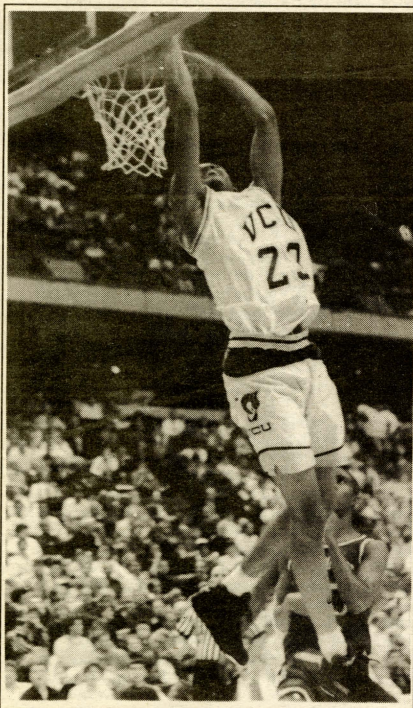


1992-93 Basketball Supplement

Sports



Metro Tournament: Rams shock Louisville, lose in semis

by Drew Geary
associate editor

LOUISVILLE — What goes up must come down...
With a 43-21 victory in VCU's semifinal game against Tulane at the Metro Conference Tournament on March 14, the Rams had fought back within six points of the Green Wave. Freshman Tyrone McCoy had just scored a driving layup after Eric Atkins stole the ball at midcourt.

the two games, though:
Louisville — Kendrick Warren led the Rams in scoring with 16 points.
Richmond — Warren led the team with 17 points.
Louisville — The VCU bench scored 14 points.
Richmond — Ram reserves tallied 15 points.
Louisville — VCU went 18-22 from the free-throw line down the stretch.
Richmond — VCU made 10 of 13 freebies in the second half.

chances.
The Rams were able to break out of their slump, though, and scored the last five points of the half on a Rod Ladd trey and two McCoy free throws. They left the court trailing 31-24 after making only 38 percent of their shots.
"I thought if we could control their spurts that we had a chance to win it here," Smith said. "We controlled their second spurt and I think that was the key in the first half."

back by playing heads up, muscle defense and being able to beat the Cardinals' press. They took their first lead of the game at the 13:12 mark when Warren drove to the basket to put VCU ahead 40-39.
In the second half we cut down on any second shot opportunities that they had by getting on the boards a lot better," Smith noted. "We also got really aggressive with getting the ball inside and either making a layup or a shot."

Women reach semi-finals in Metro tourney

by Jason T. Bonardi
staff writer



The Virginia Commonwealth University Women's basketball team proved that when it's tournament time it's anyone's game, almost.
After losing to Louisville by a total of 74 points in their two previous meetings, the Lady Rams held their own against a physical Cardinal squad in a 58-40 defeat in the semi-finals of the Metro tournament in Louisville, Ky.
"VCU played incredible today, so much better than in the past. Our changing defenses didn't bother them, give them credit they played great," said Louisville Head Coach Bud Childers.

Playing their best game of the year, the Rams front-line duo of Dawnita and Niamh Darcy shot a combined 11 from the field and 5-6 from the line for points against the biggest team in conference.

voted first team All-Metro and voted on the All-Tournament team as she scored 40 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the Rams two games.
Against Louisville Pavlikhina started the game with a 3-pointer from the left corner as the Rams stayed close to the Cards in the early going.
The Rams found themselves down 12-11 five minutes into the game and then again down 27-26 with 8:14 remaining in the half.
The game broke open when Louisville went on a 15-6 run that ended with a VCU timeout at the 3:32 mark.
Jennifer Melton got the Rams back on track with two 3-pointers in a span of 42 seconds to bring VCU within 42-37.
Louisville free throws late in the half

