RECORDS RUN IN THE FAMILY

Morgan Latimer is setting records in the pool these days for Tech - just like his father did on the gridiron during his playing days in Blacksburg

WHAT’S INSIDE:
Tech closed the 2014 regular season by beating rival UVa for the 11th straight time
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Published by the Virginia Tech Athletics Department
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SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: $37.95 for one year (11 issues) and $69.95 for two years. You can get an online subscription for $25 and both the online and the print version for $35. Mail all subscription inquiries, renewals, address changes, written inquiries and complaints to Inside Hokie Sports, Jamerson Athletic Center, Virginia Tech, 165 Spring Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061 or call (540) 231-3908.

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ATTN POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Inside Hokie Sports, Jamerson Athletic Center, Virginia Tech, 165 Spring Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061-7604

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Behind strong running from J.C. Coleman, big plays from the offense and a terrific game from the defense, Virginia Tech retained possession of the Commonwealth Cup with a 24-20 victory over rival Virginia in the Commonwealth Clash. Coleman’s 118 yards rushing and Michael Brewer’s touchdown pass to Bucky Hodges late in the fourth quarter enabled Tech to beat UVa for the 11th straight time, and Tech became bowl eligible for the 22nd straight year.

“I am really grateful for my scholarship because it allows me to continue my dream as a football player while getting the best education from Virginia Tech. I know this wouldn’t be possible without the Hokie Club’s efforts to raise money, and I thoroughly appreciate everything they do.”

David Wang
Redshirt Senior | Football

“I am very appreciative of the Hokie Club and all they do for us. The other day at the basketball game, I actually got to meet one of the guys who helps with my scholarship, and I really expressed my appreciation for what he does. Thank you to everyone who helps us be successful on and off the field.”

J.C. Coleman
Junior | Football
The Donor File

Lawrence Phipps

HOKIE CLUB LEVEL: Goldie Hokie Champion
CURRENTLY RESIDES: Richmond, Virginia
WHAT YEAR DID YOU GRADUATE? 1960
FAMILY: Jane (wife-JMU, class of 1960); David (son, Virginia Tech, class of 1981); MSPI, Michigan, class of 1982; Christie (daughter, VCU, class of 1989); PTA certification, 1992; Brevard C.C., Florida.

Q&A

Q: A Hokie is ...
A: A person who supports Virginia Tech in all its aspects. A Hokie tells his friends and neighbors about Virginia Tech and invites them to visit the campus.

Q: Do you have a tailgating tradition?
A: We tailgate with our son and daughter and families and with my childhood friends from Independence, Virginia. That's 60-plus years of friendship and lots of tales to spin.

Q: What is your best memory of Virginia Tech athletics?
A: The 1999 season. Coach Beamer was the basketball coach during my tenure at Virginia Tech (1956-60). He had recruited the top five West Virginia high school players and created wild excitement in the old Memorial Gym (much like “Enter Sandman” today). I've been a fan ever since for all Hokie sports.

Q: What caused you to become a fan of Virginia Tech?
A: Raised in Southwest Virginia, Virginia Tech is the school of choice. While in high school, I decided to seek an engineering degree, knowing it would result in a good-paying job. Virginia Tech was the only school I considered. I was interested in the acquisition of knowledge, so I did not want to go to a school that did not have academic rigor. Even in high school, I was looking at schools that had engineering schools.

Q: How did you get involved with the Hokie Club?
A: John Moody came to our house in Wise, Virginia, in the early 1970s. He invited us to Hokie games and we all donated $10 (yes, $10 – can you imagine that?) for the Hokie Club. I had been actively rooting for the Hokies in the 1960s while living in Abingdon, but John's visit made the Hokie Club a priority. I had been a fan of Virginia Tech since Lane Stadium opened.

Q: I'm a Hokie Club member because ...
A: It is a privilege to support a great university and feel a small part of the ascent of our academics and athletics while meeting other Hokies.

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Fuller, a sophomore from Baltimore, Maryland, earned the most points of any ACC player at his position under ACCMA’s point system. He has recorded 50 tackles, including 4.5 for loss and two sacks to go along with 14 pass breakups and an interception that he returned for a touchdown at North Carolina. His 14 pass breakups lead the team. He made the second team a year ago.

Nicolas, a redshirt junior from Delray Beach, Florida, has tallied 63 tackles, including 7.5 for loss and 9.0 sacks, to go along with 34 quarterback hurries, a pass break up, two blocked kicks and a humble recovery. He leads the team in sacks and tackles for a loss.

Hodges, a redshirt sophomore from Centreville, Virginia, has registered 29 tackles, 13.5 of which are for loss, along with 8.5 sacks. Marshall, a redshirt junior from North Dinwiddie, Virginia, has 39 tackles, including 9.5 for loss and 2.5 sacks, to go along with one interception and 23 quarterback hurries.

Hodges, a redshirt freshman from Virginia Beach, Virginia, has caught 42 passes for 517 yards and seven touchdowns and also scored when he recovered a blocked punt in the end zone against Virginia.

Nicolas, Ekanem, Marshall and Hodges made the All-ACC squad for the first time.
At some point in the second half of Tech’s season ender against in-state rival Virginia, J.C. Coleman felt a few of his muscles starting to tighten and then the tiny spasms of pain started arriving.

Recognizing the arrival of cramps, Coleman chugged a combination of Gatorade and electrolytes, and the concoction resulted in the genesis of a hurricane in his stomach. Shortly thereafter, he spilled the remnants of the category 5 into a sideline garbage can. Load lightened, he proceeded to blow past and uproot a strong Virginia defense, wrapping up the best performance of his collegiate career.

“It was just a bad second half there for a while, but I overcame it,” Coleman said. “I had some nice runs, run tough and physical. I broke some tackles and stiff-armed a couple of guys. I had a good game overall. It was fun.”

Coleman rushed for 118 yards on 18 carries, helping Tech rally from a fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Cavaliers for the 11th straight season. He averaged 6.6 yards per carry, and he only lost two yards all game. That’s not too shabby for a young man who stands all of 5-foot-7, weighs less than 200 pounds and was facing a stout Virginia front seven.

It capped an unbelievable roller coaster of a season for Coleman. He started the first game of the season and the last. In between, he lost his starting job, dropped to fourth on the depth chart, had a costly fumble against Pittsburgh, didn’t see the field the next two games, saved Tech’s bacon against Duke and served as the only bright spot on offense against Wake.

The ride ended with him being carried off the field by his teammates, Commonwealth Cup firmly entrenched in his left hand.

“It’s amazing to go from not playing to being sort of a hero for the team,” he said. “I embrace it. I love the feeling, I love the confidence that everyone has in me. It’s an amazing feeling. The players are excited to see me out there and see me making plays. It’s exciting to see them embracing me making plays in these games.”

Coleman lost reps and carries as freshmen Shai McKenzie and Marshawn Williams emerged – and then both went down for the season with ACL injuries. Trey Edmunds was working his way back, too, until a fractured clavicle ruined his season.

Tech running backs coach Shane Beamer planned to give Coleman a bigger workload against the Panthers after Edmunds went down. But the Hokies got behind, which resulted in more passing, and then Coleman fumbled on a second-half carry – which led to a Pittsburgh touchdown in a 21-16 loss.

He didn’t carry again – for the next two games.

