

61<sup>st</sup> Annual

# Headliner's Night

MONDAY - JUNE 14, 2010

**MOREWITZ SPORTS  
PERSON OF THE  
YEAR**

**JIMMYE  
LAYCOCK**



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# A note from Peninsula Sports Club President Colleen Messier

**As I come to the end of my term** I want to thank the board and membership for a wonderful two years. Your dedication to our athletes has been rewarding to watch and hear about! I am also so proud of how the two things I wanted the board to excel at did! Having our membership grow and going green by using email and website capabilities. We are still working on our website but this is something that is a continuous project and will keep getting better.

**80% Green!** At the beginning of my term two years ago our membership was 15 % green with a goal of at least 75% green. How great is that? We kept down our mailing expenses and got the information out faster. Our membership has also grown. We are 220 strong as of May 17, 2010. Kudos to our membership committee!

This past year was eventful with our many Coaches Nights, a very successful Car Party and Holiday Party. As you look over our upcoming events, we hope you will find the time to join us in the future.

Everything accomplished was made possible due to a fabulous board! We all worked hard together to make each event a success and if you were not able to attend any event, you truly missed great social events, stories and fellowship. It was been a busy year as we thought it would be and a great one. Thank you to all members for your support and thank you to the board for making it all happen

I wish the incoming board much success over the next two year term and know that your President-elect, Lori Woods will do an excellent job leading the membership.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this great board, want to be involved in the planning of any upcoming events, have ideas or want to be added to the emails, please contact our membership committee at [virginiawish@aol.com](mailto:virginiawish@aol.com). We always welcome new ideas and help!

**Remember, It's ALWAYS about our athletes and the sports program!** Whether young, old, record breakers, record holders, with strong stamina or academically sound...**They all count!**

*Colleen Messier*  
President



## 2009 - 2010 Officers

President	Colleen Messier
1st Vice President	Lori Woods
2nd Vice-Elect	Reatha Montgomery
Treasurer	Joe Sabol
Secretary	Steve Veazey



President  
 1st Vice President  
 Treasurer  
 Secretary

Lori Woods  
 Reatha Montgomery  
 Joe Sabol  
 Steve Veazey

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Lori Woods  
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 Lee Martin  
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 Reatha Montgomery  
 Greg Bicouvaris

## Headliner's Night Committees

PROGRAM.....Gordon Cooper  
 BANQUET.....Bud Porter

## Past Presidents

- |   |                           |                         |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1949 - Herbert Morewitz<br>William Van Buren, Jr. | 1969 - Monty Williams     | 1990 - Bobby Brown      |
| 1950 - (Herbert Kelley finished term)             | 1970 - Jimmy Eason        | 1991 - W.A. Bud Porter  |
| 1951 - Charles Karmosky                           | 1971 - Frank Schwalenberg | 1992 - Sam Vreeland     |
| 1952 - Louis (Lolly) Aronow                       | 1972 - C.C. Duff, Jr.     | 1993 - Connie Powers    |
| 1953 - H.V. (Bird) Hooper                         | 1973 - Tom Crenshaw       | 1994 - Bill Smith       |
| 1954 - Vic Zodda                                  | 1974 - W.A. Bud Porter    | 1995 - Tom Lee          |
| 1955 - Vaughn Mackey                              | 1975 - Bob Tysinger       | 1996 - Willie Brown     |
| 1956 - Bruce Barclay                              | 1976 - Jerry Franklin     | 1997 - Mary Jo Horton   |
| 1957 - Fred (Tootsie) Bashara                     | 1977 - Larry Turner       | 1998 - Mike Barber      |
| 1958 - Elmo Stephenson                            | 1978 - C.J. Browne        | 1999 - George Powell    |
| 1959 - Arthur Newsome, Jr.                        | 1979 - Bill Copeland      | 2000 - Boo Williams     |
| 1960 - L.W. (Duff) Kliewer                        | 1980 - Ron Kubesh         | 2001 - Gordon Cooper    |
| 1961 - Bob Moskowitz                              | 1981 - Bob Moorman        | 2002 - Steve Veazey     |
| 1962 - Dr. J.T. (Tommy) Jobe                      | 1982 - Elmer Fisher       | 2003 - Jim Healy        |
| 1963 - Gene O. Howell                             | 1983 - Nelson Ellis       | 2004 - Jim Healy        |
| 1964 - George Walker                              | 1984 - Glen Davenport     | 2005 - Michael Evans    |
| 1965 - Richard W. Hudgins                         | 1985 - Horace Underwood   | 2006 - Michael Evans    |
| 1966 - W. Tribble Wilkinson                       | 1986 - Bev Vaughan        | 2007 - Horace Underwood |
| 1967 - John (Bucky) Marshall                      | 1987 - John Graham        | 2008 - Colleen Messier  |
| 1968 - Godfrey L. Smith                           | 1988 - John Graham        | 2009 - Colleen Messier  |
|   | 1989 - Mickey Marcella    |                         |

## Lifetime Members

John Graham, Bob Moskowitz, Bud Porter

# 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Headliner's Night

## PROGRAM

WELCOME .....	COLLEEN MESSIER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION .....	WILLIE BROWN
BOB MOSKOWITZ MEDIA AWARD.....	GREG BICOUVARIS
JULIAN RICE AWARD AND RED SIMPSON AWARD.....	GREG BICOUBARIS
CHARLES KARMOSKY AWARD .....	STEVE KAST
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS .....	KATHLEEN BROWN

## DINNER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS .....	MIKE BARBER
SPORTS PERSON EMERITUS AWARDS .....	L'ALLEGRO SMITH & BUD PORTER
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES AWARDS	
Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year .....	EDNA DAVIS
Julie Conn Male Athlete of the Year .....	STEVE KAST
COLLEGE ATHLETES AWARDS	
Outstanding In-State Female Athlete .....	REATHA MONTGOMERY
Outstanding In-State Male Athlete .....	LEE MARTIN
Outstanding Out-of State Female .....	LEE MARTIN
Outstanding Out-of-State Male Athlete .....	LORI WOODS
LOCAL COLLEGE ATHLETES AWARDS	
Apprentice Schools Athletes of the Year .....	LORI WOODS
College of William & Mary Athlete of the Year .....	REATHA MONTGOMERY
Christopher Newport University Athlete of the Year .....	REATHA MONTGOMERY
Hampton University Athlete of the Year .....	REATHA MONTGOMERY
THAD MADDEN AWARD.....	STEVE KAST
HENRY JORDAN AWARD .....	DICKIE YOUNG
PRESIDENT'S AWARD .....	
MOREWITZ SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR .....	
CLOSING REMARKS.....	LORI WOODS



Since its founding in 1949, the Peninsula Sports Club has been an active force on the sports scene. The First Headliner's Night was held in 1950 and continues to recognize high school, college, and professional athletes, coaches, and volunteers from local communities. In 1955 the first All-Peninsula football team was honored. In 1958, baseball, basketball, and track were added.

The Club became involved in community projects, advocating a "civic center" which became the Hampton Coliseum, and was involved in bringing professional baseball back to the Peninsula in 1963.

The Club has provided financial aid to athletes through out the greater peninsula area. The Club presents a plaque to the Peninsula High School Athlete with the highest academic average. It is active in hosting events surrounding the Virginia Duals and the Boo Williams AAU National Basketball Tournaments. It also organizes group trips to many sports contests, has seasonal dinners highlighting upcoming seasons and coaches, and hosts notable sports figures as guests at other meetings.

The goals of the Club have remained the same over the years, to identify and recognize Peninsula citizens who promote sports activities or make outstanding contributions to perpetuate community athletics; and to recognize outstanding Peninsula athletes, many of whom have gained national acclaim. The Club continues to recognize and honor the successes of male and female high school and college athletes throughout the area.

For single and family membership information, please write to us at:

Peninsula Sports Club  
Tower Box 1  
Hampton, VA 23666  
[www.peninsulasportsclub.com](http://www.peninsulasportsclub.com)



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# JIMMYE LAYCOCK

Jimmye Laycock deserves all the credit in the world. As Sports Person of the Year, he carries with him much-deserved compliments for his seemingly unending list of accomplishments as the 30-year head football coach at his alma-mater, the College of William and Mary.

But who could have known?

Joe Agee has been around the legendary campus and its athletic domains, with only one short break, since 1950, playing basketball, teaching physical education and coaching basketball, football, baseball, soccer and golf. Once he was even called (most likely with tongue in cheek) the father of W&M soccer by the real owner of that title, Al Albert. The point is Agee has seen and worked with Laycock since he came onto campus in 1966.

Agee was asked recently if back then he had any idea the young Laycock would mature into a great football coach. "No, I had none at all," said Agee, who came out of Portsmouth to spend the bulk of the rest of his life in Williamsburg.

Agee taught Laycock in physical education classes, where the young athlete displayed "great athletic skills" and also received an A in golf, which Agee coached for 35 years. But what Agee does readily concede is that "once Jimmye got into coaching [as a Tribe graduate assistant in football] I would have said that he had a good future for coaching. He had an idea of what kids could do well as athletes and in football. I knew he would be successful . . . because he had the skills and he was able to deal with the kids." That said, as years flew by he learned, said Agee, "how to get the top people to play here."

So now, at age 70, Laycock emerges fresh from what arguably is the greatest season in W&M football annals. Certainly, it began sensationally with a 24-6 conquest of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Among the facts and figures that followed, consider these:

The 2009 record of 11-3 equals the College's most one-year victories and beefed up his career total to 200 victories, sixth most among active Football Championship Series coaches. The Tribe advanced to the NCAA national semifinals for the second time in six seasons and finished as the third-ranked team in the FCS. Many sparkling statistics include leading the nation by yielding only 61.1 defensive rushing yards per game and W&M ranked second in both total defense - holding foes to 229.8 yards per game - and scoring defense (12.1 points a game).

Conversely, the Tribe out-gained all 14 of its opponents last fall. More often than not, it has been the attack that was more noticeable as Laycock entries moved to eight playoff berths and 20 winning seasons. In addition, 23 players have gone on to sign with National Football League teams, most notable of whom was four-time Pro Bowl defensive back Darren Sharper, currently of the New Orleans Saints. Laycock also guided 12 players to 79 All-American honors and coached 11 Academic All-Americans.

All that is extremely commendable, but perhaps most important has been the program's academic excellence which became more evident after 2004, when the NCAA began its academic reform. Since then, Tribe football posted 100 per cent graduation rates three times. It has been cited by the NCAA for outstanding academic achievement after having recorded a graduation rate in the top 10 per cent of all programs in all six years since 2004. Additionally, there were the 11 Academic All-Americans and over 60 earned academic all-conference selections.

Of a somewhat different tribute, but vital to the growth of the program was the dedication two years ago of the \$11 million Jimmye Laycock Football Center, a state-of-the-arts

facility that greatly enhances Tribe recruiting abilities. Most recent recognition of Laycock's long-time success was his selection to the Hampton Roads Hall of Fame. Induction is in October.

Laycock came to the Williamsburg school in 1970 out of Hamilton, VA, where he excelled for Loudon County High School athletic teams. His quarterbacking skills first emerged there and he lettered four years each in football, baseball and basketball and his football uniform number there was eventually retired. His coaching trail prior to his W&M career started with a stint at his alma-mater. Laycock then followed with time at The Citadel, Memphis State and Clemson.

Jimmye is married to Deidre Connelly, a sports psychologist consultant at the College. They have three children - Michael, Mimi and James. Jimmye's daughter, Melanie, is married to Doug Johnson and is a teacher in Atlanta, Ga.





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&  
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would like to express our appreciation to the Board of Directors of the Peninsula Sports Club and the members for their continued dedication and commitment to the youth of the Virginia Peninsula.

We also would like to express our continued support of your organization and its efforts in support of the youth of our community.



Virginia State Deputy Patrick O'Donnell and Colleen Thom, Young Lady of the Year for Virginia



Walter Pollard Council 5480 Grand Knight Thai Nguyen and Colleen Thom, Young Lady of the Year for Council 5480

# Proposed Peninsula Sports Club Events 2009 - 2010

July 28, 2010 ..... Fall Coaches' Night  
 November 10, 2010..... Winter Coaches' Night  
 November 2010..... 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Party  
 December 5, 2010 ..... Holiday Party  
 January 2011 ..... Virginia Duals  
 February 16, 2011 ..... Spring Coaches' Night  
 April 2011 ..... Boo Williams Boys & Girls Tournament

Articles presented in this issue were submitted by many, including anonymous contributors. The list includes the College of William and Mary Sports Information Department, Apprentice School Sports Information Department, Christopher Newport University Sports Information Department, Horace Underwood, Walter A. Bowser, The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, "Goal to Goal, 100 Seasons of Football at William and Mary."

All are greatly appreciated. Some articles and all editing were done by Bob Moskowitz.

