

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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ADAIRE BURNSED, KHUYEN DINH, AVA PROEHL & ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY



The Commonwealth Clash so far

The Cavaliers are currently 4-0 against the Hokies with their annual football contest looming in the background

Grace Gould | Staff Writer

For over 125 years, Virginia and Virginia Tech have been locked in a bitter rivalry with one another, their respective football teams competing the Saturday after Thanksgiving every year since 1970.

During the 2014-2015 season, the rivalry expanded to include 22 sports and was renamed the Commonwealth Clash — a points-based program in which the school that wins the most head-to-head matchups is presented with the Commonwealth Clash trophy. Virginia has the all-time lead over Virginia Tech in the Commonwealth Clash at 3-2.

So far this season, the Cavaliers have swept the Hokies in every matchup, jumping to a 4-0 lead in the Commonwealth Clash series. The fall portion of the rivalry will conclude Nov. 25 with the Commonwealth Cup, as the Virginia Football team will look to end its season on a high note by posting a victory.

Women's Soccer: Virginia victory 3-0

Virginia defeated Virginia Tech 3-0 in Charlottesville Oct. 15, their sixth shut-out of the season. The Cavaliers (8-3-6, 3-3-4 ACC) first struck during the 10th minute when senior defender Chloe Japic scored her first goal as a member of the team. The goal came as Japic served the ball to sophomore forward Maggie Cagle, who missed it before it bounced through Hokie senior goalkeeper Alia Skinner's legs.

Virginia scored twice in the second half, the first coming in the 58th minute when freshman forward Allie Ross rebounded a shot from sophomore forward Meredith McDermott, scoring with a header toward an open net. Cagle scored six minutes later, firing to the netting by the right post after beating two defenders.

The Cavaliers dominated the Hokies (7-8-3, 4-6 ACC) all night en route to victory, posting a 12-2 advantage in shots on goal while only being called for two fouls compared to Virginia Tech's 11. With the win, the Virginia squad extended its 19-4-2 all-time lead in head-to-head matchups against Virginia Tech.

Men's soccer: Virginia Victory 3-0

No. 9 Virginia took down Virginia Tech Oct. 20 in a 3-0 rout. The Cavaliers lead the Hokies 35-5-6 all-time in Commonwealth Clash matchups, with the latest edition marking the 46th time the teams have faced off against one another.

The Cavaliers (10-3-3, 5-2-1 ACC) struck quickly in the first two minutes and never looked back. Freshman forward Stephen Anzor Gyamfi quickly took the ball from the Hokies' (4-9-4, 2-5-1 ACC) center back and, with one touch, shot it into the back of the net.

Senior midfielder Daniel Mangarov scored next in the 22nd minute of play, scoring on



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The Cavalier volleyball victory gave Virginia a 4-0 lead over Virginia Tech in the Commonwealth Clash.

a free kick to put Virginia up 2-0. Gyamfi scored another goal in the 59th minute, breaking past a defender to earn his second career brace and 10th goal of the season. Meanwhile, Virginia Tech struggled to create anything offensively, earning just one corner and three shots on goal in the entire match.

The win marked junior goalkeeper Joey Batrouni's third clean sheet in six games and the continuation of a winning streak that carried the team through the end of the regular season. With the victory, the Cavaliers also earned their second consecutive win over the Hokies and their first road win of the season.

Cross Country: Virginia Victory

Virginia faced off against Virginia Tech at the ACC Cross Country Championships Oct. 27, earning a point in the Commonwealth Clash series for its performance. The Cavaliers placed third in the men's and women's competitions, while the Hokies finished 11th and 10th respectively.

In the men's 8k championship race, No. 13 Virginia was led by sophomores Will Anthony and Gary Martin, who finished in seventh and eighth place with times of 23:21.5 and 23:24.7, respectively. Both Anthony and Martin were given All-ACC honors for their performances, along with senior Yasin Sado

and junior Nathan Mountain, who finished in 13th and 14th.

For the No. 10 Virginia women's squad, junior Margot Appleton led the Cavaliers in the 6k race, finishing in fifth overall with a time of 19:44. She was trailed by freshman Jenny Schilling, graduate student Caroline Timm and senior Anna Workman, all of whom were given All-ACC honors with Appleton. Meanwhile, the Hokies only had one runner finish in the top 50 of the women's side.

In cross-country, the Commonwealth Clash point is awarded to the team that finishes higher in the ACC Championship, meaning that Virginia's finish above Virginia Tech extended its lead in this year's competition.

Volleyball: Virginia Victory 3-2

Virginia defeated Virginia Tech Oct. 28 in a come-from-behind victory in front of a record crowd, playing in John Paul Jones Arena for the first time. The Cavaliers (10-15, 3-12 ACC), who dropped the first two sets, rose from the dead to win the final three, defeating the Hokies (12-14, 2-13 ACC) 3-2.

The first set saw the two teams jostle for the lead early on, with Virginia Tech taking control when the set was tied 7-7 and never

looking back, winning it 25-20. The second set featured a more dominant performance from Virginia Tech, in which, despite a 4-0 scoring run and tied scores at 12 and 16, Virginia did not lead at any point. The Hokies, again, won the set 25-20.

The Cavaliers came back swinging during the third set, jumping out to an early 15-7 lead, led by junior middle blocker Abby Tadler, who had six kills on 11 swings and no errors during the set. They went on to take both the third and fourth sets 25-15, orchestrating multiple unanswered scoring runs.

Virginia opened the fifth and final set trailing Virginia Tech 6-4 but quickly rebounded with a 5-1 run that gave them the momentum they needed to take victory 15-11. With the win, the Cavaliers tied their all-time series against Virginia Tech 40-40.

Although the winner of the Commonwealth Clash series will not be decided until the spring, right now it seems all signs are pointing to a Virginia victory. The Cavaliers will look to extend their lead through the winter season in which basketball will take center stage.

The Commonwealth Cup's most impactful recent moments

In preparation for the upcoming rivalry game, the Cavalier Daily and Collegiate Times remember the greatest moments from the Commonwealth Clash

CD & CT Sports Staff

Hokies win first game after April 16 shooting (Nov. 24, 2007)

By Thomas Bray, Collegiate Times

The Commonwealth Clash doesn't get much bigger than the game played in 2007. Both teams were ranked nationally and were contending for an ACC championship berth. But it was more than just the conference or bowl implications that added gravity to this contest. The memory of the tragic Virginia Tech shooting earlier in the year still hung heavy in the air.

The Hokies secured the 33-21 victory, marking an emotional triumph for the Virginia Tech community and a significant chapter in the Commonwealth Clash rivalry that showcased the power of sports to bring people together, uplift communities and provide a platform for healing and pride.

Cavaliers fumble to lose 15th straight (Nov. 23, 2018)

By Thomas Bray, Collegiate Times

Virginia Tech entered the day with an impressive 14-game winning streak against Virginia, but they were struggling this season. The Hokies had a 4-6 record entering this game and had suffered four consecutive losses.

Bryce Perkins, through his running and passing, put Virginia in a strong position to win. With just under seven minutes left, Perkins connected with Hasise Dubois over the middle, giving the Cavaliers the lead. It seemed like Bryce Perkins and the Cavaliers were finally going to end Virginia Tech's streak. However, Virginia Tech's Ryan Willis found Dalton Keene on a remarkable play, putting the Hokies in scoring position. Later in the drive, Steven Peoples fumbled in the end zone, but the Hokies managed to recover, sending the game into overtime.

In overtime, Brian Johnson made the game-winning field goal for the Hokies. Unfortunately for Perkins, he encountered issues with a handoff on the first play of his drive, resulting in a fumble that the Hokies recovered, extending their winning streak to 15 games.