“I did feel they [Tech’s coaches] didn’t have the confidence to put me out there,” Coleman said. “It kind of showed. I didn’t play much after that. That’s understandable. When I get out there, I can’t put the ball on the ground. That helped us lose that game. I take full accountability for that. I understand that running backs can’t fumble. I understood that and all the consequences that came with it.”

After not playing in the Hokies’ losses to Miami and BC, Coleman met with Beamer. He had kept working hard in practices and kept being a good teammate. He wanted a role, whether it be getting a few carries or working more on special teams.

Tech had lost three straight games at the time. He wanted to help end the slide.

“It wasn’t a meeting where I was complaining about a lack of playing time or a lack of carries,” Coleman said. “It was just a meeting where I could see where I was at and what I could do to contribute. I felt I could contribute on this level and for this team. I wanted to figure out what I could do. He told me, and I got a few carries early against Duke before Marshawn got hurt.”

Coleman rushed for 45 yards against Duke and 98 yards against Wake. His 118-yard performance against UVa marked his second 100-yard performance as a Hokie.

More impressively, he averaged 5.6 yards per carry in that three-game span, and the Hokies, as an offense, have rushed for an average of 121 yards per game.

The Hokies hope to get Edmunds back for the bowl game. But if not, they can rest a little more comfortably knowing that their diminutive back is playing rather big right now.

“I know I can play at this level, I know I can compete with the best of them, and I know I can succeed at this level,” he said. “When Marshawn got hurt, I looked at it as I had to step up and take on a different role – and that’s what I did.”

Coleman comes up large for the Hokies down the stretch.
Injuries, inexperience and inconsistency lead to an unusual 2014 season for Tech

The 2014 football season will be remembered as one of the most unusually quiet football seasons in Virginia Tech history. It was frustrating at times and confounding at others, and yet extraordinarily thrilling as well.

Yes, the Hokies had their moments, but …

At the end of the day, Tech was too young and too injured to be a consistent football team. The inexperience at key positions and the injuries were too much to overcome.

That said, it was a 6-6 record. Usually, 6-6 doesn’t fly at Virginia Tech. Not for head coach Frank Beamer, his assistants, Tech’s players or for the legion of constituents who comprise Tech’s passionate fan base.

Beamer – to his credit – nailed this season and the season-ending injuries to Brandon Facyson, Bucky Hodges scored eight touchdowns in the final seconds, so things have a way of working out.

For a variety of reasons, though, overall the team didn’t develop the cohesiveness to make those winning plays consistently. For example, during the regular season:

• Tech had eight field goal attempts, more than any other team in the league.
• The Hokies committed 94 penalties, the most in the ACC.
• Tech committed 25 turnovers, 13th in the league.
• Tech was last in the ACC in turnover margin.

Those are things that make the difference between winning and losing close games.

All year long, Tech seemed to be fighting an uphill battle in many ways. From injuries to bad breaks to the backup quarterback and executed its plan much better except for “one busted coverage that really irritates me,” coordinator Bud Foster said after the Virginia game.

For us to hang in there like we did, I’m really proud of them. We’ve gone to a lot of bowls around here over the years, but this team, this year, really deserves one because nothing was easy for them.”

It wasn’t easy for them. It wasn’t easy for their coaches or anyone else.

Despite all the injuries and attrition and obstacles, the Hokies are going to their 22nd straight bowl, which is a tremendous accomplishment. Only Nebraska, Michigan, Florida, Florida State and Alabama have ever pulled off a 22nd or more bowl streak. It might seem simple because of the proliferation of bowl games, but a lot of tradition-rich programs in places like South Bend, State College, Austin, Lincoln, Columbus, Knoxville and Baton Rouge haven’t put together a streak like Virginia Tech’s.

The next few months are going to be very important to the future of Tech’s football program, starting with the bowl game in December and then with signing day in February. Winning this bowl game has a 22nd straight winning season is vital for the program. But winning on signing day – and Tech coaches are enthused about their commitments they’ve received so far – is also critical.

We’re going to remember this Virginia Tech football season for both the highs and the lows. But in the grand scheme, Tech fans should hope that 2015’s obstacles will help make the 2015 team a bigger winner.
Q: Have you submitted the paperwork on getting medical hardship waivers for Luther Maddy, Brandon Facyson and Kalvin Cline? What’s the likelihood of those three being granted waivers? I would hate to see them lose a year. Thanks, Rachel in Blacksburg.

TP: “We will submit the paperwork to the ACC office once the season ends - we are prohibited from doing it before then - and we feel very confident that the conference will grant all three waivers. All played in fewer than 30 percent of the Hokies’ games, and none of them played during the second half of the season. Those are the two key criteria for receiving the waiver, along with providing the necessary substantiating medical documentation, of course.

“The decisions usually come pretty quick, so we should know about all three at some point in January of next year. If the ACC office denies any of the waivers, there is an appeal process through a specific NCAA committee.”

Q: I’m a football season ticket holder, and I noticed several recruits at the Tech-Boston College game. It was freezing cold outside that game, and I was wondering if the Tech athletics department could have recruits sit in any available indoor club seating. It seems that would be a nice way of treating them, but it’s probably illegal. Thanks, JC in Blacksburg.

TP: “Good question, and your assumption is correct. This is not permissible under NCAA rules.

"Under Bylaw 13.7.5.2, which is part of the legislation governing official visits, a school can provide complimentary admissions to the institution’s athletics events during the official visit for the prospect, his/her parents (or legal guardians) and spouse. But the bylaw states, ‘Such admissions may provide seating only in the general seating area. Providing seating for the prospect, his/her parents or legal guardians or spouse in the facility’s press box, special seating boxes or bench area is specifically prohibited.’”

Q: Has there been any more discussion on letting athletes play for five years instead of four and doing away with the redshirt season and all the waivers, like the medical hardship waiver (e.g. Luther Maddy)? It also would allow schools to have more depth. We can’t play Andrew Ford or Chris Durkin now without burning the redshirt. Thanks, April in Blacksburg.

TP: “This is something that Tech head coach Frank Beamer has advocated for years, and it has been proposed on numerous occasions. In fact, it’s been proposed four times in the past 10 years, but has never been adopted by the Division I membership.

“The idea does make some sense. It would eliminate many of the waiver issues, and it might increase graduation rates. The idea was discussed at ACC meetings this past May, and most of the 15 schools appear to be in favor of it. This viewpoint, as well as freshmen ineligibility (the flipside of the issue), continue to reappear periodically.

“I don’t know whether either will happen in the near-term, but I do think that five-year eligibility is an idea that will be discussed in more detail by the ACC, Big 12, Big 10, Pac 12 and SEC now that the five conferences have been granted the autonomy to chart their own legislative course.”

Q: I read where UConn women’s basketball coach Geno Auriemma called that young girl who played in the Little League World Series and congratulated her, and yet the NCAA ruled that was a secondary violation. Your thoughts? Derek from Pearisburg.

TP: “Yes, Auriemma did call Mo’ne Davis, the young lady whom you refer to, and this was determined to be a minor violation of NCAA regulations.

“The NCAA rule is pretty clear on this. Telephone calls to an individual, or his or her relatives or guardians may not be made before Sept. 1 at the beginning of his or her junior year of high school.

“UConn tried to argue that Davis was not a recruitable athlete because she wasn’t in the ninth grade yet (for NCAA purposes, ninth grade is the point where an individual becomes a prospective student-athlete). But the applicable rule is not limited to prospective student-athletes. It refers specifically to calls ‘to an individual,’ not ‘to a prospect.’

