Greenberg to preside over learning year

Classifying the 2003-04 Virginia Tech men’s basketball season as a "rebuilding year" would be applicable — the term learning experience, however, would be more accurate.

"My main goal is to teach them how hard they have to work each and every day," said new Tech head coach Seth Greenberg. "I want them to improve individually and have a better understanding of the game. I want to develop a toughness and maturity in our younger players and help them become leaders."

Inheriting a team that went 12-17 a year ago, including 4-12 in the Big East, the new coach definitely has his work cut out for him. The Hokies lost four players from their 2002-2003 roster (Brian Chase, Eric Branham and Terry Taylor graduated and Dimari Thompkins left for personal reasons) with combined averages of 31.1 points, 15.8 rebounds and 6.7 assists, which makes Greenberg’s task even more daunting.

"We are the youngest team in America by far," he said. "We have a total points per game returning among our five sophomores of 10.4 points a game. Add in the three freshmen and you have a lot of guys with question marks on their chest. Someone will step forward, we just don’t know who yet.”

While much uncertainty surrounds the team’s younger members, Greenberg can be confident in the contribution of senior swingman Bryant Matthews, who in 2002 became the first player in Big East history to lead his team in points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocked shots. Matthews, who averaged 17.7 points and 7.3 rebounds a contest last season, will anchor Tech’s offense once again this year. He must, however, take better care of the ball — he led

Lady Hokies look to make tourney run

The Virginia Tech women’s basketball team has tasted tournament play each of the last six seasons under coach Bonnie Henrickson, and they expect no less coming into the 2003-2004 season.

After a successful 2002-2003 campaign, where the Hokies went 22-10 and reached the second round of the NCAA tournament, Tech has set high expectations for themselves. "We always look for the opportunity to finish top-four in the Big East so we can get a bid in the first round of the conference tournament," Henrickson said. "Our expectations every year are also to advance to the NCAA tournament and we want to be better than last year, and that would mean reaching the Sweet 16.”

The Hokies return with a different look this season as fan favorites Chrystal Starling and Emily Lipton were lost to graduation.

"We will feel the loss of them," Henrickson said. "Chrystal shot the three well, and we will need that this year. And we will miss Emily’s, defense and leadership, although Carrie (Massey) shared a lot of time with Emily last year.”

Tech faces a schedule loaded with talent this season. Last year, the Big East sent seven teams to the NCAA tournament, including last year’s national champion, the University of Connecticut Huskies.

"What’s difficult about the Big East is not just how talented they are, but how different people play," Henrickson said. "Comparing teams like Miami, Villanova, Connecticut and Rutgers shows how completely different they are.”

The Hokies schedule includes teams from many different conferences, as well as an international exhibition matchup with Slovenia-WBC Brita, whom Tech dominated 93-36.

"Our out-of-conference schedule will help us prepare for the Big East," Henrickson said. "Iowa State, for instance, likes to shoot the three like Villanova and they are tremendous athletes like Miami.”

For the most part, Henrickson and the coaching staff look to play the same game they did last year with only a few differences. Expect to see the Hokies play more aggressive basketball and create higher percentage shots by using the dribble to penetrate into the paint.

Anchoring the middle for the Hokies is First Team All-Big East center Ieva Kublina. Last season, she averaged 15 points, 7.4 rebounds and two blocks per game. She features a strong inside game and an outside game shooting 35 percent from beyond the three-point line and 80 percent from the foul line.

"We will go as she (Kublina) goes," Henrickson said. "She has to shoot it, and we have to give it to her to see if she will draw the double team because she is unselfish, and she will pass it back out.”

Henrickson said she looks forward to what this year’s team has to offer.

"Like our size and athleticism and the fact that we are very unselfish,” she said. “I am highly surprised at how capable we are of the dribble trying to penetrate with Dawn (Chisum), Kirby (Copeland) and Mason.”

In the preseason polls, Tech has received votes to be in the top 25 but is sitting just outside of it. A couple of early season wins, including a Nov. 23 victory over the University of Virginia, should place the Hokies among the top 25.