Virginia snaps losing streak (Nov. 29, 2019)

By Sam Mostow, Collegiate Times

Virginia's 39-30 victory snapped a 15-game winning streak for the Hokies in the matchup, still their only win in the series since 2004. Although Tech led, 27-20, entering the fourth quarter, UVA scored 19 points in the period, including two Brian Delaney field goals to tie and take the lead with 1:23 remaining. The Cavaliers, who clinched the ACC Coastal Division with their victory, went on to play No. 2 Clemson in the ACC championship game and No. 6 Florida in the Orange Bowl.

The Cavaliers secure the win with a fake field goal (Nov. 29, 2003)

By Max Jensen, The Cavalier Daily

The 2003 Virginia season was a rollercoaster of highs and lows. Starting the year with an impressive No. 18 ranking, the team thrived early,



KHUYEN DINH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Cavaliers look to reverse the trend of heartbreaking losses over the past two years by finding their way to victory.

securing wins in four out of their first five matchups, notably shutting out Duke 27-0 in the season opener.

However, this quickly faded away with a series of four losses in the next five games. As the Cavaliers entered their final regular season game, they were hoping to get their first win against the Hokies in five years.

Loaded with talent, Virginia boasted first-round picks in the form of offensive tackle D'Brickshaw Ferguson and tight end Heath Miller, alongside third-round standouts quarterback Matt Schaub and linebacker Darryl Blackstock. Despite the stellar lineup, the Cavaliers were only able to muster one touchdown in the first half against Virginia Tech.

The second half was an entirely different story, however, as Virginia came out firing with three consecutive unanswered touchdowns, propelling it to a 28-14 lead as the fourth quarter began. This was largely due to the offensive showcase by running back Wali Lundy. The future Houston Texan rushed for three touchdowns during the game, while also securing a receiving touchdown.

However, the one play all fans remember from the game was the fake field goal that sealed the game for the Cavaliers. After the Hokies had cut the lead to a touchdown, Virginia needed a spark to gain back the momentum in the match. Coach

Al Groh found the dagger by calling a fake, and Miller caught the pass for the first down, allowing Virginia to score one more touchdown and win the game 35-21. Without the play call, there is no telling how the game would have ended, but Groh took matters into his own hands by letting the team win the game rather than play defensively to try and close it out.

Virginia Tech beats Virginia by 30 to win their 10th straight game (Nov. 27, 2010)

By Max Jensen, The Cavalier Daily

The year could not have started any worse for the Hokies. Following a narrow loss to No. 3 Boise State in their season opener, No. 13 Virginia Tech was upset at home by James Madison, who was then competing in the FCS. This was just the second time ever that a team ranked in the AP poll lost to an FCS opponent. Coming into the season with high expectations, and looking up at their 0-2 record, the Hokies knew they had to turn it around quick.

And that is exactly what they did. Led by future NFL quarterback Tyrod Taylor, the Hokies rattled off nine straight victories including wins against No. 23 NC State and No. 24 Miami. The only thing standing in their way from the first undefeated ACC season since 2000 was Virginia. Unfortunately for the Cavaliers, Coach Mike London's first season was not going as planned,

with only one ACC victory to their name.

The game was a lopsided affair, with Virginia Tech showcasing dominance and executing some remarkable plays. In the second quarter, defensive back Eddie Whitley's interception of quarterback Marc Verica set the stage for the game's first touchdown. Attempting to shift the momentum, the Cavaliers opted for another trick play, this time in the form of a fake punt, which failed miserably as the Hokies were able to stifle the trick play.

Taylor threw for 176 yards to become the career yardage leader for Virginia Tech, and the Hokies rushing attack accounted for four touchdowns. Overall, it was an impressive showing for Virginia Tech, who used this as momentum to beat No. 20 Florida State the next week to win their fourth ACC Championship Game.

Virginia Tech narrowly beats Virginia 29-24 in the most recent contest (Nov. 27, 2021)

By Max Jensen, The Cavalier Daily

Both the Cavaliers and the Hokies were in similar spots entering the 2021 Commonwealth Cup with Virginia boasting a 6-5 record, and the Hokies sitting at 5-6, one win away from a bowl game.

Quarterback Brennan Armstrong had been huge for the Cavaliers in 2021, as he shattered Bryce Perkins' record for single-season passing yards with 4,449, while also accumulating 31 touchdowns. For the Hokies, quarterback Braxton Burmeister had done well in his second season with the team, throwing just four interceptions to his 14 touchdowns. Both quarterbacks looked to lead their teams to victories ahead of this crucial game.

Virginia started the game strong when Armstrong connected with future Indianapolis Colt Jelani Woods for the opening score. But, Burmeister and the Hokies responded immediately with a huge gain to wide receiver Tayvion Robinson for the touchdown. For a while, it was a back and forth affair, which included Armstrong absorbing massive hits from three defenders while rushing for the touchdown. Also, the Hokies successfully executed the "Philly Special" to give Burmeister a receiving touchdown of his own.

The play of the game, however, came with three minutes remaining and Armstrong attempting to lead his team down for a game-winning drive. Unfortunately for the Cavaliers, Armstrong was hit hard and lost control of the football, which bounced into the Virginia endzone. The Hokies dove on it to secure the safety and the victory.

Is the Virginia offense scripting plays?

Investigating the Cavalier's early game scoring imbalance

Connor Lothrop | Staff Writer

2023 has not been a banner year for Virginia football, especially on the offensive side of the ball. The Cavaliers (2-8, 1-6 ACC) fare poorly in almost every traditional offensive stat, ranking 80th or lower in points per game, turnovers per game and yards per game. On a more granular level, the offense has averaged 1.8 points per drive, and 5.15 yards per play, good for 90th and 100th in the country, respectively. In Bill Connelly's offensive SP+ metric, Virginia ranks 104th.

However, the Cavalier offense has had one consistent positive — its starts. As bad as it has been on any given average drive, the first two drives have been consistent point-getters. Prior to the Louisville game, 25 percent of Virginia's points came on those first two drives, despite making up closer to 17 percent of their total drives. Their average points per drive jumps to 4.375 on their first two drives of the game, better than national leader Michigan averages over all drives.

Coach Tony Elliott and offensive coordinator Deshaun Kitchens have shown a clear pattern of fielding better offenses earlier in games. The question is why this has been a consistent occurrence and how this performance can be replicated across the other three and a half quarters of football.

One likely culprit for this early success is the practice of scripting plays. This is a process where the coaching staff — sometimes in collaboration with the quarterback — designates several plays they want to run early in the game. These are often plays that worked well in practice or will work well against an opponent's typical defensive setup. For instance, North Carolina likes to blitz and leave their defensive backs in single coverage, potentially leaving graduate wide receiver Malik Washington a favorable matchup. If the quarterback walks to the line of scrimmage and reads a blitz, then he can use that play to throw it deep to Washington for a big gain.

Most coordinators, whether they admit it or not, script at least a few plays. It may not always be the first plays of the game. Scripting ahead of time is also a common sequence of a few plays thrown in at any point during the contest. It is also often used in specific situations, like when an offense is backed up against its own goal line, in the red zone or in the two-minute drill.

There are a lot of advantages to scripting plays. It gives players a clear idea of what the team will run, and those plays are often the best of the best. It also helps give the coordinator structure — if they want to balance the run and pass or lean more heavily on one or the other, then they can plan to do so ahead of time. Scripts can also be used to set up specific plays. Coordinators can script a run call, then later call a play-action pass that initial-



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Freshman quarterback Anthony Colandrea has been a major factor in Virginia's strong starts

ly looks like the earlier run, setting up a big gain.

However, there are some dangers to scripting — even the best plans often go awry, after all. If something happens to knock the script off schedule, then the playcaller is often left scrambling. This could be from something as innocuous as a short run or an incompletion, or as harmful as a sack, turnover or even an injury. These can compromise a whole script and knock out hours of planning, leaving the offense on the back foot, forced to improvise ahead of schedule.

There is a good amount of evidence that Kitchens is scripting his plays early in the game — namely the number of gadget plays the team has run early. This is exemplified by the flea flicker and reverse passes thrown early in the game against Maryland and the early long bomb from Colandrea to Washington against North Carolina State. The team also seems to play much crisper on these drives, committing fewer penalties and seeming to execute much better.

