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VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

4-2, 1-1 ACC

Head Coach: Kristen Skiera (Duke, 2007)
Record at VT: 23-20 (Third season)
Career Record: 69-60 (Ninth season)
Record vs. Opp at VT: 2-0

VS

ELON PHOENIX

4-2, 0-0 CAA

Head Coach: Josh Hexter (Assumption, 1995)
Record at School: 74-84 (11th season)
Career Record: 146-126 (18th season)

GAME 7 • VIRGINIA TECH VS. ELON • MARCH 6, 2024 • 1 P.M. • BLACKSBURG, VA.

STARTING LINEUP IN LAST GAME

POS.	#	NAME	Yr.	GP-GS	Hometown
GK	36	Jocelyn Torres	So.	6-6	Glenwood, Md.
D	10	Mary Griffin	Gr.	6-6	Sykesville, Md.
D	37	Sydney Golini	Sr.	6-6	East Setauket, N.Y.
D	39	Emma Monte	Jr.	6-6	Fairport, N.Y.
D	45	Mackenzie Beam	Gr.	6-6	Brooklin, Ontario
M	23	Caroline Little	So.	6-6	Sykesville, Md.
M	32	Mia Pozzi	Fr.	6-4	Baldwinsville, N.Y.
A	4	Olivia Vergano	Jr.	6-6	West Babylon, N.Y.
A	5	Ella Rishko	So.	6-6	Rehoboth Beach, Del.
A	15	Paige Tyson	So.	6-6	Rehoboth Beach, Del.
A	22	Kayla Downey	5th	6-6	Babylon, N.Y.
A	38	Sarah Gresham	So.	6-6	Long Valley, N.J.



GAME 6

2024 SCHEDULE

RECORD	4-2
ACC	1-1
NON-CONFERENCE	2-1
HOME	2-0
AWAY	2-2

Date	Opponent	TV	TIME
F10	VCU	ACCNX	W, 10-5
F14	at JMU	ESPN+	L, 5-17
F17	at Mercer	-	W, 21-8
F21	Queens	ACCNX	W, 19-6
F24	at Louisville	ACCN	W, 14-10
M3	at #1 Boston College	ACCNX	L, 7-20
M6	Elon	ACCNX	1 p.m.
M9	Syracuse	ACCNX	Noon
M12	at Furman	ESPN+	6 p.m.
M16	Duke	ACCNX	Noon
M20	Longwood	ACCNX	4 p.m.
M23	at Pitt	ACCN	11 a.m.
M30	at Clemson	ACCNX	Noon
A6	at North Carolina	ACCNX	Noon
A10	ODU	ACCNX	1 p.m.
A13	Notre Dame	ACCNX	Noon
A17	Virginia	ACCN	7 p.m.

KEY STORYLINES

THE SERIES

- The Hokies are 7-1 all-time against the Phoenix, in a series that celebrates its 10th anniversary of an inaugural meeting this year.
- Virginia Tech has claimed six consecutive wins, including four on the road.
- Last season, the Hokies used a five-goal performance from Ella Rishko to defeat Elon 17-11 on the road. The Phoenix took a 5-2 lead into the second quarter, however a five-goal run by Tech shifted momentum back towards the Hokies. Virginia Tech held a 10-3 scoring advantage in the second half to pick up its second win of the season.
- The Hokies are 3-1 in Blacksburg, with the lone loss coming in overtime on March 1, 2017.

A WIN WOULD..

- Be Virginia Tech's third win at home this season.
- Be Virginia Tech's fourth consecutive non-conference home win
- Make Virginia Tech 4-1 in its last five games.

LAST TIME OUT

- Virginia Tech suffered its second set back of the season on Sunday afternoon against then-No. 1 Boston College.
- The Hokies jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead and were knotted up 3-3 early in the second quarter, but Boston College was eventually able to capitalize on a season-high 20 turnovers by the Hokies.

- Tech allowed nine goals in the second quarter, which was the most by any opponent against VT since Kristen Skiera became head coach.
- It was the first loss since Feb. 15, 2023 vs. James Madison that Virginia Tech won the draw control battle.
- A bright spot for the Hokies came in the form of sophomore midfielder Lauren Render making her season debut, while Isa Torres scored her first career goal.

WEST BABYLON, STAND UP!

- Virginia Tech's offense has been led by a pair of West Babylon High School teammates in Kayla Downey and Olivia Vergano. The two were not only lacrosse high school teammates, but also played basketball and soccer throughout their childhoods together.
- Vergano is leading the way in goalscoring with 14 goals, while Downey has set the bar high with 16 assists through six games.
- The pair has accounted for 40.5% (45/111) of Virginia Tech's points this season.

MAGIC NUMBER 10

- In all four victories this season, the Hokies have held its opponents to 10 or fewer goals.
- Senior defender Sydney Golini leads Tech in caused turnovers with 10, while three Tech players (Pozzi, J. Torres and Rishko) have 10 or more ground balls.

