J.C. Coleman came up big for the Hokies, rushing for a Tech bowl-record 157 yards as the Hokies rolled past Cincinnati 33-17 in the Military Bowl.
LIFE FEELS GOOD WHEN YOU’RE A CARD-CARRYING HOKIE.

Picture this: a checking account that’s really free, with no hidden fees or minimum balance. And you can put whatever photo you’d like on your debit card. Doesn’t that feel good?
Virginia Tech got 157 yards rushing and a touchdown from J.C. Coleman, and Greg Stroman's (No. 3 in the photo) score off a fumble recovery enabled the Hokies to knock off Cincinnati 33-17 in the Military Bowl played at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland, on Dec. 27. The win marked Tech's 11th bowl win and extended its string of winning seasons to 22 straight.

“The Hokie Club is one of the main driving forces behind why Virginia Tech has had so much success over so many years, and I'm very thankful for their contributions to our program.”

Derek Di Nardo
Redshirt Senior | Football

“I'm really appreciative of the Hokie Club raising money for student-athletes so that we can play the games we love and to give us all an opportunity to receive a great education.”

Ronny Vandyke
Redshirt Junior | Football
Q: What caused you to become a fan of Virginia Tech?
A: The Hokie Nation is real because… there is no other community out there that is as dedicated, hardworking, passionate, spirited and loyal as the Virginia Tech Hokies. When I was looking at colleges, school spirit was at the top of my list. Tech blew every other school I looked at out of the water in that category, and I knew I wanted to join Hokie Nation. Once I got to campus, it only got better. One of my best memories of my time at the top of my list. Tech blew every other school I looked at out of the water in that category, and I knew I wanted to join Hokie Nation. Once I got to campus, it only got better. One of my favorite Virginia Tech memories is when I was a student. I was a lucky winner of a game day field pass my last semester and got to be down by the tunnel for “Enter Sandman” during the Boston College game this past season. Now THAT was something you just don’t get to do every day.

Q: What is your best memory of blue, to which he answered “HOKIES!” and yelled, “LET’S GO” out of the Dakota, and I saw a guy in a Tech t-shirt when I was at a national park in North America. As a result, I went to the stadium and got to cheer for Hokie Nation. It was so much fun and exciting, and the win and fireworks that lit up Lane Stadium are unforgettable ones. Later in the year, my best friend and I watched the Hokies storm the court after we upset No. 1-ranked Duke in Cassell!

Q: How did you get involved with the Student Hokie Club?
A: My perfect day at Tech would include football and basketball! Lane Stadium is a wonderful gathering place for me and 66,233 of my closest friends, but Cassell provides a more intimate atmosphere of the most potent mixture of excitement and team spirit. GO HOKIES!

Q: How did you get involved with the Student Hokie Club?
A: I joined the Student Hokie Club wanting to get more involved with Tech and the athletics department while I was a student. I was a lucky winner of a game day field pass my last semester and got to be down by the tunnel for “Enter Sandman” during the Boston College game this past season. Now THAT was something you just don’t get to do every day.

Q: What caused you to become a fan of Virginia Tech?
A: The Hokie Bird and our infectious school spirit, of course!

Q: Describe your perfect day at Virginia Tech.
A: My perfect day at Tech would include football and basketball! Lane Stadium is a wonderful gathering place for me and 66,233 of my closest friends, but Cassell provides a more intimate atmosphere of the most potent mixture of excitement and team spirit. GO HOKIES!

Q: What is your best memory of Virginia Tech athletics?
A: My two best Virginia Tech athletic memories are both from my freshman year - our win over Georgia Tech in the Thursday night football game in 2010 and our victory over No. 1-ranked Duke in basketball the following semester. It was a freezing cold Thursday night, and I never won the football lottery, so I bought a ticket at the last minute to go to the game. Thankfully I did because it was so much fun and exciting, and the win and fireworks that lit up Lane Stadium made the experience an unforgettable one. Later in the year, my best friend and I watched the Hokies storm the court after we upset No. 1-ranked Duke in Cassell!

Q: My favorite Virginia Tech sports are …
A: Football and basketball! Lane Stadium is a wonderful gathering place for me and 66,233 of my closest friends, but Cassell provides a more intimate atmosphere of the most potent mixture of excitement and team spirit. GO HOKIES!

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The Hokie Club staff joins me in thanking each and every one of you who supported our student-athletes in 2014. Whether your gifts went to the Annual Fund to support the ever-growing tuition, room and board, and institutional fees, or to fund an endowed scholarship that will help to educate a Hokie male or female athlete in perpetuity, or whether your gift helped construct or equip a much-needed new facility - we say “Thank you.”

Your dollars paid sound dividends, as our NCAA graduation success rate (GSR) was 88 percent, with five sports earning perfect 100 percent scores. Half of our 600 student-athletes maintain grade-point averages of 3.0 or better, and our cumulative individual team GPA is almost 3.0. During the past 12 months, the Hokies have won ACC championships in wrestling and men’s swimming and diving. Finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Wrestling Championships for the second straight year; advanced to the Sweet 16 in women’s soccer for the fourth time in program history; and saw our men’s golf, men’s tennis and softball squads qualify for NCAA play. Buzz Williams was hired to coach men’s basketball, and Carol Robertson has started our women’s golf program. Your support has played a role in these accomplishments and will do so even more moving forward.

The Hokie football program closed the year strong, defeating rival UVa to keep the Commonwealth Cup for a record 11th straight year. The Hokies then marched to Annapolis, Maryland, and defeated a 9-3 Cincinnati team 33-17 in the Military Bowl to finish their 22nd consecutive bowl game and their 22nd consecutive winning season.

Now more than ever, we need all Hokies on board supporting our student-athletes. The future looks bright, as recruiting efforts are continuing to attract better student-athletes, which translates into improved results in competition. Director of Athletics Whit Babcock and his team continue to improve the fan and game-day experience in all of our sports venues. It is a great time to be a Hokie, and we look forward to seeing you in Blacksburg. The VTAF fundraising team is now fully staffed and looking forward to working with you as, together, we move Virginia Tech Athletics forward in 2015.

Lu Merritt
Senior Director of Development for Intercollegiate Athletics

THANK YOU!
Seven enroll for spring semester

The Tech football program announced the addition of seven scholarship members to the program, all of whom will be enrolling at Tech for the spring semester. The group includes four graduating from their respective high schools early in Adonis Alexander, a safety from Greensboro, North Carolina; Carson Lydon, a linebacker from Tarpon Springs, Florida; and offensive lineman Austin Clark from Lexington, Virginia. The remaining three are players who spent this past fall at prep schools – Yosuah Nijman, a 6-foot, 175-pounder, is rated by several recruiting services as the top prep prospect in Virginia. Nijman, a 6-7, 268-pounder who played at Rockbridge County High School, is ranked among the top prospects in Virginia by several recruiting services. Nijman, a 6-7, 268-pounder who played at Fork Union this past fall, is considered by several recruiting services as the top prep school prospect in Virginia.

The list also included two baseball players – offensive lineman Brett Renzel, a 6-4, 220-pounder, recorded 93 tackles, three sacks and two interceptions this past season for East Lake High School. Clark, a 6-5, 235-pounder, who played at Boshbidge County High School, is ranked among the top prospects in Virginia by several recruiting services. Nijman, a 6-7, 268-pounder who played at Fork Union this past fall, is considered by several recruiting services as the top prep school prospect in Virginia.

Eighteen Tech athletes graduate in December

Virginia Tech held its mid-year commencement exercises on Dec. 19, and 18 student-athletes received their degrees.

That list included eight football players – offensive lineman Brent Benedict, a 6-4, 235-pounder, recorded 93 tackles, three sacks and two interceptions this past season for East Lake High School. Clark, a 6-5, 235-pounder, who played at Boshbidge County High School, is ranked among the top prospects in Virginia by several recruiting services. Nijman, a 6-7, 268-pounder who played at Fork Union this past fall, is considered by several recruiting services as the top prep school prospect in Virginia.

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We’ve got the Hokies covered.

Did you know Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance can cover just about anyone for just about anything? And with us, you get more than great insurance coverage—you help support Virginia’s agriculture as a member of the Farm Bureau family. Our members also get special benefits and discounts at local and national businesses. Great coverage plus great benefits and a great purpose—get in touch with your Farm Bureau agent and experience a better kind of insurance.

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Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance is a proud sponsor of Virginia Tech Athletics!
Scot Loeffler remains optimistic about the future.

In the Tech athletics department, quite a bit of work got done during this span. Tech AD Whit Babcock ended some of the speculation about Frank Beamer’s future and signed Bud Foster to a new contract. The Hokies closed the season with a bowl win, and in doing so, extended their streak of winning seasons to 22 straight.

So it was, indeed, a productive final week of 2014.

It’s time to look to the 2015 season, and the football program’s New Year’s resolution should be to improve the offense. This subject, among others, came up during Babcock’s meeting with Beamer at season’s close as they evaluated the program.

“We talked about that,” Babcock said. “It was more about what areas we are going to improve in and how are we going to get there.

“One thing that helps is players. With a lot of the injuries – and with recruiting coming up – and players returning, there are some positive strides there. But certainly we touched on that (the offense’s performance). We don’t deny that we need to get better on that side of the ball. Ideally, we’ll get better in all facets.”

Besieged by youth and injuries, Tech ranked 93rd nationally in scoring offense (24.1 ppg) and 96th in total offense (365.3 ypg). The Hokies’ 34 sacks allowed and 26 turnovers also were among the worst in the nation.

