open 9am - 8pm Mon - Sat | 1-811 EXIT 11B | Christiansburg, VA | (540) 382-2981

For more information visit: www.Selor.com

Inside Hokie Sports
Tech fans love coming to Lane Stadium, but only a few have any knowledge of Edward H. Lane, the man who was a driving force behind the construction of the Hokies’ football home.

By Jimmy Robertson

Tech fans often talk about their love of Lane Stadium. Many plan their vacations, and some, their weddings, around fall pilgrimages to Tech’s storied football home. They easily can cite their family’s history at the stadium, whether it be football memories from a relative or stories they’ve heard from their parents. And most likely, they’ll tell you how much they love coming to Lane.

But when it comes to answering how Lane Stadium got its name, Hokie fans respond with a laugh. It’s not just a name on a stadium.

Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”

“Beau said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, ‘is good enough really good enough’.” Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”

Good. That’s where granddad got the idea. His woodworking professor told him what equipment he needed, and he shopped all over the country and got some new stuff and started making chests.”

Lane’s cedar chests became an immensely popular item and thus a thriving company, one called Standard Red Cedar Chest Company, emerged in 1932. People from around the world wanted cedar chests in those days because cedar wood repelled moths and was decay-resistant.

The company gradually expanded into different types of furniture, from tables to accent pieces, and became known as The Lane Company, Inc., in 1922.

Lane, with help from his father, navigated the company through difficult times, particularly during the Great Depression. He did so by using a characteristic that is rare in some people—common sense. He hired good people, and in his heyday, the company consisted of more than 7,000 employees.

He always kept his office door open as an invitation for any employee to come in and talk to him.

He also accepted nothing less than the best.

Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”

Good. That’s where granddad got the idea. His woodworking professor told him what equipment he needed, and he shopped all over the country and got some new stuff and started making chests.”

Lane’s cedar chests became an immensely popular item and thus a thriving company, one called Standard Red Cedar Chest Company, emerged in 1932. People from around the world wanted cedar chests in those days because cedar wood repelled moths and was decay-resistant.

The company gradually expanded into different types of furniture, from tables to accent pieces, and became known as The Lane Company, Inc., in 1922.

Lane, with help from his father, navigated the company through difficult times, particularly during the Great Depression. He did so by using a characteristic that is rare in some people—common sense. He hired good people, and in his heyday, the company consisted of more than 7,000 employees.

He always kept his office door open as an invitation for any employee to come in and talk to him.

He also accepted nothing less than the best.

Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”

Good. That’s where granddad got the idea. His woodworking professor told him what equipment he needed, and he shopped all over the country and got some new stuff and started making chests.”

Lane’s cedar chests became an immensely popular item and thus a thriving company, one called Standard Red Cedar Chest Company, emerged in 1932. People from around the world wanted cedar chests in those days because cedar wood repelled moths and was decay-resistant.

The company gradually expanded into different types of furniture, from tables to accent pieces, and became known as The Lane Company, Inc., in 1922.

Lane, with help from his father, navigated the company through difficult times, particularly during the Great Depression. He did so by using a characteristic that is rare in some people—common sense. He hired good people, and in his heyday, the company consisted of more than 7,000 employees.

He always kept his office door open as an invitation for any employee to come in and talk to him.

He also accepted nothing less than the best.

Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”

Good. That’s where granddad got the idea. His woodworking professor told him what equipment he needed, and he shopped all over the country and got some new stuff and started making chests.”

Lane’s cedar chests became an immensely popular item and thus a thriving company, one called Standard Red Cedar Chest Company, emerged in 1932. People from around the world wanted cedar chests in those days because cedar wood repelled moths and was decay-resistant.

The company gradually expanded into different types of furniture, from tables to accent pieces, and became known as The Lane Company, Inc., in 1922.

Lane, with help from his father, navigated the company through difficult times, particularly during the Great Depression. He did so by using a characteristic that is rare in some people—common sense. He hired good people, and in his heyday, the company consisted of more than 7,000 employees.

He always kept his office door open as an invitation for any employee to come in and talk to him.

He also accepted nothing less than the best.

Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”

Good. That’s where granddad got the idea. His woodworking professor told him what equipment he needed, and he shopped all over the country and got some new stuff and started making chests.”

