

Tech Radio Network Among Nation's Best

The Virginia Tech-Raycom radio network is one of the largest in-state networks in the United States. Nearly 70 stations cover every geographical area of Virginia in addition to portions of West Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Radio stations on the network include the first station in Virginia and one of the first in the United States (WTAR, Norfolk, 1923), the only clear channel and the most powerful station in the state (WRVA, Richmond, 50,000 watts), and the station covering the largest geographic area of the state (WSLQ, Roanoke, 200,000 watts).

Many of the stations have been affiliated with the Tech network for more than 20 years. Among this prestigious group are WRAD, Radford; WMEV, Marion; WBOB, Galax; WNVA, Norton; WMVA, Martinsville; WPRW, Manassas; WFLS, Fredericksburg; WAGE, Leesburg; WSIG, Mount Jackson; WNRV, Narrows; WTON, Staunton; WINC, Winchester; WCVA, Culpeper; WYVE, Wytheville; WUVT, Blacksburg; WSLC, Roanoke; WMEK, Chase City; WKEY, Covington; WEVA, Emporia; WHLF, South Boston; WFLO, Farmville; WSLW, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.; WKOY, Bluefield, W. Va.; and WOPI, Bristol, Tenn.

The network dates back to 1954 when WRAD, Radford, originated the games. In 1973 Ken Haines, director of the University Public Affairs Office, became the network coordinator. The most dramatic growth occurred in 1975 when the network

nearly tripled its number of affiliated stations. In 1981, Raycom, Inc. of Charlotte, N.C., became the official marketing and station affiliate organization for the network.

During the past 28 seasons, the Tech sports network has had many announcers who have gained national recognition. Among that group are the "Voice of the New York Yankees," Frank Messer; Dave Van Horn, "Voice of the Montreal Expos"; and Marty Brennaman, "Voice of the Cincinnati Reds." This season, Tech games will again be announced by Don Fleegeer (air name Don Lloyd) who returns for his ninth season as the "Voice of the Hokies."

Fleegeer, an Ohio University graduate, joined the Tech network in 1973 as a color commentator and took over the play-by-play duties the following year. He began his radio career in 1955 while at Ohio University and moved to Virginia in 1967 as a play-by-play man for William & Mary football. Fleegeer is the director of communications for the Virginia Farm Bureau.

The color commentary will be handled by Rich Haney, who joined the broadcast team two seasons ago after nine years as sports director of Richmond television station WTVR. Haney also produces five daily statewide radio sports shows.

This season will mark the eighth consecutive year that the Virginia Farm Bureau has been the primary network sponsor.

VIRGINIA TECH SPORTS NETWORK

Year	Play-by-Play	Color	Producer
1954	Joe Knakal	Bob Bradford	WRAD, Radford
1955	Joe Knakal	Bob Bradford	WRAD, Radford
1956	Joe Knakal	Bob Bradford	WRAD, Radford
1957	Frank Messer	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1958	Frank Messer	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1959	Frank Messer	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1960	Frank Messer	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1961	Bob Gillmore	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1962	Bob Gillmore	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1963	Charlie Harville	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1964	Charlie Harville	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1965	Charlie Harville	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1966	Charlie Harville	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1967	Charlie Harville	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1968	Charlie Harville	Dave Van Horn (in Sowden's absence)	WRNL, Richmond
1969	Charlie Harville	Frank Sowden	WRNL, Richmond
1970	Charlie Harville	Steve Bodley	WRAD, Radford
1971	Charlie Harville	Steve Bodley	WRAD, Radford
1972	Bud Kaatz	Damon Flanary	WRAD, Radford
1973	Marty Brennaman	Don Lloyd	Virginia Tech
1974	Don Lloyd	Ken Haines	Virginia Tech
1975	Don Lloyd	Ken Haines	Virginia Tech
1976	Don Lloyd	Ken Haines	Virginia Tech
1977	Don Lloyd	Ken Haines	Virginia Tech
1978	Don Lloyd	Ken Haines	Virginia Tech
1979	Don Lloyd	Ken Haines	Virginia Tech
1980	Don Lloyd	Rich Haney	Virginia Tech
		& Ken Haines	
1981	Don Lloyd	Rich Haney	Raycom Sports
		& Ken Haines	
1982	Don Lloyd	Rich Haney	Raycom Sports
		& Ken Haines	

(During the period 1967-1974, the basketball network was produced by WFIR, Roanoke with Jerry Joynes doing the play-by-play.)

List compiled by Ralph Price.

Student Managers

The Virginia Tech student managers for 1982 are, from left to right, Mike McKenzie, Joe Brinkley and Mark McKenzie.



VIRGINIA TECH Football 1982



JIM
CALDWELL
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