Saturday, June 7, 2025

Virginia Baseball Community,

It is with deep humility, respect and gratitude that I write this letter to share some reflections with you. Additionally, I'd like to thank you for understanding the time that this situation required for us to coordinate with the athletics department in order to determine the best way to share these thoughts with you.

Twenty-two years ago, I moved to Charlottesville, VA, with my wife, Cindy. We had two young daughters at the time. After coming to Virginia, we went on to have our son, Dillon. Our children grew up in this community, and our family could never have imagined that the next twenty-two years would turn out the way it did. We are grateful for the love and passion you showed us to help us raise our family.

Much like my two daughters, and my son who will soon go off to college, new chapters arise and the time has come for Cindy and I to start a new phase in our lives. While there is much uncertainty with change, and saying goodbye to this community is one of the hardest things I've ever done, it is simply the right time for me to take on the challenge of conquering a new opportunity.

Central Virginia is a special place, and the next leader of the Virginia baseball program will reap the benefits of one of the best baseball communities in the ACC. The donor support, the fan support, and the way that each of you respect, treat, and uplift the young men at the University of Virginia will position this baseball program for continued success in the future.

Craig Littlepage, you took a chance on a young guy twenty-two years ago - Thank you! Your commitment to this baseball program allowed us to be successful and I will be forever grateful.

Carla Williams and the rest of the UVA leadership team, thank you for your support and dedication. I wish all the best for you and Wahoo nation.

To the many passionate and generous donors and fans, many with whom I have close personal relationships - from the bottom of my heart - Thank you! You are the reason this place is special and helped us reach new heights in this baseball program. Your continued support will be vital to future success.

Finally, to the former players, coaches and staff. I would like to thank each of you. Whether you played for our staff, Coach Womack's staff, or even before that; each one of you welcomed me, Coach Mac, and the rest of our staff and gave us everything you had. You entrusted us to help grow your development as a baseball player, and more importantly, as a young man. I believe that, **together**, we all became better men because of the trust, loyalty, and family culture that we showed each other here at the University of Virginia.

The University of Virginia baseball program will always have a special place in my heart. I will continue to cheer passionately for the 'Hoos.

From the bottom of our hearts - thank you for all that you have given me and my family, our entire staff, and the University of Virginia.

Forever your friend,

Coach O'Connor