Lane’s cedar chests became an immensely popular item and thus a thriving company, one called Standard Red Cedar Chest Company, emerged in 1932. People from around the world wanted cedar chests in those days because cedar wood repelled moths and was decay-resistant.

The company gradually expanded into different types of furniture, from tables to accent pieces, and became known as The Lane Company, Inc., in 1922.

Lane, with help from his father, navigated the company through difficult times, particularly during the Great Depression. He did so by using a characteristic that is rare in some people—common sense. He hired good people, and in his heyday, the company consisted of more than 7,000 employees.

He always kept his office door open as an invitation for any employee to come in and talk to him.

He also accepted nothing less than the best.

Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”

Good. That’s where granddad got the idea. His woodworking professor told him what equipment he needed, and he shopped all over the country and got some new stuff and started making chests.”

Lane’s cedar chests became an immensely popular item and thus a thriving company, one called Standard Red Cedar Chest Company, emerged in 1932. People from around the world wanted cedar chests in those days because cedar wood repelled moths and was decay-resistant.

The company gradually expanded into different types of furniture, from tables to accent pieces, and became known as The Lane Company, Inc., in 1922.

Lane, with help from his father, navigated the company through difficult times, particularly during the Great Depression. He did so by using a characteristic that is rare in some people—common sense. He hired good people, and in his heyday, the company consisted of more than 7,000 employees.

He always kept his office door open as an invitation for any employee to come in and talk to him.

He also accepted nothing less than the best.

Beau Lane said that, at the end of the inspection line at the Lane factory, bung a sign said, “is good enough really good enough.”
During his senior year of high school, Bill Edwards faced what might be deemed as a difficult decision, one nearly impossible to make as a native Virginian. An older brother went to school and played football at the University of Virginia. Another older brother went to school and played football at Virginia Tech. So which school should Edwards choose?

As it turned out, his academic goals were the tiebreaker.

“My middle brother came to Virginia Tech and played at Virginia Tech until he broke his neck during the 1962 season,” Edwards said. “He’s an engineer also, and I wanted to be an engineer. The University of Virginia didn’t encourage players to major in engineering, so I decided early on to come to Virginia Tech. And really, I never even visited other schools.

“I wanted to play at Virginia Tech because my brother had played there and had broken his neck and was partially paralyzed, and I wanted to fulfill his dream and mine as well.”

Charlottesville was only 30 minutes from his Orange, Virginia, home, but Edwards made history at Virginia Tech, becoming Tech’s first academic All-American in football.

“Virginia was the big in-state rival and was an easy decision,” said Edwards.

“Virginia Tech is a great place to work and winning 10 or 12 games a year can be a bit overrated. The best teams win in the bowl games,” he added.

Edwards also earned honorable mention All-America honors on the team in 1965 when he was one of the three Tech backs, along with Mike Saunders and Bobby Owens, who made up the team’s first-string running backs.

“I was injury prone and they did giving me a chance to win five games,” he said. “I got an opportunity to play against teams, and I got a chance to play against the best teams in the country.”

In 1965, Tech won the Big Eight title and Edwards was named Most Valuable Player.

After a terrific football career at Tech in the mid-1960s, Bill Edwards, even more with wife Suzanne, enjoyed success in the professional world working for more than four decades in environmental engineering.

Edwards worked for six years at the Environmental Protection Agency, five years with the Department of Energy, and a number of other companies.

He managed projects at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, and in 2006, he retired from LewisGale’s Consulting Group.

After beating VMI in the season finale, Tech concluded the 1965 season with a 7-3 record. It marked the end of Edwards’ career and his list of accomplishments at Tech is lengthy. In addition to being both an academic All-American and a football honorable mention All-American, he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa (national honorary leadership fraternity), Chi Epsilon (Honorary Civil Engineering Society), the Monogram Club and the German Club while at Tech.

In the spring of 1966, with his playing career over, Edwards signed a free-agent contract with the Dallas Cowboys. After a brief stint with the Cowboys, he returned to Blacksburg to finish up coursework on his degree. He and Saunders served as graduate assistants for coach Jerry Claiborne, while finishing their undergraduate work and working on their masters. Edwards graduated from Tech with a degree in civil engineering in 1966 and he got a master’s degree in civilenvironmental engineering in 1967. In 1966, he married his wife Suzanne.

He started working for the Virginia Department of Health in 1967, serving as a regional director in Abingdon, Virginia, and keeping tabs on the management and administration for public water supplies and wastewater facilities in a 20-county area. He also taught classes at Wytheville Community College, not far from Abingdon.

