

Decision time



College seniors face a number of issues in determining whether to return for another year

» BY DAVID FAWCETT
dfawcett@insidenova.com

Hylton graduate Blake Coleman wants to play a fifth season for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's baseball team. But whether he can depends on two questions: is there a spot for him on the roster? And if there is, can he financially afford to return as a graduate student, especially since he'd pay more at the public university by being an out-of-state student?

"That's a lot of money," said Coleman who will receive his undergraduate degree in May in exercise science. "I could use that for something else. It's tough. I would love to go back. But a lot would have to happen for this to get set in motion."

When the NCAA ruled March 30 that Division I programs could grant spring sports senior athletes an additional year of eligibility after the coronavirus outbreak cancelled seasons in mid-March, the decision came with stipulations.

Each school determines if they want to provide an extra year of eligibility for their senior spring sports athletes and how much athletic scholarship money to award to them, if any.

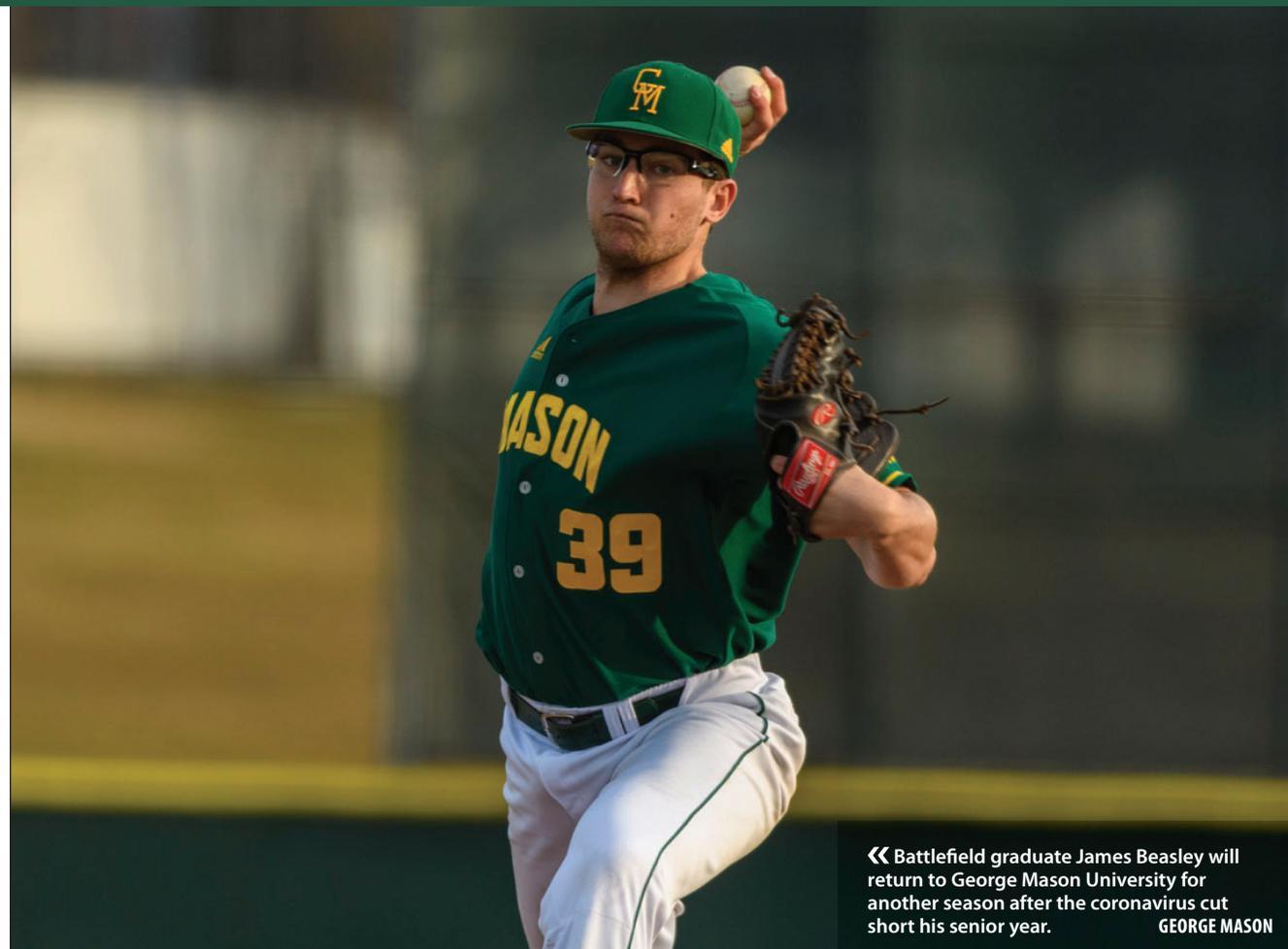
The NCAA said schools are not required to offer more athletic financial aid to a senior than it has received in the past, but can give less or none at all.