“Technically, we have the toughest, most get-after-it offseason,” Babcock said. “It was more about what areas we are going to improve in and how are we going to get there.

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Babcock’s meeting with Beamer at season’s close as they evaluated the program.

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“I told the younger guys that we’re going to have the toughest, most get-after-it offseason in the country,” Babcock said. “We’re close. We’ve got talent. If we get this thing right, we have a chance to do what Virginia Tech has always done. We have a lot of work ahead of us. The pieces of the puzzle are starting to fall together, and we’re going to have a great offseason.”

Just how close will be the question that needs to be answered this offseason and spring.

Numbers don’t always tell the story, as Hokie Nation well knows. But numbers often tell a big portion of the story.

Looking back at the Hokies’ offense this past season, and looking ahead to 2015, here are 10 numbers for thought:

• 709 – Number of yards receiving by Isaiah Ford, the most by a freshman in a single season at Tech.
• 230 – Number of points scored by true or redshirt freshmen this past season.
• 157 – Average number of yards rushing by J.C. Coleman in the Hokies’ final four games. He only started one of those four games (Wake Forest).
• 56 – Number of receptions by Ford this season, the third-most in a season at Tech.
• 15 – Number of passes caught by Demitri Knowles this season. He caught 45 last season.
• 2 – Number of touchdowns scored by Tech’s freshmen. The Hokies scored 36 touchdowns this season.
• 7 – Number of touchdown receptions by Hodges this season. He was tied for first in touchdown receptions by tight ends in the ACC.
• 5.8 – Average yards per carry by Coleman in the Hokies’ final four games. He’s 5-foot-7.
• 3 – Number of passes caught by Demitri Knowles this season. He caught 45 last season.
• 1 – Michael Brewer’s rank on Tech’s single-season list for pass completions and pass attempts. He completed 262 passes this season and attempted 441.

There is a lot to be optimistic about for Hokie Nation heading into the 2015 campaign.

Tech won three of its final four games, and 13 starters return (eight on offense). Luther Maddy and Brandon Facyson return on defense, and for the first time since the 2007 season, the Hokies will have the toughest, most get-after-it offseason.

Yes, there is some uncertainty on the offensive line, and the schedule looks to be more difficult. But this team beat UVa after a horrible loss at Wake Forest, and then won a bowl game essentially without its head coach.

Players and coaches showed resiliency and were rewarded at the end.

“I like the way that’s trending,” Babcock admitted.

It’s certainly trending in the right direction. The coming months (winter workouts, signing day and spring practice) will go a long way toward determining if the Hokies can keep it that way.

editor’s desk | by Jimmy Robertson

More potent offensive attack could lead to successful 2015 season for Tech

Most people take off the final week to 10 days of a calendar year, preferring to enjoy holidays with family and celebrate the start of a new year.

In the Tech athletics department, quite a bit of work got done during this span. Tech AD Whit Babcock ended some of the speculation about Frank Beamer’s future and signed Bud Foster to a new contract. The Hokies closed the season with a bowl win, and in doing so, extended their streak of winning seasons to 22 straight.

So it was, indeed, a productive final week of 2014.

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• 15 – Number of passes caught by Demitri Knowles this season. He was one short of the school record for a tight end (Mike Burnop).
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It’s certainly trending in the right direction. The coming months (winter workouts, signing day and spring practice) will go a long way toward determining if the Hokies can keep it that way.
January 22 will mark the one-year anniversary of the day that Whit Babcock learned he would be the new athletics director at Virginia Tech.

“I remember exactly where I was standing when the phone rang,” Babcock said, smiling as he recounted that call. “It’s been an exciting first year. We’ve put things in place, but man, the first year went by fast. It’s been a whirlwind.”

Of course, Babcock’s biggest move in year No. 1 was luring basketball coach Buzz Williams from Marquette to take over a Virginia Tech men’s basketball program that had finished in the ACC’s basement three straight years. Babcock, and the university’s administration, made a bold statement with its financial commitment to Williams, his assistants and the basketball support staff.

Year No. 2 began with Babcock releasing a five-page statement under the headline that read “Babcock and Beamer have higher expectations. Anticipate improvement next season.”

Both the AD, and his legendary football coach, know that 7-6 seasons don’t fly at Virginia Tech. It’s also development and more. It’s the financial train that carries every other sport at Tech. It’s also the importance of a successful, national brand for Virginia Tech.

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Babcock said he supports the plan that Beamer has in place for 2015. And after 22 straight winning seasons, “he [Beamer] has earned the opportunity to elevate our program back to where we all want it to be, competing for ACC championships.”

Step No. 1 for Babcock was re-signing defensive coordinator Bud Foster to a new five-year contract.

“We knew going into the year that Bud had earned a very significant retention bonus that was due at the end of the year, but his contract was basically a series of addendums going back to 1997,” Babcock said. “Basically, we wiped the slate clean and started over.”

Foster has built a dynasty on defense at Tech during his tenure as the Hokies’ coordinator. Losing him would be nothing short of catastrophic at this point for Tech’s program, and – as Foster showed in his emotional “This is home” interview during the 2014 ACC Championship game – his heart is in Blacksburg. (See the entire interview here: http://www.hokiesports.com/videos/o/YouTube/20141206KICKOFF-COACH-Foster-

“The Hokies’ 2015 defense should be tremendous. All four defensive line starters, all four backups, and the injured Luther Maddy return. Depth is huge, and the Hokies will return in their top-eight lineu...
Keeping up with Compliance

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

Q: When basketball players are at Tech over the holiday break, do they receive per diem to pay for meals since the dining halls are closed? How does all that work? Thanks, Matthew in Lynchburg.

TP: NCAA bylaws allow institutions to provide up to four meals per day to any student-athlete who is required to remain on campus for practice or competition during institutional vacation periods. The official vacation period at Tech this year spans from Dec. 19 through Jan. 18. “Three of the daily meals may be provided as either food or per diem (money). The additional meal – if provided – must be provided in the form of food. “This flexibility during break only applies while student-athletes are required to be in Blacksburg and does not apply while teams are traveling for away-from-home competition. The maximum per diem amount permitted by NCAA regulations to be given to a student-athlete is that which can be degree-applicable, unless a bachelor’s degree has already been earned. You hear about this rule more in December, and mostly in relation to football players who haven’t passed six hours in the fall and thus aren’t eligible to compete in their respective bowl games. But the rule also applies to spring sports, many of which begin postseason competition after the spring semester ends. “The primary purpose of the six-hour rule is to set a minimum academic expectation for each term, so that each student-athlete always must continue to move toward graduation if he/she wishes to remain competitively eligible. Secondly, it keeps players with NFL aspirations from shutting it down academically during their final fall semester and acts as a powerful incentive as well for those student-athletes participating in other sports with professional opportunities. “The gripe with the rule comes mostly from student-athletes who already graduated the previous semester and have a season of eligibility left. They don’t see the need to have to pass six hours when they’ve already got their diplomas. That is a legitimate discussion – and many people agree – but unless and until the rule is amended, it will continue to apply to everyone.”

Q: What exactly is the six-hour rule and the thought behind it? Why does it cause football players to miss bowl games? Thanks, Don in Blacksburg.

TP: NCAA regulations require that a student-athlete pass at least six credit hours each semester to be eligible for postseason competition that occurs between semesters (these six hours must be degree-applicable, unless a bachelor’s degree has already been earned). You hear about this rule more in December, and mostly in relation to football players who haven’t passed six hours in the fall and thus aren’t eligible to compete in their respective bowl games. But the rule also applies to spring sports, many of which begin postseason competition after the spring semester ends. “The primary purpose of the six-hour rule is to set a minimum academic expectation for each term, so that each student-athlete always must continue to move toward graduation if he/she wishes to remain competitively eligible. Secondly, it keeps players with NFL aspirations from shutting it down academically during their final fall semester and acts as a powerful incentive as well for those student-athletes participating in other sports with professional opportunities. “The gripe with the rule comes mostly from student-athletes who already graduated the previous semester and have a season of eligibility left. They don’t see the need to have to pass six hours when they’ve already got their diplomas. That is a legitimate discussion – and many people agree – but unless and until the rule is amended, it will continue to apply to everyone.”

Q: Can the football players at UAB transfer anywhere now that the school has discontinued its football program? Thanks, Scott in Christiansburg.

TP: “This question is in reference to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which last month became the first Division I school to discontinue sponsoring the sport of football since Pacific University made its decision in 1995. “Yes, all of the UAB football student-athletes will be able to transfer without penalty to any NCAA school in Division I, II, or III. Pursuant to NCAA bylaws, UAB football players technically needed permission from the UAB athletics department to contact other schools about a transfer, but the granting of this permission is automatic in cases where a sport is dropped.”

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Tech women’s diver Kelli Stockton has established herself as one of the top divers in school history. She holds the school record in the platform event and finished in the top 25 of all three diving events at the NCAA meet last spring. She graduates in May with a degree in business, and the two-time All-ACC Academic Team member eventually wants to pursue a career in event planning. First up, though, is a pursuit toward qualifying for the 2016 Olympic Trials held in Indianapolis in June of that year.

Q: Why did you decide to major in business?
KS: “I decided to major in business because I ultimately want to do something involving event planning, I also wanted something that, if I changed my mind, I would have a major that could lead to multiple different career possibilities.”