--Kasan Malhotra --Adam Abramson
by Kumar Malhotra
Sports Editor

While “football” is the most common word people around the country associate with Virginia Tech, new head coach Seth Greenberg, would not consider this a football school.

“College athletics has changed in the last five to 10 years,” Greenberg said. “There is no such thing as a ‘football school’ or ‘basketball school’ — you either have a good athletic program or you don’t.”

Greenberg said the program here — that’s the only reason — leaves many teams from South Florida for pine trees and fall foliage of Blacksburg.

“Either you have a good athletic program or you don’t.”

With strong football and basketball teams, tradition of Oklahoma and Texas — schools Greenberg said believes in the program here — that’s the only reason he left the palm trees and either have a good athletic program or you don’t.”

Greenberg said, “I put in a long day, but I try to or go to my youngest daughter’s basketball game,” Greenberg said. “I like to go out and see my daughter play volleyball or to my youngest daughter’s basketball game.”

The family Greenberg speaks of includes his wife Karen and their three daughters Paige, Jalisa and Ellis. And while the responsibilities of a Division I head coach consume most of his day, Greenberg try his best to lead a normal family life.

“We have a head coach for 15 years. I understand what I am getting into and that there’s no shortcut to (rebuilding a program) — it’s a process.”

At 31x835

“The passion Greenberg speaks of used to resonate in Cassell Coliseum the way it does in Lane Stadium each time the Hokies take the field. People forget — the Hokies were a NCAA Tournament team, reaching the second round less than a decade ago, in 1996.

“Obviously the program has declined over the past few years, but Greenberg is confident that Virginia Tech basketball can be resurrected. His confidence is well founded; this isn’t the first time he has been in this situation.

Having been a head coach for 15 years, I understand what I am getting into and that there’s no shortcut to (rebuilding a program) — it’s a process.”

The first step in that process is realizing that the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inheriting a team that returns only two seniors and five sophomores from a year ago, Greenberg realizes he must be patient. In fact, he is more concerned with the change won’t take place over night. Inherit
Women’s Basketball Starting Lineups

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerri Gardin</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6'1&quot;</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td></td>
<td>Team leader in assists and minutes played.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie Mazza</td>
<td>G/FR</td>
<td>5’9&quot;</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Team’s top big East All Rookie Team in 2003, lead in assists and rebounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Christy</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6'1&quot;</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Named Big East Preseason player and came up big in the conference’s final week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britney Anderson</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6'0&quot;</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>From Blacksburg, will help the Hokies on the board and with her ability to get to the basket on offense.</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Heuberg</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6’2&quot;</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Top returning player from last year’s team and a front runner for the Big East Player of the Year.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Carrie Mazza</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ieva Kublina</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6’1&quot;</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Outstanding academic institution, solid rebounder and shot blocker.</td>
</tr>
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Henrickson hopes to stay on winning track with Hokies

* Bonnie Henrickson has taken the Virginia Tech women’s basketball team to the NCAA tournament four times in her six years as coach by Adam Abramson

Virginia Tech women’s basketball coach Bonnie Henrickson is all business when it comes to her job and a model of civility on the Hokie bench during game time.

Hailing from Willmar, Minn., Henrickson embodies many characteristics of a small-town woman. She’s polite, dedicated and passionate about her role in the Tech athletic department.

“I am from a small town, and Blacksburg is actually bigger than where I am from,” Henrickson said. “While there is plenty to do in Blacksburg, working here allows me to stay focused. My job is such a big part of my life. I don’t really have time to enjoy (Blacksburg’s entertainment venues).”

Henrickson began her career in 1988 as an assistant coach at Tech after getting her masters at Western Illinois University. She left the program in 1995 to assist at the University of Virginia. Since Henrickson returned to Tech in 1997, taking the title of head coach for the first time, basketball has enjoyed her life. She has taken the Hokies to the postseason all six years, including four trips to the NCAA tournament. In the six seasons, she has amassed a record of 135-54.

