

VIRGINIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sellout Crowd Honors Legends, Leaders and Champions at Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Induction

A sellout crowd filled the Hilton Richmond Hotel Short Pump Saturday night as nine athletes, coaches, administrators, a prominent community leader, and a historic college football team were inducted into the 53rd Class of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

Hosted in Henrico County by the Henrico Sports and Entertainment Authority, the evening honored what many are calling one of the most distinguished Hall of Fame classes in history.

Inductees included coaches Tony Bennett and Marcellus “Boo” Williams; former WNBA All-Star and current Phoenix Mercury coach Kristi Toliver; basketball legend Grant Hill; former Virginia Tech and NFL standout Michael Vick; former University of Virginia and NBA player Wally Walker; longtime William & Mary athletic director Terry Driscoll; and renowned sports author Roland Lazenby.

Richmond community leader and philanthropist Robert S. “Bobby” Ukrop was honored as the 2026 Distinguished Virginian, an award presented to an individual with a sports background who has made outstanding lifetime contributions as a distinguished citizen of the Commonwealth.

“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,” said Bruce Rader, Executive Director of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. “These individuals, with NCAA championships, professional titles, Olympic gold medals, and international recognition, reflect everything that makes sports in Virginia so special. From championship performers to visionary leaders and storytellers, this group embodies the Hall’s core values of recognition, impact, and integrity.”

The 2025 James Madison University (JMU) football team was named the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Sportsperson of the Year, recognized for a historic season in which it finished 12–2, won the Sun Belt Conference title, and earned a No. 12 seed in the 2025 College Football Playoff. JMU is the first team ever to receive this award.