Division I baseball programs have a total of 11.7 athletic scholarships to dispense each year among 27 of the 35 players on the roster with no scholarship player receiving less than 25 percent of one full scholarship. For underclassmen who already had eligibility remaining after the 2020 season, their aid must remain at the same level.

While teams can expand rosters beyond the 35-player limit without the returning seniors counting against the athletic scholarship pool, there remains the challenge of how to meet financial needs and even academic ones as schools navigate this atypical process on a case by case basis.

Coleman said he has been in contact with his coaches, but nothing has been finalized yet.

Available scholarship money and roster spots are two of the issues colleges and seniors are dealing with in figuring out their next move. Playing time is another consideration. And in the case



« Battlefield graduate James Beasley will return to George Mason University for another season after the coronavirus cut short his senior year. **GEORGE MASON**

of baseball, so is the shortened Major League Baseball Draft scheduled for the end of July.

All these factors will shape 2021 rosters in various ways and impact not just seniors, but returning underclassmen and incoming freshmen.

James Madison University head baseball coach Marlin Ikenberry is being patiently proactive during this process, understanding this remains a fluid situation for the time being.

Ikenberry had eight seniors on this season's team. He expects at least three of them, including Battlefield graduate Brady Harju and Hylton graduate Fox Semones, to come back. Harju is definitely returning, but Semones could pursue pro baseball if the opportunity arises even if he's not selected. Ikenberry said the athletic and versatile Semones drew hard looks from scouts before the 2020 season ended.

Instead of going 40 rounds in years past, Major League Baseball's 2020 draft will run at least five rounds, but perhaps no longer than 10 rounds. Major League Baseball has yet to finalize the exact draft dates and total number of

rounds.

Undrafted players, meanwhile, will receive a maximum bonus of \$20,000, an appealing enough number for seniors to at least consider since they would on average receive that amount in a normal draft year.

Ikenberry said his main focus has been on helping the seniors determine what they need to do academically if they return to school. Harju still needs to complete some classes to receive his undergraduate degree. Semones, who will graduate in May with a degree in engineering, would go to graduate school if he returns for another year.

Battlefield graduate James Beasley said he wanted to return to George Mason University as soon as head coach Bill Brown said all the seniors were welcomed back.

A right-handed pitcher, Beasley received athletic scholarship money as an underclassman and said the school is hoping to provide at least some amount for next season.

But if not, Beasley said his family can pay for graduate school, a cost he said would be lower than what he's paying

for undergrad classes since he's taken extra courses to make up for credits that did not transfer from his previous two schools. Beasley is in the process of applying to graduate school where he'd like to get a master's in sports management.

Coleman is hoping for some clarity soon. He'd love nothing more than to close out his college baseball career on a better note.

Coleman learned the 2020 season was over while going to a team study hall after one of the underclassmen said there was no need to go.