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# PAST Headliner's Nights

1950 - Associated Press Sports Writer Whitney Martin spoke, no one person was honored.

1951 - Newport News Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Julie Conn "Man of the Year" - Long Island University Basketball Coach Clair Bee, guest speaker.

1952 - Hampton Football Coach, J.M. "Suey" Eason - Princeton's most successful football coach, Charlie Cardwell.

1953 - Newport News Apprentice School Coach Gordon E. "Pop" Lamkin - Humorist Football Coach Bob Fumble.

1954 - Professional Golfer Jack Isaacs, Amateur Golfer Wynsol Spencer; College Football Coach Jack Freeman of William & Mary; High School Football Coach J.M. "Suey" Eason of Hampton; Professional Baseball Manager Stan Wasiak of the Newport News Baby Dodgers; Little League Official Lem Wheeler of Newport News - Look Sports Editor Tom Meany.

1955 - Warwick Football Coach Milt Drewer - Sportscaster Al Helfer.

1956 - Long-time youth leader Herbert Morewitz - Sportscaster Mel Allen.

1957 - Newport News Basketball Coach Bill Chambers - North Carolina Basketball Coach Frank McGuire.

1958 - Daily Press Sports Editor Charles Karmosky - Sportscaster Red Barber.

1959 - Boys Club of Virginia Peninsula Director Harry Shoff - Clemson Athletic Director and Football Coach Frank Howard

1960 - Newport News Football Coach J.C. "Cowboy" Range and Phoebus Post 48 American Legion Junior Baseball Coach Bill Ball - Former U.S. Naval Academy Director Capt. Slade Cutter and National Junior Legion Baseball Commissioner Lou Brissie.

1961 - Norman Snead, former Warwick 3-sport star, all-time Wake Forest quarterback great - W.A. "Weeb" Ewbank, coach of the Baltimore Colts.

1962 - Henry Jordan, former Warwick and University of Virginia football and wrestling star and All-Pro tackle for the Green Bay Packers - Vincent Lombardi, Packers Coach.

1963 - Charlie Nuttycombe, Newport News head football and co-track coach, and Hampton Roads Post 31 American Legion Baseball Coach Nelson Catlett - Paul Dietzel, Army Football Coach.

1964 - H.V. "Bird" Hooper, Newport News City Councilman, former Newport News High and Virginia Tech athlete, Southern Conference

football official and long-time civic leader - Wayne Hardin, Navy Football Coach.

1965 - Ed Kilgore, long-time Peninsula tennis player, youth leader and active off-the-court force in guiding State tennis activities - Famed tennis player and promoter Jack Kramer.

1966 - Frank Emanuel, All-American linebacker at the University of Tennessee from Warwick High School and Dr. Tommy Jobe III, long-time youth leader - Tennessee Football Coach Doug Dickey.

1967 - Curt Edwards, successful long-time American Legion Warwick Post 255 coach - Baltimore Orioles third baseman Brooks Robinson.

1968 - Chris Hanburger, All-pro linebacker with Washington Redskins of the National Football League. Leroy Keyes All-American halfback at Purdue University, third round draft choice in 1969 - Charlie Johnson St. Louis Cardinal quarterback.

1969 - Wayne Jackson, long-time outstanding Amateur Golfer - Carl C. Byers, Speakers' staff of General Motors Corp's Department of Public Relations.

1970 - John Palmer, Ron Peterson and Glenn Russell, Sonny Jurgensen and Jim Piersall, speakers.

1971 - Thad Madden - successful high school coach for 29 years. Guest speaker, Don McCafferty of the Baltimore Colts.

1972 - Bennie McRae - Pro Football Star for the Chicago Bears and N.Y. Giants, speaker, Dizzy Dean.

1973 - Doug Burroughs, Peninsula Youth Activities/Red Speigle, Golf Pro and Instructor; Norm Snead, Master of Ceremonies. Duke Snider, speaker.

1974 - Bill Shivar, Tennis Pro Instructor; Jack Hull, Fox Hill Softball Coach; Billy Packer, Master of Ceremonies; Tommy Bell, speaker.

1975 - Tommy Reamon, Pro Football; Mal Campbell Master of Ceremonies; Sonny Jurgensen, speaker.

1976 - Charles "Lefty" Driesell, Head Coach, University of Maryland; Mal Campbell, Master of Ceremonies; Norman Sloan, Speaker, Head Coach - North Carolina State University.

1977 - Dennis Kozlowski, Head Football Coach, Bethel High School, Hampton, and Dr. Robert Screen, Hampton Institute Tennis Coach, Billy Packer, Master of Ceremonies and Lou Holtz, speaker, Head Football Coach, University of Arkansas.

1978 - Mike Smith, Hampton High School Head Football Coach; 16-year NFL quarterback Norman Snead, Master of Ceremonies; Head Football Coach, University of Tennessee, speaker.

1979 - Otis "Cootie" Allmond, long-time college and high school basketball and football official - Billy Packer, Master of Ceremonies and Al McGuire, Sportscaster, former Head Basketball Coach, Marquette University.

1980 - John Montague, successful major league baseball player - Tim McCarver, telecaster, Master of Ceremonies, and Jim Fregosi, California Angels Manager, speaker.

1981 - Dr. Pat McCormick, nationally-acclaimed wrestling official - 16-year NFL quarterback Norman Snead, Master of Ceremonies; Harold "Tubby" Raymond, University of Delaware Football Coach, speaker.

1982 - Bev Vaughan, Christopher Newport College basketball coach and athletic director - Billy Packer, telecaster, Master of Ceremonies; University of Virginia Basketball Coach Terry Holland, speaker.

1983 - Lawrence Taylor - New York Giants football great; Pete Robinson, ex-longtime multi-sport high school and college coach, Master of Ceremonies, and former NFL All-Pro Quarterback Norm Van Brocklin, speaker.

1984 - Marion Cutchens and Ron Kubesh, both long-time youth league coaches - Sportscaster Bob Rathbun, Master of Ceremonies; Atlanta Falcons Head Coach Dan Henning, speaker.

1985 - NFL great Dwight Stephenson - Radio personality and executive Dick Lamb, Master of Ceremonies; Georgia Tech Head Basketball Coach Bobby Cremins, speaker.

1986 - Mike Smith, Hampton High School Head Football Coach - Chuck Noe, ex-basketball coach and sports talk show host, Master of Ceremonies; former major league pitching star Gaylord Perry, speaker.

1987 - Lew Worsham, Former winner of U.S. Golf Open - Radio personality and executive Dick Lamb, Master of Ceremonies; All-Pro soccer player Kyle Rote Jr., Speaker.

1988 - Tabb High Football Coach Charlie Hovis and York High Girls Basketball Coach Brad Williams- Long-time college and professional Basketball Coach Horace "Bones" McKinney, Master of Ceremonies; Washington Redskins quarterback Doug Williams, Speaker.

1989 - Youth and college wrestling activist John Graham - ex-basketball coach and sports talk show host Chuck Noe, Master of Ceremonies; Washington Redskins defensive tackle Dave Butz, speaker.

1990 - Christopher Newport College Boys and Girls Track Coach Vince Brown - Long-time college and professional Basketball Coach Horace "Bones" McKinney, Master of Ceremonies; James Madison University Basketball Coach Charles "Lefty" Driesell, Speaker.

1991 - Marcellus "Boo" Williams, founder of area AAU basketball

programs - Ex-basketball coach and sports talk show host Chuck Noe, Master of Ceremonies; Head Liberty University Football Coach Sam Rutigliano.

1992 - Long-time highly successful amateur golfer Moss Beecroft - former athlete and sports personality W.A. "Bud" Porter, Master of Ceremonies; Hampton University Assistant Basketball Coach and former NBA standout Bobby Dandridge and local sports personality Godfrey Smith III, speakers.

1993 - National Football League star Chris Slade and Bethel High Football and Track Coach Dennis Kozlowski - Former athlete and sports personality W.A. "Bud" Porter, Master of Ceremonies; Sports telecaster Mike Fabrizio, speaker.

1994 - Major League baseball player Wayne Kirby - Sports Personality W.A. "Bud" Porter, Master of Ceremonies (no speaker).

1995 - Long-time York County coach and youth leader Guy Wirt - Former athlete and sports personality W.A. "Bud" Porter, Master of Ceremonies.

1996 - Hampton High Football Coach Mike Smith - Former athlete and sports personality W.A. "Bud" Porter, Master of Ceremonies; Former NFL standout Frank Emanuel, Speaker.

1997 - Hampton High Football Coach Mike Smith - Bud Porter, Master of Ceremonies (speakers discontinued).

1998 - Former athlete and civic leader William E. Brown - Bud Porter, Master of Ceremonies.

1999 - Christopher Newport University Athletic Director and Basketball Coach C.J. Woollum - Bud Porter, Master of Ceremonies.

2000 - Former athlete, all-around activist W.A. "Bud" Porter - Master of Ceremonies Steve Kast, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula.

2001 - Heritage High School football coach John Quillen - Bud Porter, Master of Ceremonies.

2002 - Phoebus High School football coach Bill Dee and Lafayette High School football coach Paul Wheeler - Bud Porter, Master of Ceremonies.

2003 - Steve Stanaway World Arm Wrestling Champion - Scott Cash, Master of Ceremonies.

2004 - Al Albert, William & Mary Soccer Coach - Bud Porter, Master of Ceremonies.

2005 - Terry Kirby, NFL Football great - Jim Healy, Master of Ceremonies.

2006 - Edward G. Williams II "Coach Eddie" Bethel High School Track Coach - Willie Brown, Master of Ceremonies.

2007 - Bill Casto Athletic Director Apprentice School

2008 - Mike Tomlin Head Coach Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers

2009 - Mike London Head Football Coach University of Richmond - DIA National Champions



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**Jonathan Dehoux**

THE 2009-2010

**ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

***NORTHROP GRUMMAN***

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# SUPPORTERS OF THE Peninsula Sports Club

Joey Lawrence (HHS '54)

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Don Woods (NNHS '52)

Ralph Filicko

Geroge Hart

Tony Merendino

Joe Teta

Willie & Kathleen Brown

Horace and Pat Underwood

Lori Woods

Mo Howell (Morrison '48)

Dave Charles (NNHS '50)

Bill Roady (NNHS '60)

JoAn and Bob Moskowitz

Bobby Hilling

Clarence Hilling

John W. Hilling

Charlie Hilling

Bud Porter (HHS '58)

Jimmy Leagus (HHS '55)

Fuzzy Bukevich (HHS '55)

Ron Weber (HHS '55)

Jimmy Shires (NNHS '57)

Matt Simms

Jim Heath

KJim Simms

Roy Heath

Francis Tommasino

Wilford Kale

Gordon and Terry Cooper

Keisha Pexton

Michael and Sandy Vite

Paul Hoffmann

Henry Morgan

Hank Morgan

Jeffrey Scott

Wayne Gomes

Buddy Denton

Trish Denton

Conky Sorrell

Joe Sebol

Howard Wiseman

Bryan Cave

***In memory of George Jones (HHS '60. Post 48 '59), Harry Hilling, Mary Jane Hilling, Eddie Manley, Tommy Kanoy, Sandra Pickin, Leon Veazey, Alfred and Florence Cohen, Bill Bundick***

# WHO ARE These Guys?

## **Several Peninsula Sports Club awards are labeled, but not identified...**

The **JULIE CONN** Most Outstanding Male Athlete in High School Award remembers the colorful, extremely successful Newport News High School athletic director and coach of virtually all sports at one time or another. He was, however, pretty much unequalled in basketball and track for decades. Although he stopped coaching basketball in 1953, he actually spent 56 years in the Newport News school system before mandatory retirement at age 65 in 1970. Among major accomplishments by Conn, whose first love was baseball:

His basketball teams (from 1927 to 1953) never missed a VHSL state tournament and never lost in the first round. In that 27-year span, the Typhoon won 396 games, losing only 77. In track, his tutelage led to 21 outdoor state championships. He and Lou Plummer constructed the first NNHS track in the 1940's and Conn started the school's junior varsity football program around the same time. He was the Sports Club's first Man of the Year (1951), was National High School Track Coach of the Year in 1958 and Julius Conn Gymnasium enables is the only area structure named for a coach.

The **CHARLES S. KARMOSKY** Award recognizes the community spirit which symbolized Karmosky's 38 years as sports editor of the *Daily Press*. The award honors a Sports Club member for outstanding contributions to PSC activities. Karmosky, who emphasized consistent coverage of high school and state college sports, was the PSC president in 1951. Among his many non-journalistic contributions to the area's growing sports community in the three decades following World War II: He was a founding member of the Sports Club in 1948; he was founder and president of the Tri-County baseball League from 1948-55; he was PSC Man of the Year in 1957 and was on one of the original feasibility groups which led to construction of Peninsula War Memorial Stadium and what was originally Hampton Roads Coliseum. He was in the first class of those admitted to the media wing of the Virginia State Athletic Hall of Fame (1997) and is in the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame. In its editorial tribute at his death in 1988, the *Daily Press* wrote that Karmosky "simply had no equals."