Q: Why have you decided on event planning as a career path?
KS: “Event planning has always been something that has interested me. It involves a lot of organization and planning which are two things that I like. I enjoy planning events for my family and friends, so making a living doing that would be an added bonus. I have actually had multiple people tell me I should consider it. Eventually, I would love to be a wedding planner.”

Q: Have you done any internships, co-ops, etc., and what did you learn from those experiences?
KS: “I have not had any internships yet. I have had a few coaching jobs, though, and I think they taught me a lot about the responsibilities involved with having a job.”

Q: Where have you coached and what sorts of things did coaching teach you that you think would help you in your future profession?
KS: “I have coached a few different summer league teams [in the Northern Virginia Swimming League], as well as helping coach my previous club team at home. Having those coaching jobs, I think, taught me a lot about both being responsible and how to work with children of various ages, as well as taught me a lot about diving in general that you can’t really learn just from being an athlete. It gives you a different perspective.”

Q: What are your future plans?
KS: “I am moving to Columbus, Ohio, after 1 graduate to continue my diving career for another year. I’m going to try and make the 2016 Olympic Trials. I am also planning on getting an internship this summer to get some work experience.”

Q: Do you have any future internships on the horizon?
KS: “I do not currently have an internship lined up, but I am looking for one. I am actually going to continue my diving career at a different university (not in school, though), so ideally I would love to have an internship in the athletics department to start out with.”

Kyle Butts has been a member of the Tech men’s diving team for the past four seasons, and he has made the All-ACC Academic Team for men’s swimming and diving in each of the past three years. Butts graduates in May with a degree in finance, but he wants to pursue a career in the entertainment industry first before taking on a finance-related profession.

Q: Why did you decide to major in finance?
KB: “You’ll use money your whole life no matter what you do, though it would be valuable to learn as much as I could. It [his major] was definitely going to be business related. I like stocks. I like the equity market, which is probably what drew me to finance over accounting. Accounting is a bit monotonous. I like the uncertainty of the equity market and tracking it and watching it, both for school and personally.”

Q: Have you done any internships, co-ops, etc., and what did you learn from these experiences?
KB: “I worked with my dad over the summer. It’s a business continuity strategy company, and my dad actually started it. It’s called Continuums. I kept his books and made capability statements and kept track of expenses. It was real-world application of what I had learned in the classroom. I learned a lot about what you can and cannot write off as a business expense.”

Q: Do you have any future internships on the horizon?
KB: “I understand that you’re involved with SEED [Student-managed Endowment for Educational Development] here at Tech in which the university lets a group of students, with guidance from faculty advisers, invest a portion of the school’s endowment for experience. How has that experience been?”
KB: “I like SEED because it’s hard. It’s challenging. Everyone in there is brilliant – the smartest people at Tech. They breeze through their course work and spend all their time on SEED. I’m not the smartest, but what I lack in aptitude, I make up for in hard work.

“It’s separated into sectors, and I’m one of the technology sector analysts. My sub-sector is Internet media, so the Facebooks, the Googles, the Netflixs, stuff like that. I’ve analyzed all those companies. I’ve really enjoyed it. I like that part of finance.”

Q: But your immediate future doesn’t involve finance, does it?
KB: “After school, I’m going to pursue a career in entertainment. Acting, film and television are the only things I’ve wanted to do. Finance is a great plan B.

“I enjoy finance, but it’s more of an interest than a passion. I feel like I have a short attention span when it comes to certain things, especially academically. Granted, a career in sales and trading, capital markets or investment banking would be exciting, and probably far more lucrative, but I just can’t sit still for that long.

“My answer to the ‘What do you want to do when you grow up?’ question has changed a lot for a few reasons. But since I can remember, the only thing I’ve ever really wanted to be is an actor. You can be anything. It’s a chance to wear the clothes of someone often nothing like yourself and make it real. I’m envious of those who do it well. It’s like playing pretend when you were a kid, but it’s structured and challenging. It’s art.”

Q: Do you have a background in acting or entertainment?
KB: “I signed with a manager in eighth grade and did auditions and workshops and acting classes throughout middle school and high school and even now when I go home over the summer. Acting has always taken a backseat to athletics — I always wondered what would have happened if I had started acting full time back then.

“My mother has been in the industry for 20-30 years, just small stuff. Both of my parents did a commercial for a car dealer in Baltimore. It was funny to watch. Seeing how funny and animated and confident my mom is kind of made me want to do that. It also scares me a lot. Being in front of a lot of people scares me. But just like diving, that’s what draws me to it. Before you know how to do it, you seem impossible. But that’s what makes it interesting.

“I plan on building my resume a little bit around D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia for a few months until I get some legitimate credits. Then it’ll be New York or L.A., just dream chasing.”
Greg Stroman was heavily involved in the military bowl recap.
He’s only 22 years old, but possesses the face of maturity, one of experiences encountered usually by those much older. His is a face that tells a story.

But Kyshoen Jarrett reveals that story only when asked.

Jarrett’s successful football career ended in perfect fashion for someone playing his last collegiate game. Tech’s longtime rover played yet another integral role in victory, helping the Hokies knock off Cincinnati 33-17 in the Military Bowl to secure Tech’s 22nd straight winning season.

Jarrett celebrated quietly, yet another sign of maturity. College complete, he now sets his sights on the next goal, one of more importance — taking care of his family.

“No that I’m out of college and pursuing this career coming up, hopefully everything goes well and things can get a little lighter for her,” he said.

“She would be my mother, Vinise Capers, the woman who raised four boys basically by herself, including one, Daishawn Capers, with severe disabilities stemming from an accident as an infant. He is in a wheelchair and legally blind.

Hokie Nation learned about Daishawn during a video feature on Jarrett at halftime of one of the Hokies’ football games this past season. Fans left with a new appreciation for Jarrett and his relationship with his half-brother.

The video feature, though, only told a portion of Jarrett’s story. The youngest of the four boys, he was born in Bronx, New York. His family later moved to a place on Staten Island, and then, at the age of 5, he watched as his parents divorced.

The care of the four boys essentially fell to Capers, who ultimately moved the family to Tannersville, Pennsylvania, not far from New York City. Jarrett’s father, Shoen Jarrett, remained in the picture, though from a distance.

“Me and my brothers didn’t think it was such a good idea,” Jarrett said. “He was a part of the family. He brought everyone together in a sense.”

As Jarrett’s relationship with his father remained good, the burden fell to his mother. She found someone to watch Daishawn during the day while she worked a job close to her home in Tannersville.

Eventually moved on to the next phase in their lives, they left their roles as the caretakers for Daishawn in the hands of Jarrett. He would come home from football practice and help his mom with Daishawn’s needs.

“He was a part of the family. He brought everyone together in a sense.”

Jarrett and his brother developed that bond that only brothers develop. No one really knew about the relationship because Jarrett never viewed it as anything out of the ordinary.

“No one was really curious,” Jarrett said. “Just like here, people didn’t find out I had a brother with multiple disabilities until late in my high school career. Like here, people didn’t know until...
Kyshoen Jarrett's story.

Q: Who was the most underrated player on Tech's team this past year?
KJ: “There are several, but I’d say Chase Williams. He stuck it out for four years, and in his fifth year, he had a chance to play. He flies around, and he knows the game. He’s got a high IQ in the game.”

Q: Who is your favorite NFL team?
KJ: “I’m a Giants fan. It’s my hometown, and my brothers are Giants fans. That was the team I started watching. We’ve also had some Hokies go to the Giants (e.g. Jayron Hosley and David Wilson), so that’s pretty cool.”

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?
KJ: “Just relaxing. I’m not much of a book reader. I watch a lot of movies. Me and my fiancé go bowling a lot or go to the movies. I have a puppy, so he takes up most of my time. I’m pretty basic. I didn’t have too much dramatic school-wise this semester, so I was able to concentrate on football.”

Q: Now that your final season has just ended, what are your immediate plans?
KJ: “I’m going to begin to start training. Hopefully, I’ll get invited to a bowl game [an all-star game], but that’s not assured at all. I’ll continue to work, and hopefully I’ll get an invite to the [NFL Scouting] Combine. I know we’ll have the Pro Day here. Whatever is in God’s plan, whatever He feels fit for me to do, that’s what I’ll do.”

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Q: What has been your most memorable play at Tech?
KJ: “I’ve had a couple, but the most recent one was getting a pick against UVa in the third quarter. To get a pick in your last college [home] game, under the lights on national TV, was a great time. When you watch the film, each play has a number. My [jersey] number is 34, and I got a pick on play No. 34. That’s pretty memorable.”

Q: What was the most under-rated player?
KJ: “It was tough for her working and then making sure he had the proper care and making sure that the people coming into the home to take care of him were the right-spirited people,” Jarrett said.

“She had to make sure they were staying positive and working and we were 7-6, but we got to a bowl game and won it, and we’ve had some high points to the season.”

Jarrett’s final month in Blacksburg consisted of graduating with a degree in human development and minors in communication and sociology, and also making a marriage proposal. The Saturday following Tech’s win over rival Virginia in the season finale, Jarrett orchestrated a scavenger hunt for his longtime girlfriend that led to him asking for her hand in marriage in front of his family and her family. She said yes, though they plan on waiting to set a date.

The proposal was another grown-up decision by this young man, the latest of many. Now, he prepares for the biggest job interview of his life. Yes, he has a backup plan in place, with a degree that allows him to pursue careers in things like working with those with disabilities or counseling or perhaps broadcasting.

But none of those bring in the financial resources that an NFL career would, resources that would provide the best care for his brother and make sure his mother only works when she wants.