Basketball for Henrickson is a year-round responsibility, and her busiest months are from September to March. The staff has to balance leading a successful basketball program and looking to the future with recruiting during these months.

“During the season, I might miss an occasional practice to take a trip and usually deal with recruits on our days off,” Henrickson said. “During the season, I might miss an occasion practice to take a trip and usually deal with recruits on our days off,” Henrickson said.

“Last year when we played Seton Hall, I had to miss our first charter ever to make a visit. But we just got the commitment (Christie Mamone),” Henrickson said.

Henrickson keeps a weekly updated list that reminds her of the contacts for the week, including coaches, former players and current players.

Recruiting allows Henrickson and the other coaches to present Tech as a place where future Hokies want to come and play basketball.

“It isn’t hard to sell Virginia Tech,” Henrickson said. “We’re an outstanding academic institution, and with the strength of our basketball program and the commitment we receive from alumni and students it sells itself.”

Henrickson uses her lifelong small-town experience to sell Blacksburg to recruits and their families as well.

“We tell parents it is a great place to leave their little girl,” Henrickson said. “Blacksburg is a safe community with 20,000 people their own age with enough to do.”

“But she would much rather be on the sidelines than on the floor.

“I would rather be a coach definitely. It is so much different,” Henrickson said. “It is time consuming, but I don’t know what I would rather do. I love it.”

Women’s Basketball Starting Lineups

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<td>6’0&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirby Costand</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5’10”</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>From Louisville College last year, where she was a first team NCAA All-American and a Kodak Jr. College All-American.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandi Fowler</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5’9”</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>From Willmar, Minn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britany Anderson</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6’0”</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>From Willmar, Minn.</td>
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Matthews provides veteran leadership to young squad

by Michelle Horstman
Associate Sports Editor

In Columbus, S.C., playing football is the thing to do, Bryant Matthews said. So how did Matthews, who was offered football scholarships to Florida State University, University of Miami and Ohio State University, end up in Virginia Tech’s Cassell Coliseum?

“A couple other schools offered me football scholarships, but my mom, she narrowed it down,” he said. “She didn’t want me to play football, so I honed her videos and I didn’t go see those other schools that were offering me scholarships. So I kind of narrowed my choices down and came to Tech.”

Respecting his mother’s wishes, the 6-foot-7-inch Matthews accepted the basketball scholarship offered by Tech and continued the sport he had been interested in since middle school.

Three years later he’s moving into his senior year as a Hokie guard/forward with no regrets about the decision. As one of two seniors on the team, Matthews takes on the extra responsibility this year of leading a relatively young team.

“I’ve got to be a little more vocal,” said Matthews, a physical education major. “I’m not a very vocal person. Coach Seth (Greenberg) helped me with that. He’s vocal enough so it’ll rub off.

“I’ve got to just continue what I’ve been doing. Go ahead and practice hard and just lead by example.”

The example he set will be tough to follow. Matthews led the team in points per game, rebounds, assists, blocked shots and free throws. He also led the team in turnovers.

Senior Bryant Matthews led the Hokies in points per game, rebounds, assists, blocked shots and free throws. He also led the team in turnovers.

Matthews said the team is going to score in the double figures 14 times. He thinks the year brings with it the possibility of a NCAA bid, but all he and his teammates can do is work like winners and wait for the season to unfold.

When Matthews isn’t spending his time attacking the rim or shooting the three, he said he leads a pretty normal life.

“I’m a regular student, I like to do nothing,” he said. “I joke all the time. I play all the time. I’m just a regular guy. I like back, drill and relax and that’s about it.”

However, most regular students about to graduate from college are making plans for their future and stressing over job interviews, but Matthews is keeping his focus in the present.

“I just want to get to graduation right now,” he said. “That’s my biggest thing.

After that, who knows. I just want to get to the season and after that take it a game at a time and then when graduation comes, we’ll see. I don’t have any plans till that point.”

