Virginia Squash
Campaign for the Future
Squash at the University of Virginia

I. History

Squash at the University of Virginia dates back to the early 1930s when four courts were donated by Lady Nancy Langhorne Astor. In 1968, UVa alum Victor Elmaleh put the University on the squash map by becoming National Doubles Champion with his partner Victor Niederhoffer. Other notable alumni early on in the history of squash at UVa include Sandy Worthington ('78), who went on to become a top-10-ranked player in the United States, and Beth Rasin, who managed the US Women’s Squash Team for over a decade and is currently assistant director of the JP Morgan Tournament of Champions.

In 2001, under the stewardship of Tyler Hinckley ('03), the UVa men’s squash team officially joined the College Squash Association. One year later, in 2002, Mary Whelan ('07) formally established the women’s club team.

In the years that followed, the UVa club squash teams were almost entirely self-funded and student operated. They were also very successful. The men’s team won the Chafee Cup in ’02-’03 and attained the highest ranking in team history in ’03-’04, ending the season at #28 in the nation. The women fared even better, winning the Epps Cup twice (2006 and 2008) and achieving a highest national ranking of #21 at the conclusion of the ’06-’07 season.

From ’02 until the present the teams used a variety of temporary home courts for practices and matches. In the earliest days, they made do with hardball courts at Slaughter before upgrading to the Albemarle Racquet Club’s two international courts and eventually the five international courts at St. Anne’s-Belfield School, where they resided until the opening of the McArthur Squash Center in May of 2013.

II. Present

The Virginia men’s and women’s squash teams continue to compete at the intercollegiate level as full members of the College Squash Association. Each team plays an extensive schedule of matches during the winter season and both squads travel to the CSA National Team Tournaments, college squash’s culminating events, in February. This season’s schedule will see the UVa men and women compete in dozens of team and individual events, with official team matches against opponents such as Yale, George Washington, Drexel, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown.

Several of these matches will be held in Charlottesville at the team’s home courts, the McArthur Squash Center at Boar’s Head Sports Club. Completed in April 2013, the state-of-the-art, LEED-certified facility features nine singles courts—including one all-glass exhibition “center” court—and two hardball doubles courts. By any measure the MSC ranks among the finest squash venues in the world and is the envy of college squash programs around the country. The best part is it’s all decked out in UVa orange and blue. Jay Prince from Squash Magazine expanded:

“Every now and then you walk into a place and just go ‘whoa, this is cool!’ Honestly McArthur squash center at Boar’s Head Sports Club goes way beyond that. At McArthur a lot of thought went into the design before the first wheelbarrow of concrete was poured.

Not only was the venue divided into 3 “pods” with four glass courts near the entrance, the all-glass show court in the middle, and another set of four courts (plus two doubles courts) positioned at the end of the building, but the mezzanines and varying floor levels are wonderful. Natural light from high windows could have been a problem for the center court, but a massive black curtain can be drawn around 3 sides of the court too.

To add polish, the columns are wrapped in wood giving the place a warmth that just doesn’t exist in new places. A new gold standard for squash has been set at the home of UVa.

Although technically a club sport, players on the Virginia squash teams practice and compete at a level and with facilities equivalent to those enjoyed by varsity programs. Team expectations are clearly established and those who choose to pursue squash at UVa negotiate life at the University as student athletes. The coaches, Mark Allen and Grant White, hold all of the players to the expectation that they will work and behave just like varsity squash players at any other premier college program in the United States.

After one season under guidance of Head Coach Mark Allen, the ’13-’14 women’s team finished with a national ranking of #25, winning the Epps Cup division of the WCSA Team Nationals. Their performance at Nationals placed the Virginia women #1 among club teams and above several well-established varsity programs. The Virginia men’s team picked up key 5-4 victories over Denison and Georgetown and maintained a top-30 ranking for the majority of the season.
III. Future

After more than a decade of success as a club team, the Virginia squash teams are hoping that the next step in their evolution will be the promotion from club to varsity status.

As the administrative staff and the Friends of Virginia Squash work toward this goal off the court, Coach Allen is focused on ensuring that the on-court progress continues as well. Even at the club level there is much that the program can and will do to move upward in the rankings and compete with established programs in the Northern Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

Squash is a rapidly growing sport in the US, with a high proportion of nationally-ranked junior players applying to the most selective colleges in the nation.

For this coming 2014/2015 season Coach Allen will be competitively recruiting the best high school squash players around the US and internationally. Our goal is to build on multiple classes of 3-4 recruits per year for each team. This will provide the foundation for the teams to reach a top-ten national ranking within five years, and to win a national championship in ten.

Fixtures & Invitationals

Three major events are confirmed for the ’13-’14 season at McArthur Squash Center and we hope you can make the trip to Charlottesville to cheer on the teams or to compete as an entrant.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FESTIVAL OF SQUASH
September 18-21, 2014

Our flagship event kicks off the new squash season and offers something for everyone who enjoys the game. Whether you want to watch the UVa players compete in the amateur draws, be dazzled by some of the best singles and double players in the world in the pro events, or take part yourself and compete in the junior or adult events, there’s something here for you. A special alumni reception is scheduled for Saturday afternoon with refreshments served court side while the PSA and SDA players provide the live entertainment.