“IT was tough for her working and then making sure he had the proper care and making sure that the people coming into the home to take care of him were the right-spirited people,” Jarrett said. “She had to make sure they were staying positive and not doing anything to him that they shouldn’t be doing. She had to stay on top of a lot of things, so I’m sure it was pretty stressful for her.

“I don’t go out of my way to tell anybody. I don’t think it was a big deal. He’s my brother. His disability doesn’t make me feel some type of way or influence me in some type of way.”

Jarrett eventually committed to play at the University of Pittsburgh. But the Panthers administration fired Dave Wannstedt, and Jarrett decided to come to Virginia Tech, where he played as a true freshman and moved into a starting role his sophomore year. He never moved out of it.

With three of the boys out of the house, his mother eventually moved herself and Daishawn to Raleigh, North Carolina, a move that allowed her to be closer to Jarrett and to the locations of several of his games (Duke, North Carolina, Wake, etc.). She found a better job and better resources that an NFL career would, resources that would provide the best care for his brother and make sure his mother only works when she wants.

“It was a situation in which everyone won.”

Jarrett contemplated leaving school early a few years ago. He submitted his paperwork to the NFL Draft Advisory Board, but it was move so to get a feel for what he needed to work on in addition to finding where he stood in the eyes of those who know best.

His return led to an event-filled fall. He assumed more leadership responsibilities on the football team, and he led the Hokies in tackles – he has finished in the top three on the team in tackles each of the past three years. Jarrett struggled a little in the Pittsburgh and Miami games, but he played his best football at the end of the season.

Not coincidentally, the Hokies won three of their final four games. “I learned how not to be uptight during our preparation week and have fun,” he said. “When I started having fun, that’s when I had my best performances. I feel like I’ve gotten better in multiple areas of my game. I’m disappointed that I had a couple, but the most recent one was getting a pick against UVa in the third quarter. To get a pick in your last college [home] game, under the lights on national TV, that was a great time. When you watch the film, each play has a number. My [jersey] number is 34, and I got a pick on play No. 34. That’s pretty memorable.”

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Season-Ending Depth Chart

Below is a look at the depth chart for the entire season. The number before the slash indicates plays from scrimmage, while the number after the slash indicates plays on special teams. The number of plays came from the coaching staff.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS
12 Michael Brewer (6-0, 200, r-Jr.) – 873/0. Started all 15 games and completed 262- of-441 (59.4 percent) for 2,692 yards, with 18 touchdowns and 15 interceptions. Brewer’s completions and attempts are single-season records at Tech. His yardage and touchdown passes rank sixth and tied for sixth, respectively, on the Tech single-season list.

9 Brandon Motley (6-4, 214, r-Sr.) – 23/0. Played in four games and completed 1-of-3 for 17 yards. Also rushed for 72 yards on 14 carries.

6 Mark Leal (6-1, 204, r-Sr.) – 20/0. Played in three games. Completed 6-of-9 for 79 yards, with a touchdown.

FULLBACKS
35 Sam Rogers (5-10, 222, So.) – 528/172. Played in all 13 games and started six of them. Rushed for 140 yards on 32 carries (4.4 ypc) and caught 20 passes for 230 yards and a touchdown. Also recorded 11 tackles (three tackles for a loss).


FLANKERS
18 Cam Phillips (6-1, 190, Fr.) – 636/34. Started nine games and played in all 13. Caught 40 passes for 498 yards and three touchdowns. Also ran the ball five times for 45 yards.

82 Willie Byrn (5-11, 187, r-So.) – 355/1. Played in all 13 games, start four of them. Finished second on the team with 47 tackles and tied for sixth, respectively, on the Tech third-most in Tech single-season history. Returned 11 kicks for 219 yards (19.9 yards per return).

10 Kevin Asante (6-0, 185, r-Jr.) – 15/31. Played in seven games, mostly on special teams. Returned one kick for the game winner against William & Mary.

52 Andrew Motuapuaka (6-1, 216, r-Fr.) – 9/301. Played in all 13 games and started all of them. Rushed 53 times for 269 yards (5.1 ypc) and caught 20 passes for 230 yards and three touchdowns. Also ran for 20 yards on seven carries.

40 Josh Trimble (6-1, 217, r-Jr.) – 32/91. Played in all 13 games, mostly on special teams.

TIGHT ENDS
87 Dewayne Alford (6-2, 250, r-So.) – 5/122. Played in six games, mostly on special teams. Caught 45 passes for 526 yards and seven touchdowns. Returned one kick for the game winner against William & Mary.

73 Trey Edmunds (6-1, 221, r-Jr.) – 44/48. Played in six games before fracturing his clavicle and missing the final six games of the regular season (he returned for the Military Bowl). Carried the ball 21 times for 74 yards (3.5 ypc). Also caught two passes for minus-5 yards.

34 Marshawn Williams (5-11, 229, Fr.) – 205/0. Played in nine games, starting eight of them, before tearing his ACL in Tech’s win over Duke. Rushed for 475 yards rushing on a team-high 124 carries (3.8 ypc), and scored three touchdowns. Also caught four passes for 18 yards.

42 LaDarius Jackson (6-4, 271, Sr.) – 916/52. Started all 13 games and started six of them. Rushed for 140 yards on 32 carries (4.4 ypc) and caught 20 passes for 230 yards and a touchdown. Also recorded 11 tackles (three tackles for a loss).

498/55. Started the final three games of the regular season (against Cincinnati, Western Michigan and North Carolina). Finished second on the team with 47 tackles and tied for sixth, respectively, on the Tech third-most in Tech single-season history. Returned 11 kicks for 219 yards (19.9 yards per return).

14 Dadi Nicolas

41 Derek Di Nardo (6-0, 210, r-Sr.) – 40/122. Played in all 13 games and started all of them. Started all 13 games and started six of them. Rushed 53 times for 269 yards (5.1 ypc) and caught 20 passes for 230 yards and three touchdowns. Also ran for 20 yards on seven carries.

40 Deon Clarke (6-2, 213, Jr.) – 37/14. Played in all 13 games, mostly on special teams.

694/55. Started the final three games of the regular season (against Cincinnati, Western Michigan and North Carolina). Finished second on the team with 47 tackles and tied for sixth, respectively, on the Tech third-most in Tech single-season history. Returned 11 kicks for 219 yards (19.9 yards per return).

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489/61. Started all 13 games. Tallied 53 tackles (three tackles for a loss) and a team-leading 9.5 sacks. Started in all 13 games and had five tackles (three silk). Played all 13 games, mostly on special teams. Had a solo tackle and assist.

4 Andrew Motupaka (6-0, 231, r-Fr.) – 324/86. Played in 12 games, starting four of them. Made 27 special teams tackles including four for a loss. Also had two sacks and forced a fumble, which he returned for a touchdown.

52 Alan Hinds (6-1, 216, r-Jr.) – 0/0. Played in the first two games, but tore his ACL in the Ohio State game and missed the rest of the season.


401/59. Started all 13 games. Finished second on the team in tackles with 73 (23 solo), including 11 for a loss. Also had five sacks, an interception, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

32 Josh Trimble (6-1, 217, r-Jr.) – 0/28. Played in all 13 games, all on special teams.

WHIP LINEBACKERS
41 Brandon Dickerson (6-2, 210, r-Sr.) – 310/137. Played in all 13 games, starting five of them. Registered 30 tackles (21 solo), including five for a loss. Also had two sacks and an interception. Led the team in tackles for a loss (11), including five for a loss, and forced a fumble. 

32 Josh Trimble (6-1, 217, r-Jr.) – 0/28. Played in all 13 games, all on special teams.

BOUNDARY CORNERS
11 Kendall Fuller (6-0, 190, So.) – 793/116. A first-team All-ACC choice by ACSMA and by the league’s coaches. Started all 13 games. Tacked 54 tackles (32 solo), including seven for a loss, one sack and an interception. Also had two sacks and two interceptions—one that he

25 Inside Hokie Sports
26 Inside Hokie Sports

return for a touchdown against North Carolina. Led the team in pass breakups (35) and pass defensed (71). Also recovered a fumble.

3 Greg Stroman (6-0, 164, Fr.) – 12/6. Played in all 13 games, starting the Military Bowl. Saw most of his action as the Hokies’ punt returner. Averaged 6.5 yards per return on 56 returns. Played on defense in the Duke, Miami, Virginia and Cincinnati games. Played on offense as a receiver against Cincinnati, catching one pass for six yards and running twice for four yards.

FIELD CORNERS

19 Chuck Clark (6-0, 208, So.) – 770/80. Played in all 13 games and started 11 of them. Finished third on the team in tackles with 73 (50 solo), including 8.5 for a loss. Also had 15 sacks, an interception and 11 pass breakups.

2 Donovan Riley (5-11, 207, Jr.) – 31 Brandon Facyson (6-2, 189, So.) – 508/155. Started six games, starting three. Led the Hokies in tackles with 88 (52 solo), including three for a loss. Also led the team with three interceptions. Broke up five passes and forced a fumble.

23 Darr’Woun Greene (5-10, 197, r-So.) – 27/40. Played in nine games, starting one. Had four tackles (one solo). Returned two kickoffs for 73 yards (38.5 ypr), with a long of 46 yards.

FREE SAFETIES

8 De’Von Bacon (6-1, 206, r-Fr.) – 796/62. Started all 13 games. Finished fourth on the team in tackles with 72 (41 solo). Had 6.5 tackles for a loss and 3.5 sacks. Also had an interception and a forced fumble.