Despite finding early success through Kitchens' apparent pregame preparation, failure to maintain offensive rhythm late in games has resulted in stagnation or regression in many of Virginia's losses this season.

Scripting risks using all of a team's effective plays early. Every time a defense sees a certain play concept, they get better at defending it. A play the offense runs in the first quarter will not be as effective in the fourth. The Cavalier playbook is not incredibly advanced, so it is at an especially advanced risk of this fallacy.

The nature of Virginia's offensive schemes is not the only factor that could be leading to late game struggles. Another explanation for the Cavalier drop-off could be poor conditioning and depth. The offensive depth chart of the ball is incredibly shallow — the offensive line has been a wreck for Elliott's entire tenure, and while there are several running backs that have carried the load, only two Virginia skill players have more than 15 catches on the year. The lack of back-end talent has likely led to extra fatigue due to the lack of competent backups being able to take snaps. Logically, this could lead to diminishing offensive returns over the course of a whole game. Ultimately, Kitchens' preparation and gameplanning is only as impactful as the personnel on the field's ability to execute it over the course of four full quarters.

Overall, the scripted drives early on seem to be working. Virginia's offense is effective

on early drives that, while we cannot confirm, appear to be scripted. However, the offense the rest of the game suffers. The fact of the matter is the Cavalier offense has potential. There are drives where the team executes and the playcalling mixes creativity and effectiveness in a way that has rarely been seen since the heyday of the former coach and coordinator combination of Bronco Mendenhall and Robert Anae.

However, the final picture is not coming together. Virginia has yet to play a complete game on offense all year, and only has one game where the team has scored in all four quarters — the 26-29 overtime loss to Miami. This team has a lot of the tools for success, but needs consistency and — maybe most of all — the scripted offense to translate to all four quarters. While the offense hums in instances where pregame preparation pays off, Kitchens must adapt to the game flow and be unpredictable down the stretch to find consistent success. There are two games left in the season — both at home, against Duke and Virginia Tech. If the offense fails to show up outside the first quarter in either game, look for changes to be made on that side of the ball.

Tailgates bring together generations of Virginia fans

Current students and alumni converge and intermingle at a deeply rooted University sports tradition

Cecy Juárez and Mario Rosales | CD Life Staff



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Tailgates not only bring together generations but also foster new relationships through mutual friends.

Whether Virginia is in the midst of a winning or losing season, one thing remains constant — tailgates. Parking lots all across Grounds are filled to the brim with cars, food and high spirits. Students, families and alumni can be counted on to come together for the sake of enjoying one another's company before a game. No matter the age of the fan, students, family and alumni alike share one major motivation when they attend University tailgates — to share in the company of one another.

For both students and alumni — both recently graduated and much-less-recently graduated — attending football games can mean more about the tailgate rather than the football games itself. Instead, as Class of 1992 alumna Ashley Bagby put it, hosting or participating in a tailgate and being with family and friends is the main draw.

"Many of us don't come for the football, we come for the social hour," Bagby said. "It's six or seven times a season. You come and all your friends come and you have a little party ... the football is the excuse for me — the tailgate is the fun [part]."

A very similar sentiment is echoed by current University students. Fourth-year College student Sean Miller, whose family tailgates regularly, appreciates the intersection of several generations of Cavalier fans his family's tailgate facilitates.

"I love how we're able to bring together so many different people at my tailgate," Miller said. "We've got all my current friends, plus my parents and all their friends who went here and then my grandparents and their friends. It's fun to connect [and meet] so many different people ... I think that's what makes it so fun."

This confluence of both old and young fans is by no means particular to the University. Like the rest of the country, tailgates at the University offer delicious food and a wide selection of beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. At University tailgates, though, families create and offer their own unique traditions and histories.

For the Bagby family and their friends, who have been attending University football games since Bagby was a child in the 1980s, creating a theme for each of their tailgates with food and decorations brings them enjoyment.

"We usually have themes, so if it's a morning game — we hate noon football — we'll do breakfast food," Bagby said. "We're not grillers. There's some people that grill, [and] we think it's a big mess. We have fried turkey a couple of times. It's a little messy, but it's really fun, especially [Virginia] Tech games."

The Miller family like to set up an expansive array of brunch options for their tailgates. As the fall season sets in with crisp, cold air, the Millers bring warmth and friendly company to the lots with blankets and warm meals.

As the grandfather and one of the founders of his family's tailgates, Class of 1969 alumnus Bill Cooper takes pleasure in hosting tailgates with his family and lifelong friends that he made at the University.

"I think on a game day I actually never went anywhere else other than my family's tailgate," Cooper said. "I've never gone out [to] the corner on game day. I always come here to hang out with my grandkids."

One highlight of tailgates is that they are often not exclusive. Friends removed many times over from the host frequent tailgates through the invitation of other friends and family members. As such, tailgates not only bring together generations but also foster new relationships through mutual friends.

Jim Miller, Sean Miller's father and Class of 1993 alumnus, finds joy in meeting his son's peers from the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society at tailgates. The family relishes in being a highlight of game days for University students in the club and getting to know current students more.

"Lot of the folks who come are from the Jefferson Society and it's actually a signature event for the Jefferson Society," Jim said.

Second-year College student Jack Hill and his family extend the invitation to their friends and share Chick-fil-a minis on the mornings of football games. For Hill, the essence of the tail-

gate is not so much about the sport but rather, having the opportunity to gather the people most important to him into one place.

"For me, it's really just about family," Hill said. "Whether it's my direct family or my roommates, or even some of my closest friends here on Grounds — it's kind of just like a little family. It's super nice to just sort of recuperate on the weekends and get together with everybody, sort of put the business humdrum and tedium of classes behind me for at least a few hours and just talk, relax, unwind, reconnect."

Though they are not unique vis-a-vis tailgates across the country, tailgates at the University produce a convergence and commingling of students and alumni that spans generations. Tailgating at University sporting events for 35-plus years, Class of 1976 alumnus Carter Hoerr said that even though University tailgates are not so unique, tailgating at Virginia football games is a deeply rooted practice.

"My personal experience [is] that our tailgating is probably pretty typical as compared to other schools, but it's certainly the case that [the] tradition itself of tailgating at U.Va. games has certainly been alive and well for a long, long time," Hoerr said. "[Tailgating is] a great way every fall to get together with our friends who are also alumni."

Dear routine, it's time to break up

How breaking routine and seizing opportunities has enriched my college experience

Sam Saks | Staff Writer



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Ten years from now, it's not the work, the library and certainly not the dining halls that you'll be thinking back on in reflecting upon your time at college.

For Hoos or Hokies, we all have our routines, following the same guide. These schedules are ingrained in muscle memory and crucially supplemented by Google Calendar — week in and week out. We go to the same dining hall, sit with the same people, go to the same club meetings and bunker down in the same study spots. While there's nothing wrong with the routine, it's really hard to break — routine is “known,” easily dependable and comfortable. So why would we venture away from what we already know we like and works for us? Half of the answer, I have realized, lies in the monotony of “the same.”

I'm someone who has long been grounded in routine — I need it to keep myself on track and to balance both work and social life. I needed routine back in high school, juggling after-school tennis matches with finishing homework late at night, and I know I'll depend on it throughout my adult life.

But I've realized that at no other time in my life than right now will there be more avenues through which I can leap out of the momentum of routine and incorporate new experiences and opportunities into my daily life. Therein lies the other half of the answer — I am surrounded by something new every day and yet have so often missed out on taking

advantage of all that's within reach because of my strong gravitation toward routine.

As I became more adjusted to life as a first-year University student and got a handle on my day-to-day, I started to become more aware of the unique opportunities that were constantly flooding my inbox, appearing in chalk on sidewalks, popping up on bulletin boards and projecting from monitors throughout different buildings on Grounds.