In 1975, he went to work for Dewberry and Davis, a engineering firm in Fairfax, Virginia. He oversees an array of initiatives related to water and wastewater design and construction management, and he worked his way up the ladder to managing principal.

“Virginia Tech is a great place to work and winning 10 or 12 games a year can be a bit overrated. The best teams win in the bowl games,” he added.

“A lot of things can happen in a football game. And in life. That’s why it’s important to know where Are They Now? | bill edwards

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? | bill edwards

40 Inside Hokie Sports

insidel.hokiesports.com 41
In 2010, a self-proclaimed country boy from Rockbridge County, up the interstate 90 minutes or so from Tech’s campus, arrived in Blacksburg, a member of the 2010 football recruiting class and a part of the Hokies’ future. His size enabled him to dominate on the high school level, and he expected to enjoy similar successes at the collegiate level, though he knew his future teammates would be similar stature. But Caleb Farris’ real awakening to college football came when he took on Derrick Hopkins in one-on-one drills during one of his first practices with the Hokies.

“I’ll never forget it,” Farris said. “I met Derrick Hopkins at a camp the summer before he came in, and someone was talking about, ‘Yeah, Derrick Hopkins is here. He’s also going to Tech.’ This is after I had committed to Tech. I don’t follow recruiting, so I didn’t know him. I went up and introduced myself, and Derrick was a real nice guy, but he didn’t really look like a huge recruit. He wasn’t a huge specimen. He was a shorter guy, real stocky and real thick.

“We got out there, and man, if he didn’t whip my butt a couple of times in one on ones. I knew then the level of competition rose up from high school. When you get to college, it’s the best of the best.”

That happened in the spring of 2011. Nowadays, though, only the best of the best whip Farris’ tail. It rarely happens.

In the millionth example of the inaccuracy of recruiting ratings, Farris was a three-star recruit coming out of Rockbridge County High School, and yet he has enjoyed a five-star career. He has morphed from a little-known prospect into a three-year starter, as he plays his senior season in Blacksburg. His start against William & Mary marked his 19th straight at Tech.

No one on Tech’s staff really envisioned this. Farris wasn’t the crown jewel of offensive line recruits in that 2010 class. Guys like Nick Acree, Mark Shuman and Laurence Gibson possessed more “stars” and more “upside.” Farris, though, is the one who played as a true freshman and who worked his way into the starting lineup midway through his sophomore season. Injuries derailed the careers of Acree and Shuman, while Gibson started for the first time midway through last season. In fact, Acree never played a game at Tech, while Shuman got in just 10 games over the past four years.

Farris’ is a feel-good story for a young man who tells people he is from Lexington, Virginia, because he knows very few have heard of Fairfield, a tiny dot on the Virginia state map.

“I take pride in it,” he said of his career. “I know my parents and everyone are proud of me. Just coming from a smaller area, I always wanted to play ball at the next level, but I never imagined playing here. Just going through the process, you think, ‘Yeah, I’d like to play a little ball.’ Then the D-II guys came and talked to me, and then the 1-AA guys came and talked to me. It all started rising. Tech and other schools started talking to me. Then it came to a point, and I realized, ‘I can play.’

“That was cool for me, but I knew I had to keep working. I hadn’t arrived yet. I had to earn my keep, and that’s the way I approach every day. I’m a senior now. I come in the weight room every day and earn my keep. I go on the practice field, and I have to earn my spot. Being a senior, you have a few more responsibilities, just trying to bring the young guys along. But basically, you just need to keep working hard and keep your mind on the task at hand.”

Tech offensive lineman Caleb Farris comes from a small town and played at a small high school, but he has developed into a three-year starter, and this season, anchors the Hokies’ offensive line.
Football Spotlight | Caleb Farris

Caleb Farris chose to come to Tech as no surprise to those closest to him. He liked the idea of being close to home and near his parents, who attend just about every game, both home and away.

The truth of the matter, though, is that Farris grew up a Tech fan. A few members of his family own season tickets, and he went to several games as a kid. Some of his relatives’ children have graduated from Tech. He knew of Tech’s history and tradition – he witnessed it often as a child and as a teenager.

Once he received the scholarship offer from Tech, he spent little time thinking about it. He took it.

