Jan. 11, 2019 • 7 p.m. • Seal Athletic Center

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Awards Presentation and Induction

*In Honor of the Class of 2019*
1. Greg Williams ’69
2. Chuck McFall ’97
3. Carter Hamill Backus ’01
4. Mike “Bud” Petit ’03
5. Blair Northen Williamson ’04
6. Mikey Thompson ’06
7. Stuart Ferguson ’09
8. Jake McGee ’10
9. Rachel Naurath ’10
10. Max Schnur ’11
11. 1997 Varsity Volleyball
12. 1998 Girls’ Swimming and Diving
13. 2003 Varsity Field Hockey
14. 2005 Varsity Football
15. Larry Jarman
16. Joel Nuckols
17. Mike Stott
Thanks for attending Collegiate School’s fifth Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony. This moment could not be possible without alumni support and the hundreds of nominations we received. Thank you for remembering our athletes. We’re glad all of you are here to help us celebrate this momentous occasion.

As a reminder, the inductees were selected based on each athlete’s accomplishments while at Collegiate. As stated in our by-laws, the Athletic Hall of Fame will:

“honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who, through fair play, have brought recognition, honors, distinction and excellence to Collegiate.”

With over 8,000 alums, Collegiate is proud to have graduated many outstanding athletes, so the competition was fierce. The Hall of Fame committee reviewed the nominations extensively and did a great deal of research. Thanks to the committee and our advisory board for all of their time and effort.

~ Lauralee Glasgow Allen ‘03, Director of Alumni Engagement

Class of 2019 Inductees

**Individuals**
- Greg Williams ’69
- Chuck McFall ’97
- Carter Hamill Backus ’01
- Mike “Bud” Petit ’03
- Blair Northen Williamson ’04
- Mikey Thompson ’06
- Stuart Ferguson ’09
- Jake McGee ’10
- Rachel Naurath ’10
- Max Schnur ’11

**Teams**
- 1997 Varsity Volleyball
- 1998 Girls’ Swimming and Diving
- 2003 Varsity Field Hockey
- 2005 Varsity Football

**Coaches**
- Larry Jarman
- Joel Nuckols
- Mike Stott

A Note of Thanks

Committee Members
- Alexander W. C. Cecil ’83, Committee Chair
- Lucy Fitzgerald Steele ’62
- Bill Porter ’65
- Beth Watlington Marchant ’72
- Kim Petit O’Shea ’77
- Gray Stettinius ’79
- Wortie Ferrell ’88
- Michelle Deal Lewis ’89
- Stephen Spraker ’92
- Erin Smith Jewett ’94
- Philip Janney ’99
- Drew Cheely ’02
- Brad Jones ’03

Advisory Board
- Lauralee Glasgow Allen ’03
- Karen Doxey, Athletic Director
- Andrew Stanley, Associate Athletic Director
Athletic Hall of Fame
Past Inductees 2002-18

Individuals
Mary Fry Fritch '28
Ann Lee Saunders Brown '36
Bosa Hodges McLaughlin '36
Katherine Chewning Crane '46
Alice Lewis Flower '49
Pearson Grymes Gibson '54
Nancy Sadler George '65
Leroy Vaughan '66
Sanford Boisseau '88
Ray Easterling '68
Janet Grubbs '69
Bodie Wilshire McGurn '71
Belle Schaaf '72
Robbie Perkins '73
Robert Wrenn '77
Frank Jones '77
John Owen Gwathmey '80
David Murphy '80
Trib LaPrade '81
Anne Overton '82
David Shannon '82
Chris Tate '82
Beth Curry '84
Lisa Coleman '84
Walter Spence '84
Lee Moreau '85
Antoinette Lucas '87
Craig Scott '87
Rob Ukrop '88
Worte Ferrell '88
David Cox '90
Ta' Bingham Frias '94
Katie Schoolwerth Gustafson '96
Andrew Slater '96
Courtney Owen Mattes '97
Joey Rackley '99
Harry Wilson '01
Jamie Whitten Montgomery '03
Russell Wilson '07

Coaches
Bill Chambers
Gwen Donohue
Jim Hickey
John Moreau
Petey Jacobs (posthumously)
Grover Jones (posthumously)
Lewis Lawson
Charlie McFall

Supporter
Mr. Malcolm U. Pitt, Jr.
Coach John Moreau

Teams
1959 "A" Field Hockey Team
1963 Varsity Football Team
1969-1970 Boys' Varsity Basketball Team
1970 Varsity Football Team
1972 Varsity Football Team
1982 Varsity Football Team
1986 Varsity Field Hockey Team
1987 Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Team
1988 Girls' Varsity Tennis Team
1989-1990 Girls' Varsity Basketball Team
1990 Boys' Varsity Soccer Team
1997 Girls' Varsity Soccer Team
1996 Varsity Volleyball Team
1998-99 Boys' Varsity Basketball Team

Greg Williams '69

Ask Greg Williams to reflect upon his selection for Collegiate’s Athletic Hall of Fame and he’s likely to respond, “There are many people more deserving but nobody more grateful.” His thoughts speak to his humility but understate his impact and accomplishments during the first decade of Collegiate’s Boys School.