Now, as a second year, I've seized several on-Grounds opportunities that piqued my interest, the biggest of which is E-Guides, a group of students that gives tours of the School of Engineering to prospective students. Back in September, I decided to try out for E-Guides to break up my week and to share my own personal experiences with prospective Engineering students. While I was initially unsure if I had the skills to be an effective tour guide, I knew I had the drive, so I took a chance. Now, as a new E-Guide, I have really enjoyed being able to “schedule” a change of pace, a prescribed breaking of my routine while giving these tours. I love imparting helpful tidbits about my college experience, and it felt rewarding to paint a picture of the school to high school students and their families as they navigate college admissions.

I've also pushed myself to get involved with off-Grounds events. After seeing an email about Democracy360 in my inbox back in October, I ventured to The Paramount Theater on a solo mission to hear from former U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger. To listen to stories and powerful insight from someone who was on the “inside” of American politics — and to get a free copy of his new book before it hit shelves — was a truly unique experience. I would never have been able to enjoy it had I not taken the initiative to explore something new. As someone who has humanities interests extending beyond my focus on engineering, I was able to dive deeper into the current threat to democracy by listening to those who directly see warning signs in today's political climate.

Through my adventures on and off Grounds, I've realized the importance of engaging in what this community has to offer. It's not easy to break routine, but there are too many exciting opportunities all around us to let our typical schedules trump everything and dictate what we do every single day. Events at the University and in the surrounding Charlottesville or Blacksburg area that sound even remotely interesting are worth attending.

Whether you ended up enjoying them or not, taking the initiative to try something new

and perhaps out of your comfort zone is time well spent. Even though the emails easily pile up — I'm personally notorious for this — keep an eye out for niche happenings and flag those messages.

Take an extra 30 seconds to read the chalk message before you walk over it. You may just find a potential experience that challenges your perceptions, changes what you want to study, or simply serves as a way to break up your routine. All it takes is one great opportunity to create snapshot moments that you will remember years later, whether it altered your life, made you laugh or just created some much-needed balance.

Ten years from now, it's not the work, the library and certainly not the dining halls that you'll be thinking back on in reflecting upon your time at college. It's the moments you seized and the memories you made while doing so that will define your experience and stick with you. So go spruce up the Google calendar with new events. Read those flyers. Go through those emails. Whether you're a first year or a fourth year, it's never too late to start breaking routine — venture forward boldly.

Top 10 memorable U.Va. traditions

The places, the people and the traditions that make U.Va. a very special place

Elizabeth Parsons | Senior Associate

With one of the University's favorite traditions upon us — the football game against Virginia Tech — here is a list of other unique traditions and aspects of life at the University. Virginia Tech could only dream of being a part of these University traditions.

1. Singing the “Good Ol’ Song” at Scott Stadium

What better way to celebrate what it means to be a Hoo than to sing the “Good Ol’ Song” after a touchdown at Scott Stadium? Swaying in unison with those around you and singing the words of the “Good Ol’ Song” builds an instant connection with those around you — even if you have never met them.

2. Streaking the Lawn after dark — if you dare

Streaking the Lawn is a time-honored tradition at the University. Where else can you run naked through a UNESCO World Heritage site? Streaking the Lawn, however, is not for the weak. Starting from the Rotunda steps and running all the way to the Homer statue and back to the Rotunda in what may seem like a silly tradition is actually quite an athletic endeavor. Most importantly, don't forget to look through the keyhole of the Rotunda at the end of your run and say “goodnight” to Mr. Jefferson.

3. Taking a historical tour of Grounds

Understanding the history of the University is an essential aspect of being able to engage with the University in an informed and respectful way. The University Guides offers daily historical tours at 11 a.m. These tours detail the construction of the Academical Village and the role enslaved laborers occupied in both the construction and maintenance of the University — seen especially through the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers. I have been on two historical tours of the University, and each time I was surprised by how much I did not previously know about the construction.

4. Discovering your go-to Bodo's order

Nearly every student at the University has a favorite Bodo's order. Discovering your favorite order is certainly a rite of passage as a student. I especially love a sesame seed bagel with avocado and tomato or a sesame seed bagel with veggie cream cheese — although you really cannot go wrong with anything from Bodo's.

5. Celebrating the end of fall semester classes with Lighting of the Lawn

Nothing captures the joy of ending the fall semester quite like Lighting of the Lawn. Seeing the Rotunda lit up with holiday lights brings a needed sense of festivity and happiness to the final stretch of the semester—finals season. This year's Lighting of the Lawn is set for Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. with an array of performances that students and community members alike will not want to miss. I personally love the light show at the end of the night.

6. Signing the scroll of the honor code at opening convocation

The University's honor code is a core part of the experience as a student. Signing your name on the honor scroll at opening convocation officially shows your commitment to upholding the values of the honor code — inserting yourself into a long history and tradition of being an integral member of the community of trust. I vividly remember signing the scroll with my first-year hallmates during our first few days at the University.

7. Having a day made by Ms. Kathy at Newcomb

Ms. Kathy is not only an icon of the Newcomb Dining Hall — she is an icon throughout the entire University. Her beautiful smile and kind words to each student that enters the dining hall have a profound impact on students. I know that seeing Ms. Kathy especially during my first-year at the University meant a lot to me. She makes everyone feel seen and valued, which is invaluable when having a stressful day.



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

8. Casually walking by the room of Edgar Allan Poe on the way to class

One of the most fascinating parts about attending the University is being fully immersed in history while participating in mundane activities like walking to class. Walk down McCormick Road and you will pass room number 13 on the West Range — take a look inside and think about how thrilling it is to be attending the same University that poet Edgar Allan Poe once attended as well. The other morning I was trudging down McCormick to my 8 a.m. class and was suddenly struck by how cool it is to walk by pieces of history — even if I wished I was still in bed.

9. Participating in a Run with Jim

Take a morning run with the University President Jim Ryan. A Run with Jim typically starts around 7:30 a.m. at the steps of Madison Hall and concludes with bagels from Bodo's. While I have not participated in a Run with Jim, it is certainly a highlight and treasured tradition for many. Lace up your running shoes and go enjoy a morning run alongside Jim with Bodo's bagels — it is hard to imagine a better combination.

10. Walking the Lawn at graduation with a balloon in tow

If you're bored right now, chances are that everybody else is too. So pick up the phone and give your pals a text — while hanging out in these conditions may not be the same as it was before, it may be just what the doctor ordered. After all, friends are better six feet apart than they are through a laptop screen. And that's a fact.

A note from the editors:

To our readers,

Thank you for picking up a copy of The Collegiate Times and The Cavalier Daily's annual rivalry issue. This tradition was started in 2020 as a light-hearted way to celebrate a time-honored tradition in Charlottesville and Blacksburg, and we are excited to continue it this year.

In Charlottesville, we are also reflecting on the one-year anniversary of the Nov. 13 shooting on Grounds which claimed the lives of three students and football players — Lavel Davis Jr., Devin Chandler and D'Sean Perry. Their lives, legacies and their numbers — 1, 15, 41 — are commemorated at Scott Stadium and with the players who will be out on the field during the game. We in Charlottesville carry them with us every day.

If you'd like to support the CT or CD, you can donate to our fundraising campaigns online. Hoos and Hokies everywhere, thank you for your continued support of student journalism.

Momiji Barlow and Victoria Weber, Editors in Chief of the Collegiate Times
Ava MacBlane, Editor in Chief of The Cavalier Daily



HOW WILL THE 104TH COMMONWEALTH CUP BE DECIDED?

COLLEGIATE TIMES | SAM MOSTOW AND THOMAS BRAY CAVALIER DAILY | STEPHEN O'DEA AND SAM CHUN

In the regular season finale for both teams, Virginia and Virginia Tech square off in the 104th edition of the Commonwealth Cup on Nov. 25 in Charlottesville. The Cavaliers (2-8, 1-5 ACC) have struggled at times throughout the season, but have shown their competence in the biggest games, most notably defeating then No. 10 North Carolina on the road. Meanwhile, the Hokies (5-5, 4-2 ACC) have shown growth in Coach Brent Pry's second season, but as fans of both teams know, the last game is always the most important.