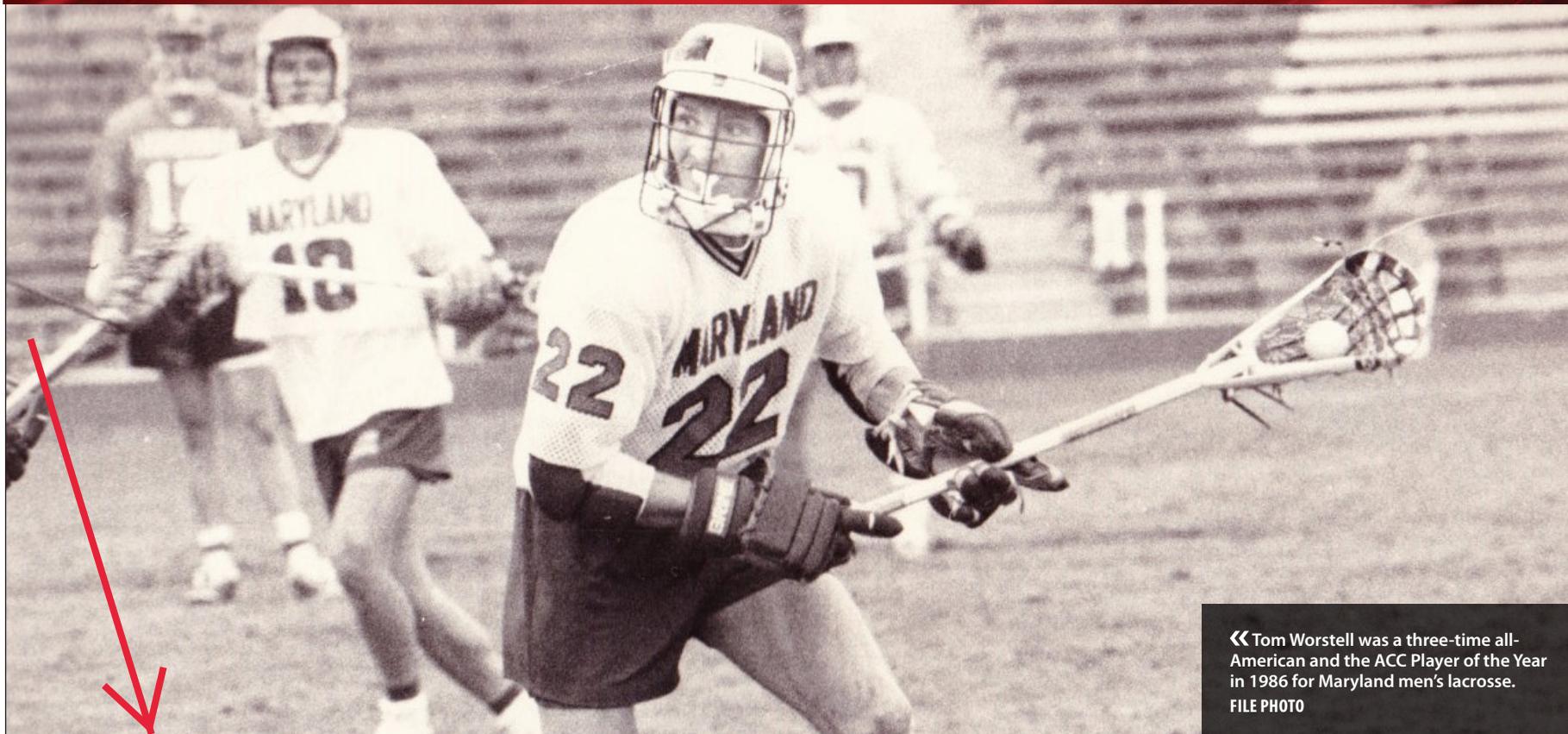
"The next few days I wasn't depressed, but I was in a horrible state of mind," Coleman said. "We packed our stuff and hit the road. I will be at peace about it but I wasn't."

One of six seniors on the Maryland Eastern Shore roster, Coleman was enjoying his best season. A career .196 hitter in his first three seasons, Coleman was batting .347 in 13 games.

"To be honest with you, this will haunt me for the rest of my life," Coleman said. "Everything was going so right."

Always on the Move

No matter the sport or season, Stonewall graduate Tom Worstell thrived



« Tom Worstell was a three-time all-American and the ACC Player of the Year in 1986 for Maryland men's lacrosse. FILE PHOTO

» BY DAVID FAWCETT
dfawcett@insidenova.com

Tom Worstell loved changing sports each season at Stonewall Jackson High School as much as he enjoyed playing them. His effortless and accolade-filled transitions left an impressive legacy.

In football, Worstell earned team MVP honors his senior season after quarterbacking the Raiders to a share of the 1983 Commonwealth District title.

In basketball, he averaged 21.9 points a game during his senior year and racked up another team MVP award while totaling over 1,000 career points.

And in lacrosse, he became an all-American and team MVP playing at the club level because Stonewall did not have a lacrosse team at the time.

In a testament to his well-rounded talents, Worstell received Division I interest in all three sports as well. Wake Forest offered Worstell a football scholarship. And Loyola University in Baltimore offered him a chance to play basketball and lacrosse.

Ultimately Worstell accepted a full athletic scholarship to play lacrosse at Maryland, a decision that made sense considering his family history. Worstell hailed from a long line of Division I college lacrosse players, starting with his father, Gayle, at Syracuse followed by his older brothers, Paul (North Carolina) and Pete and Tim (Maryland).