The **THAD MADDEN** Table of Champions has been a Headliner's Night staple for years and will resume in the future. Madden was the long-time football, basketball and track coach at Huntington High School in Newport News starting in 1943. He ruled the Vikings 28 years before transferring to Warwick for a 10-year stay that ended with his 1981 retirement. His career football record was 251-114-16. In a four-year stretch at Huntington, his basketball record was 112-13 that included three Virginia Interscholastic League Eastern District titles and in track, the Vikings posted an unbelievable 198 state crowns including two national mile relay teams. Madden accomplished these feats through tireless dedication. He conveyed the traits to the endless stream of athletes with whom he came in contact.

The **HERBERT MOREWITZ** Sports Person of the Year Award is presented in honor of the club's first president (1949) and an organization co-founder. Morewitz was many things to many people, especially those involved in sports. Mostly, he was tireless, generous and always optimistic. He spent untold hours coaching youngsters playing for his Hurricanes in the 1940s and 1950s, while also working with Boy Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula for five decades until his death in 1997. His most successful venture was spearheading a drive that raised \$1.2 million in 1985 for construction of a Boys Club building in Denbigh. He also engineered raising \$235,000 to assist in the opening of Peninsula War Memorial Stadium in 1948. Among many other activities he was general manager of the Virginia Squires in 1971 and the next year he was general manager of the Peninsula Whips, of the Class AAA International League. No one else backed Peninsula minor league baseball as fervently or tried as diligently to return it here after its collapse in 1992. He was honored numerous times for his endless efforts to support his community. Even today, he stands without equal.

The **BOB MOSKOWITZ** Media Award is presented an area media person for exemplary presentation of area sports. Moskowitz, a Sports Club president in 1961, has been in journalism for over 50 years and was with the *Daily Press* for 34 of them. He is in the Media Wing of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

# HORACE L. UNDERWOOD

Early in the 1960's, Daily Press Sports Editor Charley Karmosky, although no longer covering high school sports, still kept alert to progress by those athletes in his circulation area. One of the competitors who caught his attention from time to time was a hard-working three-sport standout whose versatility was most evident in baseball, where he played several positions.

A native of Newport News, Horace Underwood grew up in the 300 block of 48th Street where he spent a great deal of time on the playground at nearby Jackson School. This served as a preview to a star-studded athletic career at another nearby institution, Newport News High School. There, besides becoming a superior student, he enjoyed the coaching of some of renowned coaches of the time – J.C. "Cowboy" Range and Charlie Nuttycombe in football, Lefty Driesell and Warren Mitchell in basketball and Jack Powers in baseball. His political (or social?) skills led him to be his class president all four years of his high school career.

While excelling in a Typhoon uniform, Horace was introduced to the Peninsula Sports Club when he was honored as an All-Peninsula selection in basketball and football. He also was a selection on the Virginian-Pilot's All-Tidewater football team for his junior season as a quarterback. Those days in the early 1960s, the three Peninsula VHSL members – Hampton, Newport News and Warwick – were in the Eastern District along with Southside entries. Underwood emphasizes that he remains appreciative of the way the PSC treated hi for his school-boy exploits.

After graduation from Newport News High, where he met his wife, Pat Taylor (now his wife of 47 years), Underwood attended the University of Richmond, where he had received a full basketball scholarship. Then came a teaching career that still flourishes. He has coached football, basketball, baseball and golf and has either played, coached or officiated one of those continuously for 44 years, including positions at the College of William and Mary and the Newport News Apprentice School, where he also was the athletic director.

Underwood became actively involved in the Sports Club in 1983, serving as an officer, or on the board of directors. He was president in 1985 and again in 2007. Some of the activities that he initiated include the three seasonal Coaches' Nights that remain on the club schedule. He also, ironically, initiated the club's selection of Peninsula District all-star teams when the Daily Press dropped the chore and then picked it up again in the 1990s.

Underwood is completing his 43rd year in education, either as a teacher or administrator. He has taught biology, history, social studies, health, physical education, and driver education. He has served as an athletic director both at the college and high school levels and has handled numerous administrative positions at the college and high school levels in both private and public schools. Currently, he is director of the Aviation Magnet Program at Denbigh High School.

His life-long philosophy has been to meet people where they are in their life and help them to reach their potential. Age, he says, has nothing to do with his efforts. Horace and Pat have two adult children, Lee and Pam, a daughter-in-law, Tammy, son-in-law Eric and two grandchildren, Kaylee and Jackson.



# MENCHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Julian Rice thought of himself as a winner. In his mind, Newport News High School never really lost an athletic contest, no matter what the scoreboard said.

Now, of course, there is no longer a NNHS and Newport News Intermediate has gone the way of all flesh.

Possessed with a hunger for statistical trivia, Rice developed a virtually unparalleled penchant for details concerning minor league baseball and high school sports on the Peninsula, Newport News in particular. The point system used to select a winner encompasses all Peninsula District sports.

Nevertheless, his zeal and support for teams representing this area — once his beloved Typhoon was no longer in contention — made him a legend in his own time.

Time ran out for the perpetual pipe smoker in 1967, and the Peninsula Sports Club decided to honor him with an award named for him in 1970.

The roving, highly-coveted honor is awarded the Peninsula District Group AAA high school which has accumulated the most points during a year of competition. Tabulation is designed to follow systems embraced by college conferences. Schools eligible for this award are Bethel, Denbigh, Gloucester, Hampton, Heritage, Kecoughtan, Lafayette, Menchville, Phoebus, Warwick and Woodside.

Rice, incidentally, was the Peninsula Sports Club's first secretary.

His enthusiasm for all sports and sporting events led to a perpetuation of the trophy.

## JULIAN RICE TROPHY

1969-70	Hampton
1970-71	Bethel
1971-72	Menchville
1972-73	Menchville
1973-74	Ferguson
1974-75	Menchville
1975-76	Menchville
1976-77	Menchville
1977-78	Menchville
1978-79	Menchville
1979-80	Menchville
1980-81	Menchville
1981-82	Menchville
1982-83	Menchville
1983-84	Menchville
1984-85	Menchville
1985-86	Lafayette
1986-87	Lafayette
1987-88	Lafayette
1988-89	Lafayette
1989-90	Lafayette
1990-91	Lafayette
1991-92	Menchville
1992-93	Denbigh
1993-94	Denbigh
1994-95	Lafayette
1995-96	Lafayette
1996-97	Menchville
1997-98	Menchville
1998-99	Menchville
1999-00	Menchville
2000-01	Menchville
2001-02	Menchville
2002-03	Menchville
2003-04	Menchville
2004-05	Menchville
2005-06	Menchville
2006-07	Menchville
2007-08	Menchville
2008-09	Menchville

# JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Like its Group AAA counterpart, the Rice Trophy, the Simpson Trophy symbolizes athletic excellence in all areas of competition at the AA level in what was the York River District and is now the Bay Rivers District.

Red Simpson is a name synonymous with athletic excellence within the York River District, and the Peninsula. The kindly Newport News native administered, taught at, and coached at two of the member schools, leaving never to be forgotten memories, records, and a number of pupils and players who returned to their alma maters to carry on his legacy.

An outstanding athlete in his own right, his record in the javelin throw stood for many years in collegiate ranks. At the University of Kentucky, he was mentioned on a number of All-American football teams, and played in the fabled East-West Shrine Game in 1938.

His return to the Peninsula marked the beginning of his coaching career, as he served as an assistant to Coach Frank Dobson at the Newport News Apprentice School (he also played for a semi-pro team known as the NN Builders which had a number of former high school grid stars).

After a stint in the Navy, he returned to coaching and led Poquoson High School to a State Championship in 1949. Along came another war, and Red served again in Korea (he retired from the Naval Reserve in 1965 as a Lieutenant Commander).

Back home again after two and one half years serving his country, he moved on to a new school in 1954. In 1958 his York High Falcons won a league championship with a perfect 9-0 record, defeating some larger Group I Schools in the process.

Red moved on up the administrative ladder in the educational system to Athletic Director, and later Assistant Principal, giving up his first love, coaching, but he left behind a record of championships, of memories of him as a kind, honest, competitor; a man to be emulated.

It is entirely fitting that Poquoson High, where he first coached in high school, should win the first Simpson Trophy, and that Tabb High, whose Athletic Director Willard Hunt played under Red, and Head Coach Charlie Hovis, who began his coaching career under Red, should win the second Simpson Trophy.

Red Simpson, a man to be looked up to and copied. We are proud that he was with us.

## SIMPSON TROPHY WINNERS

1979-80	Poquoson
1980-81	Tabb
1981-82	Tabb
1983-84	Tabb
1984-85	York
1985-86	Tabb
1986-87	Tabb
1987-88	Tabb
1988-89	Tabb
1989-90	Tabb
1990-91	Tabb
1991-92	Tabb
1992-93	Tabb
1993-94	Tabb
1994-95	Poquoson
1995-96	York
1996-97	Tabb
1997-98	Poquoson
1999-00	Poquoson
2000-01	Lafayette
2001-02	Tabb
2002-03	Lafayette
2003-04	Lafayette
2004-05	Lafayette
2005-06	Lafayette
2006-07	Lafayette
2007-08	Lafayette
2008-09	Tabb

Eligible schools are Bruton, Poquoson, York, Tabb, Grafton, Layfayette, Jamestown and Warhill.

# SCOTTY BOWERS

Not too many decades past, there were two daily newspapers on the Peninsula and if anything happened related to area sports, mostly it was covered in newsprint. These days, for many reasons, as the world turns and changes emerge, generally unrecognized elsewhere, the City of Hampton's local television station has begun shouldering much of that burden.

The man behind the progress graduated from the role of Hampton High School mascot Freddy the Crab in 1968 (when he also was on the Sportsman's Committee) to Director of Hampton City Schools Television Services. As such, Scott Bowers has marched resolutely for 26 years from the station's pre-dawn era to a full-time daily task which he foresees as a steadily expanding adventure.

At Station LSC, which is Channel 48 on Cox or 22 on Verizon, a diet of primarily high school sports are presented daily around the clock. While his attachment to the sports channel boasts comfortable longevity, Bowers began dabbling in the field during his high school days when he worked part-time as a stringer for WVEC-TV, which then was located in Hampton. He continued with that type labor during the three years he attended Christopher Newport University and began to expand the range of his duties.

Now he calls the signals for both live action and films of high school contests back as far as 1985 and, to the joy of old timers, work continues slowly to put together visual-only film of earlier football contests bolstered by commentary from participants or observers of that action.

In the meantime, Bowers uses action of so-called minor sports whenever he can, meaning sports like field hockey, gymnastics, and track and field are shown from time to time. As a result, he figures that under his watch LSC has shown 2,500 different athletic events, not counting repeats.

As the station format has grown and changed, so, too, has the actual production process. Bowers should know. His numerous roles have him directing the programs, doing much of the camera work and play by play, statistics and whatever else is needed. Generally, he hires play-by-play announcers and then rounds up others, including himself.

He recalls in the earliest years, "We just ran a football game of the week." Then came showing of basketball and spring sports like baseball and soccer. Initially, to film an event, the crew had to take the station's equipment out with them. Now, of course, much equipment has been added – especially a production truck – so that the station isn't left wondering when the crew will return.

Obviously, help and encouragement had to come from within the administration and much of that came from A.G. Womble, the station's finance director.

Additionally, there's "always been support from the School Board and sponsors," Bowers says. "Many people give up their time. People change positions over time. Some last a long time and some leave and come back. Most notable among the returnees was Bob Hintz, who now limits his play by play to football and basketball.

Hintz was the third person to receive this award. The first was Greg Bicouvaris in 2004. He was followed by Wayne Block and Dave Fairbank before Hintz. The remaining honorees are Jim Heath and Ray Price last year.

Dianne and Scott are married and have three adult daughters and two grand children.



## PAST BOB MOSKOWITZ MEDIA AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2004..... Greg Bicouvaris
- 2005..... Wayne Block
- 2006..... Dave Fairbank
- 2007..... Bob Hintz
- 2008..... Jim Heath
- 2009..... Ray Price

# ANTOINE BETHEA

What A.C. Cawthorne remembers most about Antoine Bethea during the youngster's days as a student-athlete at Denbigh High School is "how hard he worked and how he believed in himself." The former football coach was so impressed with those qualities that when he was hired as the offensive coordinator at Howard University, "I brought him with me."