21 C.J. Reavis (6-1, 207, Fr.) – 11/93. Played in 12 games, mostly on special teams. Had eight tackles (four solo). Also forced a fumble – at Duke, which the Hokies recovered and converted into a game-winning touchdown – and blocked a kick.


26 Desmond Frye (6-2, 196, Jr.) – 6/6. Played in the first two games before undergoing season-ending surgery on his shoulder. Will apply for a medical hardship waiver.

ROVERS

34 Kyshoen Jarrett (5-11, 200, Sr.) – 784/65. Played in all 13 games and started 12 of them. Led the Hokies in tackles with 88 (52 solo), including three for a loss. Also led the team with three interceptions. Broke up five passes and forced a fumble.

27 A.J. Hughes (6-1, 209, Jr.) – 0/133. Punted 6/6. Played in all 13 games and started 12 of them. Led the Hokies in tackles with 88 (52 solo), including three for a loss. Also led the team with three interceptions. Broke up five passes and forced a fumble.

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KICKERS

46 Joey Slye (5-10, 216, Fr.) – 0/72. Connected on 20 of his 28 field-goal attempts, with a long of 49 yards. Was 0-for-4 from beyond 50 yards, but 4-for-4 from 40-49 yards. Made 16 of 18 from 20-39 yards. Kicked off 27 times for 1626 yards (an average of 60.2 yards per kickoff), with nine touchbacks.

30 Mitchell Ludwig (5-11, 203, So.) – 0/28. Kicked off 34 times for 2042 yards (an average of 60.1 yards per kickoff), with nine touchbacks.

38 Michael Branthover (5-9, 202, Sr.) – 0/3. Kicked off three times for 175 yards (an average of 57.7 yards per kickoff), with a touchback.

PUNTER

27 A.J. Hughes (6-1, 209, Jr.) – 0/123. Punted 83 times and averaged 39.9 yards per punt, with a long of 60 yards. Had 13 punts of more than 50 yards. Placed 22 punts inside the 20-yard line.

SNAPPER

59 Eddie D’Antuono (6-6, 207, r-So.) – 0/133. Played in all 13 games.
after one of tech's final bowl practices in blackburg, vinny mihota walked off the field toward the hokies' locker room. he took off his cleats and slammed them against the sidewalk, sending bits of mud flying through the air.

“it’s a ritual that he performed with regularity,” inside hokie sports editor jimmy robertson said. “i had vinny in the spring, and he’s a little all over the place with his technique. if we can get him squared away... he’s better off of a right-handed stance than a left-handed one. we’ve been playing him out of a left-handed stance just because sobczak can’t right now. vinny’s quicker out of a right-handed stance, and i really like his movement. i think he’s going to be a really good player.”

“vinny mihota, the more i’m around him, the more i like him. you have to watch him now. he’s got to be more disciplined with his eating and all that. he can’t get to 320 pounds. we’ll like him at 285, and he’s about 285 right now. we’ve got to keep a grip on that. but he’s got a heavy shoulder, and he’s got some quickness. he’ll be a guy that continues to get better as he sees himself on video. he has a natural pass rush to him. there’s not a lot of stiffness there that i’ve seen. i look forward to coaching him in the spring. i like the kid.”

“It’s the line on the other side of the ball that needs the most attention, and the most group of players is the defensive tackles. collectively, those on the scout-team defense gave tech’s offensive line a look at what it might see from the opposing defense on game days.

Having done the monotonous, yet important, work, mihota — like many in his situation — is ready for the next phase in his development.

“Honestly, i wish we could go straight into game days,” mihota said. “i feel like i’ve learn the position a lot more. coming out of high school as an end and moving down to tackle, there is a lot more fundamentals and footwork to learn. i’m learning how to play the position, and i got a lot stronger and faster in the weight room.”

mihota said he weighed 270 pounds and that he added 30 pounds since spring practice. he’s nearly at his target weight. “i’d like to be 275 or 280,” he said. “i don’t want to get any slower.”

the other defensive lineman who took a redshirt season is steve sobczak, who played with mihota at massaponax high school. tech’s staff went after sobczak late in the recruiting process, and the coaches are certainly glad they did. they like his potential.

sobczak gives the hokies a bigger presence at defensive tackle, while mihota gives them the athleticism. teamed with ricky wallar, who played as a true freshman, the trio provides a nice foundation for the future.

“there’s a certain level of toughness that i like about those guys,” wiles said. “i had vinny in the spring, and he’s a little all over the place with his technique. if we can get him squared away... he’s better off of a right-handed stance than a left-handed one. we’ve been playing him out of a left-handed stance just because sobczak can’t right now. vinny’s quicker out of a right-handed stance, and i really like his movement. i think he’s going to be a really good player.”

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sobczak gives the hokies a bigger presence at defensive tackle, while mihota gives them the athleticism. teamed with ricky wallar, who played as a true freshman, the trio provides a nice foundation for the future.

“there’s a certain level of toughness that i like about those guys,” wiles said. “i had vinny in the spring, and he’s a little all over the place with his technique. if we can get him squared away... he’s better off of a right-handed stance than a left-handed one. we’ve been playing him out of a left-handed stance just because sobczak can’t right now. vinny’s quicker out of a right-handed stance, and i really like his movement. i think he’s going to be a really good player.”
quarterback meetings. He saw a little scout-team work, but spent most of practices near Loeffler and the rest of the quarterbacks.

“I think I’ve got a good foundation now,” Durkin said. “I’m looking forward to learning the protections better, learning our reads and checks. Just things like that. It’s complicated. It’s a lot of work. But we’ve got an offseason now, and I’m looking forward to grinding and learning as much of it as I can.”

Durkin and Ford potentially represent the future of Tech football. After all, they play the most important position on the field.

Tech loses quarterback Michael Brewer after next season — and right now, there isn’t an heir apparent. So this spring practice should go a long way toward figuring out the future of the position.

“It’s going to be really cool. It’s going to be a battle this entire offseason and this spring, and I’m looking forward to it,” Durkin said. “I’m very excited. I don’t want to look too far ahead, but I’m looking forward to the spring and looking forward to competing and getting out there again.”

Tech’s staff can’t wait to see this young group competing this spring — a group that includes seven who enrolled in January, with two who signed with Tech last year (offensive lineman Tyrell Smith and tight end Xavier Burke). Though they played a bunch of talented young players this past season — Marshawn Williams, Isaiah Ford, Cam Phillips and Greg Stroman just to name a few — the coaches like the ones on the way.

On defense, the backfield gets an infusion of youth and talent with the addition of guys like Terrell Edmunds, Holland Fisher and Shawn Payne, and the coaches really like linebacker Raymon Minor. On offense, receivers Jaylen Bradshaw and Kendrick Holland give a depth-shy receiving group some added talent. Two more tailbacks enter the fray, including D.J. Reid and Trayvon McMillian, a 6-0, 200-pounder who may be the most gifted of Tech’s young players.

“He’s really got great make-you-miss ability,” running backs coach Shane Beamer said. “He’s the one guy that is fast and explosive, and he’s got great moves and great ability to make you miss. He’s got home-run hitting ability as a running back. I’m excited about that from a kick return standpoint as well. He has a chance to be a really, really special player. They’ve [Reid and McMillian] both changed their bodies physically. That’s the one thing that stands out. They’ve worked their tails off in the weight room. They got stronger, bigger and more explosive. They’re still learning the running back position, but they seem more natural at running back. We’re excited about them.”

On special teams, kicker Michael Santamaria and walk-on Carson Wise both could challenge Joey Slye this spring.

All these guys are anxious for spring practice — and they should be. The redshirt season officially ended with the conclusion of the Military Bowl, and winter workouts commence soon. Spring practice is only two months away.

The opportunity is there for everyone. After all, Tech’s staff isn’t afraid to play young players. Whether these players take advantage of the opportunity is up to them.
Formed Tech safety enjoying coaching success

Mike Scharnus recently won his fourth state championship ring as a high school head football coach, and he’s been a winner at all of his coaching stops .

by Jimmy Robertson

Readers of this publication know that former Tech student-athletes rarely make repeat appearances in the “Where Are They Now?” section of this magazine.

But former football player Mike Scharnus has become rather adept at doing things over and over – and such a trait makes him one of the best Tech student-athletes coaching at the high school level.

Mike Scharnus, a former Tech safety (1978-81), has led Altavista High School, one of the smaller schools in Virginia, to three state championships. (Photo courtesy of The News & Advance, in Lynchburg, Virginia)

“I probably a little more with that expectation, but it you get in the playoffs, there is pressure. There was the season, there is always pressure. When the season wore on, there’s always pressure. There was probably a little more with that expectation, but it always gets hairy in playoff time.”

“Coming here [Altavista] was a drop down to Single-A, but I didn’t think much of it. I just enjoy coaching football and working with the kids. It’s a numbers game in Single-A. You’ve got to have numbers or you’re going to struggle. That was the issue here when I got here. It’s always been a fight. We’ve always had to work at it to keep the numbers up and that kind of thing.”

“Scharnus, who also teaches at the school, said he targeted athletes at an early age and then developed relationships with them. Many weren’t playing football because of the program’s losing culture, but they eventually bought into him and longtime assistants Dave Close and Mike Reavis, and their three children (daughter Abby, now 22; son Clayton, 19, and daughter Delaney, 13) wanted to remain in that area.