In the late ‘60s, Williams was a stalwart on both the tennis and basketball courts.

Memories abound from each.

“The highlights I remember from tennis,” he said, “were when we beat St. Christopher’s twice my junior year when they probably the best team in the state.”

That year — 1968 — Williams compiled an 11-3 record in singles and earned team most valuable player honors. His strong serve, quickness, dexterity at the net and competitive spirit made him a formidable opponent.

A year later, he won the Prep League championship.

Basketball, though, was his favorite sport.

Why?

“One, my coach Petey Jacobs,” Williams said. “He was a huge influence. Two, it was a team sport. We had a lot of different pieces to put together.”

At 6-3, Williams played point guard under the guidance of Jacobs, the patron saint of Collegiate athletics who taught values as much as X’s and O’s.

“He expected so much of you,” Williams said. “He was the last person you wanted to disappoint. You’d run through a brick wall for him. Back in those days, our teams were really good. We played the best teams in the area in summer league and scrimmages, and we could hang with all of them.”

Then there was the championship game of the 1968 Prep League Tournament.

“(Guard) Sanford (Boisseau), who was all-world, got in early foul trouble,” Williams recalled. “We were playing St. Christopher’s, and they had dropped us both times (during the regular season). I ended up having a pretty good game.”

Pretty good game? How about 23 points on 7-for-11 shooting from the floor and 9-for-10 from the foul line in a 77-71 victory?

“Sanford was an incredible mentor,” Williams said, who made the ‘68 all-tournament team. “When you heard a compliment from him, you started to believe in yourself. He was a demanding encourager. It wasn’t the velvet glove. It was the hammer.”

Still fit and active nearly five decades after his high school playing days concluded, Williams remains a die-hard Cougars fan, as much for the underlying lessons as for the accomplishments of the athletic program.

“Dealing with adversity is the beauty of sports,” he said. “You learn early that they’re measurements. If you don’t work harder, you don’t measure up. That’s what Petey instilled.”
Chuck McFall ’97

The Play is the stuff of legend.

No doubt it’s ingrained in the memories of everyone in the packed, emotionally charged Homecoming crowd that November Saturday in 1994.

As the precious final seconds ticked off the scoreboard clock at the west end of Grover Jones Field, St. Christopher’s School clung to a tenuous 28-24 lead over Collegiate. The Cougars were driving. A heartbeat before time expired, quarterback Chuck McFall, scrambling furiously, hit Alex Benson with a pass across the middle.

Players collided. The ball popped loose. Game over. Saints win. Wait! No! There’s a penalty. Pass interference. The game can’t end on a defensive penalty. There’s still a chance!

The ref placed the ball on the Saints’ 10. One play left. All or nothing.

The snap. McFall sprints right. Billy Rackley, the intended receiver who had lined up in the slot, raced into the end zone on a tear pattern.

Under intense pressure, McFall dropped a quick pass to flanker Donnie Wilson a step into the end zone.

The home crowd erupted. Collegiate 30, St. Christopher’s 24.

“That,” said McFall reflecting 24 years later, “was the crowning moment.”

McFall started at quarterback and defensive back from 1994 through 1997 and earned multiple All-Prep League, All-VISAA and All-Metro citations. He was a two-season captain. He was also the Cougars punter and placekicker whose longest field goal traveled 48 yards.

“I loved playing quarterback,” he said. “I loved running the option. And I loved it when Matt (Reid) came in at quarterback and I’d go deep (as a wide receiver).

“I remember one catch in the back of the end zone (against Bishop Sullivan). I ran a streak. Matt had a cannon. I burned the guy (defender) as well as I could.”

When McFall led the Cougars, his dad Charlie McFall headed the program.

“Chuck was skillful in every aspect,” Coach McFall said.

“He made my job easy. He made me look good many times.”

The younger McFall was also a two-year varsity basketball captain and two-time All-Prep lacrosse player. His nine-goal output in a 1998 state-tournament game with St. Stephen’s-St. Agnes School remains a program single-game record.

After Collegiate, McFall went on to the University of Richmond where he kicked off, punted and served as the holder for place kickers for a season.

Two decades later, memories occur in snapshots rather than narratives. What stands out are the shared experiences and the feeling of pulling together for the common good.

“I remember the camaraderie with friends I grew up with,” McFall said. “When we were playing, we were always the underdog. FUMA was massive. Woodberry Forest was massive. We just put our helmets on and stacked up the best we could.”

Carter Hamill Backus ’01

It was a beautiful fall afternoon in 1999, and Carter Hamill Backus was closing fast on the lead runner in the final stretch of the VISAA cross country championship meet.

She had run the first part of the challenging 5K course at Woodberry Forest with her head, hanging near the leaders but being careful not to tip her hand.

Now, she was running with her heart.

Victory was in sight. Step by step, she reeled in Mary Hogan of Paul VI Catholic High School, who a week earlier had won the state Catholic League title.

Yet even as the Collegiate faithful cheered, Backus had her doubts.

“As I was inching up on the girl in front of me,” she recalled, “I was thinking, ‘Am I supposed to do this? Is this OK? I’m not supposed to be here.’

Of course, she was, and her victory that day in 19:58 was just the first of 10 league and state cross country and track championships she would win as a junior and senior at Collegiate.