“UConn also tried to argue that the call had nothing to do with recruiting. But in this case, as in many others, that’s simply not enough to get a school off the hook.”

The compliance corner answers questions concerning the governance of intercollegiate athletics and its impact on our athletics department. Have a question? Please send it to inside@hokiesports.com and we’ll answer it in upcoming issues. Now, here are a couple of questions that we’ve received from Tech alums and fans over the past few months, with responses from Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD for Compliance:

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AD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VIRGINIA TECH
Women's Soccer | Fairfax, Virginia

by Jimmy Robertson

After starting every match in each of the past two seasons for the Tech women's soccer team, defender Danielle King graduates next May with a degree in human development. She then plans on getting a master's degree, and from there, pursuing a career in education.

Q: Why did you decide to major in human development?
DK: "My major is human development, with a concentration in child and adolescent development. I chose this major mainly because I have a passion for helping people, specifically young children. This major focuses on the entire life span of humans and has a mixture of different classes, which diversifies my knowledge of human development. I also really liked that this major gave me the basis for many different career options such as teaching, counseling or possibly clinical psychology."

Q: Are you going to pursue a master's degree? Why?
DK: "My current plan is to pursue a master's in education, which will advance my knowledge about the education process as a whole and will allow me to gather more insight into that occupation. Having a master's degree will also help me broaden my competitive differences during the job search process. The student teaching requirement that is completed during the program will give me additional classroom experience and will increase my confidence with the kids.

"I am still assessing a variety of graduate programs, but I'm very interested in a partial online master's program offered by Liberty University. This option really interests me because it allows me to work while I pursue my degree. I am also interested in coaching soccer at the collegiate level if the opportunity presents itself."

Q: Why have you decided on your particular career path?
DK: "My soccer career at Tech has given me many opportunities to get involved with children and interact with younger students on and off the field while coaching at camps during the summer months. These kids have so much energy and eagerness to learn the game of soccer and a lot of fun to hang out with on a more informal level.

I want to make a life-long difference in children's lives and have found such joy and fulfillment when I know that I have been able to influence them in a positive and beneficial way beyond the soccer field. I'm confident I can find that same fulfillment in an elementary teaching career."

Q: Have you done any internships, co-ops, etc., and what did you learn from these experiences?
DK: "This past summer, I worked at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, Virginia, in the athletics department. I learned that there is still a lot of activity at a school even during the summer months. My responsibilities included organization of a variety of camp activities, coordination with other schools in the development of team schedules and interacting with coaches and teachers as we prepared for the new school year. I will be completing my field study this spring at a Blacksburg elementary school in a kindergarten and first grade classroom. Since this will be geared more specifically to my career path, I am really excited for that to start."

Q: What are your future plans?
DK: "My plan is to get my master's degree in education in a one-year program and then apply for teaching jobs in Northern Virginia for the 2016-17 school year. I will also be applying this winter and spring to collegiate soccer coaching jobs in the Northern Virginia area."

Men's Soccer | Oakland, California

by Jimmy Robertson

Drew Ranahan played on the Tech men's soccer team for four years, and he made the All-ACC Academic team for men's soccer on two occasions. The West Coast native and economics major plans on returning home after graduation to work for Aon Hewitt, a consulting and outsourcing solutions company.

Q: Why did you decide to major in economics?
DR: "I chose to major in economics because I knew it would be a challenging major that would push me to my full potential as a student. I have always liked using numbers and data to solve problems and tell stories, which is exactly the basis of economics. I also knew that a business degree in economics can take you a lot of different ways in terms of career paths, and I was not so sure what kind of work I would want to be doing after school."

Q: Are you going to pursue a master's degree?
DR: "I am not going to continue a master's degree immediately after undergrad. However, I would like to some day come back to school and receive an MBA. I would like to run my own business one day, and I think getting to a higher level of education would help me reach those goals."

Q: Have you done any internships, and if so what did you learn from those experiences?
DR: "I have had two internships over the past two summers. One was in San Francisco, California, with TechStop, and the other was in Berkeley, California, with RedAngry. I learned a lot over these two experiences. Both were geared toward analyzing data and compiling certain marketing analytics to reflect information to our clients and to my superiors. I also learned what it was like to commute and work a 9-5 job, which is a lot different than the average day at Virginia Tech."

Q: How did you come about to pursuing a career in data analysis?
DR: "I decided to go down my particular career path by staying motivated and taking advantage of the opportunities laid out in front of me. Virginia Tech does a great job of setting up its students with prospective job offers, and also preparing its students for what comes after school and soccer. I was not sure what field of work I wanted to be in, and the resources provided by Virginia Tech and the support from friends and family helped me figure out what direction I wanted to go in."

Q: What are your future plans?
DR: "I plan on graduating with a business degree in economics in December. After graduation, I will go home to California for the holidays. Just recently, I accepted an offer to do consulting with Aon Hewitt. I will start work with Aon Hewitt out in California in June. Before I start, I would love to do some traveling outside of the country, possibly South America. I also plan to get involved in coaching soccer for my local club team in Oakland. I think that coaching and staying involved with the game is huge for me as I pursue my dreams outside of the sport I love."
Smith Heats Up in Reserve Role

Tech guard Adam Smith put up big numbers during a three-game stretch in which he came off the bench, lifting the Hokies to two wins.

Adam Smith probably hasn’t heard of former NBA standout Vinnie Johnson. After all, Johnson retired the same year that Smith entered this world.

But Smith’s recent role certainly parallels that of Johnson, affectionately known by most as “The Microwave.”

Johnson played for three NBA teams, but is best remembered for his role with the Detroit Pistons for whom he won a couple of championship rings. He came off the bench for the Pistons and was known as “a finisher.” His ability to “heat things up quickly” earned him his moniker.

In the early part of this season, Smith is doing something similar. After starting the first three games of the season, he found himself coming off the bench, and he produced, averaging 12 points per game over a three-game stretch (Northern Iowa, bench, and he produced, averaging 18 points per game over a three-game stretch (Northern Iowa, bench, and he produced, averaging 18 points per game over a three-game stretch (Northern Iowa, Miami (Ohio) and Morgan State games. Van Zegeren scored 15, 8 and 13 points in those three games, and he also grabbed six, six and eight rebounds.

Williams would rather play Van Zegeren 25 minutes a game and get that type of productivity instead of starting him, partly because he’s getting in foul trouble and having him sit for huge stretches of a game.

“I think it takes a little bit of pressure off Joey,” Williams said. “Let Shane [Henry] pick up the first ‘dumb’ foul instead of Joey picking up the first dumb foul.”

Van Zegeren averaged 12 points and 7.7 rebounds per game, and he shot nearly 70 percent in that span. He also blocked six shots against Morgan State, meaning the fewer minutes and the fewer fouls allowed him to be more aggressive on that end of the floor as well.

“Joey can’t play 40 minutes and be effective,” Williams said. “There is a little bit of diminishing returns with Joey. I’ve only coached him six games, so I don’t want to pre-judge him, but the longer he goes, the less effective I become.”

Williams did not say if he planned to move Van Zegeren back into the starting lineup but was heartened by the role Van Zegeren played in the win.

“Playing well off the bench,” Smith laughed. “So I don’t know.”