That was in 2002. Since then Cawthorne has opted out of coaching and Bethea's progress as a football player reflects himself- It has been rock steady. After an excellent college career, he was drafted in the sixth round of the 2006 NFL draft by the New England Patriots as a free safety and signed to a four-year contract.

So consistent has his development been that former Colts legendary coach Tony Dungy said after the 2008 season that he believes Bethea can be "that ball-skills safety that can have eight or nine picks in a year." Bethea already ranks third in post-season Indianapolis contests with four. This past year he started all 16 regular-season games at free safety and his 120 tackles led the team for the second straight year.

He gave a pretty good indication of what hovered ahead when he started 14 games as a rookie while playing alongside All-Pro safety Bob Sanders. Bethea helped the Colts' secondary manage the NFL's second-ranked pass defense which surrendered just 149.3 yards per game. His play during 2006 was sufficient to allow the Colts to let safety Mike Doss to leave the team to test free agency.

By 2007 he was good enough to make the Pro Bowl despite missing three games due to injury. He accumulated 95 total tackles and a team-leading four interceptions in his 13 starts. His stellar performances included three double-digit tackle games and five-plus tackles in 11 contests at the free safety position. Again, Indianapolis finished with the second-ranked pass defense and in the wake of an injury to the Pittsburgh Steelers' All-Pro safety Troy Polamalu, Bethea was selected as the alternate.

As a three-year starter at Howard, Bethea, made 309 stops that included 187 solo tackles and 12 for a loss, seven forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, 18 passes defended and seven interceptions. He also returned two recoveries for touchdowns, one coming on a blocked kick and the other on a fumble recovery, both returned 26 yards.

At Howard, Bethea majored in administration of justice. On the football field he started 31 of 37 games at safety. His freshman year, he saw action in five games as a backup in the secondary, collecting 13 total tackles. He would have a career-best 109 total tackles his sophomore year while seeing action as a starter in all but one of 11 games that year. In that season he had three games where he tallied 13 tackles and another against Bethune-Cookman where he recorded 14 tackles. He ended with one sack, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, six pass deflections and a blocked kick.

Bethea earned All-Mid-Eastern Conference honors and selection to the American Urban Radio Network, Sheridan Broadcasting Network, Black College All-American team – all for three years in succession. His senior year he earned first-team All-American honors from the NFL Draft Report.

He was born in Savannah, Ga., and attended Denbigh High where he was a three-year letterman in football and also lettered in basketball, earning All-Peninsula District honors as a senior. He continues to reside in Newport News.



# JOSEPH ‘BUDDY’ LEX

He tells listeners “I’ve had a good life.” And he has – to a point.

Then it dawns on you as the tales unfold. Great athlete that he was at Hampton and Newport News high schools, and would be as a collegian after the terrors ahead, he had wrenching hurdles to clear first. Initially, he was hustled from high school in 1944 into the hells of war in Europe before Christmas. Dirty times they were, to be sure. Try four feet of snow on the ground and no place to change clothes – and no clothes to change – for as long as six weeks and then came the body stench and the rashes and itches and gun and cannon fire in strange places with strange names like the Battle of the Bulge, the Ruhr Pocket and crossing of the Rhine in Remagen.

By the time all that garbage of a war ended, he was no longer called “Runt.” And the given name Joseph had faded. “Buddy” Lex had survived and grown into young manhood with athletic greatness still hovering ahead. Finally, he shunned the pads and cleats for a career in the FBI. Eventually, that good life would come out of hiding and he enjoys it these days, playing tennis weekly and golf several times a week and tossing in luxurious time with his six grand children.

Like many who have endured pain and strife before life began to make at least some sense – war certainly didn’t – Buddy received a crucial push from the brink of real early trouble. And just in time. He was only 15 and excelling in sports for Hampton High School, but palling around with older guys who knew they were headed for World War II and were drinking, smoking and otherwise carousing while forgetting about mundane things such as class rooms.

His mother put a stop to that. She quickly transferred Norfolk-born Buddy out of Hampton to Newport News High School (paying for the enrollment). Already a star in football and basketball at Hampton, he enraged fans there, prompting some to produce signs with large letters proclaiming Lex as a “TRAITOR.” Undeterred, he continued to excel as a Typhoon and made All-Eastern District, and All-State in both sports and All-Southern in football as a tailback.

When the war ended, he remained in Europe for a while and starred on Army baseball and basketball teams. Upon his discharge he was offered dozens of scholarships from colleges and universities mostly from the eastern half of the country and finally whittled choices down to Notre Dame, Duke and William and Mary.

The latter was the perfect fit and with the Tribe he became one of the last great triple-threat tailbacks in an era when college teams had begun to place more and more emphasis on the passing game. In 1949, Lex was runner-up to Sam Snead as Athlete of the Year in Virginia. Snead won the PGA and the Masters that year while Lex led the nation in touchdown passes and ranked second in total offense, third in passes completed and ninth in punting. He also kicked extra points and along the way averaged close to 40 yards a punt. Often employing the quick kick – something he recalls doing 12 times as a senior in an exciting 20-14 North Carolina victory over home-standing W&M before what was estimate as a record-setting Cary Field crowd of 19,000.

Chief beneficiary of many heroics by Lex was brilliant receiver Vito Ragazzo. In 1949 Lex threw what was then a NCAA record 18 touchdown passes and accumulated 1,325 yards passing, 793 of which were chalked up by Ragazzo. According to Lex, the method was simple. “Vito could fake the defensive backs out of their jocks,” he said.

The record in 1949 was 6-4, which was a surprise in itself against a power-packed list of foes. Nevertheless, the winning ledger extended to 10 years the last of what would be a stretch of winning records (not counting 1943, when World War II forced many athletic programs – both amateur and professional – to temporarily halt).

A two-time All-Southern selection, Lex played in the prestigious Blue-Gray Bowl and was accorded numerous other honors. He was named to the Virginia Athletic Hall of Fame and Museum in 1986.



# WALTER BOWSER

Judge Walter Bowser, former great high school and college athlete, was born and raised in Newport News. He attended Paul Lawrence Dunbar Elementary School and Colis P. Huntington High School, where he graduated in 1967 in the top 10 percentile of his class.

While at Huntington, then member of the Virginia Interscholastic Association, he excelled in football, basketball, tennis and track. As a quarterback of a 10-0 football team that won the VIA state championship in 1966, he had accumulated a two-year total of 42 touchdown passes, seven TD rushes and one TD reception. He padded the figures with a senior year showing of 29 scoring passes, four Tds rushing and one on a pass reception. That senior season saw him selected first-team All-VIA Eastern District, first-team All-State and became the first African-American named by the Virginia Sports Writers and Sports Casters Association as the state's Most Outstanding Football Player. He also was accorded All-Southeastern Region and All-American honors.

Basketball and tennis accomplishments were similarly glowing.

As a basketball guard, he helped the Vikings to runner-up honors in the 1966-67 VIA State Tournament and he compiled a three-year haul of 1,462 points for an average of 22 points that followed seasons of 13.1, 24.1 and 25.2. His senior year he became the Eastern District Tournament's Most Valuable Player after averaging 32 points in the three-game tourney. He also emerged with first-team All-District and All-State honors.

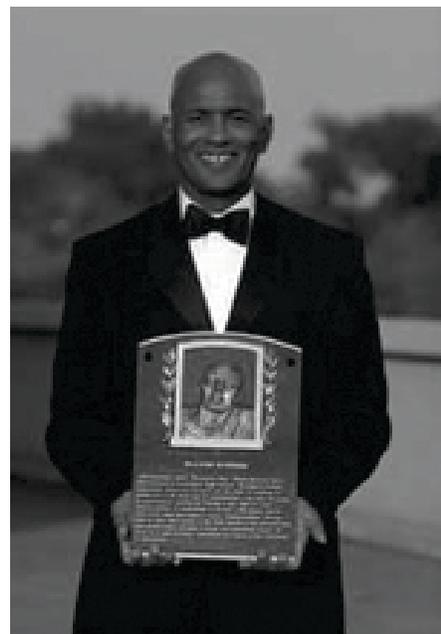
The 1967 Huntington tennis team captured the VIA State crown, as Bowser wrapped up a career record of 33-2, with both losses occurring in the 10th grade. He also posted a nifty doubles mark of 35-0 and was runner-up in the state singles tournament in '65, state singles champ in '66 and '67' doubles champ in '65, '66 and '67' and American Tennis Association national doubles titlist in those three seasons.

He continued to reap glory at the University of Minnesota from 1967-1971 on a football scholarship and played three years, basketball one year and tennis one year. He led the 1969 football team in kickoff returns, punt returns, interceptions and punting (as Big Ten champ). He was also used as a quarterback, safety, wide receiver, punter and kick returner, all of which helped him make the All-Big Ten second team and Honorable Mention All-American as a defensive back.

After obtaining his undergraduate degree in 1971, had earned a law degree at Minnesota in 1974 and then tried out with the Minnesota Vikings in '74 and the Chicago Bears in '75, both in the National Football League.

Bowser has been a licensed attorney and a State of Minnesota District Court Judge and is now a mediator and arbitrator. He returned to Newport News for three weeks every year in August between 1982 and 1995 to volunteer as a high school football coach at Warwick High with Thad Madden, at Ferguson with coaches Teddy BaCote, Steve Isley and Tommy Reamon. Some years, Bowser also helped at Smithfield with Joe Buggs.

The judge was selected Role Model of the Year by the 100 African-American Men, Peninsula Chapter; Huntington High School Faculty Distinguished Alumni Award; was named fourth all-time best high school athlete by the Daily Press in 2004 behind Ronald Curry, Leroy Keyes and Allen Iverson; inducted into the Lower Virginia Peninsula Athletic Hall of Fame; and inducted into the Hampton Roads African-American Sports Hall of Fame. He is the author of "To Huntington We Pledge: The Year Not Forgotten – 1966-1967."



# ARTHUR G. 'BUTCH' LAMBIOTTE

In days of yore, before he even thought of becoming a grandfather and before he became one of the University of Richmond's better basketball players, the tall, gangly sophomore at Warwick High School encountered the one basketball coach who made a lasting impression on him.

To most old timers scattered throughout the Peninsula, Coach Bill Chambers was synonymous with Newport News High School basketball greatness. Then he stepped up to his alma-mater at the College of William and Mary where he became a legend whose retired number hangs on the walls of Kaplan Arena in William & Mary Hall, indicative of his skills as both player and coach.

What many forget is that the first rung on Chambers' coaching ladder was at Warwick. That's where the still young mentor took the even younger Lambiotte under his wing. "He taught me so much that lasted me a long time," recalls Lambiotte who, as a freshman, seemed destined to become one of the many faces of the Lambiotte clan who have graced area athletics since before World War II.

An All-Group I selection (It's Group AAA today) as a senior, Lambiotte was part of an impressive starting contingent that included Tommy Lanier, Hamilton Newton, David Ladd and Norman Snead, who eventually gained recognition as a 16-year National Football League quarterback. Lambiotte also lettered in football as a junior. His star-spangled Warwick basketball career included setting a school single-game scoring record twice, first with 32 points and later with 35. As a senior in 1955, the 6-foot-4 Lambiotte led Group I scoring with a 22.6 average on 451 points in 20 games, sparking the Farmers' 16-4 record, the school's best at the time.

After attracting interest from a number of colleges during and following his often brilliant high school days for the team then called Farmers (and even Free Staters), Lambiotte was named the state's Outstanding Basketball Player by the Virginia Sports Writers and Sports Casters Association. Then he signed a full scholarship with the University of Richmond. It didn't take long for him to make an impression on many within the Southern Conference, where West Virginia was basically the giant and schools like Richmond and W&M savored the chance to upset the usually mighty Mountaineers.

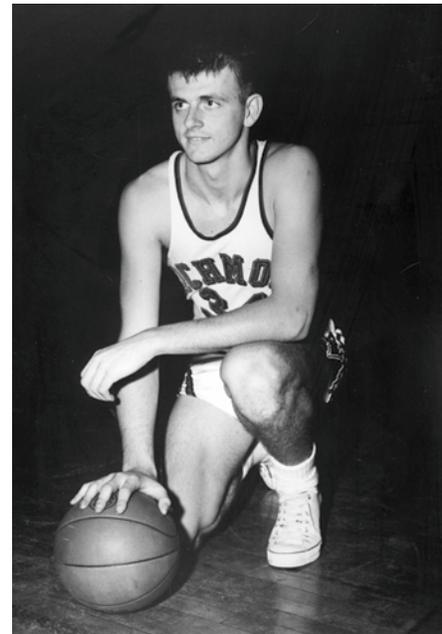
Lambiotte received All-Southern Conference honors as a freshman. He gained much attention while facing Rod Hundley, one of a number of brilliant WVU players during the era. As the Spiders' home throng roared approval in the ancient Richmond Arena, Lambiotte scored 31 points, one less than Hundley, who as a senior would be joined by the all-time West Virginia great, Jerry West, who Lambiotte also would encounter.