Below, writers from both The Collegiate Times and The Cavalier Daily share their thoughts on the Thanksgiving weekend showdown.

Which player will be the X-factor in the matchup?

Sam Mostow, Collegiate Times:

Virginia Tech defensive lineman Antwaun Powell-Ryland has been critical to the Hokies' success on defense. As a junior transfer from Florida, he sacked opposing quarterbacks nine times through 10 games, tied for eighth in the country, including four against Wake Forest. At that time, Tech was 4-0 when

Powell-Ryland recorded a sack. When he didn't record a sack, they were 1-5.

Stephen O'Dea, The Cavalier Daily:

If the Cavaliers hope to keep Virginia Tech's offense at bay, Jonas Sanker has to be the man to step up. The safety leads the squad with 79 tackles, and he has also forced two fumbles. In a defensive setup that has yet to do much in terms of sacks and interceptions, the Cavaliers will have to bend but not break against an offense that has the potential to move the ball quickly downfield when they are at their best. If Kyron Drones will be able to move freely both inside and outside of the pocket, the Cavaliers must ensure that his targets have to deal with crippling pressure. If Sanker can't spearhead that pressure, things could get ugly quickly for Virginia's defensive unit.

What statistic will be the most important key to either team's success?

Thomas Bray, Collegiate Times:

The Hokies' offensive line has been a predictor of success for the Hokies this season. In the



continued on page 9



continued from page 8

games Virginia Tech has lost this season, they've been manhandled up front. Ron Crook's group has given up just five sacks in five victories, but they have surrendered 3.4 sacks per game in five losses. Drones is one of the more elusive quarterbacks in the country, but if the Hokies can keep him off the ground, history says they will leave Charlottesville with a win.

Sam Chun, The Cavalier Daily: Virginia needs to focus on not letting Kyrn Drones extend plays that initially seem like a defensive victory. The Cavaliers have struggled to contain quarterbacks this season, most recently getting gashed by Georgia Tech signal-caller Haynes King for 83 yards and two touchdowns. While the sample size for Virginia wins is small, it seems that part of the recipe for success is making the opposing quarterback one-dimensional, as the Cavaliers were able to limit North Carolina quarterback Drake Maye to just 17 yards on the ground in their victory over the

Tar Heels. Drones had rushed for at least 40 yards in the Hokies' last four games, of which they won three, prior to their most recent bout against Louisville where Drones was bottled up for just six yards on the ground, en route to Virginia Tech's largest defeat on the season. Whether it be from implementing a quarterback spy or generating pressure to keep him in the pocket, the Cavaliers must find a way to neutralize the threat of Kyrn Drones' legs.

What is your prediction for the game?

Sam Mostow, Collegiate Times: Virginia Tech's bowl hopes may very well rest on their trip to Charlottesville, a place where they've won eight of their last nine trips. The Hokies, although heavily inconsistent throughout much of the season, have found success against ACC teams with losing conference records. However, the Hokies' run-based offense should thrive against the Cavaliers, a team that

allowed the most points in the ACC per game through the first 10 games. This game might be tighter than Tech fans want, but they should manage to leave Charlottesville with a win and a bowl game appearance. Score: 24-17 Virginia Tech

Thomas Bray, Collegiate Times: Bowl implications aside, the Commonwealth

Clash is a game that divides the state, and its result could have recruiting implications with two second-year head coaches trying to establish a culture in Tony Elliot and Brent Pry. Virginia has impressive wins on their resume, but Virginia Tech's run game should be too much for a Virginia team that is at the bottom of the conference in rushing yards allowed per game and rushing

touchdowns. Drones' improvement as a processor coupled with his rushing ability should open up everything else offensively, and the Hokies should convincingly win this one. Score: 37-20 Virginia Tech

Stephen O'Dea, The Cavalier Daily: The Cavaliers have pride and a chip on their shoulder after overwhelming tragedy stopped them from taking part in this rivalry last year. The Hokies have everything to lose in this matchup as the likely favorite, and Virginia has not shied away from challenges all year. Its win against North Carolina and down-to-the-wire finishes against James Madison, NC State, Boston College, Miami and Louisville show that this team is no pushover. Despite a worse record, the Cavaliers have played to the level of their competition in most contests this season despite stacked odds. Meanwhile, Virginia Tech was recently gashed for a 34-3 loss in an away matchup against Louisville — a team the Virginia battled with until the final possession. Factoring in the lack of quit in Coach Tony Elliott's team, a number of competitive one-possession losses and the home crowd at Scott Stadium the Cavaliers may have just enough in their favor to steal an unlikely victory. Score: 27-24 Virginia

Sam Chun, The Cavalier Daily: It is evident that this Virginia team has fight — shown by six one-possession losses this year — and there should be no other game to bring that energy to than the Commonwealth Clash. The fate of Virginia Tech's

bowl eligibility may lie in the outcome of this game, meaning that the Hokies will also be fired up to extend their season — but face more pressure to keep a roller coaster year alive for one more game. On the other hand, the Cavaliers are playing for nothing but pride. This may work in Virginia's favor, though, as they have proven to play at their best in games where they have nothing to lose. Whoever finds themselves behind center will be given a chance to uncork deep balls to graduate student receiver Malik Washington without fear. Meanwhile, with higher stakes in a hostile environment, a Hokie turnover or mistake may give Virginia the edge in a high scoring bout. Score: 34-30 Virginia



AHMED MUSTAFA / COLLEGIATE TIMES



NEWS

VIRGINIA TECH STUDENTS VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTION

JANA ISERN | NEWS STAFF WRITER

Voters went to elect candidates for Virginia’s State Senate and House of Delegates.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, students bustled in and out of Squires Student Center to cast their ballots for Virginia’s general elections for the State Senate and the House of Delegates.

In preparation for the elections, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences released an article on Oct. 30 of Virginia Tech experts and professors available to discuss the November elections with students. This provided a resource for students as they prepared for the elections.

Under Montgomery County, Virginia Tech students cast a ballot electing a candidate in District 5 of the State Senate and District 41 of the House of Delegates as well as clerk of court, commonwealth’s attorney, sheriff, commissioner of revenue, treasurer, director for the skyline soil and water conservation district and Blacksburg Town Council.

Republican T. Travis Hackworth won against Democrat Robert W. Beckman for the State Senate District 5 and Republican J. Christian “Chris” Obenshain won after a close race against Democrat Lily V. Franklin for the House of Delegates District 41, according to the New York Times.

The overall election results for Virginia saw a Democratic sweep with a majority win for both the State Senate and House of Delegates. The race was close but ultimately Democrats won the Senate 21 to 19 and the House of Delegates 51 to 48. Virginia Democrats succeeded in flipping the House of Delegates from the previous general election in 2021 and maintaining control of the State Senate.

Outside of Squires Student Center, booths and food trucks were stationed encouraging students to vote and guiding them in the process. Some booths included Young Democrats, College Republicans, Next Generation America as well as students canvassing and urging other students to vote.

Russell Swartz, a senior majoring in political science and president of the Young Democrats, explained that the organization has been encouraging students to register to vote and spread the word about the Democratic ticket with swag for the past six months in preparation for the elections.

Swartz acknowledged that a big obstacle with student voting has been registration, especially in the past having a deadline of Oct. 16.

“The good thing about this year — it’s same day registration, which we’ve seen a lot of people utilize, thanks to Democrats in the legislature,” Swartz said.

Despite hopeful assertions from Swartz, who claimed voters have “blown up last year’s number” and will “triple or quadruple that number,” the voter turnout for Montgomery County was a stagnant 42.9% compared to the previous general election of 2019 with a 41.4% voter turnout.

Next Generation America, the nation’s largest youth voting organization, also displayed a booth in front of Squires, handing out stickers to those who had voted and guiding prospective voters through the voting process.

As stated on their website, their mission

is to “empower young voters to engage in the political process and ensure our government is responsive to the largest and most diverse generation in American history.”

