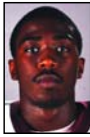




# Taylor slated as starting QB

By Nathan Warters  
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Tyrod Taylor

Five weeks ago, Tyrod Taylor was a 17-year old true freshman trying to learn a playbook and get used to college life. Now, he is Virginia Tech's starting quarterback.

Tech head coach Frank Beamer announced Monday that Taylor will permanently replace junior Sean

Glennon as the Hokies' No. 1 quarterback starting this Saturday against Ohio.

Taylor, who has since turned 18, has picked things up almost as quickly as he can run. He gave Tech's struggling offense a spark with his performance Saturday in

the Hokies' 48-7 loss at LSU.

He was the team's leading rusher with 44 yards and a touchdown, and he completed 7 of 18 passes for 62 yards.

"You look at it from an overall situation, and I think Tyrod best fits the possibility of us becoming a real good offense right now," said Beamer, who announced the quarterback switch to reporters during a Monday teleconference.

Taylor will be the first true freshman quarterback to start for the Hokies since Will Furrer in 1988.

Beamer told Glennon of his decision on Monday.

"He was very disappointed, which I expected him to be," Beamer said of Glennon, who went 11-4 as a starter the last two

seasons. "I feel for him because he's put so much into it. I tried to explain to him that it's not a reflection on him as much as it is the status of our offensive football team. I feel that Tyrod better fits us being a good offense."

Glennon is a classic drop back quarterback, and because Tech is vulnerable on the offensive line, he hasn't had much time to make plays.

Please see **TAYLOR**, Page D8

# Furious Chase



## Jimmie Johnson

- Points: 5,060
- His routine summer swoon dropped him to sixth in the standings, but his series-best five wins pushed him all the way back to the top under NASCAR's new seeding system.



## Jeff Gordon

- Points: 5,040
- Gordon was the most dominant driver all season, winning four races and building a lead of more than 300 points in the standings. Many believe this is Gordon's year — he was married in November and became a father in June — and this is the season he'll win a fifth title.



## Tony Stewart

- Points: 5,030
- Stewart was plagued with bad luck at the start of the season, failing to win at least four races he dominated. He finally found Victory Lane in July, sparking a trademark streak — three wins in four races.



## Carl Edwards

- Points: 5,020
- Edwards turned it up this past month with four top-10s, including a win at Bristol and a runner-up finish at California. If he can carry that into the start of the Chase, he could be doing his trademark backflip off the championship stage.



## Kurt Busch

- Points: 5,020
- Busch missed the Chase last season, his first with Penske Racing. After early crew chief turmoil, he settled in with Pat Tryson and took off. He won two races and had a series of top-11 finishes to move into Chase eligibility. He used a hot streak to win a 2004 title and shouldn't be counted out.



## Denny Hamlin

- Points: 5,010
- Hamlin has just one win this season but was incredibly consistent with 15 top-10 finishes. Like his teammate Stewart, he could have won about four races at the start of the season.



## Potential for an epic title

The Associated Press

**R**ICHMOND — The field has five series champions, the reigning Daytona 500 winner, three of NASCAR's rising stars, two newcomers and a 14-year veteran searching for his first title.

Together, they've combined to win 23 of the first 26 races. Alone, they'll race against one another for NASCAR's biggest prize.

The Chase for the Nextel Cup championship begins Sunday in New Hampshire, and the fourth installment of this 10-race title hunt promises to be the best one yet.

Please see **CHASE**, Page D4

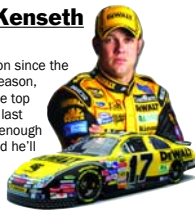
## Martin Truex Jr.

- Points: 5,010
- Truex has been good this year, and he beat Clint Bowyer to Victory Lane by winning at Dover in June. He was immune to many of the motor problems that destroyed teammate Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s title hopes.



## Matt Kenseth

- Points: 5,010
- Kenseth hasn't won since the second race of the season, but he's usually in the top 10. Kenseth learned last year that's not good enough during the Chase, and he'll race hard for wins to score his second championship.



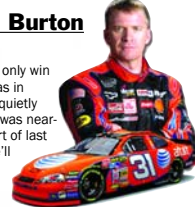
## Kyle Busch

- Points: 5,010
- Busch is certainly talented enough to win the Chase. But he's leaving Hendrick Motorsports at the end of the season and will drive a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing next year. That puts him in a precarious position.



## Jeff Burton

- Points: 5,010
- Burton scored his only win of the season at Texas in April, and he's been quietly consistent since. He was nearly flawless at the start of last year's Chase, and he'll need another start like that to catch the leaders under the new seeding system.



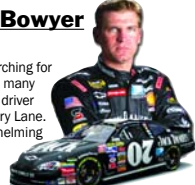
## Kevin Harvick

- Points: 5,010
- The Daytona 500 winner limped into the Chase, holding off Dale Earnhardt Jr. for one of the final spots. That's not the way you want to go into a championship hunt.



## Clint Bowyer

- Points: 5,000
- Bowyer is still searching for his first Cup win, and many believe he's the best driver to not yet reach Victory Lane. He's not been overwhelming this season, and has just two top-fives.



## High School Soccer



Photo courtesy Mitchell Bryant

Lynchburg Christian Academy's Abass Ayembillah is turning heads.

## Ghana duo can't be stopped

By Ted Allen  
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Moving from Accra, Ghana, where soccer is a national pastime, to Lynchburg, where football reigns supreme, especially in the fall, might be a stumbling block to some.

But for Abass Ayembillah and Richard Nyarko, who arrived at Liberty Christian Academy last fall, they look at the opportunity as more of a stepping stone.

Both juniors, who played on the same team in Ghana when they were younger and the same Lynchburg United Soccer U17 team this past spring,

are hoping to play for Liberty University or another high-level college program after graduating from LCA in 2008. Until then, both are focused on leading the Bulldogs to a Virginia Independent Schools Division I state title.

"They're two of the best we've played against, without a doubt," Holy Cross coach Randy Turille said after Monday's 7-3 home loss to LCA. "The Ghana kids, if you can't stop them, you're not going to beat (the Bulldogs)."

"They both have speed, they're great on the ball and (Ayembillah) is one of the best finishers I've seen," he added. "The most impressive thing about those kids is the way they finish. (Ayembillah) hit side netting three times (Monday)."

After joining the team midseason last fall, when Ayembillah finished with a team-high 23 goals, the two players have only gotten stronger.

Please see **LCA**, Page D5

**INGE'S DAY**  
MONDAY VS. BLUE JAYS  
► 1-4, 1 run scored  
IN 5-4 WIN

**NEXT GAME:**  
► TODAY vs  
TORONTO

**SEASON STATS**  
AVG. HR RBI  
244 14 65

*Detroit Tigers third baseman  
Brandon Inge is a  
Brookville High School graduate.*

## Major League Baseball

The Cubs take care of the Cardinals in a divisional matchup  
**Page D3**



## WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

### Golf

Tiger Woods is still in a winning routine after taking the BMW Championship at Cog Hill over the weekend  
**Page D2**



## Today's TOP TV games

**MLB: Nationals @ Marlins**  
7 p.m., MASN  
**MLB: Angels @ Orioles**  
7 p.m., MASN2