“So after hearing about the Altavista opening, Scharnus went after it, knowing full well the challenges of the position. “When I was let go at Rustburg, I had the opportunity to interview here and at E.C. Glass [High School], which is a bigger city school in Lynchburg,” he said. “I chose not to look at the Glass job because of different things. The administration wasn’t as strong, that kind of stuff.”

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“The first thing, you always have to have some talent, some skill guys. The big thing was to develop some linemen. We needed to get them in the weight room. So we had some talent, and then we altered some things weight- room wise to get it going.”

“Here, it was the same thing. Altavista has always had some talent, some skill guys. The big thing was to develop some linemen. We needed to get them in the weight room. So we had some talent, and then we altered some things weight- room wise to get it going.”

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“A safety, he intercepted former Maryland native lettered all four years of his career here at Tech (1978-81) under coach Bill Dooley. A safety, he intercepted former Miami quarterback Jim Kelly in the 1981 Peach Bowl – Kelly later played in four Super Bowls and is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He also once intercepted former West Virginia quarterback Oliver Luck, who is set to be the No. 2 man at the NCAA office.

“Those types of accomplishments give him added credibility when coaching young people. “But they know. They’ll find things on Google and ask me. I don’t make a big deal about it.”

“Scharnus does go to Tech’s bowl game in Blacksburg for a game at least once a year, but did not make it back this season. His team’s success and deep playoff run the past two years has allowed into Saturday leisure time, but he said he kept in touch with

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Tech wrestler Chris Moon, a two-time NCAA qualifier, has overcome some difficult times going back to his high school days and will need to get past a couple of injuries in the coming weeks to make the NCAAs for a third time.

According to Moon, there were about two weeks left in the academic year when he and two of his friends shot paint balls at each other in the school around 3 a.m. one morning. The kids didn’t think they’d get into too much trouble, but the administration said they had “guns” on school property and in the school.

The expulsion came rather late, a couple of weeks before classes were to begin in the fall, and the family had to figure out something really quickly. They made the decision to send Moon to Wyoming Seminary. Moon’s high school career consisted of two trips to the Virginia Group AAA state tournament, where he finished as the runner-up in 2009 and 2010 Prep National Champion at 160 pounds. He had only wrestled three times (as of press time), losing his other two dual-meet bouts, and his wrestling talents were on full display when he moved to the boarding school.

At Wyoming Seminary, he compiled a 44-7 record as a senior year – pushing his overall total to 170 – and he capped it by becoming a 2010 Prep National Champion at 160 pounds.

The 120-pound wrestler is just going to a new place and for my senior year, especially, but I made some friends up there, and I enjoyed it,” Moon said. “They had a really good wrestling team. We were, like, top five in the country in high school, and so it was really good.

“I definitely showed me a different side of wrestling, and I learned a bunch of different techniques there, so it was probably a good experience for me.”

His decision to choose the Hokies over several other state schools – Moon knew he wanted to return to Virginia – and the academics that were offered here in Blacksburg were aware of the situation. Perez’s fiancé.

“Then I redshirted, so that I could actually go down [a weight class]. I wrestled at 165 [pounds] during my redshirt year, and it was good. I got to do a lot of open tournaments, and I got to wrestle in practice against Pete Yanez, who was really good [a two-time NCAA champion and NCAA All-American], so that helped me out a lot.”

Moon, who had to wait and see if he would earn an at-large bid to the 2014 NCAA Championships after dropping the ACC Championship semifinal match this time around, got the bid and performed better. After dropping his first bout to the No. 3 seed, he won a pair of matches – one by major decision – before being eliminated.

“His goals for this season are very similar to every wrestler who pans on a singlet in this conference – win an ACC title and be an All-American, which Moon sees as a possible outcome at the national event. Right now, though, his goal is to get back on track. Moon jokes about those injuries, saying, “I’m just getting old. When you’ve been wrestling for a long time, your body just starts to feel it. So I’m just trying to get a little healthier.”

“It’s unfortunate right now that he’s really battling some injuries, and he’s probably really frustrated with those,” Dresser said. “This was his fifth year. He’s already graduated, and he could have made another run during a fifth year. But he’s got two more months to figure it out and hopefully we can get him healthy.”

Not knowing what the future has to store is something new to Moon, who had to wait an entire summer before finding out his fate for his final high school year. He’s playing the waiting game again, trying to find out just how much his body can handle for one last run toward his athletics goals.
Q: What is your career plan once you are done with school?
CM: “I want to start in electrical engineering since that’s what my degree is in, but I want to focus on power systems. I want to go into some design analysis or protection, something like that. I don’t have a job lined up yet, but I have been looking at some that would interest me.”

Q: You did an internship in Philadelphia this past summer. What was living there like?
CM: “I actually lived with my old roommate, who used to wrestle here, too. His name is Bobby LaVelle, and I stayed at his house in Holland, which is about a 45-minute commute to Philadelphia. It was a crazy culture shock. The driving up there was insane, and I didn’t even know how to parallel park when I went up there, but I learned real quick. It is definitely different up there. The people are different, and the buildings are huge, but I enjoyed it.”

Q: What was your favorite class at Tech?
CM: “My senior design project that I did for a class called design and power engineering. We built a radial transmission model. It was an advanced protection system for radial transmission lines, and they would communicate. So if there was a single phase or a three-phase fault, which just means the lines are down or lightning has hit it, it would just trip the breakers so that the lines weren’t active. It would shut off the power to the line, and we built a model that simulated that.”

Q: What do you do for fun?
CM: “I used to enjoy skateboarding a lot, but I got away from that. I really don’t do that anymore. I would say just hanging out with friends and family.”

Q: What’s the one meal you crave when you get done with a wrestling season?
CM: “My mom is an awesome cook, and I would want her chicken pot pie. That’s really good, and I would give her credit for that. She makes it a lot when I go home.”

Q: What was the greatest Christmas present you ever received?
CM: “That was definitely in middle school when I got this red Honda XR-80 dirt bike. I used to love that thing.”

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Hey Hokies! CampusInsiders.com takes you deep inside college sports including Virginia Tech features and national college news from top college analysts, former coaches and special contributors. Get the inside scoop 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And don’t forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!
Under head coach Dennis Wolff, the Virginia Tech women’s basketball team has enjoyed great success over the past two seasons in the month of December, compiling a 9-3 record in the span.

In fact, in their four years under Wolff, the Hokies are an incredible 14-4 in the month of December at Cassell Coliseum, and that included a five-game winning streak that ended the 2014 calendar year — tying for the longest winning streak by the Hokies under Wolff.

However, the success didn’t continue into the first week of 2015, as Tech let its ACC opener slip away in an overtime loss at Clemson and then dropped a 15-point decision to Virginia at Cassell on Jan. 4, extending the Cavaliers’ winning streak over the Hokies to 17 straight.

“No one likes to lose to Virginia here in anything, so this loss doesn’t sit well with the coaching staff, and it doesn’t sit well with the players,” Wolff said after the UVa setback. “We’ve had a number of close games that they’ve been able to pull out, and I don’t have an answer to it. If I did, I’d be sitting here feeling better about the way we played.

“We have to figure it out. And I’m not sure if it’s the preparation on either end for our team and our team. I don’t get caught up in the numbers that are out there. I get more caught up in trying to prepare the team for the next game. So they created problems because of how physical [Darah Imovbioh] is inside. We made some adjustments, but we have to give up some things defensively with the way our roster is constituted right now, and that’s what we chose to do and they made some shots.”

Imovbioh, a 6-foot-2 center from Nigeria, was one of five Cavaliers to score at least nine points, and she added a game-high 11 rebounds in her team’s win, a contest that was just a four-point margin at halftime, but saw UVa’s distance itself in the second half.

It was a different story in Tech’s opening ACC contest at Clemson, as the Hokies led the entire second half, minus the last 30 seconds, and actually had a 10-point advantage with less than six minutes remaining. But the Tigers held Tech to just six points over those final minutes of regulation and five minutes of overtime to register the comeback win.

“An extremely disappointing loss,” Wolff said following the Clemson game. “I thought the team played hard, but clearly in the last three or four minutes of the game, they [the players] lost their composure, and we turned the ball over so many times it took away our chances of winning.”

After the UVa loss, Wolff summed up his thoughts on the Hokies’ opening week of the 2015 year.

“Obviously, this was not the way we wanted to start the weekend of ACC play including Friday night [at Clemson] and this game,” he said.

Despite the great December record the past two years, the Hokies have failed to carry that momentum over into January. At press time, Tech hadn’t won in January since an upset of then-No. 8 Maryland in College Park in 2013.

Tech freshman guard Rachel Camp has certainly established herself as one of the team’s, if not the league’s, top scorers for the 2014-15 season, as the Forest City, North Carolina, native has scored at least 10 points in 11 contests this season so far, and that included seven games of at least 20 points.

After hitting for 20-plus in two games during November, Camp poured in at least 20 in four games during December, which helped her earn the ACC’s Freshman of the Week honor on the Dec. 15. The two games that accounted for the nod included a 20-point, 12-rebound, four-assist effort against North Carolina Central — a game in which she tied the school’s record for most points scored by a freshman in a single game. She followed that with her third straight double-double and set the Tech mark for most points scored by a freshman in a 33-point, 11-rebound, six-assist game against Western Carolina.

Ironically, in the win, sophomore guard Vanessa Panousis added 24 points and five assists, giving the Hokies their first 30-point, 20-point combination in almost 30 years — when Joyce Waddy (31) and Susan Valviva (29) did it in a 1986 game versus Mercer.