SUCCESSFUL DEBUT FOR WILLIAMS, HOKIES

The Buzz Williams Era at Tech got started in near-perfect fashion. On Nov. 19, the Hokies beat Morgan State 73-63, with Smith scoring 22 points and helping hand the Hokies to their first 5-0 start in Williams’ tenure.

Van Zegeren scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the Hokies’ 73-63 win over Liberty on Nov. 19. The double-double marked the first of Van Zegeren’s career. He became the only active Tech player with a double-double.

Van Zegeren played 34 minutes and hit 7-of- 9 from the floor and 3-of-6 from the free-throw line. Eleven of his 17 points came in the second half, as the Hokies led by as many as 14 and then held on the stretch for the win.

“I think I’ve taken a big step,” van Zegeren said when asked about his improvement from this season compared to last season. “We’ve all been working hard in the gym. It’s up to us now. We’re all in the best shape we’ve been in. It’s now a mental game that we make sure we have our engine’s going before the game and that we make sure we’re the tougher team on the court.”

“Don’t know that he needs to play 34 minutes, but I do think, when he’s not in foul trouble, it gives us the opportunity to make that decision,” Williams said. “I did think he had a good groove … I thought that groove those kids were in, the large part was because Joey was playing pretty well.”

Van Zegeren’s shooting was a big part of the
We’ve got the Hokies covered.

BIBBS WITH DOUBLE FIGURES IN FIRST THREE GAMES

Bibbs quickly established himself as a player to watch this season when he scored 15 points in the Hokies’ 71-46 season-opening win over Maryland-Eastern Shore. His 15 points were the most by a Tech freshman in a debut since Jeff Allen scored 19 against Elon in his debut in 2007.

“Devin [Wilson] and my teammates kept going to the paint, and they dished it out to me when I was open,” Bibbs said. “They make it easy for me.”

Bibbs scored 10 points on 4-of-7 shooting against Liberty, hitting two 3-pointers in 35 minutes of action. Against Appalachian State, he scored 10 points on 5-of-11 shooting in 30 minutes.

Bibbs became the first Tech freshman to score in double figures in his first three games since Allen opened with three double-figure scoring games in 2007.

Williams and Liberty head coach Dale Layer had a prior relationship, one that made coaching against each other quite uncomfortable.

Layer used to be the head coach at Colorado State (2000-07), and he hired Williams to be his assistant. It marked Williams’ first job at a bigger school — he had worked previously at Texas-Arlington, Texas A&M-Kingsville and Northwestern State.

Williams later returned the favor, hiring Layer as an assistant when he was named the head coach at Marquette when Tom Crean took the Indiana job. Layer worked for Williams for one season (2008-09) before getting the head job at Liberty in 2009.

“He’s the best human being I know, other than my wife,” Williams said of Layer. “He absolutely changed my life. It was the most uncomfortable game I’ve ever coached. To be very frank with you, that’s probably the reason we weren’t very good in the first half.”

Justin Bibbs’ career got off to a great start, as he scored in double figures in the Hokies’ first three games.

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Williams and Staff Bring in Another Strong Recruiting Haul

by Jimmy Robertson

Virginia Tech hadn’t even played a game yet, but new head coach Buzz Williams’ season couldn’t have gotten off to a better start.

Two days before the season opener, Williams and his staff signed three prospects to letters-of-intent, a group that many of those in recruiting circles ranked among the top 30 classes in the nation. In fact, 247Sports ranked the class No. 18, while Rivals ranked it No. 27. Only Duke, Louisville, Syracuse, Florida State and Wake Forest checked in ahead of the Hokies among ACC schools.

Tech’s class consists of Chris Clarke, a 6-foot-3, 185-pound wing player from Virginia Beach, Virginia; Justin Robinson, a 6-1, 170-pound point guard from Manassas, Virginia; and Kerry Blackshear, Jr., a 6-9, 230-pound forward from Virginia Beach.

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Tech’s class consists of Chris Clarke, a 6-foot-3, 185-pound wing player from Virginia Beach, Virginia; Justin Robinson, a 6-1, 170-pound point guard from Manassas, Virginia; and Kerry Blackshear, Jr., a 6-9, 230-pound forward from Virginia Beach. They were the only three prospects whom Williams brought to campus for an official visit, and he managed to land all three.

“I’m really, really excited about the group we’ve signed,” Williams said. “They represent who we want to be about on the floor, and more importantly, off the floor. You know, it’s hard in a lot of ways when you’re not from here, when you’ve had the roster turnover that we’ve had when I got the job. The campus visits were probably more important than they typically are just so that everyone could meet everyone so they could put a face to the name. We’ll never forget the trust that those kids and their families have put in us and our dreams and our plans for what we want the program to be. I think we addressed some needs physically. We addressed some needs defensively. We addressed some needs basically on all conference honors. He chose the Hokies over UNLV and Providence. “Justin is left-handed and is a true point,” Williams said. “He runs the game mentally and physically for his team. I love left-handed guards. He plays at a high level and has been coached the right way.

“God doesn’t make many point guards any more, true run-the-team, I-can-make-an-open-shot, you-have-to-guard-me, I-know-where-everyone-is supposed to be on-the-floor. He’s not a jet, but he’s definitely not slow. As his body begins to take shape, he’s going to be able to own and hold his own space, which is important for a guard.”

Blackshear, Jr., rounds out the group. He comes from good stock, as his father is the all-time leading scorer in Stetson University basketball history.

Robinson plays at St. James School in St. James, Maryland, after playing his sophomore year at Montrose Christian School. He averaged 14.6 points and 7.6 rebounds for Maynard Evans High School as a junior, leading his team to the Class 6A state championship game. He scored 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds in a 66-64 loss.

“I think Kerry has a very high ceiling,” Williams said. “He’s extremely skilled for his age. He will play for another state championship this year. He’s a true combo forward. He can shoot it out to 3. He’s a great passer. He’s got guard-like feet. He can guard a ball screen however you want. “He’s a great kid. He’s quiet. I think he has a very high ceiling. I don’t think he knows how good he can be. He can be a guy who has a distinct role very early in his career.”

This class gives the Hokies a projected 2015-16 roster of 14 players – one over the NCAA limit. But Williams wasn’t about to pass on players who could make Tech’s program better, and given the volatility in college basketball these days, it makes sense for a coach to protect his program from potential departures.

Williams knows this first hand. After he was hired, he saw Trevor Thompson, Ben Emelogu, Marshall Wood and Maurice Kirby transfer and Barkdollie give up basketball for health reasons.

“It will always work itself out,” Williams said. “I can’t tell you exactly what day, what time or who it will be, whether it will be someone on our team or someone coming to our team. Just like I don’t think I could have anticipated the velocity of changes that have happened over a six- or seven-week period (after he was hired). They were all different. That’s just how it goes. “You have to do what’s right by the program, No. 1, and then you have to do what’s right by the young man and/or the coach. But if there’s ever a decision, you have to do what’s right by the program.”

For Williams, recruiting is not complete. It never will be. He has said that he plans on recruiting every single day while he is the coach at Tech.

That type of work ethic pays dividends. It certainly did this fall.
Questions concerning life-altering influences on student-athletes illicit several common responses, ones ranging from parents to siblings to high school coaches.

As soon as football is over, I’m going to Live, a popular nightclub in his hometown of Blacksburg area, including one at The Palladino’s Restaurant in remote areas of Virginia, a 30-minute drive from campus. Hodges. They have excelled in large part because of the emergence of freshmen Cam Phillips and Isaiah Ford and redshirt freshman Bucky Hodges. They have excelled in large part because Byrn took them under his wing and tutored them in the meeting room and on the field. “He’s a guy I never take for granted.”