Although he would love to play professional ball next year, especially with his favorite team, the Chicago Bulls, Matthews refuses to concentrate on what might be. He’s devoting his attention to his senior year, which he hopes will bring some degree of success and an NCAA invitation.

“Although he would love to play professional ball next year, especially with his favorite team, the Chicago Bulls, Matthews refuses to concentrate on what might be. He’s devoting his attention to his senior year, which he hopes will bring some degree of success and an NCAA invitation.”

Matthews, a physical education major, said he feels like a newcomer also.

“Matthews is still waiting to see what this year holds. Matthews is still waiting to see what this year holds.

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Fan turnout doesn’t mimic team success
by Michelle Hershman
Associate Sports Editor

Bringing back the glory days. The days when the hearts of Hokie fans were filled with pride for the Blue and Gold. The days when Cassell Coliseum sold out for every game. The days when Virginia Tech basketball was a tradition, a passion, a lifestyle — a sport with a fan following comparable to Hokie football today.

Frank Beamer and Michael Vick rightfully stole the limelight and have it brightly over Lane Stadium for the past decade. But now men’s basketball head coach Seth Greenberg said it’s time to bring back the glory days and shine the light on the court again.

Can Greenberg convince the student body to turn out their attention from a nationally ranked football team to a basketball team that ended the 2002-2003 season dead last in the Big East? Or will the old cliché, loyalty to a basketball team that ended the 2002-2003 season in the National Invitation Tournament, a passion, a lifestyle — a sport with a fan following comparable to Hokie football today. Greenberg said the biggest thing is there’s got to be a connection, he said, in establishing a relationship with the student body is the real answer.

The question is: how do you evoke interest in a team that has a losing record? The answer to that question is the ability to attract fans, he said he believes establishing a relationship with the student body is the real answer.

“Last year, while the men were struggling to stay alive in the Big East, the women’s basketball team pulled out a 22-10 record and a bid to the NCAA,” Kublina said. “We have great fans. We have great fans. We have great fans.”

Kublina enters the year as a preseason First-Team All-Big East member and is one of the front-runners for the Wade Trophy, which is given to the national player of the year.

“The whole coaching staff is already off to a great start. In the exhibition game against Slovenia, Kublina finished with 19 points, eight rebounds and four blocks leading the Hokies to a crushing 93-36 win.”

KEVIN KRAHPE

“Tulio from Riga, Latvia, brings an international flavor to the game, possessing a good blend of outside and inside efficiency on offense.”

“The biggest thing is there’s got to be a connection,” he said. “You’ve got to get the students to take ownership with the student body is the real answer.”

“I’m excited about our team this year,” Kublina said. “We are still a young team but have a great shot to do well and make it into the NCAA tournament.”

The preseason First-Team All Big East center hopes to follow up her strong 2002-2003 season for the Hokies by Jim-Gin Bar
Staff Writer

At 6 foot, 4 inches, forward Ieva Kublina garnered great responsibilities coming off a superb 2002-2003 campaign. With All-Big East first team honors and All-Big East Tournament team selection, Kublina will be the face of many opponents.

On top of all this, Kublina is expected to be a stronger leader. The team is still young and she will be expected to step up during tougher situations throughout the season.

“This season we have more people who can get involved in our offense,” Kublina said. “I expect more players to contribute in our offense and make our team more balanced.”

Kublina led the Hokies in many statistical categories last season including scoring (15.0 ppg), rebounding (7.4 rpg), blocks (1.9) and minutes (33.1). Her 1.9 blocks per game average was tops in the Big East.

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Ieva Kublina (No. 14), from Riga, Latvia, led the Hokies in scoring, rebounding, blocks and minutes.
Zabian Dowdell is one of three freshmen looking to make an impact on the men’s basketball team this season.

The Virginia Tech men’s basketball team has three new additions expected to do big things this season: Jamon Carter, Zabian Dowdell and Coleman Collins. After asking to get the group of talented youngsters, it became apparent that they are expected to contribute greatly to the Hokie this season.

