

RYAN STINNETT

At the age of 10, Ryan Stinnett chose to leave his friends on the baseball field to concentrate on golf, a turning point that led him to being the most highly-acclaimed golfer in Amherst County. As the youngest boy in his neighborhood, where basketball, football, baseball, and golf provided backyard entertainment almost daily, Stinnett honed his competitive edge against boys up to seven years his senior. He worked tirelessly to beat the older kids. Such precocity in sports enabled him to become the first sixth-grader to make the basketball team in middle school.



He credits the support of his parents, Janie and Mike Stinnett, as well as fellow neighbors and golfers, Ryan and Nathan Mayo and Marc Hopkins, as giving him a strong foundation in golf. His parents had high expectations, with a disciplined approach to practice. One of his first goals as a golfer was to beat his father, which occurred when he shot 77 as an eleven-year-old. That achievement prompted a quick lesson in humility, in the form of a request that Ryan not brag about it to his mother. That day still stands in Stinnett's memory as an important milestone in his youth.

A PGA Professional cited his "very athletic swing", a compliment that Stinnett believes was acquired through his youth experiences in a variety of sports. From that early development, he went on to become a champion at Amherst County High School, leading the team as the number one seed each of his four years. He set tournament records in two invitationals, was an All-District player throughout high school, led his team to two district championships and a regional individual championship, and was state finalist for two years.

His skills drew the attention of Virginia Tech, where he set numerous records from 2000 to 2004. He played in every tournament for Virginia Tech for four years, still holds the records for the most tournament rounds played, and graduated as the fourth best scorer in the school's golf history. His freshman year was highlighted by an 8th place finish in the NCAA tournament, Tech's highest finish in that sport.

Ryan Stinnett – November 10, 1981

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Dixie Youth Baseball, Amherst, all-star. VSGA '91, '93, '95, runner-up '97, '99; VSGA Junior State team (age 15-18)
- Amherst Middle School: basketball (1994-96)
- ACHS: J.V. Basketball (1998); Golf, All-District (4 years), Player of the Year (2000), All-Region (1998, 2000), Regional Champion (2000), Team championship (1998, 2000), Captain (1999-2000), State tournament (finalist, 2 years), tournament records (Heritage, Appomattox, 2000), Heritage Invitational, winner (1998, 2000)
- Virginia Tech: Team champion, Big East Conference (2001-2003); Big East individual champion (2004); NCAA team tournament (2001-2003), 8th place finish (2000); NCAA individual tournament (2004); Big East Player of the Year (2004); All Big East (2004); team captain (2004); VT Athlete of the Year (Spring, 2004); #1 seed (2004)
- Other: Numerous amateur events; US Amateur Tournament, lowest qualifier (2004); VSGA State Amateur Tournament, finalist (2006, 2007); VSGA Four Ball Championship (winner, 2006, 2007); VSGA Men's Team (2006, 2007)