But while he went on to a celebrated lacrosse career at Maryland, where he was a three-time all-American, the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the

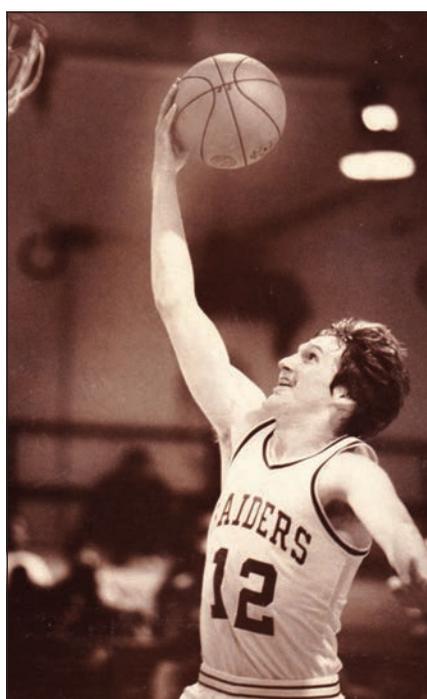


“Tom is an amazing person, not just an athlete. Probably the best athlete to ever walk those halls.”

— PAT BRIZZI, FORMER
STONEWALL JACKSON
HEAD BOYS BASKETBALL COACH

Year in 1986 and an ACC 50th Anniversary lacrosse selection, Worstell established himself first as a versatile high school athlete comfortable and capable of taking charge on the field or the court no matter the season. The idea of focusing on one sport or even just two was out of the question.

To him, everything worked together for the greater good. Football provided the contact and basketball the finesse he needed to use in lacrosse. And each team he played for benefitted from his talents. “I never looked to take any time off,”



Tom Worstell averaged 21.9 points a game his senior season at Stonewall Jackson High School. FILE PHOTO

Worstell said. “I enjoyed the change of seasons and starting from scratch. It was a refreshing thing to do. It never got old.”

Worstell's accomplishments led to his selection into Stonewall's first athletics hall of fame class in the school's 57-year history. But the 1984 graduate doesn't take the recognition lightly, given he's joining a group that includes Olympic gold medalist Kim Graham, softball all-American Courtney Bures and former NFL running back Ryan Williams.

For all his success, Worstell always credits Stonewall, starting with his

coaches.

“This honor [to me] is really a direct reflection of those individuals who guided me and supported me during a great time in my life,” said Worstell, who now lives in Ashburn and is vice president of sales for the Northeast region of Cogent Communications. “I owe this honor to those individuals, and I can't thank them all enough.”

Pat Brizzi, Worstell's basketball coach at Stonewall, said Worstell was the best player he coached in his 18 years at the helm.

“Tom is an amazing person, not just an athlete,” Brizzi said. “Probably the best athlete to ever walk those halls.”

Brizzi said he never worried about Worstell pushing himself too hard to the point he might seriously injure himself during football, for example, and miss basketball.

“He was just so good as a quarterback that it was fun to watch him,” Brizzi said. “Yes, his grit was off the charts. I will say this, that regardless of all the awards and stats he accumulated, Tommy wanted to win. [He was] driven to win. Teammates loved him and he loved them. He loved Stonewall Jackson.”

Brizzi uses Worstell as a model for his own son, Angelo. Since he was old enough to play, Angelo, a senior at Highland School and a Villanova basketball signee, has heard stories about Worstell from his father. Brizzi said his son's style mirrors Worstell's and that's “not by accident.”

“The whole game is what I tried to pass to him from Tommy,” Brizzi said. “Not just skill set, but the desire to win.”

No fans, but county's winter sports season still a go

» BY DAVID FAWCETT
dfawcett@insidenova.com

Prince William County Public Schools Superintendent Steve Walts said Nov. 18 that no spectators will be allowed to attend any of the in-county athletic contests for the winter sports season. But Walts said the season is still on schedule to begin next month.

Walts made his comments at the Prince William School Board meeting.

The winter sports season opens Dec. 7 with basketball practice. The first day teams can participate in events is Dec. 21.

High school students are allowed to compete while still attending school virtually. Students in grades seventh, eighth, 10th, 11th, and 12th would begin returning Feb. 2.

Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners returned to in-person instruction Nov. 10.