2024 VIRGINIA TECH LACROSSE ROSTER

1	Sam Cifra	G	Fr.	5-4	Blue Bell, Pa.
4	Olivia Vergano	A	Jr.	5-9	West Babylon, N.Y.
5	Ella Rishko	A	So.	5-4	Rehoboth Beach, Del.
6	Jess Kent	M	Fr.	5-6	Westminster, Md.
8	Lauren Kelly	M	Fr.	5-4	Charlotte, N.C.
7	Keelin Byrne	D	So.	5-11	McLean, Va.
9	Bridget Noonan	M	Sr.	5-6	Wellesley, Mass.
10	Mary Griffin	D	Gr.	5-7	Sykesville, Md.
11	Grace New	A	Gr.	5-8	Raleigh, N.C.
12	Kacie Hanson	D	Sr.	5-4	Roanoke, Va.
13	Lauren Render	M	So.	5-9	Powder Springs, Ga.
14	Mia Mangin	M	Jr.	5-6	Potomac, Md.
15	Paige Tyson	A	Gr.	5-10	Collegeville, Pa.
16	Gracie Kennedy	A	Sr.	5-3	Baltimore, Md.
17	Cassy Montgomery	M	Fr.	5-1	Columbia, Md.
18	Isa Torres	A	Fr.	5-9	Glenelg, Md.
19	Marie Cacciabauda	M	Fr.	5-2	Garden City, N.Y.
21	Molly Dunphey	D	Gr.	5-7	Ridgewood, N.J.
22	Kayla Downey	A	Sr.	5-5	Babylon, N.Y.
23	Caroline Little	M	So.	5-3	Sykesville, Md.
24	Elizabeth Labbe	D	Jr.	5-7	Annapolis, Md.
25	Maura O'Malley	M	Jr.	5-10	Narragansett, R.I.
26	Zoe Stencil	D	Fr.	5-6	Lake Shore, Md.
27	Ava Romanello	A	So.	5-0	New Fairfield, Conn.
28	Molly Re	M	So.	5-6	Bel Air, Md.
29	Lilly Kannapell	G	Sr.	5-8	Chevy Chase, Md.
30	Claire Schotta	M	Sr.	5-7	Charlottesville, Va.
31	Emma Christensen	A	Jr.	5-1	Potomac, Md.
32	Mia Pozzi	M	Fr.	5-6	Baldwinsville, N.Y.
34	Jane Brewer	M	Fr.	5-9	Sykesville, Md.
35	Tess Moore	D	Sr.	5-6	Alexandria, Va.
36	Jocelyn Torres	G	So.	5-7	Glenelg, Md.
37	Sydney Golini	D	Sr.	5-4	East Setauket, N.Y.
38	Sarah Gresham	A	So.	5-8	Long Valley, N.J.
39	Emma Monte	D	Sr.	5-2	Fairport, N.Y.
40	Ally Peterson	D	Fr.	5-7	Neshanic Station, N.J.
41	Ainsley Malamala	D	Gr.	5-11	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
42	Lauren Martin	D	Sr.	5-8	Rockville, Md.
43	Blair Guy	M	Jr.	5-9	La Plata, Md.
44	Kendall Lally	D	So.	5-6	Towson, Md.
45	Mackenzie Beam	D	Gr.	5-5	Brooklin, Ontario
46	Payton Bezjak	A	Fr.	5-6	Boca Raton, Fla.
47	Katie McCarthy	A	Jr.	5-8	Ridgewood, N.J.

THE STAFF

HEAD COACH: KRISTEN SKIERA (THIRD YEAR)
ASSOC. HEAD COACH: SHANNON JACOBITTI (THIRD YEAR)
ASSISTANT COACH: MC BYRNE (THIRD YEAR)
ASSISTANT COACH: TAYLOR PAIGE (FIRST YEAR)

ATHLETIC TRAINER: ANNE BRYAN
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH: RON DICKSON

ROSTER BY STATE

MARYLAND: 17
NEW YORK: 6
VIRGINIA: 4
NEW JERSEY: 4
DELAWARE: 1
PENNSYLVANIA: 2
NORTH CAROLINA: 2
FLORIDA: 2
GEORGIA: 1
MASSACHUSETTS: 1
RHODE ISLAND: 1
CONNECTICUT: 1
CANADA: 1

ROSTER BY CLASS

FRESHMEN: 11
SOPHOMORES: 9
JUNIORS: 7
SENIORS: 10
5TH-YEAR SENIORS: 1
GRADUATE STUDENTS: 6

PRONUNCIATIONS

Isa Torres	.....	EE-suh
Marie Cacciabauda	.....	catch-a-bah-doe
Elizabeth Labbe	.....	lab-EE
Mia Pozzi	.....	POE-ZEE
Jocelyn Torres	.....	joss-lyn
Sydney Golini	.....	go-LEE-NEE
Emma Monte	.....	mont-EE
Kristen Skiera	.....	sky-ruh
Shannon Jacobitti	.....	jack-uh-bitti
MC Byrne	.....	burn

