Tradition
Where Are They Now?

Below is a list of some former U of R basketball players and their current job titles:

Bob Ukrop '69 President of Ukrops Supermarkets
Ukee Washington '80 Newscaster for Channel 10, Philadelphia, PA
Mike Perry '81 Head Basketball Coach at Georgia State University
Brian Sheahan '81 Partner with Gebhardt & Smith law firm (Baltimore)
John Schweitz '82 Head Coach at Francis Marion
Bill Dooley '83 Head Coach at Delaware Valley State
Andy Heher '83 Colorado State Public Defender
Bill Flye '84 President of Professional Control Resources (Charlotte)
John Davis '86 Capital One Project Manager
Greg Beckwith '86 adidas national apparel
Johnny Newman '86 Retired 17-year NBA veteran (currently with NJ Nets)
Lee Goss '87 Marketing Analyst for American Airlines (Ft. Worth)
Benjy Taylor '89 Head Coach at North Central College, Naperville, IL
Mike Winiecki '89 Asst. Coach for the Richmond Spiders
Eric English '89 Lieutenant 4th Precinct Richmond Police
Ken Atkinson '90 Playing professionally in Spain
Scott Stapleton '90 Head Coach Lowell High School (Mass.)
Curtis Blair '92 ACC Official
Jim Shields '92 Playing professionally in Germany
Jim Springer '93 Vice President of Industrial Nut Corp. (Sandusky, OH)
Chris Fleming '93 Head Coach in Germany
Kenny Wood '93 adidas representative
Gerald Jarmon '94 Playing professionally in Australia
Gene Burroughs '94 Asst. Coach at Marist University
Mike Hodges '94 Owner of Restaurant and Clothing Co.
Derrick Wall '95 Pharmaceutical Sales (Richmond)
Kass Weaver '95 Playing professionally in The Netherlands
Rick Edwards '97 Officer, Richmond Police Department
Charles Jefferson '97 VP-Sales, Apex Systems, Inc. (Dallas, TX)
Eric Poole '98 Playing professionally in Switzerland
Jarod Stevenson '98 Playing professionally in Germany
Daryl Oliver '98 Asst. Women’s Coach at University of Virginia
Carlos Cueto '98 Head Coach at a N.Y. High School
Jonathan Baker '99 Pharmaceutical Sales (Richmond)
Rick Houston '01 Representative for First Market Bank
Scott Kauffman '01 Representative for BB&T Bank, Securities Division
Kinte Smith '01 Playing professionally in Germany
Greg Stevenson '01 Playing professionally in France
Scott Ungerer '02 Playing professionally in The Netherlands
Jeff Myers '03 Works in Richmond for Virginia Asset Management

Many former Spiders returned to the Robins Center for a special celebration last spring, tradition never graduates.
Editor’s Note: The following story of University of Richmond basketball is a brief look at a very proud past. While space allows for the recognition of only a few players, hundreds of student-athletes have contributed to the building of the Richmond program. The memories they made will never be forgotten.

The Making Of A Legend
The year is 1913, and Frank Dobson takes the helm of the first-ever Richmond basketball squad. It would have been impossible for him to envision the magnificent growth which was to come.

A young coach named Mac Pitt follows Dobson. In only his second year, his team finishes 20-0, the first and only time a Richmond team has gone undefeated. Year after year, Mac Pitt produces winning teams, but, more importantly, he touches countless lives. In the history of Richmond athletics, his legend still lives.

Many Stars Take Center Stage
The unenviable task of following that legend comes to Lester Hooker, and he proves most capable of such an undertaking. With Hooker at the helm, the Spiders post back-to-back 20-win seasons, a mark that would stand for 34 years. Under his leadership, such talents as Warren Mills and Walter Lysaght thrill growing numbers of Spider fans and the squad is driven to the forefront of college hoops.

In the early 1960s, coach Lewis Mills has a star named Johnny Moates who quickly becomes recognized as one of the best of his time, and in the early 1970s, fans marvel at the abilities of forward Aron Stewart, the 1973 Southern Conference Player of the Year.

There’s No Place Like Home
And these fans are soon thrilled by the opening of the Robins Center on December 2, 1972. Through the generosity and philanthropy of the E. Claiborne Robins family and because of the vision of E. Claiborne Robins, Jr., the face of Richmond basketball changes forever.

Richmond Basketball Will Never Be The Same
It’s not long before the Spiders’ new home is filled with excitement. Bob McCurdy dazzles opponents and fans alike with his uncanny shooting ability on his way to becoming the nation’s leading scorer (32.9 ppg) in 1975...

The dazzle and daring of McCurdy is followed by the yeoman-like work of an over-achiever named Kevin Eastman ... the graceful play of a big man named Jeff Butler ... and the bruising power of a young Richmonder named Michael Perry. The 1980s have begun, and what a decade awaits.