The number of permitted spectators

Winter Sports								
Activity	Number of Contests	MPR	First Practice	First Contest	Region Start	Region Deadline	VHSL Semi-Finals	VHSL Finals
Basketball	14	8	12/07	12/21	02/08	02/13	02/16	02/20
Gymnastics	6	8	12/14	12/28	02/01	02/06	N/A	02/12-13
Indoor Track	6	8	12/14	12/28	02/01	02/06	N/A	02/13
Sideline Cheer	N/A	20	12/14	01/06	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Swim & Dive	6	8	12/14	12/28	02/03	02/06	N/A	02/13
Wrestling	8	8	12/14	12/28	02/01	02/13	N/A	02/18-20

was reduced from 250 to 25 starting Nov. 16 at 12:01 a.m. after Gov. Ralph Northam issued a statewide measure Nov. 13 to decrease in-person gatherings following a rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

The Virginia High School League said the 25-person total does not include the athletes, coaches or officials for that event.

The city of Manassas' Osbourn High School also will not have fans at its home events for the winter sports season.

Manassas Park High School is still

moving forward with a winter sports season. Activities director Dan Forgas said he will meet with the school board Dec. 7 and talk more about Manassas Park's athletic plans. At this point, no decision has been made whether Manassas Park will allow home fans for games.

The seven-member Class 3 Northwestern District, which includes Manassas Park and Brentsville, had already voted to prohibit visiting fans from attending games for the winter sports season. Some district schools have decided to not allow

any fans. Manassas Park High School remains virtual until an in-person return date of Feb. 16.

John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Dumfries has made no decision yet regarding fans for its home contests. But the school does plan to have a winter sports season.

Loudoun County Public Schools will not allow spectators either.

The VHSL's regular-season, regional and state tournament schedule is above for the winter sports season.

WORSTELL » FROM PAGE 16

Given his leadership skills, it's no surprise Worstell was the Raiders' quarterback and point guard. In football, he was an adept runner and passer who threw for 1,315 yards and 11 touchdowns his senior year and rushed for four more touchdowns.

In basketball, Worstell scored many of his points off drives to the basketball and from the free-throw line. Stonewall went 14-8 his junior season in totaling a then-school record for single-season victories. Worstell was all-district in both sports.

Thanks to his father's efforts, Worstell found a way to stay busy in the spring as well after the family moved to Manassas from Lynchburg. Worstell had played baseball, a traditional spring sport, in the past and was a member of a Manassas Park/Yorkshire Little League Seniors' All-Star team.

But Worstell's father wanted him to consider lacrosse as an eighth-grader.

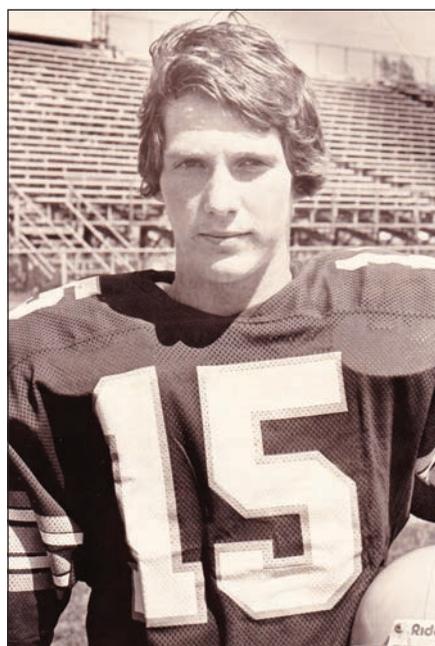
Unlike his older brothers, who all played at Garden City High School on Long Island (Pete and Tim are members of the Long Island Lacrosse Hall of Fame), Worstell did not have a high school team to play for.

Instead, his father found a lacrosse organization in Fairfax County called the Braddock Road Youth Club. Braddock Road offered Worstell the chance to play lacrosse in the spring against top-flight competition that included neighboring private schools.

"Without that, I'm not sure what would have happened," said Worstell, who recorded 50 goals and 46 assists his senior season. "But I had some options."

He also had an important decision to make. Would he compete in football, basketball or lacrosse in college or some combination of the three?

Al Groh, then the head football coach at Wake Forest, made a big push to sign Worstell. Worstell visited the North Carolina school, and Groh visited Worstell's Manassas home. Worstell



Tom Worstell quarterbacked Stonewall Jackson High School to a share of the 1983 Commonwealth District title. FILE PHOTO

also visited N.C. State for football and met with then-Maryland football coach Bobby Ross in Ross' office.

Then-Loyola head lacrosse coach Dave Cottle offered Worstell the chance to play lacrosse as his primary sport and basketball as a secondary one if he wanted.

