



Davidson, N.C.
August 22, 2008



Hokies travel to Davidson for regular season opener

BLACKSBURG, Va. - The Virginia Tech women's soccer team opens its regular season with a non-conference game on Saturday, Aug. 23 at Davidson. The match is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Stadium in Davidson, N.C.

LIVE STATS AND AUDIO BROADCAST

Davidson's official website, www.davidsonwildcats.com, will carry both livestats and live video streaming.

SCOUTING REPORT: DAVIDSON

The Wildcats and head coach Greg Ashton return nine starters and 19 letterwinners from the team that finished 14-5-1 overall last season and placed second in the Southern Conference with an 8-1-1 record.

The Wildcats lost two seniors to graduation from their exceptional 2007 defense; Nancy Haskell and Bevin English were named first and second All-SoCon, respectively. In addition, both also earned NSCAA Scholar All-South Region honors. Replacing English, one of the top goalkeepers in Davidson history, will be especially difficult as only one of the three keepers on the Wildcats' current roster has any collegiate experience.

However, on the offensive side of the field, Davidson returns its five top scorers a year ago. Juniors Kyri Bye-Nagel and Suzanne Sittko were also named to the All-SoCon team, while Bye-Nagel led the team in goals (12) and points (25).

This season, Davidson will be in the hunt to claim its fourth SoCon regular season title since joining the conference in 1994, while seeking its first berth to the NCAA Tournament in program history.

VIRGINIA TECH-DAVIDSON SERIES

Saturday's game is the seventh matchup between the two schools with the Wildcats holding a 3-2-1 advantage over Tech. The two teams split a two-game series in the Hokies inaugural 1993 season and faced each other twice between 1994-1995. Tech and Davidson would not play one another during the next five seasons, but renewed their rivalry in 2001. Tech won their last home match-up against the Wildcats, 2-0.

Despite being separated by a trip totaling less than three hours, the Wildcats and Hokies have not competed against each other since the 2002 season. Tech lost their last meeting with Davidson, 2-1, in overtime at Alumni Stadium on Oct. 4, 2002.

OPENING DAY RECORDS

The Hokies enter Saturday night's match with an opening day record of 7-6-2 and are 3-1-1 under head coach **Kelly Cagle**. Last season, Tech started the year on a high note, defeating the neighboring Radford Highlanders, 3-0, at Cupp Memorial Stadium in Radford, Va.

Sophomore **Marika Gray** had a brilliant performance in her first game as a Hokie. She scored the game-winning goal in the 40th minute of play before tallying another goal in the 64th minute to secure the win for the Hokies. Classmate **Jessica Varela** and junior **Julian Johnson** both had assists for Tech.

Senior co-captain and starting goalkeeper **Ashley Owens** also had a stellar night, making five saves, one on a wide-open Radford shot, to preserve the shut out win.

Prior to 2007, Tech had opened the 2006 season with a tie at home against George Mason on Aug. 25. The Hokies and the Patriots both scored a goal in the 1-1 draw. Tech kicked off the 2005 schedule with a victory over American University. The Hokies shutout the Eagles, 1-0, on the road.

2008 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

0-0-0, (0-0-0)

Date	Opponent	Result
August		
18	OHIO, exh.	T, 0-0
23	at Davidson	7:30 p.m.
29	EVANSVILLE	7 p.m.
31	GEORGE MASON	7 p.m.

September		
5	TEXAS A&M\$	6 p.m.
7	GEORGE WASHINGTON\$	1:30p.m.
12	Cal State Fullerton#	5 p.m.
14	Charlotte#	11 a.m.
21	JAMES MADISON	7 p.m.
25	at Miami*	7 p.m.
28	at Florida State*	1 p.m.

October		
2	at Clemson*	7 p.m.
5	NC STATE*	1 p.m.
9	VIRGINIA*	7 p.m.
12	at North Carolina*	1 p.m.
15	LONGWOOD	7 p.m.
19	MARYLAND*	5 p.m.
26	at Boston College*	1 p.m.
28	WAKE FOREST*	7 p.m.

November		
2	DUKE*	2 p.m.
5-9	ACC Tournament	TBA
14,16	NCAA First & Second Rds.	TBA
21-23	NCAA Third Round	TBA
28-30	NCAA Quaterfinals	TBA

December		
5,7	NCAA College Cup	TBA

HOME MATCHES HELD AT VIRGINIA TECH SOCCER STADIUM

- * denotes ACC Opponent;
- \$ denotes Hawthorn Suites Hokie Invitational;
- # denotes Wake Forest Nike Tournament.

