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Virginia Sports Hall of Fame announces Class of 2026

53rd Induction events set for April 25 in Henrico

HENRICO, Va. — The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame announced its Class of 2026, a group of athletes, coaches, administrators and contributors selected for their significant achievements and lasting impact on sports in the Commonwealth.

Selected by the Hall of Fame's board of directors and Honors Court Committee, the Class of 2026 includes athletes, coaches, administrators and contributors whose influence spans generations, levels of competition and communities across Virginia.

Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2026

Grant Hill (*Reston*). A basketball legend. ACC Player of the Year; two-time consensus All-American; two-time NCAA champion; one of the ACC's 50 Greatest Players; 19-year NBA career with 17,137 points; seven-time NBA All-Star; three-time NBA Sportsmanship Award winner; Olympic gold medalist; member of the College Basketball Hall of Fame and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. National broadcaster for NCAA and NBA games. Co-owner of the Atlanta Hawks, Orlando City SC, Orlando Pride and the Baltimore Orioles.

Tony Bennett (*Charlottesville*). Bennett was the head men's basketball coach at the University of Virginia for 15 seasons, highlighted by winning the 2019 NCAA national championship. Bennett was named the AP and Naismith national coach of the year twice and received the Henry Iba Award from the U.S. Basketball Writers Association three times as the nation's top coach, second only to John Wooden. Bennett was named ACC coach of the year three times, leading the Cavaliers to two ACC Tournament championships and winning or sharing six ACC regular-season titles. Widely recognized for his commitment to player development, Bennett has been referred to by peers as the gold standard of college basketball coaching.

Marcellus “Boo” Williams (*Hampton*). Widely regarded as one of the most successful and influential youth basketball coaches in the nation, Williams has helped shape the careers of countless men’s and women’s players. Walt Disney World of Sports named Williams its Volunteer of the Year in 2001, and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame presented him with the Human Spirit Award in 2013. Williams operates his youth basketball programs from the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton.

Michael Vick (*Newport News*). The former Virginia Tech standout and NFL quarterback became one of the most dynamic players of his generation. At Virginia Tech, Vick led the Hokies to the 1999 national championship game and was a first-team All-American and a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 NFL Draft, Vick played 13 NFL seasons, earning four Pro Bowl selections and the league’s 2010 Comeback Player of the Year award. After his retirement, Vick worked as a commentator for Fox NFL Sunday. He is currently head football coach at Norfolk State University.

Wally Walker (*Charlottesville*). Often credited with starting the prominence of University of Virginia basketball, Walker led the Cavaliers to their first NCAA Tournament berth in 1976 and was named ACC Tournament MVP. The No. 5 overall pick in the 1976 NBA draft, Walker played eight NBA seasons and won two NBA championships. Following his playing career, Walker became president of the Seattle SuperSonics.

Kristi Toliver (*Harrisonburg*). One of the most accomplished basketball players in Virginia history, Toliver was the 2009 ACC Player of the Year, a two-time All-American, an NCAA national champion, a first-round WNBA draft pick, a two-time WNBA champion and a three-time WNBA All-Star. Toliver currently serves as an associate head coach of the Phoenix Mercury.

Terry Driscoll (*Williamsburg*). A visionary leader in collegiate athletics, Driscoll served as director of athletics at William & Mary for 22 years. During his tenure, the Tribe won 114 conference championships, produced 118 teams with perfect graduation rates and oversaw substantial growth in facilities and endowment funding. A former scholar-athlete, Driscoll was an athletic and academic All-American, the No. 4 overall pick in the 1969 NBA draft and later won championships as a professional coach in Europe.

Roland Lazenby (*Wytheville*). A former reporter for The Roanoke Times, Lazenby is an award-winning author of more than 60 sports books. Widely regarded as an authority on NBA basketball, his works on Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant are considered definitive reference materials.

Bobby Ukrop (*Richmond*). Robert S. “Bobby” Ukrop has been named the 2026 Distinguished Virginian, presented to an individual with a sports background who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to the Commonwealth. A former University of Richmond basketball

player, Ukrop has been a transformative community leader and philanthropist, supporting healthy lifestyle initiatives throughout Central Virginia, including the founding of Sports Backers, development of The Diamond baseball stadium and statewide water safety efforts.

2026 Induction

The Class of 2026 Induction events will take place at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump on Saturday, April 25. Public events will include a Saturday morning conversational “Breakfast with Champions” and autograph session followed by the “Hall of Fame Reception and Induction” on Saturday evening. Tickets for these events and sponsorship opportunities can be purchased on the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame website: <https://vasportshof.com/2026-induction-weekend-event-info/>. Tickets are expected to sell out.

“As someone who has been involved with the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame for decades, the Class of 2026 may be the most prestigious class ever assembled. Individuals with NCAA Championships, professional Championships, Olympic Gold medals and international recognition in their professions, reflects everything that makes sports in Virginia special”, said Bruce Rader, Executive Director of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. “From championship performers to visionary leaders and storytellers, this group embodies the Hall’s core values of recognition, impact and integrity.”

Additional details regarding tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and event programming will be announced at a later date.

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About the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame

Since 1972, the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame has been proud to honor Virginia’s contributions to the world of sports. As the Commonwealth’s official hall of fame, the Hall’s mission is to honor athletic excellence and serve as a nonprofit resource highlighting philanthropy through sports, while inspiring sports fans through programming and engaging entertainment.

About the Henrico Sports & Entertainment Authority

The Henrico Sports & Entertainment Authority leads Henrico County’s sports tourism initiatives and facility development, helping to position the region as a premier destination for athletic events and entertainment. Sports visitation generates more than \$100 million in annual economic impact, supporting local businesses, strengthening community connections, and enhancing quality of life for residents and visitors alike.