In the end, Worstell chose Maryland lacrosse primarily because of his familiarity with the program and its stellar reputation. Worstell constantly attended his older brothers' games in College Park, where Pete was a four-time all-American and is a member of the school's athletic hall of fame, and Tim earned all-American honors his senior season.

"[Maryland] was home to me," Worstell said. "It's where I felt comfortable following in my family's footsteps."

In typical fashion, though, Worstell wanted to keep busy during the off-season, even in college.

In the aftermath of Len Bias' death in June 1986 after a cocaine overdose, Maryland's men's basketball team needed to rebuild from the ground up. To gener-

Other members of Stonewall Jackson's inaugural athletics hall of fame class

Due to all of the current restrictions, the school had to recognize its inaugural class virtually. Find this article on InsideNoVa.com for a link to the video. The school does plan to recognize them in person in the future.

Name	Graduation Year	Sport
Courtney Bures	2004	Softball
Bill Cameron	Coach	Wrestling
Natalie Critchley	1978	Basketball, Softball
Chris Garrett	2005	Football
Raymond Gee	1997	Football, Track/Field
Ana Glaze	Coach	Cheerleading
Kim Graham	1989	Track/Field
Monta Hicks	1995	Football
Jim Kidd	1968	Track/Field
Jason Koch	Coach	Softball
Ron Lane	1983	Soccer
Christina Moore	1989	Softball, Basketball
Jeremy Rankin	1999	Wrestling
"Chip" Reklis	1972	Basketball
Michelle Ritenour	1983	Gymnastics
Wayne Robinson	1975	Football, Basketball
Andre Southerland	1985	Football
William Vehrs	1971	XC, Track/Field
James Vogt	1972	Cross Country
Ryan Williams	2008	Football

NOTE: The name of Stonewall Jackson High School was changed to Unity Reed High School this summer. However, according to the school, prior alumni are still considered graduates of Stonewall Jackson.

ate interest, first-year head coach Bob Wade held an open tryout that attracted 35 candidates.

One hopeful was the 6-foot-2, 185-pound Worstell. He made an immediate impression. Brizzi recalled a story about then-Maryland assistant Oliver Purnell seeing someone during tryouts pin a shot on the backboard, go coast to coast and dunk it. Purnell dropped his clipboard and ran over to learn the player's name. It was Worstell. With Maryland head lacrosse coach Dick Edell's approval, Worstell accepted a spot on the basketball team.

Worstell played only one basketball season until it became too much to do hoops and lacrosse. But he enjoyed his brief moment doing so, while leaving others to wonder what might have been if he had focused on another sport besides lacrosse.

"In a later conversation with Purnell, I asked him how good he thought Tommy was or could have been," Brizzi said. "He told me that if Tommy had ever concentrated on being a basketball player, he would have been in the league [NBA]."

Realistic, but hopeful

With safety protocols and guidelines, high school basketball starts

» BY DAVID FAWCETT
dfawcett@insidenova.com

Other than dealing with an uncooperative strap on his mask before practice Monday, Potomac High School boys head coach Keith Honore encountered no hiccups as he and his coaches navigated an atypical start to the high school basketball season.

“This was organized. It was a good experience,” said Honore, who credited Potomac trainer Rick Stewart and activities director Melissa Bankert with putting the pieces together to ensure practice ran as smoothly as possible.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still limiting in-person interactions, the Virginia High School League allowed winter sports practices to begin. However, schools needed to rearrange how they conduct practices to follow safety and health protocols.

Prince William County Public Schools issued guidelines Dec. 3 that prohibited contact during practices. With no scrimmaging permitted, basketball players instead worked together in groups of no more than five performing drills with the same basketballs for the two-hour session.

In some ways, Monday’s practice at Potomac looked the same as normal as coaches instructed players on ball handling, rebounding, passing, shooting and defense at each of the three courts. The only difference was that coaches rotated to each of the five stations as opposed to the players, who remained in the same section for the entire practice. Unlike the players during drills, coaches also were required to wear masks throughout.

Another noticeable difference Monday was the turnout. In the past, Potomac averaged between 60 to 80 players for the first day of tryouts. Only 28 were in attendance Monday. Honore, who was not surprised by the number, attributed the lower than usual totals to the pandemic.

With students still doing virtual classroom learning and the delayed start of practice, Honore said it was more difficult to inform players about practice. Prince William high school students are currently attending classes virtually and are not expected to return to in-person learning until late January and early February.