To combat low voter turnout among students, Virginia State Director of Next Generation America Will Winters explained that Virginia has implemented measures such as allowing students with an out-of-state ID to vote where they are attending university.

“Virginia has done a lot to make it easier for students to vote. I think that’s why you saw so many Tech students go vote today,” Winters said.

Winters feels it is important for students to vote because he believes young people are very passionate and voting is the best way for their voices to be heard.

“We want to see students who care so much about voting rights, about an economy that works for everybody, about fighting climate change, about protecting LGBT rights, all these different issues,” Winters said. “This is a way to bring it

home, to bring it local.”

Lilly Roser and Madison Fusco, both freshmen majoring in political science, stood outside Newman Library encouraging students to vote by handing out sample ballots and providing information about the voting process.

Both Roser and Madison emphasized voting’s importance, as it’s a civic responsibility.

“I think it’s a rite of passage that we have and we should exercise our freedom,” Madison said.

Roser agreed, adding that “it affects us, this being a local election. These candidates, it’s not just a president, these can directly affect our area, our school.”

While the voter turnout did not drastically increase from past elections, a large number of students still participated in the elections and exercised their right to vote, speaking their voices for the benefit of the local community.



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DIVING INTO 151 YEARS OF VIRGINIA TECH'S PICTURESQUE PAST

MICHAELA SCOTT | ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Take a trip back through time with this guide to our university's storied history.

Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia are ranked among the most distinguished institutions in the nation, though many overlook the rich history of these universities. For decades, the atmosphere of the Hokie Nation has been influenced by the beloved areas of Blacksburg and the heritage that makes the institution incomparable. The following sites and traditions make up the individuality and charisma of the Virginia Tech campus.

The Corps of Cadets

The most renowned aspect of the Hokie Nation is the rigorous military component known as the Corps of Cadets. The organization has existed at Virginia Tech since the establishment of the college in 1872 when

the institution was known as the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. Over the years, this aspect of campus life has grown into an intensive leadership program containing over one thousand cadets. Namely, Tech is one of only three public universities in the nation that integrates a civilian lifestyle and an operative corps of cadets that share the campus.

The Pylons and War Memorial Chapel

Another element of the long history at Virginia Tech involves The Pylons and War Memorial Chapel, which represents the core values of all Hokies: brotherhood, honor, leadership, sacrifice, service, loyalty, duty and Ut Prosim. The symbolic landmark looking over the Drillfield is a memorial to the students and graduates of Virginia Tech who died in honor of our country's liberty, starting with those deployed throughout World War I. The upper level of the memorial is the limestone Pylons that portray the institution's core values. The pillars include eight sculpted figures and consist of over 400 engravings that name the alumni who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Gifted by the alumni, this notable feature on campus also incorporates the lower level named the War Memorial Chapel, which seats 260 people and is used for an abundance of ceremonies such as military commissioning, religious services, and weddings.

The Duck Pond

Located on the west side of Virginia Tech's campus, the Duck Pond is one of the institution's most acclaimed environments, which streams from Stroubles Creek. This focal point of the campus was constructed in 1880, finalized in 1937, and is home to various wildlife such as geese, ducks, fish, and turtles. Furthermore, this site encompasses a pedestrian trail, a waterside gazebo, and picnic areas. The pond is enjoyed year-round by Hokies and is regularly used as a tranquil study space for students. In addition, this location is named the campus'

cheapest date spot by the Hokie Ambassadors.

"Enter Sandman"

While the tradition is only 23 years old, the chanting of "Enter Sandman" by Metallica is one of the most famed rituals established at Virginia Tech. This heavy metal song marks each entrance of the Hokies' football team during the home games in Lane Stadium and is known to be one of the most acclaimed pre-game rituals in the history of college athletics. As the team storms the field before each kickoff, nearly 70,000 fans contribute to the excitement and jump up and down within the stadium. Remarkably, this ritual has been known to literally shake the football stadium like a low-magnitude earthquake, and the Virginia Tech Seismological Observatory has famously been able to register the intense atmosphere on a seismograph.

The Drillfield

Beginning in 1894, Virginia Tech has been centered around one of the most symbolic spaces on campus, the Drillfield. The 22-acre plain embodies six paved paths and is utilized by thousands of students to navigate toward classroom buildings and residential locations on campus. Originally named the Scheib Field, University President John McBryde set aside this location for military drills specifically for the Corps of Cadets. Today, this site is used for an assortment of activities, such as community gatherings, sporting events, and cadet exercises.

Hokie Stone

Initially, Virginia Tech's architecture was constructed with strictly concrete and red brick which was later revised in 1899 to evoke a neo-Gothic style of construction surrounding the campus. Students and alumni denominate this limestone as 'Hokie Stone,' which quickly became a distinctive element of the Hokie nation, depicting European-style universities such as Oxford. The sedimentary rock originates from the 40-acre quarry located in Montgomery County, which was later purchased by Virginia Tech in the mid-50s. Despite the additional \$1 million expense that is required to construct a new building with Hokie Stone, this project covers the totality of buildings surrounding the center of campus.

Hahn Horticulture Garden

Founded in 1984, the Virginia Tech Horticulture Garden has been a distinguishing feature of our institution and is located on the southwestern side of campus off Washington Street. The Department of Horticulture's faculty members Robert Lyons, Richard Johnson and Robert McDuffie contributed to the six-acre garden and utilized the site as a resource for environmental awareness, such as botany. The garden was renamed the 'Hahn Horticulture Garden' in 2004 after Virginia Tech's 1962-1974 president and first lady Marshall and Peggy Hahn. The scenic attraction encompasses an extensive range of botanic plants found throughout the world and includes a series of attributes such as water gardens, shade gardens, and meadow gardens.

The Lyric

Another well-loved aspect of Virginia Tech's ambiance is The Lyric Theatre, situated on College Avenue. This quaint site is known to be one of the first cinemas in Virginia to show sound pictures and dates back over a century in Blacksburg history. The entertainment center was originally constructed in 1909 on North Main Street and relocated to 135 College Avenue in 1928 in an effort to renovate and strengthen the facility's sound system. Over the years, this venue has hosted an extensive range of entertainment such as musicals, cinematic films, and stage plays, and is commonly used by various departments at Virginia Tech.

The small-town charm of Blacksburg that surrounds the Virginia Tech campus is no secret to locals and students. It is also a major component that tends to drive individuals toward the institution and can make a large university feel like home. The beloved sites around campus shape the Hokie community and have carried on a legacy of intense and infectious Hokie spirit since 1872.



ELIZABETH MAZUR / COLLEGIATE TIMES

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STOPPING THE SPREAD: A HOKIE RESPONDS TO HOW WAHOOS VIEW VIRGINIA TECH

EMMA DUNCAN | LIFESTYLES WRITER

It's time to put down some stereotypes about who Hokies are.

With a rivalry that is over a century old, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia have had plenty of years to learn each other's game plays, but not enough time for Wahoos to answer the question, "What's a Hokie?"

While this rivalry makes the thought of UVA a heated topic of discussion in Blacksburg, we need to right some wrongs. Students from UVA have shared some common stereotypes the school has to describe Virginia Tech, and it's time for Hokies to respond.

Virginia Tech students are all rednecks and hillbillies

Whether this pertains to where students come from, our style and mannerisms, or where our political opinions generally fall, Virginia Tech students have been seen as the southern student counterpart to UVA's preppy population. While many students from southwest Virginia attend this university to stay close to home, many students from Northern Virginia make Blacksburg their college town. In the fall of 2022, 10,199 of all 30,434 undergraduate students at Virginia Tech were from Northern Virginia, according to the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia.

Despite the large in-state population, Virginia Tech is representative of the entire world. A Hokie is from the shores of New Jersey, the coast of California, and even from Alaska's cold climate. Hokies have flown across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Virginia Tech welcomed close to 10,000 out-of-state students in the fall of 2022. Just like the university's affiliations and impacts span the Earth, a Hokie is anyone from anywhere who loves Ut Prosim. Because of this diversity, the Virginia Tech campus has become a melting pot of cultures, passions, and identities, with strong Appalachian roots. We are proud of our location in southwest Virginia, with the New River Valley's beautiful sunsets, opportunities for recreation, and historic culture.