Actually, he has Hollywood-sized aspirations. “As soon as football is over, I’m going to move to L.A.”, he said.

Byrn isn’t going across the country for the football spotlight | willie byrn 24

BYRN IN TUNE WITH FUTURE PLANS
Tech receiver Willie Byrn has a passion for music, and he is heading to Los Angeles once his football career runs its course.

by Jimmy Robertson

The new year will see Byrn heading off to the next adventure, one that he hopes includes music. He’s going to a place where stars are made, with a guitar, a pick and a dream in tow. It seems like so little to take for such lofty ambitions. Yet for Byrn, it may be just enough.

The guy has a good time, and he enjoys music, Jarreau, a rather famous jazz musician. Byrn and Moorehead had no idea about Byrn’s art and music until seeing the piece on the video scoreboard. And like everyone else, he thought Byrn was pretty good.

“Hey, I really don’t want to do it all at once. I have some other ambitions.”

Here is a clip of him singing Michael Jackson’s “She’s in the music business. He wanted to pursue a career as a singer/songwriter or producer. ‘As soon as football is over, I’m going to Hollywood-sized aspirations. “As soon as football is over, I’m going to move to L.A.”, he said.

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Workers from W.M. Jordan Company have nearly finished the framing and the roof for Virginia Tech's new indoor practice facility, as can be seen from these photos taken in early December. They also have started hanging precast concrete for the exterior of the building, specifically on the lower third of the building.

The $21.3 million project features a building that is 210 feet wide, 400 feet long and 85 feet high, and will have an artificial turf surface. Eight-foot padded walls, wide sidelines, a full scoreboard and 40-second clocks on each end will allow for a full-contact scrimmage.

Tech administrators expect the project to be completed by August of 2015.
## 50 Seasons at Lane Stadium

### All-Lane Stadium Team

Michael Vick, Tyrod Taylor, Bruce Smith, Frank Loria and DeAngelo Hall are just a few of the names voted to the All-Lane Stadium Team by Hokie Nation.

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### OFFENSE

#### QUARTERBACKS

- **Michael Vick (1999-2000):** Arguably the most dynamic player ever to wear a Tech uniform, Vick led Tech to a perfect regular season in 1999 and to the national championship game. He finished third in the Heisman voting that same season. Vick led Tech to a perfect regular season in 1999 and to the national championship game. He finished third in the Heisman voting that same season.

- **Tyrod Taylor (2007-10):** Taylor set career marks for total offense and passing yards at Tech (later broken by Logan Thomas) and won at least 10 games every season as a starter.

### RUNNING BACKS

- **Kevin Jones (2001-03):** A consensus All-American in 2003. Jones rushed for 3,475 yards and ranks second on Tech’s all-time career rushing list. He could own the record had he not left school for the NFL after his junior season.

- **Lee Suggs (1999-02):** Recently inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, Suggs rushed for 2,767 career yards and holds records for touchdowns in a season (28) and career (58). Suggs, too, could have owned the career rushing record except for a knee injury that robbed him of a season.

- **David Wilson (2009-11):** Wilson holds the single-season record for rushing yards (1,709) and ranks eighth on Tech’s list for career rushing yards (2,664).

- **Ryan Williams (2009-10):** Williams’ 1,855 rushing yards in 2009 is second on Tech’s single-season list. He finished with 2,132 for his career.

### RECEIVERS

- **Jarrett Boykin (2008-11):** Boykin holds career marks for total offense and passing yards at Tech (later broken by Logan Thomas) and won at least 10 games every season as a starter.

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- **Eugene Chung (1988-91):** Inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 2008, Chung earned All-American honors in 1991 and later was a first-round NFL Draft pick.

- **Mike Burnop (1970-72):** Burnop’s 46 receptions in 1971 were a single-season record that lasted for more than 30 years.

### DEFENSE

#### DEFENSIVE LINE

- **Bruce Smith (1981-84):** A two-time All-American and a member of the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, Smith holds or shares the school record for sacks in a game (4), sacks in a season (22) and sacks in a career (46).

- **Kevin Jones (2001-03):** Jones was Tech’s first All-American as a junior.

- **Ryan Williams (2009-10):** Williams’ 1,855 rushing yards in 2009 is second on Tech’s single-season list. He finished with 2,132 for his career.

### OTHERS

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By Jimmy Robertson

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Inside Hokie Sports has spent the past five months celebrating the 50 seasons of Lane Stadium, the Hokies’ football home. The magazine has told the story of Lane Stadium, from interviews with those who played in the first game to educating readers about the Lane family to listing 50 great moments to taking a look at the stadium’s greatest moments of each decade.

The athletics department launched this website http://www.hokiesports.com/football/lane50/ - to commemorate the 50 years of Lane Stadium.

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Enjoy peaceful living in this elegant and contemporary home on 80 private acres. A rare find so close to Lane Stadium. Perfect for primary residence or vacation home. 2408 Clever Hollow Road, Newport, VA. Offered at $899,000.

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Michael Vick

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Ryan Williams (2009-10): Williams’ 1,855 rushing yards in 2009 is second on Tech’s single-season list. He finished with 2,132 for his career.


Billy Conaty (1993-96): A first-team All-American in 1996, Conaty won the most games (48) than any other Tech player at the time.

Will Montgomery (2003-05): Montgomery was Tech’s first All-ACC offensive lineman along with Jason Murphy, earning the honor in 2005. He was a two-time member of the team and has enjoyed a successful NFL career.

Blake DeChristopher (2008-11): DeChristopher is the only Tech player to win the Jacobs Award (2011), which goes annually to the ACC’s most outstanding blocker. He was a three-time member of the All-ACC team.


DEFENSE

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Corey Moore (1997-99): Another two-time All-American and member of the school’s Hall of Fame, Moore finished his career with 35 sacks and won the 1999 Broyles Nagurski Award (college football’s defensive player of the year) and Lombardi Award (college football’s lineman of the year).
LINEBACKERS

Xavier Adibi (2004-07): Adibi earned first-team All-America honors in 2007 and was a two-time All-ACC choice in his career, earning second-team honors in 2005 and first-team honors in 2007.

Cody Grimm (2006-09): A third-team All-American and a first-team All-ACC choice in 2009, Grimm is still tied with several players nationally for forced fumbles in a game, forcing three against NC State in 2009.

Vince Hall (2004-07): Hall was a three-time All-ACC selection, earning second-team honors as a sophomore, first-team honors as a junior and an honorable mention nod as a senior.

Ben Taylor (1998-2001): Taylor was a two-time All-American and a two-time first-team All-BIG EAST choice.

SAFETIES

Frank Loria (1965-67): Loria was a two-time All-American and Virginia Tech’s first consensus All-American (1967). He recorded seven interceptions in his career.

Lenny Smith (1968-70): Smith shares a school record with three interceptions in a game against Wake Forest, and he tied a school record at the time with 13 career interceptions. He still ranks tied for fifth in career interceptions.

Torrian Gray (1993-96): Gray was a three-time All-BIG EAST choice, earning first-team honors in 1994 and 1996 and a second-team nod in 1995. He recorded nine interceptions in his career, one of which he returned for a touchdown.