1982
The First Game, The First Giant Killed
The first game of his first season as head coach of the Richmond Spiders, Dick Tarrant leads his team to an upset win over nationally-ranked Wake Forest at the Robins Center. A giant has been killed and, though no one realizes it, it is a sign of things to come. A visit to the NIT, the Spiders’ first appearance ever in postseason play, comes at year’s end, and Richmond posts an 18-11 record—the best for a Richmond squad in 25 years.
1984  
_Cinderella Moves To Richmond_
A 20-win season is capped by the Spiders’ first visit to the NCAA Tournament. The first round was supposed to be a warm-up for the Charles Barkley-led Auburn Tigers, but, when the game ends, another giant is dead and the Spiders are to blame.

1985  
_Crossing Paths With A Legend_
For the first time in 31 years, Richmond boasts back-to-back 20-win seasons. For their reward, they face the Indiana Hoosiers for the second consecutive year in postseason play. Bobby Knight rules, but there will be other battles, other days.

1986  
_Starting Things Off Right_
The Spiders began the 1985-86 season with an 8-0 mark. In impressive style, Richmond defeated some of the biggest names in college basketball. In November of 1985, Richmond defeats Rick Pitino’s Providence Friars. The following season, the same Friars team would advance to the Final Four. Four days after their win at Providence, the Spiders easily beat ACC-foe Wake Forest, 66-43. Next up, a memorable win over the Stanford Cardinal in their own tournament. The Spiders capped off the 80 start with a 58-46 win over intra-state rival Virginia in the finals of the Times-Dispatch Tournament.

1988  
_Sweet 16: An Incredible Journey_
With John Newman now in the NBA, a Kenny Atkinson-led Spiders team travels to Georgia Tech and hands the 10th-ranked Yellow Jackets their first home loss to a non-ACC foe in 40 games. For some teams, this may have been enough excitement for one season, but not for the Spiders. The journey once again leads to the NCAA Tournament. Standing in the Spiders’ path, incredibly enough, is Indiana ... the defending national champion. In an upset which catches the imagination of the country, the Spiders knock the crown off the Hoosiers and, while one magnificent tradition is defeated, another program gains new life. Georgia Tech is the next to fall, and a giant-killer has become a giant. David has become Goliath. The Richmond Spiders are in the Sweet 16. And the school from Richmond is on the lips of basketball fans and pundits across the nation.

1989  
_The Spiders Play For Richmond_
Clinching their second consecutive CAA regular-season title, Tarrant’s Spiders receive their sixth postseason bid in eight years. The Robins Center is the site for two NIT contests which draw record-breaking crowds and put the hometown of the Spiders in the national TV spotlight. A year earlier, Temple ended the Spiders’ magical Sweet 16 trip, but this time the Owls go home the loser.

1990  
_They Will Return_
Yet another 20-win season ends with a conference championship and a fourth trip to the NCAA Tournament, where Ken Atkinson and Scott Stapleton bid farewell.
The Spiders’ match up with Duke, the East Region’s third seed, and a young squad gains tremendous experience and vows to return.

1991
**The Mother of All Upsets**

In what The Washington Post calls “one of the greatest upsets in college basketball history,” Richmond turns the NCAA Tournament upside down, becoming the first 15th seed to drop a No. 2 seed in NCAA Tournament play. On the Spiders’ biggest evening ever in March, madness reigned, and the Terry Connolly-led Richmond Spiders upend No. 7-ranked Syracuse, 73-69, before a national television audience. The footsteps from Richmond are heard throughout America.

1992
**The Beat Goes On**

In Dick Tarrant’s 11th season, his team wins more than 20 contests for the fifth consecutive year, making Richmond one of only 11 teams in the nation to accomplish such a feat during this period. Senior Curtis Blair leads the way. And also for the fifth consecutive year, the Spiders compete in postseason tournament play.

1998
**Giant-Killers Again**

In his first season as head coach at Richmond, John Beilein leads the Spiders to a remarkable 23-8 season and a first-round upset of South Carolina in the NCAA Tournament. In the process the Spiders become the first team to record wins in the tournament as No. 12, No. 13, No. 14 and No. 15 seed. Southeastern Conference power South Carolina is the latest giant to fall as the No. 14-seed Spiders upend No. 7-ranked Syracuse, 73-69, before a national television audience. The footsteps from Richmond are heard throughout America.

2002
**A Long Road**

Playing its first season in the Atlantic 10, Richmond basketball set a program record for games played (36) and won more post-season games (3) than any other season. After finishing 11-5 in league play, the Spiders became only the second team in A-10 history to advance to the tournament’s championship game in its first attempt. The Spiders defeated Wagner, Montana State and Minnesota, on the road, before returning home and falling to Syracuse before a sold-out Robins Center crowd.