MORE STORYLINES

ELITE COMPANY

- With Vergano's career numbers (104 goals) paired with Downey's (129 goals, 109 assists), the Hokies are one of eight programs with at least one player at 100+ goals and at least one player with 100+ career assists.
- Joining the Hokies in that category: Notre Dame, Denver, Virginia, UAlbany, Northwestern, Lehigh and North Carolina.
- In the draw circle, Virginia Tech is the only program with two players at 35+ draw controls this season, as Vergano and Gresham have 38 each.

VERGANO SETS THE PACE

- Twice named an honorable mention All-American (Inside Lacrosse, 2022; USA Lacrosse Magazine, 2023), Olivia Vergano enters her third season with the Hokies on Saturday.
- Vergano's league honors have gradually increased in her first two seasons with Tech, as well. She was on the ACC's All-Freshman team in 2022 before being named second team All-ACC in 2023.
- In 2023, she was one of five players nationally (and the only in the ACC) to have 100+ draw controls and 50+ goals.

NAME	SCHOOL	DC	G
Jillian Wilson	Loyola (Md.)	198	61
Ellie Masera	Stony Brook	120	71
Annabel Frist	Stanford	138	50
Arden Tierney	Richmond	120	50
Olivia Vergano	Virginia Tech	106	50

HOKIES IN RED, WHITE AND BLUE

- Following their stellar freshman campaigns, Ella Rishko, Sarah Gresham and Jocelyn Torres were all selected to participate in the United States U20 team tryouts ahead of the World Lacrosse 2024 Women's U20 Championship in Hong Kong, China in August.
- Torres progressed passed tryouts and has been part of the country's training team roster, which will be cut down ahead of the summer competition.
- Virginia Tech's athletic trainer, Anne Bryan, was chosen to serve as the team's athletic trainer. She has attended tryouts and training camps along with the three players, and will travel with the team to Hong Kong.
- Head coach Kristen Skiera (2003) and associate head coach Shannon Jacobitti (2011) were members of past United States world championship teams when the competition fielded U19 teams.



ONE-TWO PUNCH ON THE DRAW

- Virginia Tech is the only DI women's lacrosse program in the country with two players in the top-18 of total draw controls. The two are tied for 18th nationally with 38 draws each.
- Both Sarah Gresham (111) and Olivia Vergano (106) broke the program's previous single-season draw control record in 2023, which was held by Tristan McGinley (96) in the 2018 season.

RISHKO'S ON A ROLL

- After only scoring one goal in Tech's first two games, sophomore Ella Rishko has nine goals and three assists in her last three games.
- Rishko has six games with four-or-more goals in her 23-game career.
- She twice scored seven goals in a game last season, including once against Louisville. The other occasion was during Tech's ACC Tournament game against Pitt, which tied the league tournament's record for goals in a game.

NEW FACES IN THE FOLD

- Ten Hokies have made their debuts for Virginia Tech through the first six games.
- Transfers Mackenzie Beam, Molly Dunphey and Kayla Downey made contributions in their first Tech appearances, while freshmen Marie Cacciabauda, Mia Pozzi and Zoe Stencil have represented the freshmen corp.
- Cacciabauda and Pozzi scored their first career goals at Mercer, while Stencil has earned reps off the bench with the defense.
- Lauren Kelly scored her first career goal for Tech against Queens

GOAL-SCORING RETENTION

- Over the last six seasons, which dates back to Virginia Tech's first and only NCAA Tournament berth in 2018, the Hokies are returning the highest percentage of scoring in that span.
- In 2023, the Hokies scored the most goals in a season since the 2019 campaign.

PRODUCTION RETURNING THE FOLLOWING SEASON

YEAR	GOALS SCORED	GOALS RETURNING	%
2023	236	189	80.08
2022	232	130	56.90
2021	167	71	42.51
2020	148	102	68.92
2019	240	192	80.00
2018	262	178	67.94
2017	247	190	76.92

YOU CAN COUNT ON GOLINI

- Coach Skiera often cites Sydney Golini as one of Tech's most under-appreciated players.
- The unsuspecting 5-4 defender typically picks up the opponent's toughest matchup on the attacking end and holds her own.
- A native of East Setauket, N.Y., Golini has an endless motor, which is often showcased in the Hokies' conditioning drills.

MORE STORYLINES

IT'S A SISTER THING

- The pair of Isa and Jocelyn Torres join Keelin and MC Byrne as sisters within the lacrosse program this season.
- Next year, Ella Rishko will be joined by her sister Lulu, who signed with the Hokies in November as part of their 2024 recruiting class.