CORNERBACKS

DeAngelo Hall (2001-03): Hall scored touchdowns five different ways in his career, but earned All-America honors in 2003 as a defensive back. He was a two-time All-BIG EAST choice and finished his career with eight interceptions.

Brandon Flowers (2004-07): A two-time All-American and a two-time All-ACC choice, Flowers intercepted 10 passes in his career, returning two for touchdowns.

Macho Harris (2005-08): An All-American in 2008 and a two-time first-team All-ACC choice, Harris intercepted 15 passes in his career – a number that ranks third on Tech’s list. He holds the school record with four interception returns for touchdowns.

Kyle Fuller (2010-13): An All-American in 2013 and a three-time All-ACC choice, Fuller intercepted six passes and had 173 tackles in his career.

SPECIALISTS

RETURN SPECIALISTS

Eddie Royal (2004-07): Royal holds the school record for punt return yardage (1,296 yards) and returned three punts for touchdowns in his career. He also ranks third at Tech in career kickoff return yardage (1,276).

Frank Loria (1965-67): Loria still holds Tech records for most touchdowns on punt returns for a season (3) and the second-best punt return average for a career (13.3 ypr). His 95-yard punt return for a touchdown against Miami in 1967 is still the longest in school history.

PUNTERS

Nic Schmitt (2002-06): Schmitt holds the school record for career punting average, averaging 42.6 yards per punt.

A.J. Hughes (2012-current): Hughes is averaging 41.7 yards per punt in his career, with 48 of his career punts being longer than 50 yards.

KICKERS

Shayne Graham (1996-99): A four-time All-BIG EAST first-team choice, Graham still holds the record for points in a career (373), career field goals made (68) and career field goals attempted (93).

Brandon Pace (2003-06): A three-time All-ACC selection, Pace made a school-record 22 straight field goals spanning two seasons (2005-06). His 350 career points are third at Tech behind Graham (373) and Stago (359).
Over the course of the past several decades, Virginia Tech’s football coaching staff has dipped into the state of New Jersey and plucked some very good players, including Taxandria Burks, Chad Dawson, Jason Worrall, Cory John, Burke Holmes, Billy Comay, Jared Mazutta and current starter Hunter Worley. And Class of 1964 graduate Erick Johnson is another in a long line of the best of the best.

Johnson had an offer from Virginia Tech, and he decided to come to Blacksburg and play for the Hokies. As required per NCAA rules in those days, he sat out the 1963 season, but he decided to come to Blacksburg and play for Coach Tom Nugent.

On his first year, he played in the first game at Lane Stadium in October of 1964, but he decided to come to Blacksburg and play for Coach Tom Nugent. Nugent only got tight ends and fullbacks, but some of his assistants went against that philosophy, which is how Johnson wound up committing there. Nugent later found out and rescinded the scholarship offers of all those who weren’t tight ends or fullbacks.

“He ended up honoring them again,” Johnson said. “But by that time, I had other offers, and I decided that I wasn’t going to mess with that. The other was against Syracuse in Syracuse that season and eight of their final nine, with the only point conversion simply out of frustration.

Johnson remembers it for another reason. “We were undersized,” Johnson said. “We did fairly well, so they termed us the ‘Mighty Mites.’”

Johnson got used to playing for Claiborne, a strict taskmaster noted for his physical practices. Many players in that era gave up football, failing to survive Claiborne’s demanding ways. But those who did survive grew up living, admiring and respecting Claiborne, especially after their playing days ended.

“Erick Johnson is another in a long line of the best of the best,” Johnson said. “We don’t see one another that often, so it’s good to see how everyone is doing and say hi.”

Johnson has done something that very few people in America do these days. He purchased his current home in 1974, and he and his family have stayed there ever since. All of his jobs (except for the last one) were in the south New Jersey/Philadelphia area.

“I’ve never seen another one that often, so it’s good to see how everyone is doing and say hi.”

Johnson still makes it back to Blacksburg for a football game at least once a year. This season, he has been back twice, once for the Georgia Tech game and once for the Miami game.

His return for the Miami game was inspired by a reunion of the 1965-66 Gobblers at a reunion at Lane Stadium 50 seasons ago. The Hokies lost the Miami game 35-6, but seeing old teammates made the trip worthwhile.

“It was good to see everyone you played with,” Johnson said. “We haven’t seen one another that often, so it’s good to see how everyone is doing and say hi.”

Johnson is another in a long line of New Jersey natives to play at Tech, where he started for three years and then embarked on a career of more than 40 years in technical sales.

When we looked at the film, that wasn’t correct. We could have won that game, too.”

Johnson remembers it for another reason. “My claim to fame was my sophomore year when I caught two tackles eligible passes,” Johnson said. “One of them helped beat Florida State [in 1964].”

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First-year players Rachel Camp and Regan Magarity have picked up some of the scoring slack left behind when Uju Ugoka and Monet Tellier departed seniors Uju Ugoka and Monet Tellier, clearly who would be picking up the slack left behind by departing seniors Uju Ugoka and Monet Tellier.

Through the first month of the season, the answer was sophomore Vanessa Panousis. Through the first month of the season, the answer was sophomore Vanessa Panousis.

The Sydney, Australia, native started her streak on Jan. 30 of last season with a made 3-pointer at Notre Dame. Through 17 games, she made at least one, while knocking down at least two in 13 of those contests. Her high during the streak was 10-of-14 from the charity stripe in a three-point win at Providence and sealed the victory by hitting her final six – of a 13-for-15 night from the free-throw line – down the stretch in a win over East Tennessee State.

“I just knew that I needed to keep playing hard, and they are going to eventually find you that late in the game,” Camp said of her approach late in the game.

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“I just knew that I needed to keep playing hard, and they are going to eventually find you that late in the game,” Camp said of her approach late in the game.
It has been almost a decade since the Virginia Tech women’s basketball program had the phrase “Top 20” used to describe its team. After improving to a 14-1 record during the 2005-06 season, the Hokies climbed into the top 20 and were ranked No. 18. They slipped out of the top 25 two weeks later and have not been ranked since.

Coming out of the early November signing period, though, Tech head women’s basketball coach Dennis Wolff signed a recruiting class that was ranked No. 20 by ESPN HoopGurlz, a welcomed sign that his program is on the rise, one attracting top-notch talent and heading toward a better future.

“I’m excited about the whole class,” Wolff said on signing day. “I think that, every year we have a big allotment allowed by the NCAA. Current players as returners) to 15 players, the full signees bring the 2015-16 roster (which counts all current players, the current roster – Kelsey Conyers – and the three ties won out when she became a Hokie, as both of her parents graduated from Tech. She’ll add depth to a solid frontcourt that Wolff has been stockpiling.

Standing at 6-foot-2, Koshuta already has scored more than 1,200 points and grabbed 600 rebounds in three years at James Madison High School. The forward was a 2014 6A first-team all-state selection and the Liberty Conference Player of the Year. At the 2014 Nike EYBL Summer 17 Nationals, she averaged 18.6 points a game, which included a tournament high of 34 points in one game.

“Kelly may have been the most productive back-to-the-basket player on the women’s AAU circuit last summer,” Wolff said. “She is extremely clever around the basket with either hand and really has a knack for scoring. She is very tough to minded in regard to fighting in the lane for the ball on both offense and defense.”