By the end of his four-year career with the Spiders, Lambiotte averaged about 14 points a game and at that time was ranked among the school's top 10 scorers.

His marriage with the late Susan Lambiotte produced four children – three of whom enjoyed outstanding high school and college careers. Most renowned was Kenny, who played basketball at the University of Virginia and then enjoyed two years as a William and Mary quarterback and one in basketball. Walker played basketball at North Carolina State and Northwestern, and Ann starred at Holy Cross. Jay, the youngest, also showed promise but his athletic career ended with injuries before he reached high school. Butch's father, Art, and his uncle Jules were both area athletes and Jules earned a reputation for excelling in both Shipyard League baseball and basketball extending into his early 50s.

Following his collegiate athletic days, Lambiotte earned his law degree in 1963 and in 2004 retired from the Commonwealth Attorney's office in Newport News. He continues to practice law on a part-time basis and away from the office and physical competition he earns master points in area bridge competition.

Butch is now married to Lindsay. They reside in Poquoson and are eight-time grandparents.



# RICHARD 'POP' PITTS

First of all, let's clear up this business about the name, "Pop." He did not earn it because he could "pop" anyone he chose – which physically he could have done most of his 66 years. He did not earn it because he loved the song, "Pop Goes the Weasel."

The truth, says this former behemoth of the Peninsula high school athletic scene, is that he was initially labeled "Papoose" because he was carried around as an infant the way Indians did their young. Eventually, he says, people dropped the "poose part and the rest turned into 'Pop'."

Richard (that's all he answered to in college) Pitts is one of the few Norfolk natives to be honored by the Peninsula Sports Club and it took him more than a few decades to do it. They included coaching basketball, officiating in track and quietly lording over Menchville High School as he matured into an iconic athletic director – the first African American to ascend to that position at a Newport News school belonging to the Virginia High School League.

Excelling in both football and basketball at Booker T. Washington in Norfolk, he opted to attend Norfolk State University – then called the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College – where he starred on a number of the Trojans' better teams. After graduation he eventually was hired at what was St. Vincent's High school in downtown Newport News and now is Peninsula Catholic in mid-town of that city.

The tiny gym huddled on the second story of the building and there are those who insist that – by then, his bulk steadily increasing– as Pop lumbered back and forth across the gym floor exhorting his young charges on the intricacies of his sport, he caused the entire building to shake. To be sure, he vigorously denies the tale.

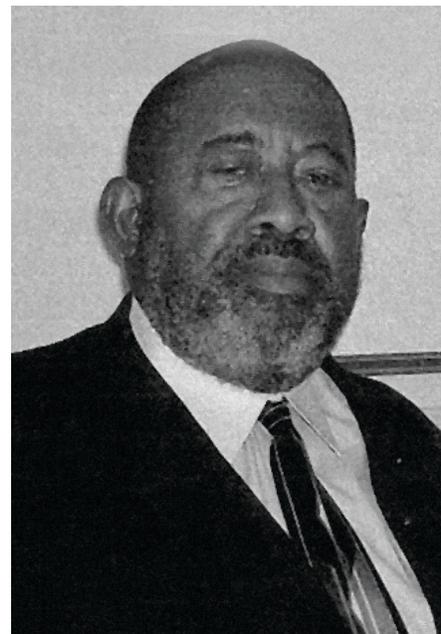
Pitts worked there from 1970 to 1975 before encountering a physically demanding time in his life when he worked at a vegetable store, driving trucks and handling whatever tasks came his way. After a year-and-a-half he was hired to coach junior varsity basketball at Menchville and a year later, he advanced to the post of varsity coach. He held that job from 1977 to 1989 and the then wrote history in accepting the school's AD position where he thrived from 1990 to 2004 when he retired.

One of many former students enriched with fond memories of the big guy at Menchville, former Monarch cheer leader Lori Woods recalls him "as a giant of a man with the kindest heart, a man that genuinely cared about and supported all the students at Menchville."

After collecting a carload of athletic honors at Booker T, he went onto bigger and better honors at Norfolk state . During his junior season in 1965-65, he averaged 22 points and 11 rebounds a game and made the All-CIAA regular-season team, the All-CIAA tournament team and was Honorable Mention All-American. His senior season, his averages climbed to 25.8 points and 12 rebounds, again capturing All-CIAA honors and making second-team NAIA All-America.

Retired, he still keeps busy. He is chairman of the trustees board of Ivy Baptist Church in Newport News, where he is quick to point out the minister is former Hampton High football star Kevin Swann. To no one's surprise, he often can be seen as a timer at high school track meets and as a starter for AAU youth meets. Oh yes, he manages to substitute teach at Menchville High at least once weekly.

Married 30 years, Pop and Viola are parents of two adult children. Roslyn is a school psychologist and Richard Jr. is an area chef.



# MIKE MOORE

For some, executing the duties of a major league baseball scout means just that and little else. For Michael L. Moore, it meant much more. He had been working full-time for the Los Angeles Dodgers throughout the Mid-Atlantic states when, by 1978, he had “fallen in love with the area” and chosen Virginia as a place to settle and eventually become a pioneer of sorts.

For those many current and former students at Hampton Christian High School, the man is a coaching marvel. Since 1997 his teams have won three Virginia Independent Schools’ state championships (2001, ‘02, ‘09), and four runners-up spots in advancing to the Division III tourney every year, including this one. The cumulative record stands at 273-67.

Up to his move to the Old Dominion, life had been thoroughly nomadic from his very initiation into swaddling clothes. Born in Logan, W.Va., his residence there lasted but seven days. From there, the family moved to Wabash, Ind., and Mike and his three sisters grew up in the Hoosier state before tonight’s honoree accepted a baseball scholarship to Georgia Southern University (it was a college then).

After a career that saw the Eagles reach the College World Series in 1973 and the regionals the next, Moore emerged as captain and MVP of his team as a junior in 1975. The next year he came closest to his dream of playing major league baseball when the Philadelphia Phillies signed him to a 10-day contract and assigned him as a second baseman to Spartanburg, S.C., of the Western Carolinas League. Instead of playing, he was limited to wearing a uniform and never entered a game.

Two years later, diploma finally in hand, he began his scouting career with the Dodgers. From a Peninsula standpoint, the highlight came in 1983, when he signed Wayne Kirby, a Tabb High graduate, out of the Newport News Apprentice School, who became a long-time major league outfielder and coach. Meanwhile, Moore’s coaching career had taken root. He started with Newport News American Legion Post 25 from 1979=1981 and in 1982 shifted to Denbigh Post 358 as an assistant until 1985. The team was State champ in ‘83.

He joined with Christopher Newport University under Coach Howard Wiseman from 1986 to 1991. Then followed four years as a part-time scout for the California Angels and three years later, he was listed as associate scout for the San Francisco Giants.

Moore’s successful relationship with Hampton Christian began as an assistant coach in 1996 and the next year he rose to head coach. It didn’t take long for him to distinguish and expand that role. He has guided nine different mission trips to Cuba and in five of those years he took full team compliments on the trip to play baseball and preach the Gospel both religiously and baseball-wise. The last few years, in deference to the recession, he has made the trip with a greatly diminished number of players.

For the past eight years, he has taken on the roles of chaplain and assistant coach of the Peninsula Pilots in the Coastal Plain League for college-only players who are allowed to use wooden bats instead of the ever-clinking metal bats. The team calls War Memorial Stadium home every June and July.

Mike Moore has been married to Roslyn for 27 years and they have two adult sons, Andre and Darin.



# WAYNE BURNETTE

There were days – more than a few – when he coached teams in three sports in one day. He recalled recently: “By the time I got to helping Bill Tose [then the Bruton High School boys’ varsity basketball coach] I don’t think I did very much helping.” For Wayne Burnette, the past 36 years often may have been grueling, but they also provided rewarding and even delightful times.

A native of Bluefield, W.Va., his school boy days saw him bounce between his home state and Arlington, Va., where he went to Washington-Lee High School and excelled athletically, especially in distance events in track, and cross country. Once he graduated from Hampton University in 1974 he remained settled in the northern section of York County.

His coaching accomplishments run through Queens Lake Middle School and Bruton High varsity and junior varsity basketball for both boys and girls. He also has helped in football, baseball and softball. This past year, his girls’ basketball team recorded his 400th varsity victory. Putting that figure in proper perspective, consider that the Panthers’ enrollment of about 600 is less than all but four Group II Virginia High School League schools.

Calling his self “low key,” Burnette points out that “I’ve been so lucky to have kids who buy into the system.” Apparently, they’ve done so from the outset. At least his first challenge coaching girls found him saddled with a squad of only seven on Bruton’s junior varsity squad. The girls went 18-3 to win the district title.

Success continued on the varsity levels for both boys and girls. The latter group has reached regional competition for 13 successive years and like that little battery that streak just keeps on going ... and going ... and going.

Some other statistical nuggets that help make Burnette’s efforts as teacher-coach sparkle:

His Bruton girls’ basketball varsity has won 412 games and lost 165, and over the past 10 years, the record is 311-50. Such success enabled his teams to win three Bay Rivers District crowns and one earlier one in the York River District. Of those, the boys won once. The girls have reached 15 regions (including that streak) and made state tournaments five times, while the boys advanced region-wise three times.

That was just for starters. Once in the real world, “I really learned from Coach Tose and now I understand how committed you have to be to be. I think probably that’s been the biggest thing I learned from him – commitment.”

Burnette is quick to credit his uncle, Bill Chappell, for triggering his interest in sports and coaching. Chappell was a coach and math teacher and then principal in West Virginia. “He got me into sports and bought me equipment, like balls and things and got me into coaching eventually.”

The gene apparently has flourished in the next generation. Burnette’s daughter, Monique, fell just four total points behind all-time Bruton multi-sport great Bryan Randall, who later excelled in football at Virginia Tech.

Wayne and Karen Burnette have been married 36 years.



# CHRISTOPHER N-G RUSSELL

Warhill High School

In some ways, this young man is typical of the athletes who receive a Sports Club scholarship. His Warhill High School counselor, Juanda Deloatch, does an excellent job of defining the football-playing scholar's mental, physical and moral attributes in her recommendation that receive this honor.

"I have known Christopher Nash-Gilbert Russell for four years as his academic counselor/advisor. This has allowed me to watch him emerge from a quiet, reserved freshman to the poised confident senior of today! This transition validates the progression he has made in his academic and social pursuits, also.

"In the classroom, Christopher is an intelligent, through, enthusiastic, hard-working student who has a positive attitude toward education. He demonstrates a mature sense of priorities as evidenced by the difficult curriculum he has pursued. Chris has maintained excellent grades and holds the top rank in our senior class. He is truly a rarity among his peers in that he inquires, thinks, and makes decisions based on sound principle.

"When Christopher, his parents and I first met it was during the summer prior to his beginning high school. I was a new counselor to the division and they were my first contact with my new population. Christopher was very mature as a male fourteen year old male. He was very clear on how he wanted his high school career to end...many advanced placement courses, and a successful football and band tenure. In every family conference from then until now, Chris has reminded me of his desire to one day be an engineer. He has exhausted our mathematics and science curriculums. This semester he is enrolled in an online advanced placement mathematics course.

"On a personal level, Christopher has a gentle and compassionate nature. He is one of the most academically talented and meticulous high school students I have ever encountered. Throughout the time I have known Chris, he has displayed the moral character, discipline, organization and commitment necessary to move on to the next level. Therefore, I ask that you consider this young man's scholarship application."

Some additional statistical information about Russell follows, especially for those who hunger for more specific proof of his worthiness in this instance.

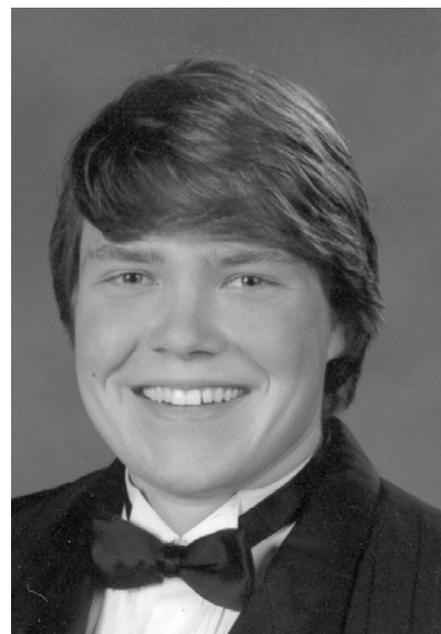
Bound for the University of Virginia, he plans to make his majors in aerospace and mechanical engineering with a minor in engineering business. His SAT score of 2100 was atop a list of 20 non-athletic honors, awards, recognitions and achievements. They included Academic Keys and Academic Hall of Fame his last two years of high school; two AP scholar awards; and Model United Nations Outstanding Performance Award as a 10th-grader. As expected, knowing all this, he ranks No.1 in his graduating class of 228 with a GPA of 4.2833.