MARY GRIFFIN RECOGNIZED

- Senior Mary Griffin has one of the most inspirational stories in college athletics.
- During the fall of 2020, Griffin was diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumor on her pancreas. It was discovered after Virginia Tech medical personnel ordered a biopsy following Griffin experiencing pain in her side while conditioning.
- She had an operation in November 2020 to remove the tumor, her spleen and 40% of her pancreas.
- Just four months following her diagnosis, Griffin was back on the field competing for Virginia Tech in the spring of 2021.
- In June 2022, Griffin was honored with the 2022 Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Achievement Award by the N4A.

GRACIE FROM TEAM IMPACT

- Last spring, the team was paired up with Grace Fladhammer via Team Impact and welcomed her as part of their team.
- Team Impact is an organization that pairs children facing serious illness and disability with college sports team.
- "Gracie" is a big lacrosse fan, who participates in the local New River lacrosse league.
- In the fall, the Hokies had a "Signing Day" ceremony for Gracie, where she was able to have a photoshoot and sign her letter of commitment with the team after practice.



MS. DOWNEY

- While the other three transfers joined the Hokies in the fall, Kayla Downey remained in New York while she completed her student teaching requirements, as she aspires to be an educator one day.

THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

- It seems obvious to state that the more goalscorers a team has, the more likely it is to win. However, it rings especially true for Virginia Tech and is a point of emphasis for the Hokies.
- Under Kristen Skiera, the Hokies are 20-5 when four or more players score multiple goals in a game and 10-2 when five players reach the same mark.
- Tech hasn't lost a game in which four or more players scored multiple goals since April 21, 2022. There have been 14 games in which that has occurred since that loss.

SPIDEY SENSES

- Sarah Gresham picked up the nickname "Spidey" during her freshman season and that has certainly stuck around.
- Grace New attributed to Gresham's ability to wrangle in so many draws as "spidey senses," and since then, her name has been forever changed within the Hokies locker room.

FIFTH-YEAR PRESENCE

- The Hokies' roster consists of seven fifth-year players, including three that have been with Virginia Tech throughout the entirety of their careers in Mary Griffin, Grace New and Paige Tyson.
- The trio of graduate student Hokies have a combined 115 appearances for Tech entering 2024.
- Joining those three is a quartet of transfers: Kayla Downey, Mackenzie Beam, Ainsley Malamala and Molly Dunphey.
- The four transfers have 218 combined starts in their career entering the 2024 season.
- Notably, four of the seven are defenders, while the other three are attackers.

ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

- Fifth-year transfer Kayla Downey held a 22-game scoring streak heading into Tech's game vs. No. 1 BC.
- When the Hokies faced Downey's previous school Coastal Carolina in 2022, she scored once.

LONG ISLAND CONNECTIONS

- With the help of Northport, N.Y. native Shannon Jacobitti on staff, the Hokies have been able to build up a contingent of Long Island, N.Y. players.
- The Hokies expect big things of all four Long Island natives on the team: Olivia Vergano (West Babylon), Kayla Downey (Babylon), Marie Cacciabauda (Garden City) and Sydney Golini (East Setauket).

WE'VE GOT HISTORY

- Two of Virginia Tech's transfers, Kayla Downey and Ainsley Malamala, have faced the Hokies in their careers.
- In 2022, Downey scored a goal and recorded an assist in Coastal Carolina's 17-6 loss to Tech.
- In 2023, Malamala started for Mercer in its 11-8 win Blacksburg.

MORE STORYLINES

A SPECIAL BOND WITH A SPECIAL TEAM

- Head coach Kristen Skiera met with Virginia Tech women's basketball coach Kenny Brooks during her interview in Blacksburg and since then, has had a special bond with Brooks and members of his team.
- The women's basketball team made the Final Four in 2023, which served as inspiration for the lacrosse program which started a rebuild similar to the one that Brooks inherited when he came to Blacksburg in 2016.
- Furthermore, when Skiera was in the process of moving to the area, she temporarily lived next to star players and All-Americans Elizabeth Kitley and Georgia Amooore. The two created a bond with Skiera's family, including her daughter Cazlen. Both Kitley and Amooore can be seen often at Tech lacrosse games due to their close friendship with several players.
- In the fall, Brooks invited the lacrosse team to watch them practice.



SOUTHERN DRAW

- In order to have the nation's best one-two punch on the draw last season, the Hokies utilized an invention by Kristen Skiera's father, Steve Waagbo, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Civil Engineering.
- The "Southern Draw" is a contraption that allows the draw specialists to practice their draws without another individual matching up with them.
- Last year's initial prototype was made out of wood, but this year's version is composed of steel to last through outdoor conditions.

SOMETHING IS BREWING

- After Virginia Tech took No. 2 Syracuse to the wire in the ACC Championships quarterfinal last April, falling a few goals of the biggest upset college lacrosse would have seen that season, there was a special energy in the locker room. The result capped off a fourth loss by four goals or less to a top-12 ranked team in 2023 – in a sport which goals often come aplenty.