The adjective mostly identified with Hicks is “quick,” and she comes to Tech out of Maury High School, where, as a junior, she averaged 11.6 points, 7.2 rebounds, 9.4 assists and 6.1 steals a game. The 5-6 point guard is ranked as the 17th-best at her position nationally and earned second-team all-state honors in 2014. For three straight seasons, she has been named the All-Tidewater Defensive Player of the Year, as well as a first-team all-conference and an all-region performer.

“Chanette has been very well coached throughout her high school career,” Wolff said. “She is as good an on-the-ball defender as there is coming into women’s college basketball in the country. Her energy level, her presence defensively and her unselfishness on offense will immediately help our team.”

Rounding out the class is Gilmer, a 6-foot forward who plays for Archbishop Williams. She averaged 22 points, nine rebounds and four assists per game last season for the Bishops, who, despite an 11-11 regular season, advanced to the Division 3 state semifinals after winning the crown the previous season.

Gilmer has been named to all-scholastic teams by the Boston Globe, Boston Herald and The Patriot Ledger and helped her team to the 2013 state all-state honors.

“Alana is a skilled wing player who shoots the ball with good range and is a good athlete,” Wolff said. “She will immediately add to our wing depth.”

Tech will graduate just one senior off of its current roster – Kialey Conyers – and the three signees bring the 2015-16 roster (which counts all current players as returners) to 15 players, the full allotment allowed by the NCAA.
Another great season comes to an end

The Tech women's soccer team fell to Penn State in the third round of the NCAAs, but that shouldn't take away from another record-setting season for one of the most successful varsity sports at Tech.

The sun was slowly setting on what was the most successful senior class in Virginia Tech women's soccer history. The seniors of the 2014 squad were the first to post at least 13 wins in each of their four years and the first to eclipse the 60-career win plateau. They were also a big reason why the Hokies advanced to their first ever College Cup (in 2013).

But how they were, on a frigid Jeffery Field in University Park, Pennsylvania, facing elimination in the round of 32 to a team that had been the class' only first-round exit in the NCAA Tournament. In 2012, Georgetown came into Blacksburg and escaped with a 3-2 overtime victory.

Mullen, who scored her sixth career game-winning goal, was a freshman when the Hokies lost to Georgetown back in 2012 and certainly matched in 2012.

The overtime session lasted only 30 seconds. Tiernan found Ashley Meier for the game winner, as they faced the host Penn State Nittany Lions, seeded second in the region. She would score the lone goal in a 2-1 loss to the No. 8 team in the nation.

Tech had several chances late in the contest, as a Dixon shot soared just wide of the goal and a Meier chance from just inside the 18-yard box sailed just high of the crossbar.

"We played very well," Adair said. "We were a bit unfortunate to be down 1-0 at halftime, but I think we played a very solid first half. They took a couple of chances in the first half, and we didn't.

"It was very balanced and a game that could have gone either way. I was very proud of our team the way they came out in the second half and really had the flow of the game and created the equalizing goal. A half chance here or there could have gotten the winner. The winner went against us, but I'm very proud of our girls. I'm proud of the team, the mentality and the fight they had."

"With the loss, the Hokies finished the season with a 16-6-2 record, but left their mark on the program with record-breaking numbers. The squad notched a program-best 62 goals during the year, surpassing last year's previous mark of 54, and the defense allowed a record-low 18 goals, hosting the previous mark of 20 set in 2007 and matched in 2012.

by Marc Mullen

Because of the conditions. It was very difficult to play out (there). It was cold. The ground was frozen. So just getting after it and playing more direct just helped us."

"By half out to the girls because they really showed their determination. We didn't play great soccer, but we got a real hard-fought result."

"It was a crazy game," Tech women's soccer coach Chugger Adair said afterwards. "And it was a crazy second half. We got down not one, but twice, and we were able to fight back and grind through it. The comeback was great for us."

"I thought we were on top of them, and we kept pressing them. We played a little more direct because of the conditions. It was very difficult to play out (there). It was cold. The ground was frozen. So just getting after it and playing more direct just helped us."

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LATIMER MAINTAINS FAMILY TRADITION

Tech swimmer Morgan Latimer followed in his dad’s footsteps by coming to Tech, and just like his father, worked his way into the school’s record books.

by Marc Mullen

The Virginia Tech men’s swimming and diving program has enjoyed its greatest success over the past three seasons, placing in the top 20 at the NCAA meet all three years and winning just its second conference crown ever – this one coming in the more competitive ACC – after a pair of runner-up finishes.

It happened because of men like senior Morgan Latimer, an example of a student-athlete who comes into the program maybe not as the top-caliber of performers in high school, but one who works his tail off to improve and also puts the team first. That’s a recipe that works well for head coach Ned Skinner, who took 20 men to the 2014 ACC Championships, and despite just one Hokie winning an individual title, came home with the team trophy.

“The transformation that this program has made over the past few years is pretty amazing,” Latimer said. “It first comes from Ned and the coaches he’s been able to put around himself because they really do develop us. You can look at each individual on the team, and everyone has really developed tremendous amounts as a swimmer while they’ve been here.

“And a big part of that also comes from the athletics department making a big investment in the program. Having trust in them and the coaches, they have really proved to us, year after year, that they care about this program, and they want to do everything they can to help us succeed. I think the new administration with Whit Babcock [Tech’s AD] is even showing that more.”

Latimer’s father was his biggest inspiration. He made it again last season after earning 77 team points for Tech at the ACC Championships, and despite just one Hokie winning an individual title, came home with the team trophy.

“I knew there is a picture of it somewhere, but he never really talks about it too much. But it’s funny hearing old alumni who were at the school at the time or recent graduates of that time who recall the story. So I’ve heard quite a few stories about it.”

Latimer hit some rough waters in his first season with the Hokies, but put in a lot of work in the offseason before his sophomore year and advanced to the NCAA Championships in both of the butterfly events. He made it again last season after earning 77 team points for Tech at the ACC Championships, helping Tech to the team title. At the ACC meet, he broke the school record in the 200 butterfly. He and his father are believed to be the only father-son combination ever at Tech to hold school records in two different sports.
“I don’t think I come in with terribly lofty expectations. I expected to do well and improve, but I did have a very humbling freshman year,” Latimer said. “I didn’t do nearly as well as I would have liked. But the big thing was that I was able to keep my head down and keep moving, and now I’ve been able to achieve things that I didn’t really think about coming in.

“Looking back, maybe I should have had higher expectations. But I really put in a lot of work following my freshman year. I put in a lot of extra hours, and it really paid off big and I had a great ACC meet my sophomore year. I was very happy about it, and I ended up making NCAAs. Unfortunately last year at NCAAs, I had a stomach bug for about a week before it, and I didn’t really perform to where I could. That just gave me a little bit more motivation moving forward this year.”

Latimer believes that the Hokies, again, have higher expectations. “Like father, like son” certainly applies to Morgan Latimer and his dad, Wayne, as both own school records at Tech.

Latimer, a history major who will graduate this December and enter graduate school in the spring, will look to continue making history with the swimming and diving team during his final season in the pool. He holds or is part of three school records, which includes a pair of relay records, and he holds the Christiansburg Aquatic Center record in the 200 butterfly. He has the rest of this season to add some more.

That’s a couple more than his father has.

However, will any of his records match the longevity of his father’s mark, which is now at 39 years and counting? Only time will tell.