VIRGINIA SQUASH TEAM HOME ROUND ROBIN
January 23-25, 2015

Last year’s inaugural round robin at MSC attracted club and varsity teams from all over the country for a weekend of matches showcasing our new home facility. This year’s event promises to be an even more exciting weekend with a wider array of teams. The UVa men and women will face Yale University in their first-ever match against an Ivy League opponent.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WEEKEND (AND FOXFIELD RACES)
April 24-26 , 2015

Our second annual Alumni and Friends Weekend will feature an Alumni Match pitting the ’14-’15 squads against teams composed of alumni, friends, and local junior and adult players. Friday’s match will be followed by an FoVS fundraiser dinner in the Old Mill Room at Boars Head Inn. On Saturday we invite alumni and friends to mingle with the coaches, local squash enthusiasts, and current team members at our plot at the Foxfield races. Alumni and friends who register for the event in advance will be able to tour the facility and make use of the courts throughout the weekend.

Additional Matches and Events

There are plenty of other chances to cheer the team on throughout the year at venues up and down the East Coast.

• Women’s - Harvard University Invitational on November 1-2
• Men’s - Naval Academy Invitational on November 15-16
• Women’s - CSA Championships, Boston on February 13-15
• Men’s - CSA Championships, New Haven on February 20-22

If you can’t make the trip to see us play, we can bring UVa squash to you. Our website, virginiasquash.com, is the source for in-depth info on the teams. For live coverage, you can like Virginia Squash on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (@uvasquash), and watch our home matches streamed live via LiveStream.com (search UVa Club Squash). We hope to see you there early and often!

Follow Virginia Squash

We invite alumni to share memories, stories, photos, or other ephemera from the history of squash at UVa. If you’d like to help us add to our archives, please contact us at uva.squash@gmail.com.

To view the latest version of the men’s and women’s fixture list, as well as to keep up to date with everything going on with UVa squash, you can visit our website at www.virginiasquash.com.
Squash at the University of Virginia is one of the most exciting stories in intercollegiate and US squash. Over the past few seasons the UVa teams have made great strides on court and off, moving up steadily in the rankings and cultivating a reputation as an organization with the capacity to bring squash into a new University and a new region. We are now poised to become one of only a few large public universities with men’s and women’s teams ranked in the top-twenty. And as we have mentioned, we don’t plan on stopping there.

Developing a world-class collegiate squash program does require financial support. And you can help. Your contribution will help us reach our goal of competing against and winning against the top echelons of the CSA. With the right support, we believe we’ll soon be standing toe-to-toe with the Ivy League teams and other perennial contenders.

As we launch our first formal fundraising campaign we are hoping to achieve two objectives.

The first objective is to raise enough funding to cover the next two year’s operating expenses, which, with increased travel requirements, increased squad sizes, and a larger coaching staff, will be greater than ever before.

Our second objective relates more directly to our pursuit of varsity status. In the quest to bring squash to UVa, we have been fortunate to have the un-

failing support of the Quantitative Foundation. Through their generosity we have an amazing new facility, McArthur Squash Center, as well as an internationally renowned squash professional and teacher, Head Coach Mark Allen.

But, like any well-run organization in our position, we cannot rely on a single donor. In order to take the next step and formally establish and endow the squash programs, we need to establish a wider and more diverse base of support.

So we ask that you consider making a gift to the Virginia squash teams. No donation is too small and all gifts to the Friends of Virginia Squash are tax deductible.

In order to kick off this campaign and encourage individuals and organizations to make gifts of their own, the Quantitative Foundation is offering a matching dollar-for-dollar grant of up to $100,000 for all money raised between now and December 31, 2014.

The first $15,000 has already been secured, through donations from the parents of our ‘13-’14 teams, as well as from every single member of our FoVS board.

To make your donation please visit our website and click the “Donate Now” button on the home page. For those preferring to donate by check, a donation form and return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

If you would like to speak directly to Head Coach, Mark Allen before moving forward with a donation then please do not hesitate to call him at 434-972-7424, or email him at uva.squash@gmail.com.
Friends of Virginia Squash (FoVS) was formed on December 12, 2011, and the board was formed on June 15, 2012. As stated in the bylaws the purpose of FoVS is to “promote and provide support to the men’s and women’s UVa squash teams.”

Through FoVS, Quantitative Foundation provides the funds for the vast majority of the teams’ annual operational budget, including the coaches’ salaries. Quantitative Foundation also donated the McArthur Squash Center to UVa, which opened on April 21, 2013.

The funds of FoVS are managed through the UVa fund, and FoVS holds a contract with Alumni Hall to receive assistance with key administrative duties, including website management and marketing and communications.

The board currently consists of 12 members
- Three UVa alums Sandy Worthington ’78, Christine Montgomery ’08, and Jonathan Rheuban ’09
- UVa faculty member: Law Professor Ted White
- Coach of the UVa squash teams: Mark Allen
- Men’s team Representative: Matt Brown
- Women’s Team Representative: Celia Dyer
- Parent of team member: Ed Bralower
- Director of UVa Fund: Jennifer Bonenfant
- Executive Director, Quantitative Foundation: Will Foshay
- Project Manager, Quantitative Foundation: Francis Johnson
- Trustee of Quantitative Foundation and FoVS: Jaffray Woodriff

For any questions pertaining specifically to Friends of Virginia Squash, please contact President & Treasurer Francis Johnson at 434-220-3177.