Skiera often speaks of the positive energy in the locker room after the Syracuse game - knowing that something special was brewing on a larger scale within the program.



2024 VIRGINIA TECH LACROSSE TEAM STATS

Record:	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
All Games	4-2	2-0	2-2	0-0
Conference	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0
Non-Conference	3-1	2-0	1-1	0-0

Date	Opponent	WL	Score	Att.
2/10/24	VCU	W	10-5	293
2/14/24	at James Madison	L	5-17	288
2/17/24	at Mercer	W	21-8	218
2/21/24	QUEENS	W	19-6	115
2/24/24	at Louisville	W	14-10	242
3/01/24	at Boston College	L	7-20	121

Team Statistics	VT	OPP
SHOT STATISTICS		
Goals-Shot Att.	76-175	66-148
Goals Per Game	12.67	11.00
Shot Pct.	.434	.446
Shots on Goal-Att.	126-175	115-148
SOG Pct.	.72	.777
Shots/Game	29.2	24.7
Assists	35	29
FREE POSITION OPPORTUNITIES		
Free Position Made-Att.	12-23	12-26
Free Position pct.	.522	.462
GOAL BREAKDOWN		
Total Goals	76	66
Free Position	12	12
Unassisted	41	37
Overtime	0	0
Goals Scored Avg	12.67	11.00
GROUND BALLS	103	91
DRAW CONTROLS	89	67
TURNOVERS	95	102
CAUSED TURNOVERS	67	54
CLEARs	97-107	98-111
Clear Pct.	.907	.883
SHOT CLOCK VIOLATIONS	2	0
ATTENDANCE		
Total	408	869
Dates-Avg Per Date	2/204	4/217
Neutral Site #-Avg	0/	

#	Player	GP	G	A	PTS	SH	GW	GB	DC	TO	CT
22	Downey, Kayla	6	12	16	28	23	1	3	0	14	0
4	Vergano, Olivia	6	14	3	17	36	0	5	38	11	4
5	Rishko, Ella	6	11	5	16	27	0	10	9	14	5
30	Schotta, Claire	5	10	2	12	17	0	3	0	6	2
15	Tyson, Paige	6	9	1	10	19	1	1	0	4	0
32	Pozzi, Mia	6	5	1	6	11	1	12	0	5	8
23	Little, Caroline	6	3	3	6	13	1	8	1	2	2
19	Cacciabardo, Marie	4	3	0	3	3	0	2	0	3	0
30	Schotta, Claire	1	3	0	3	3	0	1	0	2	0
43	Guy, Blair	6	2	0	2	12	0	1	0	8	2
25	O'Malley, Maura	6	2	0	2	4	0	2	0	2	0
16	Kennedy, Gracie	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
8	Kelly, Lauren	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
18	Torres, Isa	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0
45	Beam, Mackenzie	6	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	0	7
10	Griffin, Mary	6	0	1	1	0	0	5	1	3	3
34	Brewer, Jane	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
7	Byrne, Keelin	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
21	Dunphey, Molly	6	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	8
37	Golini, Sydney	6	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	1	10
38	Gresham, Sarah	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	38	2	1
12	Hanson, Kacie	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
29	Kannapell, Lilly	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
24	Labbe, Elizabeth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
42	Martin, Lauren	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	McCarthy, Katie	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
39	Monte, Emma	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	4	3
11	New, Grace	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
13	Render, Lauren	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
27	Romanello, Ava	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Stencil, Zoe	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
36	Torres, Jocelyn	6	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	2	1
TM	Team	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Totals		6	76	35	111	175	4	103	89	95	67
Opponents		6	66	29	95	148	2	91	67	102	54

#	Goalie	GP	MIN	GA	GAA	SAVE	PCT	W-L-T
29	Kannapell, Lilly	2	45:00	6	8.00	8	.571	0-0-0
36	Torres, Jocelyn	6	315:00	60	11.43	41	.406	4-2-0
Totals		8	360:00	66	11.00	49	.426	4-2-0
Opponents		8	360:00	76	12.67	50	.397	2-4-0

Goals by Period	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Virginia Tech	25	21	14	16	76
Opponents	21	19	11	15	66

Saves by Period	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Virginia Tech	14	13	9	13	49
Opponents	15	11	15	9	50

Shots by Period	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Virginia Tech	54	43	44	34	175
Opponents	48	37	28	35	148

SEASON HIGHS

VIRGINIA TECH

MOST GOALS: 21 at Mercer (2/17/2024)

MOST ASSISTS: 10 vs. Queens (2/21/2024)

MOST GROUND BALLS: 21 vs. VCU (2/10/2024)

MOST DRAW CONTROLS: 20 at Mercer (2/17/2024)