“It was surreal,” he said. “I’ve known I wanted to come here ever since I was a little guy, and then I got the opportunity to play a little ball.

“When I was in high school, I never had thought that I’d be playing D-I football. I come from a small town and small high school, I didn’t look at myself as being a superstar player. I just loved to play ball. Then I started getting some interest. Then the big fish started revving me up, and I thought, ‘Wow, this might be possible.’ It worked out and Tech gave me an opportunity to play, and I took that.”

Farris got on the field his first season, seeing action in five games. His sophomore season, he played nine games, starting the final five as the center.

Last season, he started every game at left guard, but new offensive line coach Stacy Searels moved him back to center for this season. The move makes perfect sense, too. Why not take your most experienced, consistent and dependable lineman and play him at the spot that makes the line calls and actually starts the play?

“I just like to play,” Farris said. “I like the position switches. It doesn’t bother me. I’m comfortable at both, but I guess I prefer center. You get to run the offense, and you’re in the middle of everything. I like center a little better, but I just enjoy playing,”

Farris hopes to be playing after this season – in the NFL. Every player in college football shares that same dream. Yet, according to the NCAA, less than 2 percent of college players get to play professionally.

Unlike most players, Farris is realistic about his chances. He took advantage of the resources that Tech offers, and thus gave himself options for his future.

Farris will graduate in December with a degree in apparel, housing and resource management, and also a minor in business. He could work as a representative for a company in human resources, or do something related to the “people” side of business. A field study at the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Center gave him valuable experience, and more importantly, something to put on his résumé.

“You need to have your education, your contacts, your network in place,” Farris said. “After December or the bowl game in January, I’m going to be in the real world. I’m going to need to find a job to be able to exist in the real world because football might not be there for me. You have to be realistic about that.

“You’ve got to come in here and perform on the field and hope for the best. But you’ve got to be prepared for the worst – and the worst isn’t too bad. The worst is having a free education and going and finding a job and getting started with your life. The worst-case scenario isn’t too bad.”

In the short term, though, there is the 2014 season. Farris expects Tech’s offense to run smoother in year No. 4 of Scot Loeffler’s scheme. As a result, he hopes the Hokies return to where they were their freshman year when they won an ACC title. He likes the talent on this 2014 squad. More importantly, he likes the attitude.

“As good as we want to be,” he said when asked how good this team can be. “There’s a whole new attitude about this team. It started back in the spring with lifting and rolling into morning workouts. Workouts are tough, and it’s a grind. In past years, I felt that people were like, ‘Man, I don’t want to be here.’ This year, it’s like, ‘Let’s go in here and get this work in. Let’s get better.’

“The real world is coming in. We had the same intensity and same attitude, and we took that into the summer. Coach [Mike] Gundy [Tech’s associate AD for athletic performance] has said a few times that this was one of the better groups we’ve had. Every offensive lineman made his conditioning test, and that’s the first time that has happened in years.

“So things like that. I feel like there is a whole new attitude. That’s not to knock past teams. That’s just my take. We’ve got a great group of guys. We’ve come together as a team. So we’ll be as good as we want to be.”

And hopefully, they’ll be as good as he has been. It would make for a great story, one not unlike his...
Tech fans will be watching with gusto the San Diego Chargers every weekend this fall to catch two of the more popular Hokies ever to play in Blacksburg – receiver Eddie Royal and cornerback Brandon Flowers.

The two of them are good players and even better friends, and Flowers said recently that little has changed between the two of them now that they play on the same team again. “He still can’t get open against me in practice,” Flowers laughed during a phone interview on Sept. 1. “Not a chance.”

The statement certainly reveals the mindset of Flowers these days – a relaxed, confident and happy player. He signed with the Chargers in June after the Kansas City Chiefs released him, and the move reunites him with his former teammate, Royal. Royal played at Virginia Tech from 2004-07, while Flowers played from 2005-07, forging his final season and making himself available for the NFL Draft.

Flowers is glad to be in San Diego after a difficult season last year with Kansas City. He made the Pro Bowl, but statistically, his numbers slipped. He recorded 60 tackles – the second-most in his career – but he had only one interception, his fewest since joining the league. He played in 13 games, all starts, but that, too, marked the fewest of his career.

Flowers struggled in part because of the way the Chiefs used him. Kansas City head coach Andy Reid hired Bob Sutton as his defensive coordinator before last season, and Sutton likes tackling to one corner spot. The move to San Diego also allows him to return to his familiar role of manning up on the outside receiver.