“I was pleased with how we played and these two [Panousis and Camp] had terrific games,” Wolff said after the Western Carolina game. “I am proud of them both and congratulations to Rachel for breaking the scoring record.

“But I think they both played unselfishly as the game went along. They continued to try and make the right plays.”

Stymied in her first ACC game at Clemson — she was held to just six points, her lowest output since the season opener — Camp rebounded with a 23-point, seven-rebound effort in the loss to Virginia. At one point, she scored 12 of the team’s 26 points to help Tech, which had trailed by double digits, get back to within four by halftime.

Sidney Cook, the 6-foot-2 transfer from Seton Hall, is starting to emerge as a much-needed option off the bench for the Hokies, who dropped their two ACC games and conference play opened.
ACC opener latest in string of close losses for the Hokies

by Jimmy Robertson

Devin Wilson answered the question immediately and with no hesitation.

After playing 38 grueling minutes against Syracuse in a 68-66 defeat, he was certainly fresh when it came to fielding missives from postpone media members.

“I take it in a bad way,” he said of Tech’s loss despite a valiant rally that sliced a 22-point deficit to two points. “We lost. As much as we fought and tried to come back, we lost.”

“I’m disappointed,” fellow guard Justin Bibbs said, echoing Wilson sentiments. “I thought we should have won.”

For the second straight season, the Hokies opened ACC play with a game against Syracuse, and like last year, Tech found itself behind quickly. The only difference this time around was that the Hokies made a game of it. Tech trailed by 22 points with 2:51 remaining in the first half and by 19 points at halftime. But it opened the second half with a 21-7 run to climb back into it, and Wilson’s two free throws with 6:34 brought the Hokies to within a basket, 51-49.

Syracuse built the lead to 62-31 with 2:22 left, but the Hokies wouldn’t go away. It helped that the Orangemen struggled from the free-throw line, making just seven of their final 17 attempts in the final 2:22.

The Orangemen led 68-66 and had Ron Patterson going to the line for two attempts with 4.3 seconds left. But Patterson missed both of them, and the Hokies, out of timeouts, raced down the court.

Bibbs brought the ball up, and he found Miller in the corner. Malik Miller launched a 3-pointer time-expired that came up well short.

It marked yet another loss on the final possession. So far this season, the Hokies have lost four games by three points or less. Afterward, head coach Buzz Williams wanted no part of a discussion about moral victories with this young team.

“We’ve lost four of our six losses by one possession. Does that mean we’re good, or does that mean we suck?” Williams said. “It means we’re 8-6. It’s what Coach [Jim Boeheim] would say. You’re 8-6. We lost.”

“We need to put ourselves in a position to deserve the right to win a game. You can’t play a possession top-25 team who has done all the things that Coach [Jim] Boeheim has done at Syracuse since [he was born] … you can’t play 20 minutes and think, ‘Man, I feel good!’ No, it’s 40 minutes. We knew that yesterday when we woke up.”

Tech lost to Appalachian State, Penn State and Radford in the final moments of those games as well, but the reasons behind those losses were different. Tech gave up 19 offensive rebounds to the Mountaineers, shot terribly from the free-throw line against Penn State (4-of-14) and let a six-point lead with two minutes left slip away in the loss to Radford.

“I think there are a lot of lessons to learn every day in every way,” Williams said after the Syracuse game. “I think we have to play more like we did in the second half, obviously.

“In some ways, this [the Syracuse loss] was a repeat of the same thing.”

The Hokies will get other opportunities during ACC play. The league appears top heavy, with roughly five or six teams capable of winning the title and the rest of the teams being fairly evenly matched.

Tech can compete, and it can win, but only if it plays the way it did in the second half against the Orangemen — with maximum effort and solid execution.

They at least can take that away from the Syracuse loss, albeit begrudgingly.

“We came back from 19, and this young team showed a lot of fight,” Wilson finally admitted. “Our coaching staff believed in us. It was just a tale of two halves.”

BIBBS COMING UP BIG

Freshman center Bielec continues to make more minutes after not playing a single minute in the Hokies’ win over VMI. He played 13 minutes against Presbyterian, scoring six points and grabbing four rebounds, and then he played a season-high 23 minutes in the Hokies’ loss to West Virginia. In that one, he scored a career-high 10 points and grabbed five rebounds.

Williams suspended Joey van Zegeren indefinitely before the Syracuse game, so Pierce, a 7-footer from Barberton, Ohio, played 16 minutes against the Orangemen’s tall front line, and he played reasonably well despite being in foul trouble. He scored four points and grabbed four rebounds before fouling out with 3:28 left.

Pierce was matched up against Rakeem Christmas, a former McDonald’s All-American who has started all but two games in his four years at Syracuse. Christmas scored 27 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

At one point, Pierce found himself wide open with the ball, and the crowd begged him to shoot. Instead, he passed the ball to a teammate, showing a little tentativeness. But overall, Williams wasn’t disappointed in Pierce’s play.

“He continues to grow, and he continues to improve,” Williams said. “He’s gaining experience from his work. He’s spending more time in the weight room.

“I think he’s coming around. When you look at Rakeem Christmas — who is going to be all-league in nine weeks — and you’ve never played in an ACC game, you might pee down your leg a little bit, too.”

BEYER WITH CAREER NIGHT

Williams made some lineups changes for the Hokies’ nonconference game against Alabama &M on Dec. 14, starting walk-on Christian Beyer and former walk-on Will Johnston, who received a scholarship before last season.

Both played well, with Beyer enjoying a career evening. The senior from New Bern, North Carolina, scored a career-high 13 points, hitting 5-of-7 from the floor, 0-of-4 from the free-throw line and grabbing nine rebounds. He tied his career high in minutes with 27.

“I don’t think we had an idea earlier [Sunday] morning, maybe [Saturday] night based on practices,” Beyer said of getting the starting role. “He just kind of threw me in there. It was exciting. I’m used to being thrown in there when energy isn’t where it needs to be or they need help on defense. I saw it as a chance to show Coach Buzz that I’m that backup guy if he ever needs a boost off the bench.”

Beyer’s previous career high of nine points came at BYU in 2012. He came off the bench in Tech’s 97-75 loss and scored nine points and grabbed 12 rebounds in 23 minutes.

The start marked the second of Beyer’s career. He started at Notre Dame last season.

Beyer’s 13 points marked the first time a Tech walk-on has scored in double figures since Dec. 2, 2000, when Tony Martin scored 12 points against Syracuse in the finals of the 2000 Carrier Classic.
The Hokies have the depth and talent on the men’s side to compete for a crown, while the middle distance runners and throwers on the women’s team give the Hokie women a shot at a championship.

**by Marc Mullen**

The competition continues to get tougher and tougher in the ACC when it comes to track and field. And, thus, the Virginia Tech men’s and women’s track and field programs failed to place either of its teams within the top four at either of the conference meet with that goal.”

Q: Were you disappointed in the ACC finishes last year (neither team finished higher than seventh)?
**DC:** “I was on the men’s side (fifth at the indoor meet and tied for 36th at the outdoor meet) with a freshman and sophomores, and we have a shot at that that goal – top 20 or top 10, if we can. So I was a little bit disappointed with our finishes last year because I felt that we should have been in the top 20. On the women’s side, I wasn’t as much because we didn’t have too many shots at the national meet to score.

Q: For the men, we had a really strong run for the past five or six years (six straight top-20 outdoor finishes, four straight indoor), so I feel like it was just one of those things where it’s the law of averages where you are going to have a year where it all doesn’t go as planned. That certainly wasn’t for a lack of preparation or lack of effort. Those meets are just so high-quality, and each year, there are just so many athletes who have a chance to win a title that anything can happen.

Q: What has made Virginia Tech such a hotbed for pole vault success? – actually both on the men’s and women’s side?
**DC:** “That really just comes down to having Coach [Bob] Phillips leading that program. He’s been part of the program going back to when he was a vaulter himself in the early 1980s. So he’s been a part of the program for more than 30 years, which is a much longer than I’ve been here.

His expertise and development in that area – he’s considered one of the best in the country; Outdoor: ACC 5,000-meter champion; Indoor: ACC 3,000-meter champion so the ACC indoor meet, that’s a lot of fun. That will make it exciting for our athletes, and it will make a difference. It will give us a little bit more of an edge.”

Q: What is your assessment of what this team can accomplish this year?
**DC:** “Overall, this men’s team – from a quality and depth standpoint – could really do some special things. The national meet is always so difficult to predict, but I think, with the guys that we have here and what they’ve done and what I believe they can do – as long as they stay healthy – this could be a top-10 ACC team and a team that can challenge for an ACC title.

“Tech’s team boasts a highly competitive group of athletes who are capable of achieving great things in 2015. The Hokies’ depth and versatility, combined with their strong talent pool, give them a solid chance to compete at the highest level. The seniors are a key component to the team’s success, with their experience and leadership ensuring a smooth transition to the younger athletes. The freshmen and sophomores bring fresh energy and enthusiasm to the team, ready to make their mark on the ACC stage.”

The Hokies have shown improvement in recent years, and are confident that they can continue their upward trajectory in the ACC. With a strong nucleus of experienced athletes and a talented incoming class, the Hokies are poised to challenge for conference titles and make a strong showing at the national level. The challenge is to maintain this momentum and continue to make strides in the ACC, with the ultimate goal of achieving a conference championship.