MOST CAUSED TURNOVERS: 16 at Mercer (2/17/2024)

MOST POINTS (IND.): 7, KAYLA DOWNEY at Mercer (2/17/2024), vs. Queens (2/21/2024)

MOST GOALS (IND.): 5, ELLA RISHKO at Mercer (2/17/2024)

MOST ASSISTS (IND.): 6, KAYLA DOWNEY vs. Queens (2/21/2024)

MOST GROUND BALLS (IND.): 4, MOLLY DUNPHEY at Louisville (2/24/2024)

MOST DRAW CONTROLS (IND.): 12, SARAH GRESHAM vs. Queens (2/21/2024)

MOST CAUSED TURNOVERS (IND.): 3, MIA POZZI vs. VCU (2/10/2024), at Mercer (2/17/2024); SYDNEY GOLINI at No. 1 Boston college (3/3/2024)

LAST TIME VIRGINIA TECH...

SCORED 10 OR MORE GOALS	14 - at Louisville (2/24/2024)
SCORED 15 OR MORE GOALS	19 - vs. Queens (2/21/2024)
SCORED 20 OR MORE GOALS	21 - at Mercer (2/17/2024)
ALLOWED 10 OR FEWER GOALS	10 - at Louisville (2/24/2024)
ALLOWED 5 OR FEWER GOALS	5 - vs. VCU (2/10/2024)
5 OR MORE ASSISTS	5 - at No. 1 Boston college (3/3/2024)
10 OR MORE ASSISTS	10 - vs. Queens (2/21/2024)
30 OR MORE SHOTS	30 - at Louisville (2/24/2024)
40 OR MORE SHOTS	42 - vs. Pitt (4/23/2023)
20 OR MORE SHOTS ON GOAL	24 - at Louisville (2/24/2024)
30 OR MORE SHOTS ON GOAL	32 - at Akron (3/18/2023)
15 OR MORE GROUND BALLS	20 - at Louisville (2/24/2024)
20 OR MORE GROUND BALLS	20 - at Louisville (2/24/2024)
25 OR MORE GROUND BALLS	25 - at Furman (3/15/2022)
CAUSED 10+ TURNOVERS	10 - at Louisville (2/24/2024)
CAUSED 15+ TURNOVERS	16 - at Mercer (2/17/2024)
CAUSED 20+ TURNOVERS	21 - at Liberty (2/12/2021)
COMMITTED 15+ TURNOVERS	20 - at No. 1 Boston college (3/3/2024)
COMMITTED 20+ TURNOVERS	20 - at No. 1 Boston college (3/3/2024)
COMMITTED 25+ TURNOVERS	26 - at Liberty (2/12/2021)
15 OR MORE DRAW CONTROLS	18 - at No. 1 Boston college (3/3/2024)
20 OR MORE DRAW CONTROLS	20 - at Mercer (2/17/2024)
SHUTOUT OPPONENT IN A QUARTER	2nd - vs. Queens (2/21/2024)
SHUTOUT OPPONENT IN A HALF	1st - vs. Radford (2/24/2016)

MOST...

LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	20 (TWICE, LAST VS. WILLIAM & MARY IN 2020)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT	21 (vs. UNC IN 2021)
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY VS. RANKED TEAM	6 (vs. Denver IN 2018)
MOST GOALS SCORED VS. RANKED TEAM	20 (at UVA IN 2021)
HIGHEST RANKED TEAM DEFEATED	8 (at UVA 2021)
MOST POINTS IN A HOME GAME	37 (2005 VS. Howard; 1999 VS. Denver)
MOST POINTS IN AN AWAY GAME	41 (@ Akron (3/18/2023)
MOST GOALS IN A HOME GAME	23 (THREE TIMES, LAST VS. WILLIAM & MARY IN 2020)
MOST GOALS IN AN AWAY GAME	23 (2019 at ODU)
MOST ASSISTS IN A HOME GAME	16 (2005, Howard; 1999, Denver)
MOST ASSISTS IN AN AWAY GAME	18 (@ Akron (3/18/2023)

▶ THE SKIERA FILE



Virginia Tech, Head Coach | 2021 - Present
Army, Head Coach | 2015-2021
Duke, Assistant Coach | 2012-2015
Navy, Assistant Coach | 2011-2012
UC-Davis, Assistant Coach | 2010
Navy, Volunteer Assistant Coach | 2008-2009

Since being named head coach of Virginia Tech lacrosse on June 11, 2021, Kristen Skiera has conducted one of the more impressive turnarounds of a collegiate lacrosse program in recent time. Skiera, or “Waags” as she’s nicknamed in the lacrosse community, has improved Tech’s total and ACC win totals in both of her first two seasons.

Skiera was inspired to get into coaching after a successful two-time All-American, Tewaaraton semifinalist career at Duke, where she played had four Final Four appearances. She had the privilege of playing and working under two of lacrosse’s greatest ever coaches, Kerstin Kimel and Cindy Timchal, respectively.