Those items do not include the 23 extracurricular activities and offices he has held, such as having written a historical fiction novel over the last three years, participating on the Intramural Fencing Club and making the German National Honor Society three years (including this).

An explanation of the latter leads us into athletics. Much of his early life was spent in Germany, when his father, Marvin, was stationed there. What Chris didn't do was play football. Instead, he played soccer. That ended when he got to middle school in this country and began filling out a frame that now stands 6-foot-4 and weighs 230 pounds. Oh. Warhill is the seventh school he has attended! Although he was a two-year captain of the Lions' football team and called all the signals for the offensive line in that span, he has no plans to play the sport in Charlottesville.

In his idle time he participated in the Physics Club, Chemistry Club, was class vice president in his sophomore and junior years and was student council president. It should be said, too, that he played in the band for four years.

There's plenty more, but just touching on this much is exhausting.



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# ALAINA WILLIAMS

Kecoughtan High School

Alaina Williams ranks No. 1 in her Kecoughtan High School class of 422, having achieved academic excellence for highest GPA in her grade in four successive years. In the face of such a successful academic career (which will continue at Virginia Commonwealth University) it is worth perusing her thoughts on athletics as she discovered them in a Kecoughtan career as a swimmer and member of the soccer team.

"Nothing is visible but the ripples around me, the silence deafening, my lungs quietly begging my body for a break, just one quick breath of oxygen. But my arms obey some inner command, continuing to pull the weight of my body along. Each stroke drains me of just a little more energy. At last I see it, the end, coming up faster than I could have hoped. The only thing behind me is the wake of my kick. It feels like a race for survival, and I'm prey to the clock, a heartless predator. But now, at this moment, the wall takes on definition, as every fiber of my being pushes forward, yearning for rest.

"Suddenly my mind remembers what my body conveniently forgot ....FLIP TURN ....still another two laps left to go.

"I like to imagine that I learned to swim before I could walk – a thought not too far-fetched as I have been on competitive teams since the age of five. Over the years, the water has become a second home to me, a comforting place where I depend only on myself to accomplish my goals. Swimming has served as a safe outlet for my emotions, a place to go to work out solutions to any problems I have faced.

"I think of sports – the pool when I am swimming and the field when I play or practice soccer – as places of healthy escape, where my body can take over and give my mind a break. This being said, sports have had a great influence on shaping me into the person I am today.

Swimming year round, a feat that took up to four hours a day, six days a week, allowed me to develop traits that will assist me throughout the rest of my education and into my career. I learned self-discipline and time management and gained a major sense of self confidence.

"Winning was a new type of fun, a huge motivator at my practices, the best adrenaline rush I'd ever had – I wanted more.

"I jumped at any opportunity I had to feel the sense of accomplishment that came with a victory, this time landing on the soccer field. As a team sport, soccer presented many new lessons to be learned, and I couldn't have been a more willing student. I was one of 17 players, all with the goal and the same obstacles. My own accomplishments fell second to that of the team's, they were my family and therefore, more important. We had to learn cooperation in order to win, and we refused to lose. I quickly developed a sense of pride, seeing how my individual actions had a positive impact on those around me.

"Even after my days with high school sports are behind me, I know one fact will stay the same. I will always identify myself as an athlete, as I owe almost all of my success as a student to the characteristics that swimming and soccer helped me develop. The pool and the pitch have made me a better person."

Apparently not worn out by the swimming and soccer, Alaina is very active within her church and within her community. In the last two years, she has been a Girls State delegate, recipient of the AP Psychology Award, a Kecoughtan Keyette, a Church Acolyte, Gay-Straight Alliance vice president. National Honor Society member, Mu Alpha historian and a member of her church hand-bell choir.



# KAYLA TRANTHAM

Poquoson High school

Kayla Trantham doesn't mince words. The Poquoson High School senior makes one thing perfectly clear. "I play for the love of the game," says the two-sport Islanders' star. A team captain in both basketball and softball, she constantly displays leadership qualities that pay off for her teams in victorious dividends.

A standout student – her GPA of 4.2786 left her third in her graduating class of 210 – she is headed for the College of William and Mary next fall. But even in the classroom, her leadership qualities stand out. Chemistry teacher Mary Beth Leavitt points out "she was always willing to help others understand."

However, this year was a tad different. "It has been a very difficult one for her," writes Leavitt in a recommendation to the Sports Club on Kayla's worth as a scholarship recipient. "Her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and has been having treatments. Kayla has handled this with the grace and perseverance of a much older person." Carrie Bryant, the mother (who reports she is doing well), makes things even clearer. "She's been so great. She pitches in all the time taking care of her two younger sisters." Kayla also takes wonderful care of her grades and an endless string of other responsibilities.

A two-time National Honor student (and president this year), her activities include membership in the Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), Key Club, Battered Women's Shelter Committee co-chair and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

But her leadership seems most discernible in her two sports, where she has helped her basketball teammates to the Bay Rivers District title, a Bay Rivers tournament title and a three-way tie for the district crown when she was a sophomore. In softball, the Islanders were district and regional champs a year ago.

Scholastically, she had an impressive sophomore year when she compiled the highest average in both chemistry and world studies. She also was Congressional Student Leadership Conference nominee that year. She has been an honor roll resident all four years of high school.

Her choice of personalities who wrote her references was intriguing, if nothing else. The list included Poquoson Mayor Gordon Helsel and her basketball coach is retired United States Coast Guard Commander Frank Gross, who also coaches track and is the school's Math Department chair.



# CARL FRANCIS

By Dave Fairbank

Carl Francis' first love planted the seed for an idea. Growing up, he practically revered Peninsula high school football stars several years ahead of him, players such as Robert Banks and Walter Bailey. In the meantime, Francis' father regaled him with stories of area NFL standouts such as Shaun Gayle and Bruce Smith and Kenny Easley, guys he watched on TV and read about in the papers. "It gave me so much inspiration and fulfillment to know that those guys are from my area," Francis said. "There's something about this whole area that really meant a lot to me, as it relates to football." Francis reasoned that many other kids felt similarly. In an area without major league sports, high school and college athletes are celebrities. If they make it to the pros, they provide living, breathing, neighborhood examples of success.

When Francis was beginning his professional career with the NFL Players Association, he called close friend and fellow Hampton native Vernon Lee and said that he had an idea: What about a local football camp for kids that featured area NFL players, past and present, as guest counselors? Fourteen years later, the Peninsula All-Star Football Camp is a staple of the local summer camp circuit. It appears to have found a home at Christopher Newport University, which has generously lent its facilities and where it's been located for the past nine years. The camp is a centerpiece of the Hampton Roads Youth Foundation which hands out college scholarship money to several kids annually and works to provide opportunities for local youth. "Carl really is a visionary," said Lee, now a venture capitalist in the Washington, D.C., area who returns every year to help Francis coordinate the camp. "At the end of the day, he has never wavered on what the mission is," Lee said. "The mission is always to help kids in this area." Francis once was one of those kids. He is an alumnus of the Mallory Bengal Tigers youth league team in the Aberdeen area and of Bethel High, where former Bruins coach Dennis Kozlowski remembers Francis as a good blocker with superior hands. He was an excellent team player," Koz said.

Francis played college ball at Lees-McRae in Banner Elk, N.C., when it was a junior college, and then finished his college career at Virginia Union. After that, he received an internship with the Washington Redskins, which he parlayed into a job with the NFL Players Association. "You really don't appreciate the lessons that you learned in life," Francis said, "until you leave and pursue your own career. Then, when you reflect back on people who have touched your life, you want to give a little of it back. That's what I wanted to do." Francis has been with the NFLPA for 16 years and is the association's director of communications. He worked under the late NFLPA Executive Director Gene Upshaw and retained the title under current head man DeMaurice Smith. Francis helps manage relationships with the media and works with team player representatives and the Players Association web site and publications. "Carl's everywhere," said Morocco Brown, the Redskins' director of pro personnel and a fellow Hampton native.



## WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD?

According to the Peninsula Sports Club constitution, criteria for a nominee for the President's Award include being an individual or organization "who has had an outstanding year or years of service in a sport or sports organization;" or an individual or organization "has made a special contribution and or commitment to sports on the Peninsula . . . Or that "achievements are such that this individual or organization's accomplishments stand out in a rare and unique manner." The award is not necessarily given out annually.

# CARL FRANCIS

By Dave Fairbank

Francis introduced himself to Brown at Steelers training camp in 1999, when Brown was trying to make the team following a standout career at N.C. State. After Brown was cut Francis eventually helped him get an internship with the Redskins' front office, which led to a stint with the Chicago Bears and his present gig with the Skins. Because Brown is team management and Francis is with the Players Association, they are technically on opposite sides of the NFL fence, but Brown said their relationship is anything but adversarial. "He's the kind of guy you want to help. Being around him is like cooling out with my brother. There's no hidden agenda in our business, that's not always the case."

Francis, 40, juggles family (he and wife Cissy have two boys: 19-year-old Brandon and 12-year-old Blake), his job and camp duties. Though Francis is readily available to all NFL players, he often goes the extra step to establish relationships with locals, with guys from the 757. "Carl is what Hampton Roads is about," said Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin, who annually attends Francis' camp. "He's a hardworking guy, he's a passionate guy. He's got a lot of love for this area. Francis sought out Tomlin when he first became a NFL assistant coach at Tampa Bay. The camp bounced around the Peninsula for a number of years, at Darling and Todd Stadiums and even at Warwick High one year. When Lee and Francis called CNU coach Matt Kelchner nine years ago about using the university's facilities, Kelchner jumped at the opportunity, knowing the camp's mission and the exposure it would bring to the school and the program. Kelchner said that it had occurred to him that the camp had hosted around 3,000 kids just in its tenure at CNU. "The kids never paid a penny (to attend)," Kelchner said. "They got lunch, they got a goody bag and they got the opportunity to work with and talk to NFL players. That's pretty darn good, and Carl's the guy that keeps it going. He's never flinched, and been totally loyal about what we've done, and I really appreciate that."

Francis makes this strong point: "You don't have to be an NFL player because nine times out of 10, you probabl won't be. But if you can go on and become a successful politician, or a successful professional at whatever you want to do, if this camp had an impact and allowed you to do some self-development and some character building, then I'm OK with that."



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# WENDY WILSON

By Lynn Burke  
Daily Press Sports Writer

Standing on a stage in Philadelphia, Wendy Wilson heard the announcer say the words, "The national coach of the year is from South Region."

"I just kind of stood there because it didn't hit me," she said shortly after the incident late in 2008. "Then I saw everybody looking at me and I thought 'Oh, it's me!'"

Yes, it was. After leading Tabb's field hockey team to a 24-0 record and the Group AA state championship last fall, Wilson was honored by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association as the 2008 national coach of the year.

As if that wasn't enough, this past season, her Tigers again went 24-0 and outscored the opposition for a state record 162-2 in repeating as state champions. They captured that title by edging James Monroe of Fredericksburg 3-2 in double-overtime, capping a season in which Tabb outscored opponents 102-6.

As for that 2008 success, testimonies were rampant. "Honestly, I don't think anyone deserves it as much as her," said Danielle Brookover, Tabb's three-year starting goalie. "She dedicates a huge portion of her life to making us better. She is more than a coach. She's a mentor who honestly cares what we do."

And that was quite a four-month period for Wilson.

Besides the state crown and the national coaching honor, on Sept. 23 she gave birth to her and her husband's first child, son Zachary.

"It was crazy. It was unreal. But, it was a lot of un," she said of everything that made up the season. "I'll never forget it."

Wilson has since completed her fifth year as Tabb's field hockey coach. She's a graduate of Christopher Newport University where she played field hockey and lacrosse. She is the school's field hockey record-holder in goals in a game (9) and season (21) and shares the record for most career goals (41) with Ashley Traylor. In all, she still holds seven school records, although she had played one previous season at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C.

"She was an incredible athlete, and it's rare that a great athlete becomes a great coach," said Nancy Billger, Wilson's first coach at CNU and the second of what be four coaches in four years.

"We were just starting a field hockey program and she was a true gift," said Billger of the 2000 team, then as the Captains' coach in 2001. "I always tried to tell my players that when they finished playing they had to continue either coaching or officiating, and give back to the sport. She obviously is relaying that enthusiasm to her girls. I'm excited and proud of her."

June Lugo has a dual perspective, as a co-captain with Wilson on that first team, then as the Captains' coach in 2001.

"I remember as a player, she would have already pulled up the stats on the other team and knew who to watch. She was very dedicated," Lugo said.