“All the pieces came together those last two years,” she said. “I was surrounded by supportive teammates and coaches. The team aspect meant so much. The wins were just icing on the cake.”

Though she had run cross country since the 7th Grade, Backus did not become an elite runner until that junior year when she added the LIS title to her resume while leading the Cougars to team titles in both championship races.

The next year, though, she was no longer running from behind. Every top runner knew who she was and competed to beat her. She responded by repeating her league and state championships.

Her performances earned her a spot both years on the Richmond Times Dispatch All-Metro team.

Backus followed her senior cross country season with LIS championships in the 1600 and 3200 indoors in 2001. That spring, she won both events in the league and state meets.

She ran personal bests of 5:12.30 in the 1600 and 11:43.57 in the 3200 in the final race of her prep career.

She was hardly finished.

At Amherst College, she earned 18 All-American citations in cross country, indoor and outdoor track. She won five Division III national championships (three times in the indoor 5000, twice in the outdoor 10,000). Her personal best times were 16:32 in the 5K and 33:45 in the 10K.

“Any pressure (to win) came from myself,” she said. “My coaches were always so supportive, whether I raced well or wasn’t at my best. Anything was fine. It was the effort I put forth. All those good life lessons.”
Mike "Bud" Petit '03

Lacrosse goalie?
Why would anyone play that position?
And by choice, no less?
Hard rubber spheres fly at you from all angles traveling upwards of 90 miles per hour.
Make a save. You’ve done your job. Allow a goal. Play stops and everyone — everyone — notices.
It takes a certain breed.
Meet Mike "Bud" Petit.
“Goalie is a mindset,” he said. “You’re the quarterback of the defense. There’s leadership involved. You’re managing a group of guys to be able to achieve a goal.”
Petit began as an attackman during his middle school days in Wooster, Ohio.
“I was the goalie because the team didn’t have one; I volunteered,” he said. “My brother Nick made a blunt comment to me that stuck with me forever. He said it would be more fun to score goals. I realized it was more fun to stop them.
“That motivated me to compete against the best shooters. No matter how good they are, I could maybe be better by stopping their shots.”
Just before he entered high school, Petit moved to Richmond with his family and manned the goal for the Cougars from 2000 through 2003.
During that time, he made 844 saves, No. 2 on Collegiate’s all-time list and No. 44 in the history of high school lacrosse.
A two-season captain, he was All-Prep League and All-VISAA in ’01, ’02 and ’03 and All-American in ’02 and ’03.
“Bud was exceptionally talented,” said Andrew Stanley, Collegiate’s head lacrosse coach and an assistant during Petit’s tenure. “He balanced that talent with an incredibly positive spirit and made others around him better.
“Bud took ownership for every mistake we made on defense, even if it had nothing to do with him. He knew if he did, everybody would feel better and play better. He had that innate instinct at a young age.”
“He loved to compete. He made some plays in our 2002 state championship run that I’ve never seen before and never seen since.”
Such as?
“He was out of the goal,” Stanley continued. “Somehow we lost the ball. STAB (St. Anne’s-Belfield) took it to the front. Bud just went parallel to the ground, diving across the face of the goal and caught one he had no business catching. We won 5-4.”
Petit played four years for the University of Virginia, competed on the 2006 ACC and NCAA championship teams, and earned a spot on the 2008 All-ACC tournament squad.
He played professionally for the Chicago Machine from 2008-10.
“They (my Collegiate days) were some of the funnest times I’ve ever had,” he said. “We were a bunch of knuckleheads playing lacrosse and trying to prove ourselves. Every day was an adventure.”

Blair Northen Williamson ’04

Early in her 7th Grade year, Blair Northen Williamson found herself on the sideline of a Cub Gold field hockey game watching her friends play a sport with which she had only a nodding acquaintance.
At that time, soccer was her athletic passion. She’d played for the Richmond Strikers as long as she could remember.
Field hockey, though she’d played it in gym class, was never even a consideration.
Until that moment.
“I fell in love with field hockey from Day One,” she said. “I realized I wasn’t pound for pound. I couldn’t keep up with the other girls. That was when I knew I needed to try field hockey.”
Williamson became a four-year varsity starter, the first three at midfielder and the last at center back.
During her career, she scored 55 goals, earned three All-League of Independent Schools, two All-VISAA and two All-Metro citations. In 2003, she was made the NFHCA All-South team and was selected player of the year in Central Virginia by the Richmond Times-Dispatch.
“Blair was that type of player who made everybody else better,” said Karen Doxey, who has headed Collegiate’s field hockey program since 1987. “It was her demeanor. She meant business, and everybody wanted to fulfill her high expectations. She had a positive influence and high skill level, great vision and a great sports IQ.”
Though field hockey became her sport of choice, Williamson was a five-year letter winner for Collegiate’s varsity soccer squad.
“Blair was tenacious,” said Bill Rider, who led Collegiate’s girls’ soccer program from 1992-2013. “She was experienced and had a good sense of how to play the game.”
“She was fortunate because there was a good, older group that allowed me to bring her in as an 8th Grader. As the years passed, she became a strong leader who led by example and a positive asset to the team.”
An attacking midfielder, Williamson earned All-LIS honors in 2001 and 2002 and All-Metro recognition in ’01, ’02 and ’03.
“Collegiate sports have been incredibly transformative in my life,” she said. “Athletics can definitely shape a person’s character and integrity.”
Mikey Thompson ’06

Mikey Thompson, all of 6 years old, had just arrived home from school when his father shared with him a letter that had arrived that day. “It said that a new youth lacrosse league (Geronimo) was starting,” Thompson recalled. “At the time, that was the best news I’d ever gotten. I wanted to play the sport. I wanted to play against my friends and with my friends.”