You're either an engineer or a frat brother, there's nothing in between

Typical of any stereotype, this belief takes one's identity to the extreme. While our university is known for its College of Engineering, and many students do decide to rush, Virginia Tech is more academically diverse than UVA, offering over 150 majors in comparison to the 74 offered in Charlottesville. In terms of social orga-

Even if some Hokies do enjoy a little partying every now and then, the university's academic record shows no sign of this getting in the way of high GPAs. Instead, some fun after a long week of school can relieve stress, improve overall mental health, introduce students to new friends, and expand their horizons.

A typical time for partying is before home football games when a large population of like-minded, energetic college

considered applying to UVA, I can say that this is probably the worst stereotype of them all. Since UVA and Virginia Tech hold similar standing within the state, and it is common for their applicants to have GPAs at or above 4.0, it's understandable for high school seniors to apply to both schools. In the end, however, the decision to attend either UVA or Virginia Tech takes into account aspects like location, intended major, class size, cost, and for some students, which school their family roots for. The two universities are vastly different, with one school being known for liberal arts and the other for STEM.

Hokies bleed maroon and orange

Now, this is a stereotype I can get behind — not exactly said at UVA but known across the country. Unlike these other stereotypes, this is true for most Virginia Tech students. Whether we're cheering in Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum or sharing our pride for our clubs and programs of study, Hokies are loyal to our school and what Virginia Tech stands for.

The reason this rivalry is taken so seriously is because of how dedicated Hokies are. While others may not know what we are, Virginia Tech students are confident in their school, their athletics, and themselves.

Virginia Tech and UVA may be rivals, but at the end of the day, it all stems from a strong passion for our respective universities and football teams. Rather than cause strong conflict, the rivalry between Hokies and Wahoos builds even stronger connections within each school's respective student bodies. The competition between the two schools brings a new level of excitement to the annual football game which is scheduled for Nov. 25 in Scott Stadium.



ZACK WAJSGRAS / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Eric Gallo (64) prepares to snap the ball in front of the UVA defensive line, Nov. 28, 2015.

nizations, Virginia Tech has around 800 clubs that students can join in addition to fraternities and sororities whereas UVA has around 700. With approximately 30,000 students, Virginia Tech is a place for students to make their own identities, however they decide.

Virginia Tech focuses more on partying than academics

fans comes together on Center Street to build excitement for the upcoming matchup. Center Street is a community neighboring Lane Stadium where many students live and socialize. Events like this build morale and community — when done responsibly, of course.

A school for "UVA rejects"

Coming from someone who never even



@COLLEGIATETIMES

LOCAL MUSIC SCENES IN BLACKSBURG AND CHARLOTTESVILLE ENLIVEN COMMUNITIES

CATHERINE CUNEO | OPINIONS COLUMNIST

Take advantage of the unique opportunities in Blacksburg and Charlottesville to support local musicians.



HAMAD ALHENDI / COLLEGIATE TIMES

The Jared Stout Band, local to southwestern Virginia, playing at the Hokie Village, Oct. 14, 2023.

In every community, music appears in some shape or form. Music is something that many of us listen to throughout the day whether it's on the radio, on streaming services like Spotify or having the opportunity to listen to an artist live. In a college town, there is lots of new and exciting music to be heard. Many students and members of the community will come together to form bands or attend music events. Each place has its own unique scene, and two very diverse live music environments can be found here in Blacksburg and in Charlottesville. In order to keep these communities thriving, it's important to show support and to get involved.

The music scene in Charlottesville is very different from the scene in Blacksburg. Not only is the area much bigger, but there are many more places where people can experience music. Since the city can house more venues, there are a variety of places where bands perform. These include the Southern Cafe and Music Hall, The Garage, The Front Porch and many others. Live music is played at house parties as well. All of these events can be found on the bands' Instagrams, venues' websites and on the University Records website. University Records is a student-run organization

at UVA designed to help students get involved in the music scene and to give them the opportunity to do so. They offer spaces to practice and equipment rental to help encourage people to form bands and produce music.

There is always an abundance of music in the city. While there are many student bands, there are also a number of other bands in the community. The scene in Charlottesville has been known to produce many successful bands such as The Dave Matthews Band and Parachute. Due to the fact that Charlottesville is a city, bands there have access to bigger venues and viewers have the opportunity to see bigger bands that come to play.

Though Blacksburg is a much different town, the local music scene is just as exciting. Like Charlottesville, people in Blacksburg continue to form bands and play shows at various times throughout the week. In downtown Blacksburg, there are only a few places where bands perform. These include places like the Milk Parlor, XYZ Gallery and occasionally Top of the Stairs. Bands in Blacksburg also play at people's houses or back yards depending on the event.

Maaz Hasan, a senior majoring in mechanical

engineering at Virginia Tech, talks about his involvement in the Blacksburg music scene.

"I just like how kinda tight-knit it is," Hasan said. "It's really cool that everyone knows each other and interweaves, it's only about a hundred of us."

Unlike Charlottesville, the local music scene in Blacksburg is much smaller. For this reason, it's necessary that members of the community help out in any way they can. Since there are fewer bands, many of them know one another more personally. Many like to collaborate often and become a staple show for the local music enjoyers. Not only do most of the bands know one another, but the people attending the shows do as well. The people who frequent the shows are often involved in the same groups; many are involved with the radio station on campus, WUVT. Seeing familiar faces around enforces a strong sense of community within the scene that is hard to achieve in a larger setting.

"I think at this point it's a lot of just going out and seeing your friends play," Hasan said. "I know everyone who's up there so just getting to talk to them — it's a lot of mutual support."

Hasan has been involved in the scene since his sophomore year and helps to produce shows

and get bands on the local radio station. Since the scene is on the smaller side, there are many ways to get involved whether it's producing, starting a band, joining the radio or just going to see the shows.

"I guess meeting all the people is pretty cool," Hasan said. "A lot of them you end up becoming really close friends with."

Whether you live in Blacksburg or Charlottesville, there is music all around. Though different, both scenes have the same component that makes them what they are: people. The people who make up the scene are what hold it together. Without them, the local music scene would be nonexistent. In smaller areas such as Blacksburg and Charlottesville, it is all the more important to support these local artists that make the community such a unique place to live and study. Having a community where those who want to create, play and listen to music is essential to keeping the artistic presence in the area alive.



@COLLEGIATETIMES



TRANSFERS LEAD VIRGINIA TECH FOOTBALL THROUGH INCONSISTENT SEASON

SAM MOSTOW | SPORTS EDITOR

Tech picked up seven players in the winter transfer portal.

Leading into his first Commonwealth Clash, Virginia Tech Head Coach Brent Pry is revamping a once-storied football program with transfers.

The Hokies qualified for a bowl game in 28 consecutive bowl years from 1993 to 2021. However, they hit rock bottom with a 3–8 record in 2022 — Pry's first season — losing seven consecutive games.

In Pry's defense, previous coaching staffs didn't put him in a position to immediately succeed. A football team that once had national prominence, the Hokies haven't ended a season ranked in the AP Top 25 since 2017, when they finished No. 24 after Oklahoma State defeated them in the Camping World Bowl. Previous Head Coach Justin Fuente was fired midway through the 2021 season after six seasons in Blacksburg.

Pry picked up quarterback Grant Wells in

the transfer portal from Marshall, who started all 11 games for Tech in 2022. Wells was not entirely reliable during his season as the starter, throwing nine touchdowns and nine interceptions with a 59% completion rate.

To make up for the 2022 season, their worst record since 1992, the Hokies reloaded with another round of transfers. They signed dual-threat quarterback Kyron Drones from Baylor, who took over as the starting quarterback in the third game of the season after Wells sustained a leg injury. Through 10 games and eight starts, Drones has passed for nine touchdowns and two interceptions. He added another four rushing touchdowns, averaging 4.2 yards per rush.