The 2018 U.S. Lacrosse Greater Baltimore Chapter Hall of Fame inductee specializes in working with Virginia Tech’s attacking group, which has produced a pair of All-Americans in Sarah Lubnow and Olivia Vergano since Skiera arrived ahead of the 2022 season.

An Ellicott City, Md. native, Skiera oversaw Army women’s lacrosse’s transition from club to varsity sport, where she compiled a 46-40 record and developed 12 All-Patriot league players for the Black Knights.

Skiera resides in Christiansburg, Va. with her husband, Kyle, and their two daughters, Caslen and Lane.

▶ THE ASSISTANTS



Virginia Tech, Assoc. Head Coach | 2021 - Present
Army, Assoc. Head Coach | 2016-2021
Vanderbilt, Assistant Coach | 2015-2016

Shannon Jacobitti is in her third season with Virginia Tech lacrosse after following Skiera from Army, where she held the same position on staff. In her role with the Hokies, Jacobitti directs the midfield and oversees the draw control training.

It was under Jacobitti’s watch in 2023 that two Tech players, Sarah Gresham (111) and Olivia Vergano (106) broke the program’s single-season draw control record.

An accomplished player in her own right, Jacobitti was a two-time Tewaaraton finalist and finished tied eighth all-time in NCAA history for goals.



Virginia Tech, Assistant Coach | 2021 - Present
ECU, Assistant Coach | 2019-2021

MC Byrne joined Skiera’s initial staff at Virginia Tech in 2021, returning to the program that she played at from 2015 to 2019. In her role with the Hokies, Byrne oversees the defensive unit and worked with goalie prior to the arrival of assistant coach Taylor Paige.

Under her watch, four defenders have earned career highs in caused turnovers. As a player for Virginia Tech, she finished her career ranked third all-time in caused turnovers and sixth all-time in ground balls.



Virginia Tech, Assistant Coach | 2023 - Present
Virginia, Operations Assistant | 2021 - 2023
Shenandoah, Assistant Coach | 2019-2021
Bridgewater College, Assistant Coach | 2017-2018

Taylor Paige is the newest member of Virginia Tech’s staff, having joined in the summer of 2023 to oversee goalies and handle day-to-day operations for the program.

At her previous stop, Paige handled operations within the Virginia program that made two NCAA Tournaments during her tenure. Prior to her time in Charlottesville, she served as an assistant at Shenandoah and Bridgewater College.

An accomplished goalie in her own right, Paige was a four-year contributor at Mary Washington.



NATIONAL POLLS

INSIDE LACROSSE POLL

Updated: 3/4/2024

Rank	School	Record	Previous
1	Northwestern	(5 - 1)	3
2	James Madison	(6 - 0)	2
3	Boston College	(6 - 1)	1
4	Notre Dame	(5 - 1)	5
5	Syracuse	(3 - 2)	4
6	Michigan	(6 - 0)	6
7	Loyola	(4 - 0)	8
8	North Carolina	(4 - 2)	7
9	Maryland	(4 - 1)	9
10	Denver	(3 - 2)	10
11	Florida	(3 - 2)	11
12	Stony Brook	(4 - 0)	12
13	Virginia	(5 - 1)	14
14	Penn	(4 - 0)	13
15	Johns Hopkins	(5 - 2)	15
16	Navy	(5 - 0)	17
17	USC	(4 - 2)	16
18	Yale	(4 - 0)	21
19	Colorado	(4 - 2)	19
20	Clemson	(4 - 1)	18
21	Princeton	(2 - 2)	23
22	Rutgers	(5 - 1)	22
23	Richmond	(4 - 1)	20
24	Harvard	(4 - 0)	NR
25	Brown	(3 - 1)	24

RV: Drexel, Fairfield, Arizona State, Stanford, Penn State

USA LACROSSE MAGAZINE POLL

Updated: 3/4/2024

Rank	School	Record	Previous
1	Northwestern	5-1	3
2	Boston College	6-1	1
3	James Madison	6-0	2
4	Michigan	6-0	5
5	Syracuse	3-2	6
6	Notre Dame	5-1	7
7	North Carolina	4-2	4
8	Loyola	4-0	8
9	Florida	3-2	10
10	Maryland	4-1	11
11	Stony Brook	4-0	12
12	Penn	4-0	13
13	Johns Hopkins	6-2	14
14	Denver	3-2	9
15	Virginia	5-1	15
16	Navy	5-0	17
17	USC	4-2	16
18	Yale	4-0	NR
19	Princeton	2-2	18
20	Clemson	4-1	19

Also considered: Brown, Colorado, Drexel, Duke, Fairfield, Harvard, Rutgers, Richmond, Yale