After graduating CNU, Wilson spent a year at Menchville High before moving to Tabb, where she teaches drivers education and 10th-grade physical education.

"When I played at CNU, I played with girls from the 2000 (state) championship team that went to Tabb, so I knew "Hey, this is a good school and they care about athletics," she said. "I'm fortunate that I'm not trying to scrape up and beg kids (to play). Every year I've made cuts. I have a lot of kids come out and lots of kids are involved."

Wilson also coaches the under-16 team in the Peninsula Youth Field Hockey Association. If that's not enough, she's the assistant coach of CNU's women's lacrosse team in the spring.

"I enjoy lacrosse, but field hockey is my passion," Wilson said. She points out much of her coaching philosophy comes from Billger "She was amazing," Wilson said. "She was one of those coaches that inspires you. I mirror a lot of the drills I got from her."

Her style, said goalie Brookover, who had 19 shutouts in those first 24 unbeaten games, "is unique. She makes all these crazy games and drills for us to do."

She is one of those players who walked down the hall months after the championship and "high-fived each other. It's amazing," said Wilson.

Not really.



# JEROD MAYO

Like an oyster bed where the most valuable pearls are slowly but surely produced, the Peninsula continues to produce sparkling gems of professional football players. Brutish Jerod Mayo has truly emerged as a jewel of a linebacker for the New England Patriots of the National Football League.

Spawned by Kecoughtan High School, where he was one of four brothers to play football, he began capturing more wide-spread attention during three years as a brilliant linebacker at the University of Tennessee. Although his accomplishments as a Volunteer were numerous – Mayo was the team’s defensive co-captain in 2007—his selection by the Pats in the first round of the 2008 draft was somewhat of a surprise. It certainly was viewed by most as a coup by the long-time league power which made Mayo the 10th overall pick, which New England obtained from San Francisco right after the Pats went 16-0 in the regular season and lost in the Super Bowl.

So Mayo became New England’s earliest pick that year, making Mayo not too much of a surprise when he emerged that fall as only the Patriots’ second player to win the Associated Press Defensive Rookie of the Year Award. His reaction to the honor sheds extensive light on just who Jerod Mayo is. “I feel I can get so much better,” he would tell the media shortly after his selection. “I don’t think I’ll ever be satisfied as a player.”

That pretty much reflects the image former Kecoughtan Athletic Director Leonard Thomas nurtures of the strapping native Hamptonian. “He was an outstanding person as well as an outstanding football player,” Leonard recalls. “He is as nice and friendly as anyone could be.”

Tommy Austin, long-time area high school and college coach, recalls that during his tenure at Kecoughtan it wasn’t until the youngster’s senior year that Austin concluded Jerod was “something special.” Always was a “strong team player,” he validated Austin’s faith in him after the Warriors started slowly and fell to 1-3. “Jerod came to me and volunteered to play tail back. We had tried to hold him off playing offense because it was obvious defense would be his future. When he came to us to ask for the change, it wasn’t selfish, just a matter of helping the team.” He wound up gaining 1,300 yards in seven games and in that stretch KHS lost only once. Along the way, Mayo compiled a 3.3 GPA, good SAT’s and Austin says “his teachers loved him. He never missed a practice or a game”and – no surprise here – “he was great to coach.”

After his brilliant rookie NFL season, inside linebacker Mayo (standing 6-1, weighing 245) continue d to draw respect from his peers and last fall led the team in tackles for the second straight season, making 114 (75 solo), despite playing just 13 games. He was named a defensive captain by his teammates and led his team in tackles in four games. and tied for the lead once.

His initial career sack was notable since it came against the Indianapolis Colts’ great Peyton Manning. All of that helped him register his second straight season with 100 or more tackles, reaching the milestone during a 16-tackle performance against the Jacksonville Jaguars in the regular-season finale. In his rookie campaign Mayo was kept from extensive blitzing and after showing growth at that skilled part of position he can look forward to additional responsibilities this time around.

The other brothers who played at Kecoughtan are Deron (now at Old Dominion), Derrick (at Richmond) and Shamont (the oldest, who played at Kecoughtan under Curt Newsome before Austin coached there).



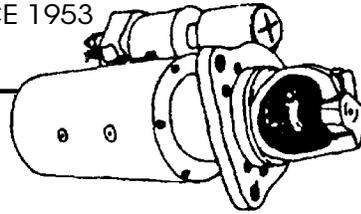
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- 1988..... Jesse Kersey
- 1990 .....Jerry Holmes
- 1991..... Mel Gray
- 1993.....Mark Carnevale
- 1994..... Reggie Langhorne
- 1997..... Chris Slade
- 2001..... Aaron Brooks
- 2003..... Michael Vick
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# CHRISTAL PETERSON

Phoebus High School

By Melinda Waldrop  
Daily Press Sports Writer

Once Chrystal Peterson figured out her niche, there was no stopping her.

Talked into running track by a teammate after trying several other sports, it didn't take long for her to realize that "I'm good at this. I'm actually good at this," Petersen said.

No kidding.

Peterson, Phoebus' junior sprint star, won the 100, 200 and 400 meters at Todd Stadium on Saturday (April 24) as the Phantoms ended Bethel's dominance in the Peninsula District outdoor track and field championships, amassing 152.5 points to the Bruins' 113.

"Everybody knows what kind of competitor she is, and she just came out and had the type of meet that we expected from her," Bethel coach Eddie Williams said. "When you put her name down, you can count 30 points on the track, and that's a huge for a team. I think she's a good motivator for the whole team."

It took Peterson a while, though, to find her own sporting impetus. She tried basketball, softball and tennis, "but I never really liked them," she said.

When she was a freshman, Peterson tried track – a sport that turned out to be in her genes.

"The funny part about that is, I actually just found out that my parents ran track when they were in high school," she said, "They never told me. I actually fell into track by myself."

It was a fortuitous fall. In February, Peterson won the 55-meter dash at the Group AAA state indoor championship in 6.94 seconds – the second-fastest time in the nation by a high school girl this year – before winning the 60-meters at the Nike Indoor Nationals in March in 7:50.

"She's versatile," Phoebus coach Brian Rountree said. "She's very coachable. She litense and she goes out and works really, really hard."

"We've been telling them [team members] "Hard work pays off. Everything else is jive," Rountree said. "We said it every day. So they worked for this."

Peterson won the preliminaries in the 100 and the 200 and was fourth in the 400, an event Rountree said she was running for just the third time all season.

"The prelims and the finals are two different things," Peterson said. "People don't bring their A game in the prelims. They usually wait 'till the finals. So I was just coming out here to do my best."



# COLIN MEARNS

Jamestown High School

If you're talking about Jamestown High School track and field, indoors and outdoors, and cross country – all three years ago – there's only one way to approach it. Fast forward aptly describes pretty much everything about Colin Mearns.

He is not at all bashful about explaining to listeners that "I was one of the slowest guys in the program as a freshman." Fast forward to this past year and the young distance-middle-distance speedster bound for the University of Virginia has become one of the nation's premier high school competitors in his specialties.

Mearns is an A-B Honor Roll student whose feats this school year in the 1600-meter event and the mile, in particular, are no worse than awesome. And, at this writing, he has yet to defend his state outdoor crown in the 1600. (For the benefit of those not sure, a few meets still run non-metric mile and two-mile events.)

Brilliance this spring unfolded as anticipated after a blistering indoor campaign when he wound up undefeated and won the national championship in the 1600. As the bell cow for coach Howard Townsend's Eagles, Just some of his career accomplishments follow: In his three sports he has achieved All-Group AA status 11 times (with this year's honors yet to be decided); All-Regional honors reached 18 times, one more than his All-Bay Rivers District selections.

His indoor successes produced indoor school records in the 800, 1600, and 3200. He has recorded the only state championships in Jamestown history, winning them this past indoor season in the mile and two-mile. His best mile time has been a 4:10, which he hopes he betters in the state meet which unfolded earlier this month.

He was seeded No. 1 in the 800, 1600 and 3200, but winning all three is something that has not been done at the AA level.

Colin, to be sure, is blessed with excellent genes for his running adventures. His brother, Andrew, is an ex-Jamestown standout and is currently running at U.Va. The father, Drew, is a track legend at Virginia, although he didn't compete there. He coached the men at Charlottesville and began the women's program there. Among his many ventures, he has been a long-time agent for professional athletes. At Yale, he ran a 4:01 mile, but insists, at comparable stages in their careers, "Colin is much faster."

Time will tell.



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# CHELSIE SCHWEERS

Chelsie Schweers has been named the Peninsula Sports Club's Athlete of the Year from Christopher Newport University. Schweers, the first CNU athlete ever named All-American three straight years, was also chosen Virginia College Division Player of the Year for the third straight season in voting by the Virginia Sports Information Directors.

A junior from Chesapeake, Schweers was named a first-team All-American by both the women's Basketball Coaches Association and d3hoops.com. She was the second-leading scorer in the nation in Division III with a 24.5 average and led the nation in three-point shooting at .477.

She led CNU to its greatest season ever with a 30-1 record and berth in the NCAA Sweet 16. She closed her junior year with 1,999 points and is just 74 short of CNU's all-time record of 2,073 set by Karen Barefoot.



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# JON GREY

By Pete Clawson  
W&M Sports Information Director

In his second season as a William and Mary athlete, Jon Grey has truly come into his own as one of the Tribe's great distance runners. The Lancaster, Pa., native transferred from the University of Oklahoma after his sophomore year and began running for the Green and Gold in the fall of 2008. He quickly proved himself an able competitor, leading the Tribe to the Southeast Region cross country title and finishing second for the team at the NCAA Championships.

His indoor season was likewise notable, as he set career-best marks at 3,000 and 5,000 meters, and was the IC4A runner-up at the latter distance. Outdoors, he truly began to shine, however, opening his spring with a NCAA-qualifying time at 10,000 meters in his first race. He went on to earn Athlete of the Meet honors at the Colonial Athletic Association Championships in mid-April, after becoming the first runner to ever win the 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter at the same meet. Selected to the NCAA Championships, Grey finished 20th overall in one of the most exciting 10,000-meter championships in recent memory.

Coming into his second year for W&M in 2009-10, Grey knew expectations were high, but flew past the bar anyway. In cross country, he helped lead his squad to several strong performances, including an upset of the No.2-ranked team in the nation in W&M's season-opener. The Tribe went on to defend its region crown for the first time in over 30 years and Grey was the second Tribe harrier across the line, finishing fifth overall. At the NCAA Championships, it was Grey across the line first for W&M, as the junior placed 17th overall and was named All-American for the first time. Behind his strong showing and that of two other All-Americans, the College placed fifth in the nation, its best showing since taking fourth in 1973.

Indoors, Grey opened the year with a 14:05.42 run at Christopher Newport University, just two weeks after the NCAA Cross Country Championships. That performance, an indoor-best at the time, remained the fastest 5,000 meters in the country for over a month. In January, he reset his career-best at 3,000 meters, also in a meet at CNU, before returning to the 5,000 meters in February at Virginia Tech. Running that race with only a teammate to help set the pace early, Grey became just the second Tribe athlete to ever break 14 minutes indoors, running 13:52.11 to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

At the national meet in March, with a brilliant tactical plan from coach Alex Gibby in mind, Grey picked off more than 10 international-class runners over the last half of the 5,000-meter championship, and finished fifth in the nation for his second All-American award and a career-best time of 13:46.12. It was the second-fastest time ever run indoors by a W&M athlete, behind only 11-time All-American Matt Lane.

Outdoors, Grey's season still had some challenges left as the printing deadline neared, but he has more than lived up to his reputation. At the Colonial Relays in early April he was the consummate teammate, helping lead three teammates to career-fast performances including a pair of first-time sub-14 minute showing in the 5,000-meter. Two weeks later, he broke the top section of the 10,000-meter at the Mt. SAC Relays, winning the race by more than 12 seconds over several current and former All-Americans and national champions. His time from that meet, 28:40.33, is the third fastest in school history, and currently ranks ninth in the nation and third in the East Region. Two weeks later, he narrowly missed another double gold at the CAA Championships, repeating as the 10,000-meter champion while taking second to a teammate in the 5,000-meter.

As this was written the NCAA Championships got under way in Greensboro, N.C., and finished this past weekend in Eugene, Ore. At the end of June are the USAT&F National Championships in Des Moines, Iowa, and ahead is the 2010-11 campaign, where he will try for even more All-American honors and coveted national championships. Given the speed at which Grey runs, however, that horizon will quickly disappear beneath his feet.





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# FRANCENA MCCORORY

What a delight to write about someone like Francena McCorory. In truth, she is typical of what the Peninsula Sports Club has been all about since its origin in 1949. The first Headliners Night wasn't until a year later and then in 1951 Newport News High School basketball and track coach and athletic director Julie Conn was the first Man of the Year.