“I have nothing against the Chiefs as an organization and nothing against Andy Reid,” Flowers said. “He’s a great coach. I spent six years there, and I really enjoyed it.”

It didn’t take Flowers long to find a new home. Actually, it only took a couple of weeks. He considered San Francisco, but decided on signing with San Diego because of his familiarity with the organization. Plus, the Chargers and the Chiefs are in the same division, so he gets two opportunities each season to gain revenge against one of his former teams.

It also helped that several Chargers players reached out to him to persuade him to come to San Diego. That includes Royal, who also called Flowers’ father in hopes of persuading Flowers to San Diego.

“This (decision) was really because of the way the guys reached out,” Flowers said. “Phillip Rivers (San Diego’s quarterback) called, and Eric Weddle (San Diego’s safety) called. Eddie called me. Those guys made me feel wanted. I know what type of team they had, and we’ve got a chance to be special.”

Flowers, who agreed to a one-year deal for $3 million with an additional $2 million available if he meets certain incentives, will be the starter at one of the cornerback spots. The move to San Diego also allows him to return to his familiar role of manning up on the outside receiver.

“That has him excited about his new role,” Flowers now calls San Diego home. “I just want to play the game I’ve been playing,” he said. “This is a fresh start and a fresh team, and I’m playing the position I want. So it feels good.”

Flowers still keeps up with the Hokies, and he tries to make it back for spring games whenever he can. He remains in contact with former Tech players D.J. Parker, Justin Harper and Cory Holt, and talks occasionally to current defensive backs coach Torrian Gray.

He also said his dad, Willie, still keeps up with the Hokies. Willie Flowers became a fan favorite among Hokie Nation after Tech fans learned that he drove to every game from Delray Beach, Florida, to watch his son play.

“My dad is doing real good,” Brandon said. “But you can’t just talk about it. You have to put in the work. If we put in the work in day and day out, we’ll be a hard team to beat.”
favorite NFL team, the Washington Redskins, ended just after the season, as the former Tech defensive end signed with the Detroit Lions after his one-year deal with the Redskins expired following last season. Tapp played in just 11 games last season, recording a career-low 10 tackles and a sack.

A week before the season opener, the Detroit Lions cut Tapp, as the team needed to trim players to get down to the 53-player roster limit. But the Lions re-signed Tapp just three days later after placing another defensive end on injured reserve.

Tapp enters his ninth season in the NFL (four with Seattle, three with Philadelphia and one with the Redskins).

GREEN BAY PACKERS
11 Jarrett Boykin – Boykin played in 16 games last season for Green Bay, starting eight of them, and he caught 49 passes for 681 yards, including three catches for touchdowns. He averaged 13.9 yards per catch.

Boykin, who is the No. 3 receiver for the Packers, signed with Green Bay in 2012 after spending his first six seasons with the Pittsford (N.Y.) football team.

HOUSTON TEXANS
76 Duane Brown – One of the NFL’s best offensive linemen, Brown is entering his seventh season in the league, all with the Houston Texans. Brown started 14 games a year ago, missing two games because of a toe injury. He had started every game the previous two seasons.

In 2012, Brown agreed to a six-year, $53.4 million deal ($22.08 guaranteed) with the Texans. The deal started in 2013.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS
32 Antoine Exum – After an injury-plagued senior season, Exum still managed to get selected in May’s NFL Draft, as the Vikings selected him in the sixth round. The former Tech cornerback agreed to a four-year, $2.355 million deal with the team.

The Vikings are looking at Exum more as a safety than a cornerback. Provided he stays healthy, he could help the team in several roles this season.

NEW YORK GIANTS
28 Jayron Hosley – A former Tech cornerback and All-American, Hosley suffered through a difficult season a year ago, playing in just 11 games and starting one after starting six games as a rookie. He finished last season with just nine tackles and missed five games with leg injuries.

Hosley will miss the first four games of this season after being suspended by the NFL for violating the league’s substance abuse policy. He agreed to a four-year, $6,657 million contract, with a $515,000 signing bonus, after the Giants took him in the third-round of the 2012 NFL Draft.

New York Jets – After an injury-plagued senior season, Exum still managed to get selected in May’s NFL Draft, as the Vikings selected him in the sixth round. The former Tech cornerback agreed to a four-year, $2.355 million deal with the team.