**NCAA TOURNAMENT**

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**NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT**

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Adrian branch poured in 21 points and Pete Holbert added 10 off the bench to help Maryland spoil Richmond's first-ever postseason appearance by beating the Spiders 66-50. The Terps went to the free-throw line twice as often as the Spiders, converting 22 charity tosses to just eight for Richmond.

John Newman led three Spiders in double figures with 25 and John Davis ripped down 10 rebounds to lead Richmond to an 89-65 rout of Rider at Philadelphia's historic Palestra.

In the first of what would become a tradition of postseason upsets, Richmond, behind the 26 points of John Davis, knocked off 12th-ranked Tennessee 66-50 to advance in the NCAA Tournament.

To pick up their first-ever postseason appearance by defeating the Spiders 66-50. The Terps went to the free-throw line twice as often as the Spiders, converting 22 charity tosses to just eight for Richmond.
Led by a 35-point outburst by John Newman, Richmond survived a scare in the Robins Center, hanging on for a 32-point victory over Fordham.

The Spiders shot 64 percent from the field, but connected on 19 of 22 free throws to seal the victory. Kelvin Johnson (12) was the only Richmond player besides Newman who scored in double figures.

For the third time in as many seasons, Indiana ended Richmond’s season in a post season tournament. This time, the Hoosiers used a balanced scoring attack and a stifling defense to thwart any Richmond hopes of another tournament upset, routing the Spiders 75-53 in Indiana.

For the third time in two years, Georgia Tech was the victim of a Spider upset bite. But on this occasion, UR was rewarded with its first-ever berth in the Sweet 16.

In the first round, Arkansas beating Louisville in 1981 was the other.

The Spiders never trailed by more than six points in becoming only the second team to oust a defending champion in the first round. Arkansas beating Louisville in 1981 was the other.

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**1989 • NIT**

**March 20, 1989**

**Temple 69**

**Spiders 61**

**@ Richmond, Va.**

Despite 21 points from Mike Wmiks and 14 points from Scott Stapleton, Richmond's second-half rally fell short in a 64-61 loss to Alabama-Birmingham. The Spiders ended their season with a 2-10 mark.

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<td>Technical Fouls: None</td>
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<td>Attendance: 9,423</td>
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**Spiders 70**

**Temple 56**

**March 15, 1989**

**NIT First Round**

**@ Richmond, Va.**

For the second consecutive postseason game, Richmond squeaked off against Temple, only this time on the Spiders' home court. Only this time, Mark Macon was held in check. Only this time, Ken Atkinson exploded. Only this time, Richmond won.

Behind Atkinson's 6-of-9 three-point shooting (24 total points), the Spiders averted the previous loss with Temple with a 70-66 win. Eric English poured in 16 and freshman Curtis Blair added nine.

Richmond

1990 • NCAA

**March 16, 1990**

**NCAA First Round**

**@ Atlanta, Ga.**

Alaska Abdulnaby proved too big and Phil Henderson too quick as Duke routed Richmond 81-46 en route to an appearance in the Final Four.

Richmond, which ended its season at 22-10, was never really in contention. Besieged by turnovers and unmitting poor shooting, the Spiders suffered their worst postseason loss in school history. The numbers tell it all: Ken Atkinson, 5 for 14; Scott Stapleton, 5 for 13, Curtis Blair, 3 for 13.

It would not be Richmond's year in the NCAAs, but the Spiders were destined to return to better days in postseason play.
1991 • NCAA

**Spiders 73**

**Syracuse 69**

March 14, 1991

NCAA First Round

@ College Park, Md.

In one of the greatest upsets in the history of the NCAA Tournament, Richmond became the first No. 15 seed to knock off a No. 2, stunning seventh-ranked Syracuse 73-69. The Spiders never trailed.

Richmond was in control throughout, clicking on all offensive cylinders and confusing the Orangemen with the match-up zone. Curtis Blair led a balanced attack with 18 points and the man CBS called “Super Sub” — Terry Connolly — scored 14. Connolly added team-highs of seven rebounds and one blocked shot. He also dished out five assists.

With the Spiders up by one with 21 seconds remaining, freshman guard Eugene Burnoughs stepped to the free-throw line and calmly drained two shots to seal the victory for Richmond.

Billy Owens led all scorers with 25 points, including hitting 7 of 10 three-point attempts. Terry Connolly closed the half, and with the Spiders charging, Wood was poked in the eye by an Owl and could not return to action.

Once again, Temple prevented Richmond from advancing in the NCAA Tournament, this time stopping the Spiders 54-26. Richmond ended its season at 22-10, despite starting out 5-6.

Out with his college career with 12 points and Curtis Blair added 10. Chris Fleming led all scorers with 25 points, including hitting 7 of 10 three-point attempts. Terry Connolly closed the half, and with the Spiders charging, Wood was poked in the eye by an Owl and could not return to action.

