



Six-Time All-American Dave Hoffman '01 to Head Hill Wrestling Program

Several record boards and photos hang on the western wall of The Hill School's Bissell Wrestling Room, a chronicle of the program's storied history that included 17 National Prep Championships, numerous individual National Prep champions, and dozens of alumni who went on to be captains of their college wrestling teams.

Few have a wrestling resume as impressive as Dave Hoffman '01. A five-time high school and one-time collegiate All-American, Hoffman has spent the past 12 seasons as an assistant coach at the Division I level for Bucknell University, Virginia Tech University, and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.



On Tuesday, May 1, interim Director of Athletics Jeff Hollway announced that Hoffman will be returning to The Hill as head wrestling coach.

"It is my great honor to be appointed the next head wrestling coach for The Hill School," Hoffman said. "When I think back to the day that I walked into my first wrestling practice nearly 30 years ago, I never dreamt that the sport would take me this far or captivate me for this long. I have been truly blessed to have been surrounded by so many great coaches, teachers, and mentors along this journey, and I can only hope to pay that forward at The Hill."

Hoffman will replace Mark Pearson '78, who is stepping out of the head coaching role to devote more time to his position as Director of the Humphrey Family Writing Center. Pearson will remain in the program as an assistant coach.

A Pottstown native, Hoffman arrived at The Hill as a second form student in 1996, the penultimate year of The Hill having a second form.

Five years later, he graduated as the most decorated wrestler of The Hill's modern era.

Throughout his Hill wrestling career, Hoffman stepped onto the mat 212 times. He won 195 of those bouts, a 92 percent win rate. Hoffman was a five-time Pennsylvania Independent School Wrestling Tournament champion; a five-time National Prep All-American; and a two-time National Prep champion, winning his weight class in 1999 and 2001.

He is one of just two Hill wrestlers between 1943, the first time Hill competed at National Preps, and 1998, when second form was discontinued, to be a five-time National Prep place winner.

After graduating from The Hill, Hoffman continued his decorated wrestling career at Virginia Tech University, where he was a three-year team captain. He qualified for the NCAA Division I Tournament all four years, earning All-American status as a senior. Hoffman also won his weight class at the ACC tournament as a senior. Overall, Hoffman posted a career record of 116 wins and 32 losses as a Hokie. Twelve years after his graduation, Hoffman remains in the top-10 in Virginia Tech history in several statistical categories, including sixth in career wins, third in career pins, and second in single-season pins.

Immediately after his competitive career ended, Hoffman transitioned to the coaching world. He cut his teeth at Bucknell University, joining the Bison staff in 2006 as an assistant coach. That season was Bucknell's first after a four-year hiatus and was a growing year for both the team and for Hoffman personally. Mentoring a roster consisting of 24 true freshmen, the Bucknell staff guided the team to a respectable first-year record of 12 wins and nine losses. Two years later, the team had its first All-American and finished third at the conference championship.

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The opportunity to return to his collegiate *alma mater* was too good for Hoffman to pass up. After a successful six-year tenure at Bucknell that included five seasons as the top assistant coach, Hoffman returned to Virginia Tech in 2012, just as the Hokies were emerging as a national wrestling power.

Hoffman was an assistant coach at Virginia Tech for four seasons; in all four of those seasons, the team finished ranked in the top-10 in Division I, culminating with a fourth place finish in 2016. Over that stretch, the team produced 14 ACC champions, 17 All-Americans, and had its first NCAA finalist. Hoffman's administrative duties included recruiting and managing prospective student-athletes, and in his first season the program's recruiting class was ranked second in the nation by Intermat. He also was responsible for organizing off-season clinics, and he was the Director of the university's Kevin Dresser Wrestling Camp.

For the past two seasons, Hoffman has been the head assistant coach at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. As the head assistant, his responsibilities included developing and conducting team and individual practice sessions; recruiting management and material development; and running the Chattanooga Wrestling Camps.

After 12 seasons as a Division I wrestling coach, Hoffman is excited to return to The Hill and head a wrestling program steeped in a tradition of success. Outside of the wrestling room, Hoffman will be the School's Director of Student Enrichment, Experiential Education, and Activities.