2024 STANDINGS

TEAM	ACC	CPCT	OVERALL
Boston College	2-0	1.00	6-1
Syracuse	2-0	1.00	3-2
Notre Dame	1-1	0.50	5-1
Virginia	1-1	0.50	5-1
Clemson	1-1	0.50	4-1
North Carolina	1-1	0.50	4-2
Virginia Tech	1-1	0.50	4-2
Louisville	1-1	0.50	2-4
Duke	0-2	0.00	3-4
Pitt	0-2	0.00	2-4

2024 PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

- | # | TEAM |
|-----|----------------|
| 1. | Boston College |
| 2. | Syracuse |
| 3. | North Carolina |
| 4. | Notre Dame |
| 5. | Virginia |
| 6. | Clemson |
| 7. | Duke |
| 8. | Virginia Tech |
| 9. | Louisville |
| 10. | Pitt |

2024 PRESEASON ALL-ACC TEAM

Attack

Rachel Clark, Jr., Boston College
Jackie Wolak, Gr., Notre Dame
Emma Ward, Sr., Syracuse

Midfield

Belle Smith, Sr., Boston College
Cassidy Weeks, Gr., Boston College
Kasey Choma, Gr., Notre Dame

Defense

Sydney Scales, Sr., Boston College
Emily Nalls, Gr., North Carolina
Katie Goodale, Sr., Syracuse

Goalie

Delaney Sweitzer, Gr., Syracuse

At-Large

Mckenna Davis, Jr., A, Boston College
Shea Dolce, So., GK, Boston College
Nicole Perroni, Gr., M, Louisville
Olivia Dirks, Gr., M, North Carolina
Marissa White, So., A, North Carolina
Madison Ahern, Gr., A, Notre Dame
Emma Tyrrell, Gr., A, Syracuse
Morgan Schwab, Sr., A, Virginia

SOUNDBITES

PRESEASON

MARY GRIFFIN ON KRISTEN SKIERA'S IMPACT ON THE TEAM (VIA SONS OF SATURDAY PODCAST)

"[Skiera] is just always likes bringing the energy. I always say I'm so impressed [because] she could be so mad at us, then like 10 minutes later be like, "Okay, guys! What are we doing," like [a] super fun change of energy. [She's] Ssmeone that I really look up to in so many ways and I think we really vibe well together with our energy; Just like our goals and like the mindset that we have. She definitely pushes you to be your best self, but does so in a way that you do it, not just for yourself, but do it for her, too. She's just absolutely incredible and hires the right people. I love our staff so much. They're so much fun and I just can't stress enough like how much they made us love lacrosse again, like I can't thank them enough for that."

KRISTEN SKIERA ON LOSING THE UNDERDOG MENTALITY THIS SEASON (VIA TECH SIDELINE PODCAST)

"There's something to be said about having an underdog mentality, but I don't think we have that underdog mentality. I'd like to think that we have the underdog edge, and the grit, you know, and that hunger is a part of us. The underdog mentality kind of means to that you go into the games thinking in some way you're inferior and that's what we've shed from last year to this year."

VCU GAME

KRISTEN SKIERA ON OVERALL PERFORMANCE

"For starters, VCU gave us all we could handle today. Their goalie got hot and played exceptional. [She] made it so hard for us. Their zone defense was nice and they made the correct adjustments. They gave us a really tough time on the draw. It was great! I think to start the season, your weaknesses get exposed and you have to learn from it quick. We certainly have to learn from it quick because we head into next week and get a crack at two NCAA Tournament teams. It definitely wasn't perfect, [but] I'm happy we're 1-0 and we certainly have a lot of work to do."

KRISTEN SKIERA ON NINE ASSISTS ON 10 GOALS

"I guess that's a great takeaway; I didn't even know that! We were playing against a zone defense, so you're mainly going to assume that we're probably going to have more assisted looks than unassisted looks. This should be a good, fun offense to watch. We've got to grow and learn from this. Moving forward it should be a fun offense to watch because we have a lot of dangerous threats out there and everybody has become more of a feeder in the off-season. Hopefully, we can continue that trend and really keep working to set each other up."

QUEENS (N.C.) GAME

KRISTEN SKIERA ON KAYLA DOWNEY'S INTEGRATION INTO THE TEAM

"We brought her here for a reason. She's unbelievable at her craft, she sees the game so well from X, she's just an unbelievable feeder and I think even it just our first four games, you can see the impact that she's made. [She's] that missing piece of the puzzle for us and filled that [hole]. Really, really happy she got a lot of pressure behind the cage tonight and had a big matchup back there, and she did a great job. I think that was very valuable experience for her tonight."

ELLA RISHKO ON

"After bouncing back from the first two more difficult games for our offense, we've been working super hard on and off the field working through our kinks and working with our teammates. Today, our team just put everything total [like] our draw team, our defense and our offense, especially, we just worked together really well and gave each other a lot of opportunities to score."