Things were very different in those days. It wasn't until several years later that the only sport recognized at what by then had become an annual event was football – and the first All-Peninsula team was named. Yes, it was an all-white team, but there's nothing we can do about that today. The fact is African Americans have become integral parts of the club's functioning as have women. For decades, African Americans have been honored and been club presidents and active in the club's year-around activities.

So, along comes a splash of greased lightning out of Hampton's Bethel High School and into Hampton University and Francena McCorory has become a steady customer at the head table on these occasions. She seems to do nothing but win – both as a competitor and as a solid citizen. Her accomplishments became legendary at Bethel High School and have remained happily in that groove as a Lady Pirate. She is with us for double honors for the second straight year, being selected as the top female athlete in Virginia and as the top athlete from HU.

Hopefully, her peak triumphs will have emerged this past weekend when she was due to participate in the NCAA track and field championships at Haywood Field in the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore.

It should be mentioned that when an athlete excels at any college, it helps in more than one way. At HU, for instance, the Pirates recently were awarded their ninth successive Mary McLeod Bethune Women's All-Sports Award, indicative of MEAC supremacy. It also symbolizes continued emergence of HU as a so-called mid-level Division I power.

A year ago, when Francena was accorded the same honors, the words written by the sports information department at HU in praise her pretty much remain proper tonight. With a few minor changes to update things, we repeat them here.

"Francena McCorory, a 5-foot-7 senior track and field performer, was voted the consensus women's student athlete of the year at Hampton University for the 2009-10 athletics season following yet another banner season that saw her garner national acclaim.

"McCorory dazzled the nation at the 2010 NCAA indoor Track and Field Championships in Fayetteville, Ark., winning the individual crown in the 400-meter dash with a national-best time of 50.54 seconds. In the process, she earned USTFCCCA All-American honors and is the second HU woman to do so in three years, Yvette Lewis won the NCAA title in the triple jump in 2006."



# JONATHAN DEHOUX

Senior first baseman Jonathan Dehoux has immersed his name throughout the Apprentice School baseball record books during his four-year career that ended with his selection as the 2009-10 Apprentice School Athlete of the Year.

Dehoux, a Mathews native and maintenance electrician apprentice, ended his career with a string of single-season and career records. He owns or shares 30 records, including career hits (265), runs batted in (220), single-game RBI (10), single-season hits (72 in 2008 and 2009) and single-season batting average (.450 in 2009).

This year he finished batting .392 with 71 hits, 17 doubles, one triple, 13 home runs and 63 RBI in 41 games. He also had an 11-game hitting streak and finished his career with a nine-game streak. Dehoux has had 25 multi-hit games, 10 of which produced at least three hits. He also turned in 20 multi-RBI games. His three-hit contests came against two NCAA Division II schools – nationally ranked Kutztown (Pa.) University Washington Adventist University (Md.) and Tufts (Mass.), a Division III school. That spree of hits included homers against both Kutztown and Tufts, both nationally ranked.

Dehoux had a season-high four hits against St. Joseph's College-Brooklyn, N.Y. and in that May 1 outing, his grand-slam homer was his school-record 13th.

"Jonathan has had a good four-year career for us – both offensively and defensively – as anyone. His defensive abilities at first base have saved infielders numerous errors over his career. Dehoux's commitment to the program has been above reproach as I can count on one hand the number of times in his four years that he's missed a practice for any reason. On top of all his athletic ability, he's been in as solid in the classroom and on the job as he has been on the field for us."

Cave points to statistics to back him up on the defensive claim. In 388 chances, he has been guilty of committing only five errors and that was noted when he was chosen the second successive time as a U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association All-American. He also was twice selected as a Virginia Sports Information Directors Association All-State honoree.

In the classroom, Dehoux holds a 3.28 grad-point average and was a College Sports Information Directors Association Academic All-District pick in 2009 and a USCAA All-Academic honoree in 2008.

His craft instructor, Kevin Bond, echoes the sentiments of others in describing Dehoux's work in class and on the job. "Jon has always been a pleasure to work with. His performance on the job has always been outstanding," he said. "His co-workers and foreman have always found him a pleasure to work with. Jon's current assignment is to work in our power distribution group (known as "High Voltage"). In this group, Jon is often assigned to work with the power monitoring communication system. He has grasped the concept associated with the system quickly and became an asset to the team. John is a good person and I know he has worked hard on the job, on the field, and I sure at home and deserves this award."



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# MATT BEVINS

Liberty University

Maybe Matt Bevins doesn't have radar equipment hidden in his kicking leg. But Big South football coaches can be forgiven for concluding otherwise, especially since the former standout Warwick High School kicking and punting specialist wound up at Liberty University by accident.

Bevins, a former Warwick soccer standout, is the son of Mike Bevins, who played basketball and football for Menchville High, a long-time Newport News rival of the Warwick Raiders. Mike Bevins recalls a week-long trip he and Matt took visiting a handful of mid-Atlantic state schools. The elder Bevins makes one thing perfectly clear. He points out that none of the state schools Matt was interested in expressed interest in him as a football prospect. It was especially true of Virginia. "He had always wanted to go there," says the father.

As a result the pair drove to East Carolina, North Carolina, Duke and Rutgers. On the way back from the latter school "we were near Liberty but Matt was tired and didn't want to make the stop." As it turned out, they did just that and Matt liked what he saw and heard and, well, the rest is history.

Not that he was a cream puff in high school. As a sophomore in his initial football appearances, Bevins averaged 36 yards punting and his kicks forced opponents to the 10 as an average starting field position. Proving he was no fluke, Matt finished third in kickoffs and eighth in field goals at the National Kicking Combine. And oh, yeah, he didn't fare poorly in the classroom, either, and was a three-time member of the A-B Honor Roll.

So this past football season, when Bevins was a sophomore at Liberty University and compiled record-setting statistics, those who knew him best weren't surprised. As a sophomore kicker he was named to the 2009 Walter Camp Football Foundation Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) All-American team, the Associated Press All-American, ESPN and College Sporting News first teams. He also was recognized by the NCAA for averaging two field goals a game in the FCS and was one of 10 at that level in the country to score 100 or more points. He currently ranks No. 4 nationally by averaging 9.73 points a game.

As the Flames moved to an 8-3 Big South title-winning season, Bevins mounted two streaks in which he knocked down eight successive field goals. The flurries helped him finish with 107 points and 22 points—both school records.

His efforts made him one of the more accurate kickers in the nation. Connecting on 22 of 26 attempts (84.6 per cent) and was 10 of 10 from 30-39 yards and 7 of 9 from 40 or more yards, including a 50-yarder against Charleston Southern.

All this enabled him to rank No. 4 nationally by averaging 9.73 points a game. He also ranks as the NCAA's FCS leader with an 89.95 field goal percentage, hitting on 34 of 42 tries and 1.8 field goals per game with 34 in 23 contests. Among a flock of other tidbits, he has helped considerably as the Flames have won three consecutive conference titles. He averaged 40 yards a punt and made second-team all-state as a Warwick High senior.

"He really likes it there," says Mike Bevins of his son's days at the Lynchburg school. Obviously, he's getting a kick out of it.





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# FRANCENA MCCORORY

Hampton University

Arguably the greatest women's athlete in Hampton University history, Francena McCorory just keeps on truckin'. She was touted for greatness in 2006, when she was named the Peninsula Sports Club's Most Outstanding Female Athlete in High School. On that occasion, Eddie Williams, coach of the Bethel High School flash, was asked if she might eventually make the United States Olympic team. "I don't see why not," was his quick reply.

So here she is, four years later, already named the Prep Athlete of the Decade by the Daily Press, figuratively carting several truck loads of medals and records – accumulated both nationally and scholastically. Her magnificent college career not yet quite at an end, she shows no signs at having peaked.

This past March she scorched the track in Fayetteville, Ark., for a 50.54-second 400-meter performance that was the world's fastest and would have won the World Championship by more than half a second. It was the fourth NCAA Division I in Lady Pirates' history, two by McCorory against indoor competition. The indoor accomplishments enabled her to be named Division I Female Track Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. That magnificent showing broke a 19-year-old American record and also set a school, meet and facility record.

She helped open the season at nearby Christopher Newport University by anchoring the 4x400 relay in a gold-winning performance at the season-opening CNU Holiday Open with a 3:51.26 clocking. Another victory unfolded in the 200 dash at the Father Diamond Invitational where she ran a 2.10 and turned in another victory with a 7.51 time in the 60-meter race for the fourth-fastest in meet history at the New York City Gotham Cup.

Of course, nothing is just that simple. Her first two years were derailed by injuries suffered in two automobile accidents. Since then, she has been living up to – or surpassing – expectations. Her early spring triumphs include a 22.92 in the 200-meter dash at the Florida Relays, winning the even in a school-best clocking.

Since the 2008-9 indoor season, McCorory has won nine MEAC titles and was named the league's Most Outstanding runner after scoring triumphs in the 200, 400 4x400 relay at the MEAC indoor championships. She nearly repeated the trifecta last month in the outdoor title meet, winning the 400 and bolstering the relay team's victory. The efforts provided impetus for the Pirates in winning their fifth straight MEAC crown.

Her indoor tiruphs proved to be a literal rampage of the nation's running surfaces as she successfully defended her NCAA indoor title in the 400, breaking a 19-year-old American record with that time of 50.4. She also established a school, meet and facility record with that time, which ws the fastest in the

Her spectacular high school list of accomplishments included setting the national high school record in the 400 by running a 51.93 in the Price Geroge's Sports and Learning Coomplex in Landover, Md.





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# SARAH ATKINS

Lenoir-Rhyne University

Sarah Atkins is doing very well, thank you. At Warwick High School, the reaction quite likely is "well, what else is new?" A sophomore catcher who excelled in softball, basketball and field hockey in high school, where she also was an honor roll student and a National Honor Society selectee who compiled a 3.43 GPA.

She recently finished a rousing season for the Bears, who wound up ranked in the top 10 among Division II teams with a 53-9 record and pepper-pot Atkins had more than a little to do with that. She finished with a .355 batting average, 14 doubles, 14 homers and 64 runs batted in on 65 base hits. Her slugging average was a robust .661.

Last year, turning in a wildly productive role sort of like a Gatling gun, Atkins pitched, played first base and then caught en route to a .376 average on 56 hits, 15 doubles 10 homers and 35 RBI.

To no one's surprise this year she was a South Atlantic Conference preseason pick as first-team catcher and certainly lived up to expectations by winning the slot. Twice this season, she was conference Player of the Week and emerged as the ASC Tournament MVP.

Sarah started all 57 games for the Bears this year and as catcher called all the pitches. She has recorded 15 multi-hit games, 13 multi-RBI games and had an eight-game hitting streak. Her 63 RBI are second most on the squad and her total leaves her in second place for the all-time best single-season mark in the category.

In winning the conference tournament title, she uncorked a .450 batting average with three homers and seven RBI.

At Warwick, she made honor roll all four years. She came to LRU to major in sports management with a minor in psychology. She was a three-year team captain and a four-time Daily Press Spring Sports All-Star softball first-team selection. She was the school's best offensive player her first two years, then became a co-MVP as a junior and was Best Defensive Player as a senior.

Atkins also became a three-time All-Peninsula District field hockey player.

Some 2010 other statistics: Third in batting average, fifth in slugging percentage, fifth with 42 runs scored. Also, third in homers, led the team with 28 walks, totaled 221 plate appearances, and third for at-bats with 183. And, finally, she led the Bears with a .442 average in conference games only.



# Christopher Newport University's 2010 Athlete of the Year

## CHELSIE SCHWEERS



**CHELSIE SCHWEERS** is the 2010 Peninsula Sports Club Athlete of the Year from Christopher Newport University. Schweers has had an amazing three-year career at CNU. She led the women's basketball squad to a 30-1 record this past season and a trip to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16. The Captains won their first 30 games of the season before losing in NCAA action.

Schweers, a Chesapeake native, has earned All-America honors each of her three seasons at CNU. She is the first CNU athlete to ever achieve All-America status in their first three seasons.

The Hickory High School graduate has scored 1,999 career points in 87 games for an average of 23 points per game.

Schweers needs just 74 points to become the all-time leading scorer in CNU women's basketball history. She finished second in the nation in scoring last year, averaging 24.5 points per game. She was the top three-point shooter in the country making 122 of 256 shots (48 percent).

The USA South Athletic Conference has honored Schweers all three seasons as first-team all-conference. She was also the Player of the Year in the league her first two seasons and was also the Rookie of the Year her freshman season.

Schweers was also chosen Virginia College Division Player of the Year for the third straight season in voting by the Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID).

The national honors for the 2009/2010 season included being named a first team All-American by both the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and d3hoops.com. The season was the greatest ever in program history for the Captains.



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