The Chargers cut Exum on Aug. 25, during the pre-season, but the former Tech defensive tackle found employment with the New York Giants, who signed him to their practice squad on Aug. 31.

NEW YORK JETS
Michael Vick – Vick, a former Tech quarterback, is in his 12th season in the NFL. After spending his first six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons and the past five seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles, Vick signed with the New York Jets in the offseason, agreeing to a one-year, $4.1 million deal. He stands to earn another $2 million based on playing-time incentives. He will be the backup to starter Geno Smith this season.

Last year, Vick started six games and played in seven, missing several games with a hamstring injury and then losing his job to Nick Foles. He completed 27 of 44 for 1,215 yards, with five touchdowns and three interceptions. He also ran for 306 yards on 36 carries and scored two touchdowns.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS
26 Brandon Flowers – Flowers, a former Tech defensive end started ended last season after suffering a hamstring injury and then losing his job to Nick Foles. He completed 27 of 44 for 1,215 yards, with five touchdowns and three interceptions. He also ran for 306 yards on 36 carries and scored two touchdowns.

He is entering the last year of a three-year, $13.5 million deal that he signed in 2012.

The Vikings are looking at Exum more as a safety than a cornerback. Provided he stays healthy, he could help the team in several roles this season.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS
23 DeAngelo Hall – Hall, a former Tech cornerback, enters his 11th season in the league, including the past seven with the Redskins. He has started every game for Washington for the past four years.

A year ago, Hall recorded 78 tackles (57 solo) and intercepted four passes, returning two for touchdowns. He also forced three fumbles.

The three-time Pro Bowler signed a four-year $17 million contract with the Redskins this past February after wrapping up a one-year, $1.25 million deal.
One does not need to go much beyond than the bio part on her Twitter profile to understand Kelsey Loupee. It’s all there, typed out in 27 characters and four spaces.

As a kid, she tried all types of activities, but she found that she really didn’t fit in. “I actually tried a lot of sports, even after I tried to stop playing soccer, which was one of my favorite sports growing up.”

Using them on my brothers. My mom didn’t want me to be a wrestler, so I couldn’t go anymore. After that, I just played soccer, and that one stuck. All four of the Loupee children – including older brothers Christopher (27), Kyle (25) and Cory (23) – played soccer growing up. The two oldest played at Colorado School of Mines, either on the varsity or club team while continuing their educations, while Cory played club soccer at the University of Wyoming. "My club experience was really good, and the kids were not allowed to play video games. So rather than sneak over to a friend’s house to do this, she would take me to practice, too, and I would just go outside and practice."

"I was pretty blessed to have the opportunity to play with a really good club team [the Colorado Rush]," she said. "They were good friends. So there was that intervention that followed."

"Being a naïve, young high schooler, I was like 'Virginia Polytechnic Institute ... I don’t even know what that means.' That’s not something I want to do, so I couldn’t do anything I want to do," she said. "But my mom pushed me into looking more into it because she knew that it wasn’t just a technological and engineering school. There was more to it."

"And actually Chugger [Adair, Tech head women’s soccer coach] played in college with my club coach [Andrew Kummer] from back home, and they were good friends. So there was that really good connection there. I don’t remember what it was, but I finally decided I was going to go visit the school. There wasn’t much in my mind, though, that I wanted to go to Virginia Tech."

"It was more like, here’s this school that I’m going to go visit, so I might as well get used to the process, and this is a school that I can do that at. Then I got here, and by the end of my trip, I can’t really pick out a specific thing, but I just had this feeling that this is where I was."
supposed to be. A week later, I committed, and it’s been the best decision I’ve made.”

Her first three years at Tech have been a rollercoaster ride, with its share of ups and downs. As a freshman, Loupee started 19 games and played in all 23 of the Hokies’ matches. She helped the team advance to the Sweet 16 for the first time in school history.

She scored two goals and dished out seven assists as a freshman, but suffered through a sophomore slump. She made just six starts and played in 19 games, but that experience brought her to the place where she is today.

“I came in [her freshman year] pretty confident because my club team had just made it to the national championship, literally, like two days before I had to report,” she said. “It was funny. I actually played in the game. We went into overtime in the national championship game and lost, so that was disappointing.”