“My dad (Mike, Collegiate’s boys lacrosse coach from 1984-1992) asked me if it was something I’d like to do. He knew the answer. I was so excited.”

So began Thompson’s journey which took him through the youth leagues and Collegiate’s program, then to the University of Virginia and finally to his position as head coach at Christopher Newport University.

“Lacrosse is the oldest sport in North America,” he said. “It’s the perfect combination of all the other sports I love. It has the physicality of football, the free-flowing nature of soccer and the pick-and-roll and defensive concepts of basketball.”

A four-year starter, mostly at midfield, Thompson was All-Prep League in ’04 and ’05, All-State in ’04-’06 and All-American in ’05 and ’06.

During his career, he amassed 198 points (including 134 goals), collected 444 ground balls and won 59 percent of his faceoff opportunities.

Playing as an attackman on an injured knee, he scored 12 goals in the 2006 state tournament including six in a 14-11 victory over Norfolk Academy in the finals.

“Mikey has always been willing to do whatever it took to be excellent,” said Andrew Stanley, Collegiate’s head boys’ lacrosse coach. “He has a heart and desire to grind that was incredibly unique. His teammates didn’t have a choice but to follow him. Mikey has an ability to empower others.”

Thompson played four years for UVA and served as an assistant coach on the Cavaliers’ 2011 NCAA championship team.

He arrived at CNU in 2011 and has headed the program since 2016.

Thompson also starred as a running back/receiver on Collegiate’s 2004 and 2005 state championship football teams. “Football was a sport I grew up playing in the back yard and at recess,” he said. “My friends and I tested the boundaries of the rules. We played physical. It was pickup sports at its finest. Our parents and teachers were telling us to play touch, but we ended up playing tackle. That’s how we got so good at football.”

As a senior captain, Thompson earned first team All-Prep and second team All-State honors. “Mikey was a fantastic athlete, unbelievably talented in a lot of different areas,” said Charlie McFall, Collegiate’s football coach from 1986 until 2006.

“He was everything you’d want in an all-around, great player. He was the kind of player every coach wants.”

Stuart Ferguson ’09


That was Stuart Ferguson’s pool persona. “Stuart never backed down from a race,” said Mike Peters, Collegiate’s head swimming coach who served as an assistant during Ferguson’s high school career, as well as his coach at Poseidon.

“We often asked him to swim events that would put him up against the fastest the state had to offer, even if they weren’t his best events.

“He was much happier to have a close race where he was challenged than to win an easy event.”

Ferguson, who received Collegiate’s Outstanding Senior Athlete Award in 2009, was a 13-time Prep League and 12-time VIRAA champion.

He was twice the state male swimmer of the year, three-time (2007, 2008, 2009) Richmond Times-Dispatch All-Metro swimmer of the year and 11-time NISCA All-American.

He was one of the linchpins of three league and three state title teams.

Upon graduation, he held four state and five team records in a variety of events.

“The individual challenge is what drew me to swimming,” said Ferguson. “I know exactly how much better I am than last time. I just measured it. That’s it: the purity of it. And most of my best friendships were made in the pool.

“Relays were my favorite part of swimming at Collegiate ... really anywhere. Sure, you get to shine when it’s your leg, but you’re also just swimming for yourself. You’re swimming for three other guys and your team.”

An Olympic Trials qualifier in 2008 and 2012, Ferguson went on to Auburn University where he earned seven All-American citations and five Southeastern Conference titles for the Tigers, who thrice won the SEC during his tenure.

He was the recipient the 2013 Auburn Award for Excellence and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in philosophy.

“Stuart earned the ultimate respect of his teammates and opponents,” said Mike Stott, Collegiate’s swimming coach from 2002-17. “He was highly regarded as a competitor, athlete and human being. Everyone really liked him, but they couldn’t be friends.”

Ferguson teaches at St. Christopher’s School and coaches swimming there and at St. Catherine’s. Both squads won the league and state championship in 2018.

So how has he made the transition from athlete to coach?

“I had such tunnel vision when I was a serious athlete,” he said. “I don’t know how much satisfaction I really got at the moment. I get a lot more satisfaction now looking back and seeing the big picture.

“I get a lot of pride out of watching our top-end athletes perform, but I also enjoy coaching the swimmer who has much room to grow.”
Jake McGee ’10

His performances were otherworldly, his awards could fill a large trophy case, but when Jake McGee looks back upon his high school athletic career, the pinnacle of joy occurred not in the heat of action but in the aftermath of his final football game.

“It was so exciting to go out on top with the guys you’ve been playing with forever,” he said of the moments following the Cougars’ 48-28 victory over Liberty Christian Academy in the 2009 VISAA title game. “Taking your jersey off the last time as state champions and going out with a winning legacy can’t be changed, no matter what.”