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PRESEASON ACTION

Tech hosted Ohio University in a preseason exhibition match on Monday, Aug. 18 at Virginia Tech Soccer Stadium. After three 30-minute periods elapsed, the score remained knotted at 0-0.

In the first period, the two teams seemed evenly matched as neither club was able to put together a strong offensive attack. The Hokies, however, were able to take control of the game in the second and third periods, dominating the time of possession and posting numerous shots on goal. Yet the Bobcats' defense held on to earn the shutout through the strong play of goalkeepers Christa Puccio and Jess MacLean, both of whom were forced to make several athletic saves.

Not to be outdone, Tech's defense also posted a strong showing as the Ohio offense never was able to put together a serious scoring threat. Two newcomers also got their first taste of collegiate soccer action in goal. Freshmen goalkeepers **Sarah Mather** and **Kristin Carden** split time in net and helped to shut out the Bobcats.

ANOTHER STRONG RECRUITING CLASS

Tech returns eight starters this season and will also add an incoming class of highly talented freshmen.

Highlighting the class are **Brittany Michels**, **Kristin Carden** and **Amanda Gerhard**. All three were named to either NSCAA All-Regional or All-America teams, while Michels was chosen as one of *Soccer Buzz's* Top 150 recruits in 2008. Michels, Carden and Gerhard are joined by **Rachel Beaumont**, **Katie Cramp**, **Sarah Mather**, and **Brittany Popko**.

After redshirting her freshman season in 2007, **Stephanie Hylton** will also look for her first on-the-field action as a Hokie in 2008.

IN THE POLLS

The league coaches picked the Hokies to finish eighth out of 11 schools in the Atlantic Coast Conference in the annual preseason poll. Last season, the ACC proved once again to be one of the top women's soccer conferences in the nation, sending eight teams to the NCAA Tournament. Florida State used its best season in school history to make it to the College Cup finals before falling to national champion Southern California. ACC regular season and tournament champion North Carolina was picked to finish first in the conference.

DIFFICULT SCHEDULE AHEAD

The Hokies will face a demanding schedule this year as twelve of their opponents made the NCAA Tournament a year ago, while seven are currently ranked in the top-25 nationally according to the NSCAA/adidas preseason college rankings. The 2008 schedule pits Tech against Big West champion Cal State Fullerton, Atlantic 10 champion Charlotte and Big 12 regular season champion Texas A&M before the always taxing ACC schedule begins. This season's conference schedule features matches against perennial powers Duke, Virginia and North Carolina in addition to College Cup runner-up Florida State.

Yet the Hokies remain confident that a berth to the NCAA Tournament is within reach. After barely missing out on tournament play a season ago, Tech has added a group of skilled freshman to its nucleus of experienced veterans;

a combination the Hokies believe has the potential to make a run to the postseason.

TECH RECORDS WATCH

Several Hokies have the opportunity to move up the Tech career-record books this season. Senior **Laurie Beth Puglisi** sits in sixth place for career points with 42. She only needs five points to move past Victoria Sarfo-Kantanka (1998-2001) for second place and 20 points to eclipse Emily Barnhart's career record 61 points. If Puglisi has a similar performance to her sophomore year, a season in which she tallied 21 points, she would have a solid chance of claiming the top spot in the record books. The senior from Arlington Va., can also move up in the career goals category. Currently sixth with 17 goals, she needs seven goals to surpass Barnhart (24) for most career goals.

Junior **Julian Johnson** needs to only dish out one assist in the next two seasons to claim sole possession of the top spot for assists in a career. She is currently tied with Erin Moore (2004-2007) for first place. Johnson posted five assists last season and set a Tech individual single-season assist record with 12 in 2006.

Senior goalkeeper **Ashley Owens** also has the opportunity to move up in the record books. Owens already owns the lowest goals against average in Tech history, a position she will look to keep in the upcoming season. With six career shutouts, she will need two this season to tie Katie Hancock (2000-2003) in third place and five to tie Hope Handley (1994-1997) in second place. Owens can also tie Karen Crawley (1997-2009) in second place for career wins if she picks up six victories this year.