At Andrew Jackson High School in Jacksonville, Fla., Gordon played the guard position and was awarded all-conference honors while also being an all-city selection three times and getting all-state honors his junior and senior years. He also led the state in steals in both his junior and senior years and ended his high school career with four steals in the state final.

“The biggest change that I had to make was to make sure I have my hands on defense because these players look to shoot, not to drive,” said Gordon.

Head coach Seth Greenberg said that he has put his hands on defense because these players look to shoot, not to drive.

“Gordon has done a good job of doing that,” Greenberg said. “He’s looked 100 percent focused most of his attention on being a great point guard by making sure the ball got down to the court and the team executed the plays properly.”

In high school, Collins was a three-year letter winner at Chamberlaine High School in Pahokee, Fla. He was a four-year letter winner, starter and captain at Ft. Lauderdale High School in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He received first team all-state honors as a senior and a junior. He also received player of the year as a senior, as well as small school player of the year in 2002 at Ft. Lauderdale Beach.

“Even though college players are stronger, faster and smarter, I am prepared for anything that they serve me,” Dowdell said.

“Greenberg’s confidence in improving has given him hopes of playing a major role this season. If he does not have these intangibles, then he looks like he is not doing his job as a point guard.”

In the first exhibition game, Dowdell focused most of his attention on being a great point guard by making sure the ball got down to the court and the team executed the plays properly.

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How far I go in my career is truly up to me and my abilities. Sure, every company says that, but at Enterprise, it’s actually true. When I produce results, I get promoted, and I’ve seen true loyalty doesn’t change with the tide of victory. Loyal fans weather the losses and always know victory is right around the corner.

For more information on opportunities in Northern Virginia, please contact Ashley Good, Recruiting Supervisor, 23300 As Quaker Dr., Dulles, VA 20166; phone (703) 996-1504 e-mail: shawn.hu@erac.com

For more information on opportunities in Southern Virginia, please contact Ashley Good, Recruiting Supervisor, 4721 Melissa Ave., Roxboro, VA 22437; phone (540) 984-0628 e-mail: aghemm@erac.com EOE

For more information on opportunities in Northern Virginia, please contact Shelly Good, Recruiting Supervisor, 729 W 31st St. Collegeville, PA 19426 phone: (215) 720-1783 e-mail: shelly.hodges@erac.com
Local hero Anderson one of new faces for women’s squad

by Ben Aiken
Staff Writer

One comes from right here in Blacksburg, one from the heart of Atlanta, and another from the African country of Mali.

The freshman class of the Virginia Tech women’s basketball team may come from different backgrounds, but they all share a desire to play ball and help Tech excel last year’s 15-13 record and second-round tournament exit. If their high school accolades, attitudes and preseason performances are any indication, they should do just fine.

Forward Britney Anderson is the hometown hero of the group, leading Blacksburg High School to a championship in 2002 as she earned the Virginia AA Player of the Year award.

This chemistry may help DuBose in all aspects of her life.

"They know that sometimes I might need them to help me with something because I’m ill, but they’re all very patient with me," she said. "I’m a very slow person. I like to take my time even if we are in a rush, so that’s the things for me to help me speed up."

She said she notices a difference in her teammates because of being in a foreign culture.

"I just want to help the team this year," Anderson said. "I didn’t really think I would go home."

"I’m very excited about moving to Blacksburg," Copeland said. "I want to help," Anderson added.

DuBose scored 61 points in 13 games last season before contracting meningococcal meningitis.

This is a sentiment echoed by all three, this being the pressures of being a freshman in ACC competition, but also the pressures of being in a foreign culture.

The coaches and teammates have kept her from being too homesick, as well as frequent calls to her family back home and her sister, who is living in New York, she said.

Even though the physical aspect of the game has been removed for DuBose, having to watch the other girls play while she can’t sometimes makes her bitter. "It’s a different level of competition for them, but it’s not that bad of a change (from actually playing)," DuBose said.

With the season Tech’s wont get off to a slow start like the bench or with my defense in practice, I want to help," Anderson said. "I'm very excited about moving to Blacksburg, way they can.

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