**Top returners (2014 accomplishments):**

Senior Thomas Urist – Indoor: ACC 5,000-meter champion; Outdoor: ACC 3,000-meter champion (tops in the ACC for the season) – both in 2014. He also qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships, adding to his impressive career. 

Senior Thomas Daschuk – Indoor: ACC 1,000-meter champion; Outdoor: ACC 1,500-meter champion (tops in the ACC for the season) – both in 2014. He also qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships, adding to his impressive career.

**Newcomers:**

Sophomore Darius Watkins, Nick Wilt, and Mackenzie Mecklenburg.

England, who has only indoor eligibility remaining, should help Tech’s sprint/hurdles/jump teams by adding depth and versatility to the lineup. His potential to score in several different event areas once we get to the indoor and outdoor meets. He’s considered one of the best in the country, he’s in position to win the championship.

**About the author:**

Marc Mullen is a senior sportswriter for Inside Hokie Sports, where he has covered the Virginia Tech athletic program since 2007. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in journalism and a passion for writing and editing. Mullen has covered a wide range of sports, from football and basketball to track and field, and has won numerous awards for his work. He is a member of the National Association of College Sport Information Directors (NACSD) and the Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE).
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Senior Grant Pollock – Indoor: ACC mile champion, NCAA All-American in DMR (sixth); Outdoor: ACC 1,500-meter champion and NCAA All-American (sixth).
Senior Juan Campos – Indoor: ACC DMR finalist (fourth); Outdoor: ACC 3,000-meter finalist (seventh).
Redshirt senior Martin Dally – Indoor: ACC 800-meter finalist (seventh); NCAA-All-American in DMR (sixth).

Newcomer: Freshman Kevin Cianfarini.

Cianelli’s take: “This is a very deep group, which is led by Grant Pollock, who will only have indoor eligibility left, but he’s returning a mile All-American and has been very consistent for us in his career.

“Thomas Curtin, who redshirted in cross country, is ready to go for track and is one of the best distance runners in the conference, so he’s going to be a huge boost to us in the indoor 5,000 and may even run the 10,000.

“The core of this group is really in the 800 and the mile, and that includes Patrick Joseph, who was a USA junior champion in the 1,500 and represented the USA at the World Junior Championships. I think he’s got unlimited potential, and he’s got range. But with him and Grant indoors, that gives us two great milers.

“In the 800, we are deep with seniors Martin Dally, Kevin DeWillie and Prince Owusu. They have all been ACC scorers for us, and they will be big contributors again this year. So again, this is about as good as we have ever been in terms of the quality and the depth.”

MEN’S THROWS

Top returners (2014 accomplishments):
Sophomore Jaka Muhar – Indoor: ACC hammer throw champion and NCAA All-American (fifth); Outdoor: ACC hammer throw finalist (fourth).

Newcomers: Freshman Marek Barta and Collin McKenny.

Cianelli’s take: “We’ll have some national-level presence with Tomas Kruzliak, who is in his third year. He was a national champion in the hammer as a freshman, so he’ll be the top weight guy for us indoors and outdoors. He is a little stronger in the hammer, so he should be vying for another title at the national meet. We also have Juka Muhar back after a year of rehab from surgery, and he’s going to be one of the top national javelin throwers. He should be a favorite for an ACC title.

“Then there’s freshman Marek Barta, who is primarily a discus thrower, but he’ll also throw the shot put at the conference meet to help us score some points. He should be competing for an ACC title in the discus and qualifying for the national meet. So we’ll be stronger in the throwers and have a little more of a national presence.”

MEN’S POLE VAULT

Top returners (2014 accomplishments):
Sophomore Torben Laidig – Indoor: ACC pole vault champion and NCAA All-American (sixth); Outdoor: ACC pole vault runner-up and NCAA All-American (fifth).

Senior Chris Uhl – Indoor: ACC pole vault runner-up; Outdoors: ACC pole vault finalist (fourth) and NCAA East Regional qualifier.
Redshirt sophomore Jared Allison – Indoor: ACC pole vault finalist (sixth); Outdoor: ACC pole vault finalist (fifth).

Newcomer: Junior Jeffrey Linta.

Cianelli’s take: “We’ve got Torben Laidig, who was an ACC champion as a freshman and an All-American both indoors and outdoors, returning. He’s one of the top vaulters in the nation and made really great strides during his freshman year, and we’re expecting big things from him.

“Chris Uhl, this will be his senior year, and he’s been very consistent the past three years. He’s been a national level qualifier and scored as high as second at the ACC meet. There’s also Jared Allison, who is another 15-plus foot guy, and I think he’ll make a big improvement this year.

“Torben is almost at 18 feet now, but I think all three of those guys could possibly be over 18-foot mark. Collectively, this could be our best group when you add in Brad Johnson, who is a young vaulter who is right around 17 feet right now, and transfer Jeffrey Linta, who came here from South Carolina. This group has the potential to be the best group we’ve ever had, and that will be huge for us at the conference level as well as the national meet. And they are still pretty young, too.”

WOMEN’S SPIRIT/HURDLES/JUMPS

Top returners (2014 accomplishments):
Sophomore Christine London – Indoor: ACC 60-meter hurdle champion; Outdoor: ACC 400-meter hurdle finalist (eighth) and NCAA East Regional qualifier.
Sophomore Nora McKerive – Indoor: ACC 60-meter hurdle champion; Outdoor: ACC 100-meter hurdle finalist (eighth) and ACC 400-meter hurdle champion.

Junior Johanna Dominick – Indoor: ACC high jump finalist (fifth); Outdoor: ACC high jump finalist (fifth).

Newcomers: Freshmen Courtney Bladen, Ana-Selina Triumhus, and Shannon Burre.

Cianelli’s take: “This is a very young group. Coach [Paul] Zalowski, in just his second year, has done a nice job in establishing this group and recruiting some very talented athletes. But they are young, and it takes time to adjust to the collegiate level.

“He’s built a great foundation, and I think each year as we move forward here, this group is going to be contributing more and more to the success of the team. If you want to challenge for the top two or three positions at the conference meet, you need a presence in this area.”

WOMEN’S DISTANCE

Top returners (2014 accomplishments):
Senior Amanda Smith – Indoor: ACC 800-meter champion and NCAA All-American (third); Outdoor: ACC 800-meter champion and NCAA East Regional qualifier.
Senior Sarah Rapp – Indoor: ACC 3,000-meter runner-up and ACC DMR finalist (fourth); Outdoor: ACC 5,000-meter champion, NCAA

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Championship 10,000-meter qualifier.
Junior Shannon Morton – Indoor: ACC DMR finalist (fourth); Outdoor: ACC 1,500-meter final first (third) and NCAA qualifier.

Sophomore Hanna Green – Indoor: ACC 800-meter runner-up; Outdoor: 800-meter NCAA All-American (13th).

Newcomers: Freshmen Katie Kennedy and Morgan Gallagher.

Cianelli’s take: “We have a big senior class, led by Sarah Rapp. She will be one of the top distance runners in a conference that’s really one of the best distance conferences in the country. There is a lot of talent in the ACC.

“Shannon Morton will certainly be one of the favorites in the mile and will be a member of that DMR team, and I think they should be at the national meet. There’s also Hanna Green, who was one of the top freshmen in the country in the 800 meters. She’s a tremendous talent with an unlimited upside. She will focus on the 800 again and maybe the 1,500, and she runs the 400 for us on a relay team.

“There’s also Courtney Debbas, who is coming off an injury, and she holds the school record in the 5,000. Also, Amanda Smith is returning as a two-time ACC champion in the 800 meters indoor and outdoor. So we have a strong core group of which there are a couple of runners who are still young. It’s a good mix, and any of these could be challenging for an ACC title this year.”

Top returners (2014 accomplishments):
Sophomore Eva Vivod – Outdoor: ACC javelin finalist (second) and NCAA All-American (11th).
Senior Sabine Kopplin – Outdoor: ACC javelin finalist (third) and NCAA All-American (seventh).
Senior Sarah Kadelka – Outdoor: ACC javelin finalist (fourth) and NCAA East Regional qualifier.

Newcomer: Sophomore Irena Sediwa

Cianelli’s take: “This year, we will have several top-notch javelin throwers. Sabine and Eva are returning All-Americans from the outdoor season, and with newcomer Irena, this will give us three top-notch javelin throwers, which is really unique.

“They won’t be competing indoors, but once we get to outdoors, we will certainly be able to dominate that event at the ACC meet, and then at the national level, I expect all three of them to be at Eugene [Oregon] in the finals and scoring for us at the NCAA meet. I expect those three to push each other in order to all have great seasons.”

Top returners (2014 accomplishments):
Sophomore Kristen Lee – Indoor: ACC pole vault finalist (ninth); Outdoor: ACC pole vault finalist (10th).
Redshirt Junior Eric Schall – Indoor: ACC pole vault competitor; Outdoor: ACC pole vault competitor.

Newcomer: Freshman Sarah Swantko

Cianelli’s take: “In the vault, we have Emma King, who redshirted last year, but she was one of the better high school vaulters and a Maryland state champion. So we have her and Kristen Lee – those two will certainly lead that group and collectively fill the shoes of Martina Schulze, who was a multi-time All-American and ACC champion for us.

“So those two will be asked to make up for the points lost with Martina’s departure. This event has gotten stronger at the conference level, and they will have to continue to develop and improve to give us that presence in the vault.”

Eva Vivod earned All-America honors in the javelin last summer at the NCAA meet, and Tech’s coaching staff is expecting similar results this season.
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