Drones, although not always consistent, has shown flashes of being the long-term quarterback option Tech needs. During the Oct. 14 game against Wake Forest, he passed for a

career-high 321 yards, adding another 59 on the ground. During the Oct. 26 game against Syracuse, he threw for another 194 yards and rushed for 56. He led an offense that scored more than 30 points in three of their first four ACC contests.

Running back Bhayshul Tuten, a junior who spent two seasons at North Carolina A&T, has been Tech's best weapon on the ground. In the first 10 games of the season, he rushed 137 times for 613 yards — 4.5 per carry — and caught 24 passes for another 218 yards — nine yards per reception. He is also the Hokies' main kickoff returner, returning a kick 99 yards for a touchdown against Florida State on Oct. 7.

On the other side of the ball, defensive lineman Antwaun Powell-Ryland transferred from Florida. Through 10 games, he has nine sacks, including four against Wake Forest on

Oct. 14, tied for eighth-most in the country. Powell-Ryland is leading a defense that has 31 sacks through three-quarters of the season, tied for 10th in the NCAA.

The Hokies' game against their in-state rivals could very well determine their bowl eligibility. Leading into its last two games of the season, Tech is 5–5 and their last two games will determine if they hit the six-game threshold. To do so would signal a turnaround for Tech's football program, serving as a glimmer of hope for a fanbase that has had very little in the past decade.



NFL PLAYERS WHO LEFT THEIR MARK IN THE COMMONWEALTH CLASH

THOMAS BRAY | SPORTS EDITOR

Many current NFL players have impacted the Commonwealth Clash for the Hokies and Cavaliers.

The Commonwealth Clash, the annual showdown between the Virginia Tech Hokies and the Virginia Cavaliers, has produced a series of memorable football performances since 2011. This game has seen an abundance of talent, but these athletes left their mark on this fiercely contested rivalry.

Logan Thomas (Virginia Tech) - 2012:

In the 2012 Commonwealth Clash, Logan Thomas, the Virginia Tech quarterback, delivered an exceptional performance. He threw for 199 yards and ran for another two touchdowns, leading the Hokies to a 17–14 victory.

After his college career, Thomas transitioned to tight end and has been a mainstay for Washington through several name changes. The 32-year-old's 1,500

receiving yards since 2020 are second only to Terry McLaurin during that same span.

Bryce Perkins (Virginia) - 2019:

The Virginia Cavaliers had struggled in the Commonwealth Clash for years, but in 2019, quarterback Bryce Perkins helped change their fortunes. Perkins threw for 311 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 164 yards and two touchdowns, leading Virginia to a 39–30 win and ending a 15-game losing streak to the Hokies.

Today, Perkins is a free agent, but he had a starting stint with the Los Angeles Rams last season and had a workout with the Carolina Panthers back in September.

Hendon Hooker (Virginia Tech) - 2019:

On the other side, Virginia Tech's quarterback, Hendon Hooker, also

had an impressive showing in the 2019 Commonwealth Clash. He passed for 311 yards and ran for two touchdowns, keeping the Hokies competitive in a close, high-scoring contest.

Hooker's career after that was a wild ride that included a near Heisman trophy with Tennessee. In April, The Greensboro North Carolina native was drafted by the Detroit Lions and is currently nursing a knee injury he suffered in his final season with the Volunteers.

Khalil Herbert (Virginia Tech) - 2020:

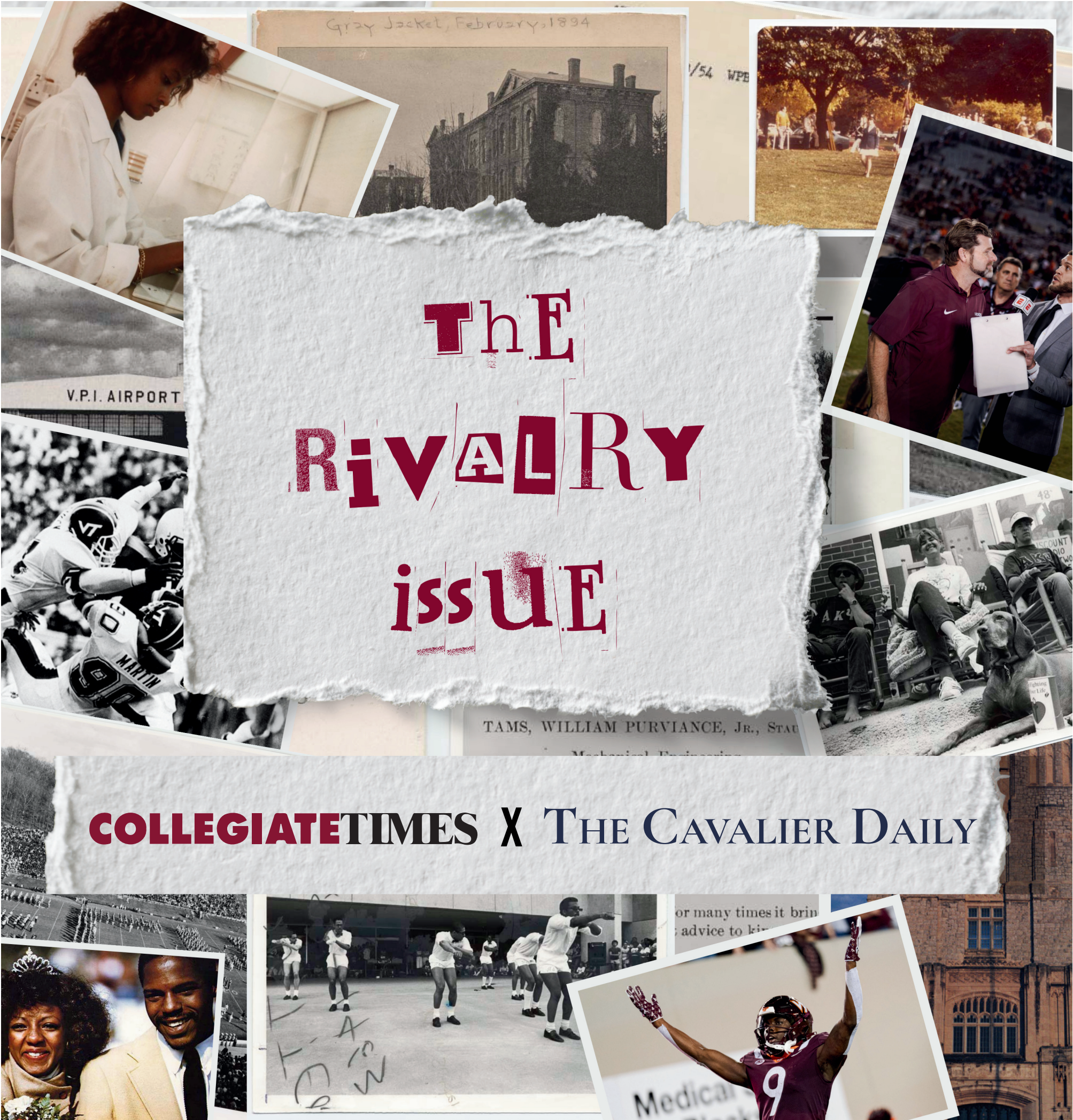
In the unusual 2020 season, running back Khalil Herbert made his mark in the Commonwealth Clash. Herbert rushed for 162 yards and scored a touchdown, helping Virginia Tech to a 33–15 victory.

Herbert saw the field almost

immediately in his rookie season, and the third-year player has averaged 5.1 yards per carry as a member of the Chicago Bears.

These performances represent just a few of the standout moments in the Commonwealth Clash since 2011. This rivalry has seen its fair share of exciting plays and incredible individual efforts, making it a cherished tradition for college football fans in Virginia.





COLLEGIATE TIMES X **THE CAVALIER DAILY**

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