During his three years quarterbacking the Cougars, McGee accounted for 8,675 total yards (7,406 passing, 1,269 rushing) and 101 touchdowns.

His senior year, he threw for 3,007 yards and 34 TDs and rushed for 576 yards and 11 scores.

He earned All-Prep League honors three times at quarterback and twice at safety. Twice, he was All-State at both positions. Twice, he was an All-Metro quarterback selection. He was league player of the year as a junior and league and state player of the year as a senior.

During his three varsity seasons, the Cougars were 24-6 and won two state crowns.

“Jake had this unbelievable competitive nature,” said Coach Mark Palyo. “He worked to lead the team. He worked to win. There was a game at Fork Union (in 2009) that didn’t start well. We were down. Jake came to the sideline and said, ‘Coach, I’ll do what I do. You call the plays. We’ll get this done.’ He took over. We won (38-34). That’s the kind of player he was.”

After Collegiate, McGee, who’s 6-5, 250, switched to tight end and played three years for the University of Virginia, then completed his eligibility as a graduate transfer at Florida.

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Rachel Naurath ’10

She was a 13-time state champion.

She won 17 League of Independent Schools titles.

She thrice earned NISCA All-American and Richmond Times-Dispatch female swimmer of the year honors.

Her individual Collegiate dual-meet race record was 60.2. She qualified for the Olympic Trials in 2008 and 2012.

She was recognized in “Faces in the Crowd” in the April 26, 2010 issue of Sports Illustrated.

She had a distinguished career at the University of Virginia.

But what did Rachel Naurath enjoy most about swimming?

“Looking back,” she said, “I can really separate my career at Collegiate with my career outside it. At Collegiate, it was a lot of fun and so relaxed. I got to swim with Katie Wiltshire, Kate Byren and Britt Waddell, who are to this day my best friends in the world and will always be. To share that experience with them is something I cherish absolutely forever.”

Naurath served as captain and earned team MVP honors each of her final four years of high school.

Upon graduation, she held two state records: 55.33 in the 100 butterfly and 4:46.78 in the 500 freestyle. The latter mark still stands.

“Rachel was mature beyond her years in terms of understanding the competitive process,” said Mike Stott, who headed Collegiate’s swimming program from 2002-17. “She was a leader who was really valued as a teammate. She was a great sport, very complimentary of her opponents.”

At the University of Virginia where she twice served as the Cavaliers’ captain, Naurath was a nine-time All-American and a four-time Atlantic Coast Conference champion. She earned the UVA Student-Athlete Mentor of the Year Award in 2014 and graduated with a double major in French and international relations.

During her career, Naurath was a familiar presence at the national level. Among her accomplishments, she was ranked in the top 10 in her age group in eight events in 2009; she was a 2010 USA Swimming national team member in the 200 butterfly and she was the 2010 National Swimming Coaches Association junior national champ in the 100, 200, 500, 1,000 and 1650 freestyle events, as well as the 200 butterfly.

“Rachel was an amazing competitor and athlete; however, her greatest attribute was her leadership and team-centric thought,” said Mike Peters, Collegiate’s head coach who served as an assistant during Naurath’s years. “She was often able to reach deep down and pull out an almost superhuman performance on relays with her teammates counting on her.”
Max Schnur ’11

Max Schnur has played professional tennis throughout the world, most notably in the doubles main draw at Wimbledon in summer 2017. In college, he helped Columbia University win consecutive Ivy League championships (2014, 2015), shared (with Ashok Narayanan) the NCAA indoors doubles title (2013), achieved Academic All-American recognition and earned All-Ivy honors in doubles four consecutive years.

He played varsity tennis at Collegiate for six springs. A four-time All-Prep League and All-VISAA and three-time All-Metro performer, he led the Cougars to five team championships (league in 2009-11 and state in 2009 and 2010). His senior year, he was league, state and metro player of the year.

When he considers his journey, though, he recalls the early days before anyone knew who he was and his distinguished career was still very much a dream.

After school each day, he and his mom Debbie would arrive at the courts then located behind the athletic center on Collegiate’s North Mooreland Road campus.

Schnur would practice with the aid of a Lobster ball machine as well as work (under her guidance) on specific aspects of his burgeoning game.

“I remember in the spring getting out there right when the (boys’) team was done so I could maximize every second,” he said. “I remember hitting and wanting some of those guys to be like, ‘Yeah, this guy’s for real. He’s going to be good. He’s coming for me.’”

While Schnur made quite a name for himself and took Collegiate tennis to unprecedented heights, his memories—as is the case with so many athletes—are of moments outside the spotlight.

“The thing I love about tennis is the camaraderie,” he said. “I think that might be partially why I’ve become a better doubles player than singles. A lot of it is skill set, but I really enjoy playing doubles because that involves being on a team. That started at Collegiate.

“In college, I’ll always remember winning the Ivy League team title. When you get to share those high moments with friends, it becomes better.”

Schnur has played doubles on both the ATP Challenger and ITF Futures circuits. He’s been ranked as high as 95th in the world in doubles.

Though he remained virtually injury-free in high school and college, he’s undergone both elbow and shoulder surgery (and long rehab periods) as a pro.