Stacey Poole poured in 16 points and Richmond shot a dismal 29 percent from the field, as the Spiders dropped a 66-52 decision to the Florida Gators.

Richmond grabbed 15 offensive rebounds but the put-backs just weren’t falling. Curtis Blair led the team in scoring with 15 points, but on 4-of-12 shooting. Kenny Wood had even a tougher time, connecting on just 3 of 13 shots.

The loss ended Richmond’s year at 22-8.

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1992 • NIT

**Florida 66**

**Spiders 52**

March 19, 1992

NIT First Round

@ Gainesville, Fla.

Florida Poole pounded in 16 points and Richmond shot a dismal 29 percent from the field, as the Spiders dropped a 66-52 decision to the Florida Gators.

Richmond grabbed 15 offensive rebounds but the put-backs just weren’t falling. Curtis Blair led the team in scoring with 15 points, but on 4-of-12 shooting. Kenny Wood had even a tougher time, connecting on just 3 of 13 shots.

The loss ended Richmond’s year at 22-8.

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1998 • NCAA

**Spiders 62**

**S. Carolina 61**

March 12, 1998

NCAA Second Round

@ Washington D.C.

Jared Stevenson scored 24 points, including a pair of free throws drawn down the stretch, as 14th seeded Richmond handed third seed South Carolina its second straight first-round loss in the NCAA Tournament, 62-61, in the East Regional at Washington D.C.

The Spiders held the Gamecocks scoreless for the final 76 seconds to secure the victory. After a drive by South Carolina’s 61, McKie and subsequent tip-in attempts were off the mark at the buzzer, the Spiders gathered at midcourt to celebrate yet another upset.

Chris Fleming led all scorers with 25 points, including hitting 7 of 10 three-point attempts. Terry Connolly closed out his college career with 12 points and Blair added 10.

Richmond ended its season at 22-10, despite starting out 5-6.
Washington 86

March 14, 1998
NCAA Second Round @ Washington D.C.

Richmond’s Eric Poole and Jonathan Baker each added 10 points for the Spiders. Washington’s Daryll Dawkins added 18 points and eight rebounds in the 23-point victory, Richmond’s eleventh win in its past 15 games. Richmond closed the gap to 38-35 early in the second half but Washington scored on 14 of its first 16 possessions, including a steal and a breakaway dunk with 0:15 left in the contest.

Attendance: 19,320

Washington 29 37 66
Washington 25 43 68

Dayton 56

March 19, 2001
NIT Second Round @ Dayton, Ohio

The Spiders were outscored 41-29 in the second half, as they fell in the second round of the NIT to future Atlantic 10 foe Dayton, 71-56. Flyers guard Tony Stanley broke the Richmond game open with 14 second-half points, including a double-double (13 points, 13 rebounds) and three other Richmond starters scored in double figures to lead the Spiders. A Tony Dobbins high-flying tip-in with just 38 seconds remaining sent the game into overtime Wagner regained the lead one final time at the 131 mark (67-66), but the Spiders answered with two Mike Skrocki free throws to take a lead they wouldn’t relinquish.

Wagner 74

March 13, 2002
NIT Opening Round @ Richmond, Va.

It took 45 minutes but the University of Richmond advanced to the first round of the National Invitation Tournament with a 74-67 overtime opening-round win against the pesky Wagner Seahawks in the Robins Center. Junior Jonathan Collins recorded a double-double (13 points, 11 rebounds) and three other Richmond starters scored in double figures to lead the Spiders. A Tony Dobbins high-flying tip-in with just 38 seconds remaining sent the game into overtime Wagner regained the lead one final time at the 131 mark (67-66), but the Spiders answered with two Mike Skrocki free throws to take a lead they wouldn’t relinquish.
Playing its seventh game in 14 days, the Spiders came up short against nemesis Syracuse in the NIT quarterfinals, 62-49. The No. 6 seed defeated the No. 15 seed to advance to the Sweet 16. The Spiders fell behind early, trailing 36-20 at halftime.

The Spiders were led by 17 points in the first half by senior forward Tim Williams. The Spiders scored 22 points in the paint, which was a key factor in their success.

The game was a battle of two strong defenses, as both teams struggled to make baskets. The Spiders shot 35.4% from the field, while the Orange shot 41.5%.

Syracuse dominated the boards, outrebounding the Spiders 41-32. The Orange also had a 19-6 advantage in second-chance points.

The Spiders were led by two starters, forward Sam Mills and guard Mike Skrocki, who scored 28 and 25 points, respectively. However, the Orange had four starters score in double figures, led by 29 points from junior forward Kris Joseph.

Despite the loss, the Spiders can hold their heads high after a remarkable run in the NIT, reaching the Sweet 16 for the first time in program history.