But in the long run, it was the best thing I could have asked for. I actually played in the game. We went into overtime in the national championship game and lost, so that was disappointing. But I flew home from Arizona the next day. We went into overtime in the national championship game and lost, so that was disappointing. But I flew home from Arizona the next day. We went into overtime in the national championship game and lost, so that was disappointing.

Then the next year, I didn’t eat enough, I was working out so hard that I really tore my body down. So where I thought I was doing pretty well was the mental aspect of the game. That really started to weigh on me. I think it definitely made me a better person, a better player and a better teammate.”

During her junior year, the Hokies enjoyed the most successful season in program history by reaching the College Cup. Loupee again scored a pair of goals and racked up 10 assists, the third-most in a single-season at Tech. That pushed her career total at the end of the 2013 season to 19, which was tied for the third-most in a career.

Much of her confidence and success, though, can be traced back to her decision during her rough sophomore year to join the Athletes in Action group on campus. It really made a difference.

“When things weren’t going so well, I found people who are less fortunate than us.”

Loupee was the only person from Virginia to go on the trip. She started off by heading to Canada for a week to train and work on how to share the gospel. Then the group went to Brazil for more than two weeks to play games, run camps and visit elementary schools. They even had an opportunity to take in a World Cup game.

“Then the next year, I didn’t eat enough, and I was working out so hard that I really tore my body down. So where I thought I was doing pretty well was the mental aspect of the game. That really started to weigh on me. I think it definitely made me a better person, a better player and a better teammate.”

Then the next year, I didn’t eat enough, and I was working out so hard that I really tore my body down. So where I thought I was doing pretty well was the mental aspect of the game. That really started to weigh on me. I think it definitely made me a better person, a better player and a better teammate.”

During her senior year, Loupee’s future plan - after her playing career is over - is more than likely to head back to Colorado and hopefully enroll in Colorado State University’s Peace Corps-Master’s International Program, a program that integrates a master’s in food science and human nutrition a branch of her undergrad degree in human nutrition, food and exercise] with Peace Corps field experience. Once finished, she’ll explore new opportunities. Sounds like a perfect plan for someone whose Twitter bio references the Bible passage “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”
Every major leaguer has his story and it’s been played out in baseball movies over the years – “The Rookie” often comes to mind. It’s the day the minor league player is called into the manager’s office and notified in some offbeat way that he has just had his dreams fulfilled by getting called up to the major leagues.

It’s a moment that will forever be remembered and recounted time and again, as the player’s hard work and persistence has paid off with a chance to play in the show. That was no different for former Tech player Jesse Hahn, who recalled his story recently in a phone conversation from the San Diego Padres clubhouse.

“Well, my manager with the San Antonio Missions Double-A team, Rich Dauer, called me into his office after one of our early games, and he told me to bring my clippers,” Hahn said. “I’m kind of the clubhouse barber, and I cut a lot of the guys’ hair. But he told me to bring my clippers with me because Bud Black [the Padres’ manager] might need a haircut – you’re going to the big leagues.”

As soon as he told me, my eyes lit up, and it just got so surreal. It was just a dream come true, and I was so happy. I had a smile on my face the rest of the day. The first one I told was my girlfriend, Jessica Pauley, who’s a Hokie as well, and then I told my father. And then just word spread out across the family, and the next couple of days, my phone was just blowing up left and right with congratulations.”

Hahn made his major league debut in San Diego on June 3 of this year against the Pittsburgh Pirates and started off strongly. He ended a perfect first frame by striking out reigning MVP Andrew McCutchen and then struck out the side in the second.

A shaky third and fourth ended his night. He pitched 3.2 innings and struck out five, but it would be his next start on June 14 that the Groton, Connecticut native, will remember for the rest of his life – a 5-0 win at the New York Mets in which he tossed six innings and struck out seven, while also notching his first major league hit and RBI.

“That was a ‘must’ win for me,” a joking Hahn said. “But that was awesome. I had a bunch of family and friends there, and pitching in front of people that have supported you for a long time means a lot and kind of gives you that extra edge to go out there and want to compete more.”

“As soon as I ran out on that field, I looked up and saw everyone in the family section. It was just awesome to win and to have my first good major league start in front of all of them. It meant a lot to me.”

“Yeah, I’ll remember it as a screaming line drive,” Hahn said. “But the last time I hit was back in high school, and that was about seven years ago.”

www.GoSunshineTours.com

Plan a Trip of a Lifetime with us or a 1 Day Getaway with your Friends!