“It’s out of sight, out of mind,” Honore said.

Parental concerns also factored into the numbers, Honore said. He expected a few more players to come out later in the week once they have filled out all the proper paperwork.

There is also one fewer squad avail-



Potomac High School boys assistant basketball coach Rob Satchell instructs players during the first day of practice Dec. 7.

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Virginia school divisions not participating in winter sports (21, through Dec. 8):

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| » Accomack County | (Season 1 and 2) |
| » Alexandria | » Middlesex County |
| » Brunswick County | » Nottoway County |
| » Buckingham County | » Prince Edward County |
| » Charlotte County | » Richmond City |
| » Essex County | » Surry County |
| » Greensville County | » Sussex County |
| » Harrisonburg City | » Southampton |
| » Henrico County | » Williamsburg-James City |
| » King and Queen County | » Westmoreland County |
| » Lunenburg County | |
| » *Mecklenburg County | |

Virginia high schools not participating in the winter sports season (38, through Dec. 8):

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| » Arcadia | » Harrisonburg | » *Park View (South Hill) (Season 1 & 2) |
| » Armstrong | » Henrico | » Prince Edward County |
| » *Bluestone (Season 1 & 2) | » King and Queen County | » Randolph-Henry |
| » Brunswick | » Hermitage | » Southampton |
| » Buckingham County | » Highland Springs | » Surry County |
| » Central (King and Queen) | » Huguenot | » Sussex Central |
| » Central (Lunenburg) | » J.R. Tucker | » T.C. Williams |
| » Chincoteague | » Jamestown | » Thomas Jefferson (Richmond) |
| » Deep Run | » John Marshall | » Varina |
| » Douglas Freeman | » Lafayette | » Warhill |
| » Essex | » Middlesex | » Washington & Lee |
| » George Wythe (Richmond) | » Mills Godwin | |
| » Glen Allen | » Nandua | |
| » Greensville County | » Nottoway | |

SOURCE: Virginia High School League

Note: Neither list includes schools who are delaying the start of their winter season to early January.

able for basketball players in the seven-team Cardinal District, which includes Potomac. For a number of reasons, the Cardinal eliminated freshman teams this year.

Transportation was one challenge. Buses were not available until 5:30 p.m., which, from a time standpoint, made it

difficult to squeeze in freshman, junior varsity and varsity games on the same night without keeping players out too late. Schools would also have to use a third bus to meet social-distancing requirements.

Time restrictions also affected practices. Potomac, for example, is not start-

ing practice until 4 p.m. because students are not out of school until after 2:45 p.m. and teachers are not done until 3:30 p.m. With all the constraints, there wasn’t enough time to fit everything in.

“It would have been a logistical night-

BASKETBALL » PAGE 17

Manassas Park makes changes to winter sports season

» BY DAVID FAWCETT
dfawcett@insidenova.com

Manassas Park High School has cancelled its wrestling season and will postpone the start of the basketball season. The school board approved the decision Monday night following recommendations made by Manassas Park principal

Pam Kalso, activities director Dan Forgas and trainer Erica Dunkelberger.

Manassas Park will also not allow fans for its home athletic events. Forgas said the school's cheerleaders will fill the spectator limit stipulated by Gov. Ralph Northam's state-wide order last month to reduce in-person gatherings from 250 to 25. Cheerleaders were not considered

participants.

Forgas said the decision regarding wrestling was tough, but necessary given the close contact involved with the sport.

"We felt like at this time with the numbers on the rise we could not monitor [wrestling] safely this year," Forgas said.

Schools were permitted to start basketball practice Monday, but Manassas Park

will start Dec. 21, the day the regular season is supposed to begin. The Cougars' season will open Jan. 4. Forgas said he is trying to reschedule the four games in December.

Indoor track and swimming are scheduled to start on time Dec. 14.

"I give our administration and school board a lot of credit," Forgas said. "They are strong believers in athletics and support us. We had to make some changes pushing forward."

BASKETBALL » FROM PAGE 16

mare," Honore said. "I feel bad for the kids, but under the circumstances some adjustments had to be made."

In preparation for Monday, Potomac coaches met Dec. 3 to map out plans to "be competitive without competing," Honore said. The Panthers are in position to have a special season, returning four starters, including all-state performers Tyrell Harris and Kyle Honore, and seven players overall from a 23-4 squad that reached the state quarterfinals. But first things first.

