



## Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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**[www.CommonwealthGames.org](http://www.CommonwealthGames.org)**  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Virginia Amateur Sports and the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University announce 2017 Olympic Speaker, Vernell “Bimbo” Coles**

Virginia Amateur Sports, Inc (VAS) organizers of the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University announced today that Vernell “Bimbo” Coles, an Olympic Bronze Medalist in Basketball, will be the guest speaker for the 2017 Games. Bimbo graduated from Greenbrier East High School in Lewisburg, WV, before heading to Virginia Tech to play Basketball. He played for the Virginia Tech Hokies for four seasons (1986-1990). While at Virginia Tech he scored a total of 2,484 points and remains the all-time leader for scoring and assists for the Hokies. Coles made the US Olympic Basketball team in 1988 and played a lead role at point guard for the team that won a bronze medal in Seoul, South Korea. Bimbo entered the NBA in 1990 and played for the Golden State Warriors, Atlanta Hawks, Cleveland Cavaliers, Boston Celtics and Miami Heat over his 14 year career. He played in 852 Games, scored 6,628 points and had 3,318 assists in his NBA career. Coles was inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 and in January of 2017 it was announced that he would be inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

There have been 10 new sports added to the 2017 Games Schedule:

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - E-Games                | - Youth Ice Hockey            |
| - Jujutsu                | - Powerlifting                |
| - Adult Rugby            | - Adult Short Course Swimming |
| - Indoor Track and Field | - Indoor Triathlon            |
| - Volleyball – Male 6’s  | - Volleyball – Female 6’s     |

Main Games Weekend is July 21-23 and kicks off at Liberty University on Friday, July 21 at 12pm with Athlete Village festivities and the Grand Home Furnishings Athlete Tailgate Party at 4pm. In addition to food, prizes and games at the Athlete Tailgate Party (4-6pm), Liberty is opening up their campus ice rink and Snowflex, offering equestrian trail rides, and more. New this year is a Parade from the Athlete Tailgate Party to the Vines Center leading into the beginning of Opening Ceremonies. The parade will feature athletes, coaches, sponsors, bands and more, the parade will kick off at 6pm. Opening Ceremonies will follow at 7pm at the Vines Center, including Bimbo Coles (Olympic Speaker), Miss Virginia, the parade of athletes and more.

Main Games weekend upholds a positive reputation with the community for bolstering tourism and serving as an economic engine to the host city each year. For 28 years the Virginia Commonwealth Games have provided excellent opportunities for thousands of Virginians to develop and foster new relationships, establish new goals and personal bests, while at the same time learning teamwork, sportsmanship, as well as individual team responsibilities.

Other sponsors for this year’s Games include Papa Johns, Blue Eagle Credit Union, Ford, Glass & Associates, BWX Technologies and the City of Lynchburg.

For more information on the Games, including images for download, visit: [www.CommonwealthGames.org](http://www.CommonwealthGames.org)

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Host of 2019 State Games of America

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