Alaska - Nova Scotia - Florida Keys
Pacific Coast - Grand Canyon
and Everywhere in between!

Call for FREE Catalog of Tours
800-552-0022
Hokies in the Pros | Jesse Hahn

ago. I was a very average hitter in high school, so being an average hitter and picking up a bat seven years later and trying to face Zack Wheeler is not an easy task. So I was proud of that moment. I may have been more pumped about that than getting a win that day.”

Hahn would go on to win six of his next seven starts, a span that included a seven-inning, three-strikeout performance in which he allowed just one earned run against St. Louis on July 30 – a date that coincided with his birthday. At the end of July, he was 7-2, with a 2.01 ERA in nine starts. Around the league, Rookie of the Year possibilities started surrounding his name. However, three winless starts later, combined with his 40-plus innings that he worked in the minors, resulted in him approaching his innings limit for the year, and he was reassigned back to Double-A San Antonio.

“I had an innings cap this year of 110 innings, and I hit that already,” Hahn said. “So I’ve been slowed down a little bit. I’m sure the organization doesn’t want me to throw too many more innings, but I will probably pitch out of the bullpen a few more times in September.

“Next year, I’ll take the offseason to get stronger and build up my leg strength and come in, hopefully, a full-time starter next year. I want to compete for a spot in the rotation right out of spring training.”

In all, Hahn was reassigned and called back up to San Diego three times, including on Aug. 30. That could really hurt the psyche of a young pitcher, but he took it all in stride, knowing what the Padres’ plan was for him. He made sure he was ready for whenever the call came again.

“A lot of guys had told me the hardest part is not making the big leagues. It’s staying here, and I’ve experienced that this year,” Hahn said. “You have to stay focused. You have to keep that same mindset when you get sent down because, down there, it’s tough. The minor leagues are a grind, especially in the Texas League, where it’s 100 degrees every day.

“You just have to do the best you can to stay focused and keep your eye on the prize. Your goal is to get back to the majors, and you have to do everything you can to get back up there. For me, when I was optioned down, it was more of a rest for me. I knew I was coming back, but I still needed to make sure I was ready to make that next big league start.”

Hahn says he gets back to Blacksburg every offseason for at least a month to work out, take in some football and basketball games, and to go “West End. I’m there to eat some West End.” He was the first of what hopes to be an influx of Hokies in the majors over the course of the next few years. Ben Rowen, who was also a member of Tech’s eight-member 2010 draft class – the largest ever at Tech – made his MLB debut in June as well, becoming the 17th former Tech player to appear in the majors and just the seventh pitcher.

When Rowen was called up to Texas and saw action on June 15, it marked the first time ever that two former Tech players made their Major League debuts in the same season and gave the Hokies three players in the majors at the time – including Joe Saunders – for only the sixth time.

Among that 2010 draft class, three more players, along with Rowen, finished their seasons in Triple-A – Tim Smalling (Colorado), Austin Wates (Miami) and Justin Wright (St. Louis). The stockpile doesn’t end there, though, as the 2013 draft class – the second-largest ever at Tech – saw Tyler Horan (San Francisco) and Joe Mantiply (Detroit) end the 2014 season in Double-A.
Inside Hokie Sports

Inside.hokiesports.com

LIVE ACROSS FROM CAMPUS!  PHASE II NOW LEASING!

HEATED POOL!

WHAT'S INSIDE:
Expansions and renovations have made Lane Stadium better than ever over the course of 50 seasons.

PHASE I OPENING THIS FALL!
PHASE II OPENING MAY 2015!

• Fully furnished apartments & townhomes
• Individual leases & utilities included
• Private bathroom & walk-in closets in every bedroom
• Washer/dryer in each home
• Club inspired Fitness Center & Yoga Room
• Resident lounge with billiard tables, game room & tanning beds
• High-tech study & collaboration areas with video conferencing
• Covered bike storage, picnic areas and sand volleyball

2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS & TOWNHOMES

PHASE I OPENING THIS FALL!
PHASE II OPENING MAY 2015!

Tech coach Carol Robertson, assistant Russell Abbott and players Amanda Hollandsworth and Allison Woodward comprise the Tech women's golf program, which held its inaugural practice at the Pete Dye River Course in late August.