2007 POSTSEASON AWARDS

Several Hokies were honored at the end of the 2007 season for their accomplishments both on and off the field. **Marika Gray** became the first Hokie to lead the squad in both goals (8) and assists (6) since Emily Barnhart in 2002. Her 22 points tied for the fourth-most recorded in a single season as she finished fifth in the ACC, averaging 1.22 points per game. For her efforts, she was named to the All-ACC Freshmen team, the *Soccer Buzz* Freshman All-America squad (third team) and the All-Mid-Atlantic Region third team in addition to earning All-ACC second team and team MVP honors.

Kelly Lynch also had a standout year for the Hokies, anchoring one of the strongest defenses in Tech's history. She also earned *Soccer Buzz* Freshman All-America honors (fourth team) and a spot on the All-ACC Freshman team. Gray and Lynch continued Tech's streak of having at least one player named to the freshman team since the Hokies joined the ACC in 2004.

Laurie Beth Puglisi also received recognition for her work both on and off the field as she received CoSIDA Academic All-District III (third team) honors and joined teammates **Heather Hallberg** and **Ashley Kinser** on the ACC All-Academic Team. The Virginia Sports Information Directors Association honored Kinser with first-team All-VaSID honors and **Julian Johnson** and Gray with second-team honors.

QUICKFACTS

VIRGINIA TECH

Location	Blacksburg, Va.
Nickname	Hokies
Colors.....	Chicago maroon & burnt orange
Conference	Atlantic Coast
Head Coach	Kelly Cagle (Duke, '96)
Record at Tech	40-43-10
NCAA Appearances.....	One (2004)
Starters Returning/Lost.....	8/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost.....	15/8
2007 Overall Record	8-7-3
2007 ACC Record/Finish.....	3-5-3/t-8th

DAVIDSON

Location	Davidson, N.C.
Nickname	Wildcats
Colors.....	Red and black
Conference	Southern Conference
Head Coach	Greg Ashton
Record at Davidson	51-26-6
NCAA Appearances	None
Starters Returning/Lost.....	9/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost.....	19/3
2007 Overall Record	14-5-1
2007 SoCon Record/Finish	8-1-1/2nd

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Friday, August 22

Alabama-Birmingham at Clemson7 p.m.
 Charlotte at North Carolina7 p.m.
 Central Florida at Florida State.....7 p.m.
 Miami at Stetson7 p.m.
 Loyola (Md.) at Virginia.....7 p.m.
 Wofford at NC State7 p.m.
 Utah at Wake Forest.....7 p.m.

Saturday, August 23

Boston College at Boston University...7 p.m.
 George Mason at Maryland.....7 p.m.

Sunday, August 24

Western Carolina at NC State1 p.m.
 Coastal Carolina at Duke 5 p.m.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT



Last season, Senior **Kim Hickey** (pictured left) and sophomore **Kelly Lynch** (pictured below) were the only two Tech players to compete in every minute of play. This year, Tech's pair of durable defenders may have to shoulder even greater responsibility

as the defense lost three valuable components from 2007 team that set a program record-low in goals allowed. The 2007 squad allowed just 20 goals against 18 opponents on the year, a program record-low.

This Saturday will see the two stalwarts of the Hokie defense surrounded by a new group of players. Redshirt senior **Jordan Parsels** returns to action after battling injuries the past two seasons. She will be joined by redshirt sophomore **Stephanie Hylton**, who is also returning from injury, and true freshman **Brittany Popko**. Juniors **Kylie Stankovics**, **Megan Strawther** and **Kristi Sieber** will also add depth to the Hokie defense.



Providing an encore to last year's season might prove difficult, but Hickey and Lynch will bring the experience and leadership necessary to form another top caliber defense in 2008.