On Monday, Honore arrived at Potomac early to assign players to a group once he had the final list of who was expected to show up.

After a 39-minute break to clean the gym after the girls practice, the Potomac boys entered 15 minutes before practice began at 6:30 p.m. To allow for social distancing, they walked to marked spots below the bleachers on each side of the gym and waited there in masks until receiving further instructions from Honore.

Once practice began, everyone understood their role. With the exception of a water break or a run to one of the three hand-sanitizer stations around the gym, the players stayed in their groups without incident.

"Our kids are going to get our best efforts," Honore said.

While waiting for this day, coaches and players have stayed positive, but also realistic. They understood events could change in an instant. And even though tryouts started this week, there's no guarantee things won't change in the future.

To allow all three sports seasons a chance to compete, the VHSL has adopted a compressed sports schedule that will run Dec. 21 to June 26, with each sport playing about 60% of its typically allotted regular-season games. The winter sports season goes first, followed by the fall season, starting in February, and the spring season, starting in April.

Basketball is the first winter sport to start and the first to hold contests when the 14-game regular-season begins Dec. 21. Practices for wrestling, gymnastics, indoor track, wrestling and sideline cheer begin Dec. 14.

But while the VHSL set dates and post-season formats, it's up to each school division to determine whether it will have a sports season or even allow spectators.

Through Dec. 8, 21 school divisions statewide (out of 132) and 38 public schools (out of 318) have canceled their winter sports season, according to a list compiled by the VHSL. Alexandria is the only Northern Virginia school district to cancel its winter sports season.



Potomac head boys basketball coach Keith Honore during Monday's practice.

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Prince William, Manassas Park and the city of Manassas school divisions have decided to prohibit fans from attending school athletic events.

With so much uncertainty, no one is taking the chance to play for granted.

"I'm grateful to have this opportunity," said Honore, entering his 15th year at Potomac's helm. "There are things to think about and it's been a challenge. We make it first to Monday. And then we try and make it to Dec. 21 knowing there's a good possibility it might not happen. We come to the players and be optimistic."

To help ease teams into preparing for a season, the VHSL allowed out-of-season workouts to occur upon approval by each school division.

Prince William high school teams could conduct out-of-season workouts starting Sept. 10 with stipulations. They could only train outdoors doing conditioning drills and eventually athletes could use their own equipment, but not share it with others.

The changes required some creativity by the coaches.

Honore said Potomac's boys worked out on the school's football field. The location helped the players improve their dribbling since they had to pound the ball more against the hard turf.

To have his players work on ball-handling, Honore placed a water bottle on top of an upside down trash can. Each player dribbled his own ball for 30 yards and then tossed it in an attempt to knock the bottle off the trash can. Honore made sure he held the drill in front of a soccer net at the end of the field so players could easily retrieve loose balls before return-



Potomac's Frankie Lee waits for the start of practice.

DAVID FAWCETT | INSIDENOVA

ing to the line.

Colgan High School girls basketball coach Fred Milbert said the out-of-season workouts helped the kids understand and familiarize themselves with safety measures when practice begins.

"They know what to do and what to expect," said Milbert, in his fifth season as Colgan's girls basketball coach and in his 20th year overall as a head coach. "I feel like we're pretty well prepared."

Colgan senior Kennedy Fuller looked forward to the start of practice.

"Our coaches have been doing their best to make sure we understand the precautions needed for safe practices"

Fuller said. "While I hope we can have a successful and safe season, I do understand everyone's concerns and the safety for all of us student athletes."

Patriot High School's and Potomac's boys teams also benefited from competing in a six-week fall league comprised of over 20 teams held at the St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex in Springfield. Teams played a minimum of eight games twice a week. Patriot played 11 games, losing to Sidwell Friends in the championship.

"It was a great benefit for our guys to be able to play together and for me to watch them together in a game situation," said Patriot head boys basketball coach Sherman Rivers. "Now we aren't going into the season completely clueless of what our strengths and weaknesses are."

Still, there are adjustments. Typically at this point of the schedule, basketball teams are already in a set routine, with practice usually opening in mid-November and the season starting the first week of December.

Honore said he bought hand-held whistles to use in practice because it's a challenge to blow a whistle while wearing a mask. He also assigned his assistant coaches extra duties like cleaning basketballs and making sure players know where to stand.

With limitations on how much players can do, Prince William coaches will also have to adjust how they assess the players during tryouts. But they will make it work.

"This isn't about basketball, but safety of the kids," Honore said.