Even-keeled and undaunted, he remains very much the same guy he was as a middle schooler, racquet in hand, in the twilight, plotting his future.

“Our teams under Max competed with class, composure, and sportsmanship,” said Chris Conquest, his coach at Collegiate. “He modeled excellence beyond the confines of the court. He was the consummate team guy.”

1997 Varsity Volleyball

Expectations were sky-high when Collegiate’s 1997 volleyball team reported to the Jacobs Gym for its preseason workouts in late August.

Nine players, including seven seniors, returned from the squad that a year earlier finished 24-0 and won the League of Independent Schools and VISVA championships.

The Cougars knew they had talent. They knew, also, that each opponent would bring its A-game, that complacency and overconfidence could be their undoing and that they had very big shoes to fill: their own.

“Most of us had been together on the varsity for three years,” said Melanie Gray Ladnier, an All-LIS middle blocker.

“By the time we got to our senior year, we had a core group. We clicked and had a good rhythm going. When we were out on the court, we could anticipate each other’s movements and knew the best way to work together.”

Pressure?

“There wasn’t any,” Ladnier continued. “We expected to have another good year. We kept winning, and it ended up working out.”

Coach Keith Harrison’s crew finished 28-2 (including 10-0 in the LIS), won the league tournament and defeated Grace Christian of Staunton, a perennial volleyball power, 3-0 in the state championship game.

“We had a lot of talented seniors and younger players,” said Harrison, who left Collegiate in 1999, and now lives in Springfield, Missouri, where he works in the corporate office of O’Reilly Auto Parts.

“They were strong-willed. That drove them to keep pushing themselves, but I don’t think we ever went out and said, ‘We have to win every game.’ There was never that kind of pressure. I always felt like if we took a loss but gained something from it, that was OK.

“I felt like there was more pressure the year before. The second year was a little bit smoother because everybody knew what their place was.”

Both Jacobs Appel, Lisa DeSimone and Elizabeth Bearer Longest joined Ladnier on the All-LIS team. Appel and Longest made the VISVA all-tournament team. Longest was selected state player of the year.

“We worked well together as a team over the year,” said Longest. “The team had a lot of strengths across the board, and we all came together when it counted. We gave our all every practice. When game time came, we did what we’d been doing in practice.”
**1998 Girls’ Swimming and Diving**

In 1996, when David Stott interviewed for the job as Collegiate’s head swimming coach, he received an unexpected and intriguing challenge from co-athletic directors Karen Doxey and Charlie McFall.

“We don’t have a pool,” Stott remembers telling him, “but we think you can win states.”


Two years later, in the fifth year of the swimming program, Collegiate’s girls’ team finished 12-0, extended its dual-meet win streak to 40-0 and captured both the League of Independent Schools and VISIS championships.

“We had USA swimmers like Tracy Whitemore (Jamestown) (Poseidon) and Elizabeth Cook (Miller) (NOVA),” Stott said. “They didn’t practice with us very often, but when they did come, they brought such great energy.

“People were excited to see Hercules on the bus with them. They knew we were going to be unstoppable. They raised the level of everyone’s game. They made everyone around them better.”

Jameson, Miller, Morgan Salmon and Rachel Micas Williams earned All-American consideration as well as All-LIS and All-State honors.

Both Sarah Mork Peavy and Lauren Taylor were All-LIS and All-State. Blake Hamill Nichols and Elizabeth Cross Jakesch were All-State. Sarah Neal Spurling and Sarah Hyslop Leonardi were All-LIS.

Stott was cited as state Coach of the Year.

“What we had at that state championship meet (contested at Hargrave Military Academy) was a perfect storm,” said Stott, who is in his third year of teaching filmmaking at City University of New York.

“Everybody did what they needed to do. They swam better than they had ever swum before. That’s what you want them to do when you’re the coach.

“This was the team that started the first serious conversation about Collegiate’s need for a pool of its own.”

During the ’97-’98 season, Stott held all practices at NOVA between 7:45 and 9:45 in the evening.

**2003 Varsity Field Hockey**

Does it get any better than 20-0?

How about 12 shutouts and a 78 goals-for, 10 goals-against differential?

Or a 6-0 defeat of James River, the defending Group AAA champion, as well as 2-1 wins over Kempsville and Cox, powerhouses from Virginia Beach?

Or a 5-1 victory over St. Catherine’s School in the League of Independent Schools championship game?

Or three wins in the VISAA tournament by a combined 16-1 margin?

Or a 5-1 overtime defeat of defending champ St. Stephen’s-St. Agnes School for the state title?

Does it really get better? Certainly.

“Even more than winning, I remember the friendships,” said Ginnie Friddle Kurtz, co-captain and starting left-forward. “It was a great group of girls. Everybody understood her role. Everybody contributed. Everybody felt valued, no matter what her role was.”

Fifteen years later, memories remain, but they’re hardly quantifiable memories.

“Definitely the intangibles,” Kurtz added. “I remember the lessons we learned from being part of the team that have stayed with all of us. We look back at that experience as one of the things that helped us become who we are today.”

Poignantly, they remember, too, Kate Childrey, the starting right forward who continued her playing career at the University of Richmond and later assisted with JV hockey at Collegiate. She passed away April 17, 2017.

