

Virginia Wesleyan
Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

To: WWU Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

From: Concerned Group of Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Date: January 26, 2026

Virginia Wesleyan University Athletic Hall of Fame was established by resolution of the board of trustees on May 16, 2007, to honor those who by outstanding achievement in athletics, by service to athletics, or through significant contribution to athletics, having made a lasting contribution to Virginia Wesleyan's intercollegiate athletic program.

The first group of inductees were nominated in 2009. There are currently 72 athletes, four teams, 6 coaches, and 11 benefactors/administrators. The first administrator admitted was William Greer in 2015. The same year the current administration took office. There have been 10 other benefactors added to the Hall of Fame in 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. The nomination of non-athletes has increased dramatically under the current administration. It is dubious to assume that all benefited the athletic department.

Virginia Wesleyan has a proud history of athletic success. Roughly 60% of the student body is engaged in various sports programs. There are approximately 90 All-Americans across all sports and 5 National Championships. All are Virginia Wesleyan athletes.

On July 1, 2026, as part of the Batten University transformation, the Athletic Hall of Fame is set to become simply the Hall of Fame. This will further open the door to a wide variety of non-athletic nominations. By effectively allowing people an alternative path into the Athletic Hall of Fame, the value of the recognition for actual athletic achievement, the original purpose of the Athletic HOF, is diminished.

Furthermore, the Athletic HOF members engaged here played for Virginia Wesleyan, not Batten University. We do not aspire or choose to be members of the Batten Hall of Fame.

Member Concerns:

- While we are grateful for the generosity of the Batten family, we do not support the wholesale name change to Batten University.
- The Athletic Hall of Fame has been compromised by the current administration.
- It is our understanding that Dr. Miller has driven the nominee process in the last three years.

Recommendation:

- We request that the committee engage the Board of Trustees to keep the Virginia Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame in place.
- Future Hall of Fame inductees could go into the Batten Hall of Fame.

We recognize that our group does not represent the entire body of the Athletic Hall of Fame. It would be appropriate to poll current members on an agreed upon path forward. There will be a transition window where VWC/VWU athletes will need to determine which Hall of Fame to join.

Should we not gain consideration of the proposal, our group is committed to resigning from the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Branden Adair (Basketball)
HOF Inductee 2012
2006 National Championship Team
2006 Division III Player of the Year
2-Time All-American

Mark Butts (Basketball)
HOF Inductee 2010
2-Time All-South
2-Time All-Conference
Honorable Mention Converse All-American '79

Robert Valvano (Three Sport)
HOF Inductee 2009
Three Sport Athlete
All-Conference
WTAR Scholastic Athlete Award

Greg Plummer (Soccer)
HOF Inductee 2010
All-American
4-Time All-Conference
Norfolk Sports Club Outstanding Sr. Award

Matt Sinnen (Baseball)
HOF Inductee 2015
3-Time All-Conference
2-Time All-Region
Honorable mention All-American

Lonnie Blow (Basketball)
HOF Inductee 2009
Top 5 All Time Leading Scorer
Shares Single Season Scoring Record
Awarded High School and College Coach

Thomas Brett (Two Sport)
HOF Inductee 2012
VWC's First Basketball and Golf Teams
1st VWC Player Named All-Conference (Basketball)
Held 3 Basketball Scoring Records

Samuel Snow (Soccer)
HOF Inductee 2016
Captain 1976 – First Conference Championship in School History
Renown High School and College Coach
Director of Coaching for US Youth Soccer