**Bill Roth**

“From the blue waters of the Chesapeake Bay to the hills of Tennessee, the Virginia Tech Hokies are on the air.” Bill Roth starts every Virginia Tech sports radio broadcast with that opening.

Roth is in his 24th season as lead play-by-play announcer of the Hokies as well as a radio host and writer. He is more than just the voice of the Hokies as his name is synonymous with Virginia Tech.

Coach Frank Beamer said "We are very fortunate at Virginia Tech to have Bill Roth.  He is extremely competent, very knowledgeable, has a great voice and is professional in every way.

**Background**

Roth graduated from Syracuse University in 1987 with a degree in broadcast journalism. While attending Syracuse, Roth was awarded the Robert Costas Scholarship in 1986. “It was nice because it paid for some tuition … It was an honor to be chosen as it was part academic and part extra-circular.”

After graduating Roth freelanced for ESPN as he looked for a job working for a team. “I really enjoy the team aspect of it just as much as the journalism/show business/performance side of broadcasting.”

Roth finally found a job as broadcaster for Marshall University. David Braine, the athletic director of Marshall left in 1988 to become the athletic director at Virginia Tech. He took Roth with him.

During the summers from 1993-1996, Roth was the play-by-play broadcaster for the Triple-A Richmond Braves. “It was a lot of fun., I love baseball and I like the Braves. I was in Richmond working for the Hokies so I would work in the morning for the Hokies and call the Braves games at night.”

While working for the Richmond Braves Roth saw several future Major League Baseball players come through, including future MLB MVP Chipper Jones. “It was pretty obvious that Chipper Jones was going to be a great baseball player as his statistics were off the charts.” Roth said one of his favorite Braves moment was when he called a no-hitter.

Roth left the Braves organization after 1996 to focus on Virginia Tech athletics.

**A Typical Day?**

What’s a typical day for a sports broadcaster? “Well there is no typical day., Each day is different, and that’s what makes it so exciting. One day my office is Lane Stadium, one day it’s Scott Stadium, some days its Madison Square Garden, and some days its Cameron Indoor Stadium.”

On game days Roth studies game notes in the same manner that students study for their exams.

Roth is not only a broadcaster, but a writer and a radio host. His Kroger Roth report is a weekly column discussing what is going on in Virginia Tech athletics. His weekly radio show features head coaches Frank Beamer and Seth Greenberg. Roth also hosts Virginia Tech Sports , a Sunday morning television magazine show.

“What I like about my job is that I get to dabble in all of that.” He also enjoyed the relationships with the players, coaches and fans. “Those are things that I really treasure.”

Roth has been honored as Virginia's Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association a record eight times. “It's an honor because it’s voted on by the other writers and broadcasters., It’s a bit humbling.” He said it’s more of a team award as the behind-the-scenes people are just as important.

"If football coach Frank Beamer is the leader of the Hokie Nation, and assistant coach Bud Foster is the Minister of Defense, then some might call Roth Tech's Secretary of State."- *The Roanoke Times*.

Longtime Hokies fan Don Shaw said it even better: “Bill Roth belongs on the Mount Rushmore of Virginia Tech athletics. “The accolades that Roth has received have all been well-deserved and earned.”

**Helping the Community**

Roth is active in charities serving the Virginia Tech community, including the Montgomery County Red Cross, Hokies for the Hungry and, NRV Cares. He also runs the “Bill Roth’s United Way Day,” in which disadvantaged youth from throughout the commonwealth are invited to a game and receive VIP treatment as well as an autograph session.

He has helped the Virginia Tech Police Department with training modules to promote campus safety, awareness and self-preparedness.

“I’m a big believer in community… You don’t know how many families in the New River Valley need help, and if I can use my platform to help I will do that.”

Coach Beamer said it best with “They don't get any better than our 'Voice of the Hokies', Bill Roth!"