“Kate had so much speed going down the right side,” Kurtz continued. “She was always in the right place. You’d see her blond hair flying down the field. She could save any ball from going out. She always took the underclassmen under her wing and made them feel like they were part of the team.”

It was a signature season in Coach Karen Doxey’s career spanning 38 years, 31 of which she’s spent at Collegiate.

Blair Northen Williamson scored 20 goals. Kurtz and Meredith Judkins added 15 apiece. Williamson, Kurtz and Kate Hanley Mostrom earned All-LIS and All-State honors.

Jessica Lott was voted All-LIS. Williamson was also named All-South by the NFHCA and Metro Player of the Year by the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Kurtz, Mostrom and Longo joined her on the All-Metro first team, and Judkins and Claiborne Buckingham Colombo were selected for the second team.

“They went into the state championship game 19-0,” Doxey said. “The pressure was unbelievable. The game went into overtime, and we pulled it out.

“They were great girls with a lot of personality. On top of having good skills, there was a lot of teamwork. They were a fun group. They liked each other. It was just a really talented team.”
2005 Varsity Football

A record of 11-0.
Prep League and VISAA champion.
Six first-team All-Prep League and All-VISAA selections.
The Richmond Times-Dispatch Player of the Year.
Those accomplishments and honors are only part of the
career story of Collegiate’s 2005 varsity football team.
“The biggest thing was that this was truly a team,” said
Toby Desch, a three-year starter at center. “Everybody bought
in from the beginning. It started in the summer. We knew how
good we could be, and everybody treated every practice and
game as if we were on a mission.”
Quarterback Russell Wilson, late of the Seattle Seahawks,
completed 205-of-361 passes for 3,287 yards and 40
touchdowns against only 11 interceptions. He ran 132 times
for 634 yards and 15 scores.
“We had good running backs and we had receivers
who could run well and catch the ball,” said Mark Palyo,
Collegiate’s current head coach and the offensive coordinator
in ’05. “We had the ability to block up front, and we certainly
had a quarterback who could throw.
“Part of the success of the offense was keeping opponents
off balance. I joked that it was a bit of smoke and mirrors: We
ran the same thing, but we ran it out of different formations,
and people didn’t pick up on it.”
The Cougars, who amassed 4,556 yards (2.59 miles)
of offense, outscored opponents 554-222. They defeated
Randolph-Macon Academy 62-28 in the state semifinals and
Fork Union Military Academy 56-21 in the championship
game.
“There was a belief within the team that we couldn’t lose,
but we knew we had to work hard,” Desch recalled. “We knew
that if we did what we were supposed to do during the week,
the game would take care of itself. Russell was a massive part
of it, but we had some other incredible athletes on this team.”
Wide receiver Zach Mendez (70 receptions for 1,254 yards
and nine touchdowns) was the leading receiver in Central
Virginia for the second consecutive year.
Desch, Wilson and Mendez, along with wingback Mikey
Thompson, tight end Michael Jarvis and linebacker Thomas
Price earned both All-Prep and All-State honors. Wilson and
Mendez were first-team All-Metro honors, Jarvis and Price
received honorable mention and Wilson was the Richmond
Times-Dispatch player of the year.
“Both our junior and senior classes were really good and
really deep,” said head coach Charlie McFall, league and state
coach of the year.
“We had a lot of momentum (from the ’03 and ’04 state
championship teams) and it carried over. It was a very
positive time for Collegiate’s football program.”

Larry Jarman

Larry Jarman was “The Kick Whisperer.”
For 31 years, he spent his fall afternoons tutoring
Collegiate’s placekickers and punters as well as countless
hours studying and observing so he could more thoroughly
educate the young men entrusted to his care.
“Coach Jarman made a lasting impression on me,” said
Andrew Slater ’96, one of his many protégés.
“I was new to the sport as a junior. He had a detailed plan
for me each day and taught me a lot about the nuances of
kicking a football: different steps, timing, how to elevate the
ball. He had certain progressions and drills that helped me
develop very quickly. It was a life lesson of showing up every
day with a plan.”
A financial planner by trade, Jarman joined the Collegiate
coaching staff in 1981 when he was at the lowest point of his
life.
That March, his 15-year-old son Sam died in an
automobile accident. Friends on the Cougars’ coaching staff
recognized a need and invited him over to help out. He began
with the JV, quickly moved up to the varsity and remained on
the staff through the 2012 season.
“Larry, because of his passion for the kids, gave them a
ton of confidence,” said Charlie McFall, head football coach
from 1986-2006. “The kickers felt like they were part of the
team because they had somebody working with them every
day.”
At first, Jarman wrote his practice notes on 3x5 cards that
he carried in his hip pocket. In short order, he had the plan
memorized. Before long, he had forgotten more about kicking
than many coaches ever know.
At least a dozen young men he coached went on to kick in
college. Noah Greenbaum ’03 led the Big South in scoring in
2008 when he played for Liberty University.
“One of the things I hopefully did well was motivate kids
that needed motivating,” Jarman said. “I took great pride in
seeing a kid do well.”
Jarman’s pupils learned more than football. They learned
about life.
“When tragedy hits,” he said, “God puts opportunities in
front of you that He knows can help you overcome the pain.
“It’s then up to you to accept those opportunities, to give
it everything you have or not accept them and stand on the
sidelines and watch.
“I lost my only son, but by coaching at Collegiate, I’ve
gained a thousand.”
Joel Nuckols