2008 VIRGINIA TECH ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown	Club Team	High School
00	Sarah Mather	GK	5-10	Fr.	Sparks, Md.	United Soccer Club	Maryvale Preparatory
0	Kristin Carden	GK	6-1	Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Virginia Rush Nike	Frank W. Cox
2	Brittany Michels	MF/F	5-11	Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Beach FC Majix	Floyd E. Kellam
3	Stephanie Hylton	D/MF	5-5	r-Fr.	Springfield, Va.	BRYC Fury	Lake Braddock Secondary
4	Ashley Seldon	MF/F	5-4	Sr.	Midlothian, Va.	FC Richmond Mystx	Clover Hill
5	Kristi Sieber	D	5-9	Jr.	Leesburg, Va.	NOVA Premier Pride	Loudoun County
6	Kelly Lynch	D/MF	5-3	So.	Mullica Hill, N.J.	FC Delco Lightning	Clearview Regional
7	Katie Cramp	MF/F	5-7	Fr.	Clifton, Va.	MPS Freedom Elite	Centreville
8	Megan Strawther	D	5-11	Jr.	Los Alamitos, Calif.	OJSC Northstars	Los Alamitos
9	Julian Johnson	F	5-9	Jr.	Norfolk, Va.	Virginia Nike Rush	Granby
10	Emily Jukich	F	5-4	Jr.	Clifton, Va.	PWSI Cardinals	Centreville
11	Kylie Stankovics	D	5-6	Jr.	Brick, N.J.	PDA Wildcats	Brick Memorial
12	Niki King	MF/F	5-1	So.	Media, Pa.	Spirit United Gaels	Strath Haven
13	Mauri Liberati	MF	5-11	Sr.	Warwick, Md.	F.C. Delco Heat	Tower Hill School
14	Laurie Beth Puglisi	F	5-10	Sr.	Arlington, Va.	RFC Milan	Bishop O'Connell
15	Brittany Popko	D	5-10	Fr.	Leesburg, Va.	MPS Freedom Elite	Heritage
16	Jordan Parsels	D	5-5	r-Sr.	Woodbridge, Va.	PWSI Eclipse	Woodbridge
17	Robin Chidester	F/MF	5-10	Jr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Beach FC Fyre	Princess Anne
18	Jessica Varela	F/MF	5-3	So.	Midlothian, Va.	FC VA	Clover Hill
19	Ashley Owens	GK	5-10	r-Sr.	Greensboro, N.C.	Greensboro Twisters	Western Guilford
20	Jennifer Harvey	F/MF	5-6	So.	Roanoke, Va.	Roanoke Star	Cave Spring
21	Kimberly Hickey	D	5-4	Sr.	Richboro, Pa.	Pennsylvania Strikers	Council Rock HS South
22	Amanda Gerhard	MF/F	5-7	Fr.	Catasauqua, Pa.	FC Delco Fury	Catasauqua
23	Kelsey Billups	MF/F	5-6	So.	Richmond, Va.	Richmond Strikers	Mills Godwin
25	Rachel Beaumont	MF	5-7	Fr.	Bent Mountain, Va.	Roanoke Stars	Cave Spring
26	Marika Gray	F	5-7	So.	Alexandria, Va.	SYC Galaxy	Hayfield Secondary

Head Coach: Kelly Cagle (Duke, '96)

Assistant Coaches: Charles Adair (San Diego, '93), Matt Gwilliam (Elizabethtown College, 2001)

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

NAME	NO.
Rachel Beaumont	25
Kelsey Billups	23
Kristin Carden	0
Robin Chidester	17
Katie Cramp	7
Marika Gray	26
Amanda Gerhard	22
Jennifer Harvey	20
Kim Hickey	21
Stephanie Hylton	3
Julian Johnson	9
Emily Jukich	10
Niki King	12
Ashley Kinser	7
Mauri Liberati	13
Kelly Lynch	6
Sarah Mather	00
Brittany Michels	2
Ashley Owens	19
Jordan Parsels	16
Brittany Popko	15
Laurie Beth Puglisi	14
Ashley Seldon	4
Kristi Sieber	5
Kylie Stankovics	11
Megan Strawther	8
Jessica Varela	18

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

BY CLASS

Seniors	6
<i>Hickey, Liberati, Owens, Parsels, Puglisi and Seldon</i>	
Juniors	6
<i>Chidester, Johnson, Jukich, Sieber, Stankovics and Strawther</i>	
Sophomores	6
<i>Billups, Gray, Harvey, King, Lynch and Varela</i>	
Freshmen	8
<i>Beaumont, Carden, Cramp, Gerhard, Hylton, Mather, Michels and Popko</i>	

BY STATE

Virginia	17
Pennsylvania	3
Maryland	2
New Jersey	2
California	1
North Carolina	1

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Robin Chidester	CH-des-ter
Emily Jukich	JUKE-itch
Mauri Liberati	(MORE-E) Lib-er-a-tee
Jordan Parsels	Par-sils
Laurie Beth Puglisi	Puh-gee-see
Kristi Sieber	SEE-ber
Kylie Stankovics	STANK-ovics
Megan Strawther	STRAW-ther