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Virginia Tech head wrestling coach Kevin Dresser’s class includes David McFadden from West Milford, New Jersey; Andrew Dunn from Bethlehem Catholic. Ranked as the No. 12 152-pounder in the country, according to the Virginia Tech wrestling family,” Dresser said in a signing day release. “We will potentially be looking for a few more guys this spring, but we feel this is an excellent class.

McFadden, from DePaul Catholic, is the No. 1-ranked 152-pounder in the country, according to both FloWrestling and InterMat. InterMat also ranked him as the overall No. 18 prep wrestler in the nation, while FloWrestling ranked him at 37th overall.

McFadden won the New Jersey state championship last year at 145 pounds and tied sixth as a sophomore (126 pounds) and second as a freshman (113 pounds). He recently won the match at FloWrestling’s “Who’s No. 1?” dual tournament at Lehigh University to take over the top spot in his weight class. McFadden placed second at the 2014 junior nationals and enters his senior year with a career record of 118-8. Dresser views him as a 149-pounder in college.

Dresser views his class as another class of outstanding athletes. These four guys represent another class of quality individuals that we are excited to welcome to the Virginia Tech wrestling family,” Dresser said.

Virginia Tech softball coach Scott Thomas signed a large class of six prospects to compete for the Hokies beginning in the fall of 2015. The class includes five out-of-state prospects and one Virginia native.

The native Virginian is Lauren Duff, a 5-foott-8 right-handed catcher and hitter from Chesapeake. Duff hit .547, with nine doubles, five triples, and she stole 14 bases.

Thomas added another utility player in Olivia Lattin, a 5-6 right-handed thrower and hitter from Elizabethton, Tennessee. Lattin was a third-team all-state selection at Spartanburg High School. She won the 2013 Upstate championship (ages 13-15).

The second recruit this fall finished sixth at the AJGA Izod Championship, which included the Carolinas Golf Association.

Earlier this summer Fiest finished sixth at the 2014 USGA Junior Amateur Championship. His results include two second-place finishes, two third-place finishes, and a fourth-place finish at the Florida High School Tournament of Champions.

Fiest attends William A. Hough High School. A three-time all-state selection, he was the runner-up in the event last season. He competed in the 2013 US Girls’ Junior Championship and was the runner-up in the 2013 Virginia Girls’ Junior Championship. He has been selected for the USA Junior Boys’ junior team four times and has six junior golf titles, including the 2012 and 2014 USA Outdoor Junior Amateur title.

Boye is the 2014 Beth Daniel Azalea junior champion and was the runner-up in the event in 2015. She has two drive in winning record and a member of the Virginia high school team.

In 2013-14, he had four top-10 finishes and two top-five in AJGA events along with a top-10 state tournament.

Boye is a three-time all-state selection and was named to the all-state team last season. She competed in the 2014 US Girls’ Junior Championship and was the runner-up in the 2013 Virginia Girls’ Junior Championship. She has been selected for the USA Junior Boys’ junior team four times and has six junior golf titles, including the 2012 and 2014 USA Outdoor Junior Amateur title.

Stevevson is the lone junior college transfer in the group. The Canton, Georgia, native attends Coastal Carolina University.

The 2013-14 Daytona State Athlete of the Year and was the 2013-14 Dean’s List. Her highest individual finish last season was a second-place finish at a third-place finish in the 2013 Lady Falcon Invitational.

Virginia Tech volleyball coach Chris Riley signed one prospect during the fall signing period at the Florida Women’s Amateur Match Play championship. She won the 2013 FHSAA Class 2A state championship.

Riley is the six-time all-state choice and has a three-time all-state selection at Spencerburg High School and the 2013 Lady Falcon Invitational.

Virginia Tech head volleyball coach Chris Riley signed one prospect during the fall signing period at the Florida Women’s Amateur Match Play championship. She won the 2013 FHSAA Class 2A state championship.

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THOMAS BRINGING IN BIG CLASS FOR 2015

With a roster that features 10 upperclassmen, Tech softball coach Scott Thomas signed a large class of six prospects to compete for the Hokies beginning in the fall of 2015. The class includes five out-of-state prospects and one Virginia native.

The native Virginian is Lauren Duff, a 5-foot-8 right-handed catcher and hitter from Chesapeake. Duff hit .547, with nine doubles, five triples, and she stole 14 bases.

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LACROSSE STAFF INKS SEVEN

Virginia Tech lacrosse coach Megan Burker and her staff signed seven prospects to letters-of-intent, a group that includes six out-of-state signees and one Virginian.

The class includes Zan Biedenharn from Vero Beach, Florida; Alyssa Cox from Westfield, New Jersey; Paige Murray from Westport, Vero Beach, Florida; Alyssa Cox from Westfield, New Jersey; Molly Wentz from West Chester, Connecticut; Kelci O’Donnell from Downingtown, New Jersey; and Emily Wilson from Pittsford, Pennsylvania; and Emily Wilson from Pittsford, Pennsylvania; Molly Wentz from West Chester, Connecticut; Kelci O’Donnell from Downingtown, New Jersey; Paige Murray from Westport, Vero Beach, Florida; Alyssa Cox from Westfield, New Jersey; Molly Wentz from West Chester, Connecticut; Kelci O’Donnell from Downingtown, New Jersey; and Emily Wilson from Pittsford, Pennsylvania.

“We are thrilled to welcome Julia and her family into our Virginia Tech family,” Riley said in a signing day release. “Julia is a wonderful young lady who will be a terrific addition to our program. She is a great athlete and will help us immediately, but she is an even better person, and we are excited to add her to our group.”

Burker, a 6-foot-1 middle blocker from Minneapolis, was a Ms. Baden Volleyball Award finalist in her senior year, an award that goes to the top volleyball player in the state. She earned four letters at the Breck School and was a first-team all-state honoree her senior season. She earned all-conference honors for the past three seasons.

“Jaila is a woman of-state and one Virginian.

The class includes Zan Biedenharn from Vero Beach, Florida; Alyssa Cox from Westfield, New Jersey; Paige Murray from Westport, Connecticut; Kelci O’Donnell from Downingtown, Pennsylvania; Molly Wentz from West Chester, Pennsylvania; and Emily Wilson from Pittsford, New York. Charlie Fix is the lone Virginian, and she hails from Alexandria.

“We are thrilled to welcome this group to Virginia Tech lacrosse,” Burker said. “This class is marked by their strong work ethic and conviction. I know they will make a big impact both on and off the field, as our program builds to the next level.”

A goalie, Fix attends St. Stephens and St. Agnes and earned her first varsity letter a season ago. After helping her team to an IBL championship as both as the VISAA championship game. She is a great athlete and will help us immediately, but she is an even better person, and we are excited to add her to our group.”

Alyssa Cox has been a three-year starter at Westfield, New Jersey. She was named her team’s offensive player of the year as a junior and will serve as a team captain for the second straight season. A three-year starter at attack/midfield, Murray was named to the all-state and all-FCIAC second teams as both a sophomore and junior.

O’Donnell has won three letters so far at Bishop Shanahan High School. The senior captain was named team offensive MVP as a junior, and she was named to the all-area offense and All-Chesmont first teams following her junior season. She was selected to play on the Under Armour All-American Underclass Team and was named an Academic All-American in 2014. Wentz has logged two seasons as a starter for Unionville High School. She helped her team to the district tournament in each of those seasons, and she finished second on her team in ground balls and assists.

Wilson has spent three years on the varsity team at Pittsford Sutherland High School. She will captain her squad as a senior and was named to the all-county second team as a junior.
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