In the lexicon of sports, Joel Nuckols was the quintessential role player.  
Need a JV football coach? He’s your man.  
Need someone to hit fungoes and coach first base? That’s Joel.  
Need help with winter soccer, even though the weather’s cold and the field’s a quagmire with standing water and ankle-deep mud? Joel to the rescue.  
Always with good humor. Always with a whatever-it-takes attitude.  
“Joel was your ultimate team player,” said Charlie McFall, Collegiate’s athletic director from 1987 until 2013, and with whom Nuckols coached in the fall and spring. “He was dedicated to his students and athletes. He never complained. He showed up for work every day, ready to go. He always gave 100 percent to whatever he was doing.”  
Nuckols served Collegiate from 1979 until his retirement in 2015. Well-read, erudite and articulate yet totally unpretentious, he taught Latin and classics as well as English, served as a college counselor and advised the Honor Council for most of his tenure.  
He was the second recipient of the Andrew J. Brent Award, which honors an individual who exemplifies “the teacher, coach, mentor, counselor and friend model that is so vital in an independent school.”  
His Hall of Fame selection caught this salt-of-the-earth guy off guard.  
“It’s a great honor,” he said. “It’s a statement about Collegiate’s athletic program and its devotion to athletes at all levels and to the scholar-athlete concept.”  
Nuckols has always had a wide variety of interests and talents.  
He’s never been afraid to get his hands dirty. There’s never been a task too challenging, too messy, too menial. For many summers, he painted houses. He’s a handyman who can repair appliances, lay flooring, install siding and build sheds. He maintains a large garden on family property in Rockville in Western Hanover County and volunteers regularly at Shalom Farms and Project Homes.  
No glitter. No glory. Just humility and hard work. “I always tried to do the best job I could do,” he said of his coaching career. “It was important to develop a strong work ethic in our players so they knew that working hard was the key to success.  
“I had the privilege of associating with some really good people and coaching really good athletes who took sports seriously.  
“My fellow coaches and the people overseeing athletics were always so supportive. I’m very grateful.”

Mike Stott

Years ago, when Mike Stott was a student at New Trier Township High School in Winnetka, Illinois, he served as manager of the varsity swimming team.  
On long bus rides to and from competitions, he picked the brain of Dave Robertson, the Indians’ legendary coach who during his illustrious career coached 14 state championship squads and two Olympic gold medalists.  
Little did Stott know at the time that one day he’d be a coach, and a highly successful one at that.  
For years, he oversaw summer league swimming programs around Richmond before assuming the coaching reins at Collegiate in 2002.  
“My philosophy was Fun, Fitness, Competition,” Stott said. “If I made it fun, I knew kids would come to practice and we could get them fit, and if we got them fit, they could compete well. I always like to compete well.”  
By the time he retired in 2017, his résumé would include nine state titles (girls in ‘04, ‘12, ‘13, ‘14, ‘15, ‘16; boys in ‘07, ‘08, ‘09) and 11 league crowns (League of Independent Schools in ‘03, ‘04 and ‘12-16, Prep League in ‘06-08 and ‘12).  
“Mike has been a constant source of knowledge and enthusiasm for the swim team,” said Mike Peters, his successor at Collegiate. “He not only brought his own knowledge of swimming, but spent countless hours talking to other coaches, reading up on coaching practices and attending clinics in order to better himself. It would be hard to imagine anyone who has given more of themselves to a team than Mike.”  
During Stott’s tenure, 29 girls earned 133 All-State citations, six girls won 23 individual state titles, 26 boys won 128 All-State citations and nine won 21 individual titles. He also coached five girls who accounted for 15 All-American honors and 18 boys who earned 35 All-American honors.  
He holds a Level 5 designation by the American Swim Coaches Association and was honored numerous times as VISAA and league Coach of the Year.  
“I owe my success at Collegiate to a number of things,” said Stott, a writer by profession. “One was I had really good athletes. We obviously benefited from good summer leagues and club programs in Richmond.  
“My coaching staff and I were able to get the kids to buy in. I had wonderful coaches and parents. The Collegiate administration supported our efforts in the classroom and in the pool. It was a great environment to coach. I’m eternally grateful.  
“If I have a legacy of any kind, I hope it’s that I got the kids to appreciate the rewards of hard work. And I hope they developed a lifelong interest in the water and developed some life skills along the way.”
## 2018-19 Collegiate Boys' Basketball

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<td>Ayinde Budd*</td>
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*Captains

### Coaching Staff

**Head Coach:** Del Harris  
**Assistant Coaches:** Wilbur Athey, Roy Halliburton, Farley Macdonald  
**Graduate Assistants:** Matt Furlough, Robert Chilesy

## 2018-19 St. Christopher’s Boys’ Basketball

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*Captain

### Coaching Staff

**Head Coach:** Hamill Jones  
**Assistant Coaches:** Jim Jump, Stephen Lewis, Hannibal Tuck