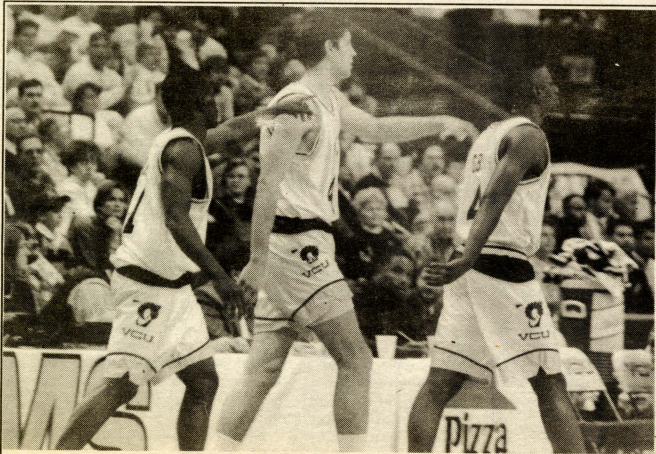
not back down — I thought our girls did well," said Ram head coach Susan Walvaus.
In the second half Pavlikhina started with a 3-pointer, two in fact, in the first two minutes to bring the Rams within 50-45.
But that is as close as the Rams would get as Louisville ran up leads of 65-49 and again at 73-57 with 11:01 remaining.
With 1:23 to go in the game the Rams faced a 83-76 deficit and had to foul.
With Mullerup and Pavlikhina fouled out, VCU lost a good chunk of its outside and inside game and was unable to get off good shots in the end.
"We played with a lot of heart and emotion out there. Our girls did not give up and played the entire 40 minutes to

Staff photo by Sharon Khammar
Jennifer Melton scored a career-high of 21 points.

ARTICLES FROM THE PAST:

(above) An article from the Rams' history-making win over Louisville in the first round of the Metro tournament. An article from the Lady Rams advancing to the semi-finals of the Metro.

(right) Men's box scores from last year's Louisville wins, and the CIA's file on Kendrick Warren.



Marching onto the scene this year are (L to R) senior Mike Hargett, sophomore Eugene Kissourine and junior Terrence Gibson.

C.I.A. COMMITTEE TO INFORM ALL COLLEGE BASKETBALL'S BEST KEPT SECRET: THE WARREN DEBUNKER
Official NCAA Basketball Box Score
Date: 1/19/92
Last name first (indicate starters by position or with an asterisk)
Date: 03-13-92
LOUISVILLE (73-57) 1st Half 38-22 2nd Half 35-29
VCU (42-37) 1st Half 27-26 2nd Half 15-11
Totals: 73-57
VCU: 11-21 FG, 10-20 FT, 10-20 3PT, 21 REB, 10 AST, 10 TOV, 10 PF
LOUISVILLE: 18-38 FG, 18-28 FT, 10-20 3PT, 21 REB, 10 AST, 10 TOV, 10 PF
VCU: 11-21 FG, 10-20 FT, 10-20 3PT, 21 REB, 10 AST, 10 TOV, 10 PF
LOUISVILLE: 18-38 FG, 18-28 FT, 10-20 3PT, 21 REB, 10 AST, 10 TOV, 10 PF

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Metro '92: in the fast lane on the road back to prominence

by Brian French
staff writer

When the Metro Conference started its first year in its current configuration last season, many fans and school boosters were skeptical about the chances for the reborn league to survive, much less become a national power again.

They had reason to be. The "next generation" of the Metro looked significantly different from that of previous campaigns. Gone were Florida State (ACC), South Carolina (SEC), Cincinnati and Memphis State (both to the Great Midwest, a first-year conference). To replace these teams, the Metro originally recruited UNC-Charlotte and South Florida of the Sun Belt. Eventually, they also invited Virginia Commonwealth to the new Metro when it appeared that Tulane would abandon ship to join the Southwest Conference. But the Green Wave remained with the Metro, and, along with the continued membership of Virginia Tech, Southern Mississippi, and league standard-bearer Louisville, the current roster of schools was completed.

When Metro fans saw the sudden rise of Florida St., Memphis St., and Cincinnati in the national polls, they were convinced that the Metro had taken a turn for the worse. They complained that this wasn't the rebirth of the Metro as they knew it; rather it was the rebirth of the Sun Belt.

Fast-forward to March 15. The Metro tournament had just concluded, and UNC-Charlotte, one of the newcomers, had just won the tournament title, defeating Tulane 64-63. Prior to that day, only the Virginia Tech Hokies of 1978-79 had been able to come into the Metro and win the tournament in its first year.

To add to the newfound excitement, the NCAA extended tournament invitations to four Metro schools, tying the conference record for most teams invited to "March Madness". Louisville and Tulane both made it to the second round of the tourney.

Not bad for a conference referred to as "Sun Belt 2".

1992-93 shapes up to be another year of high expectations for the conference. Gone to the NBA is Metro marquis and Southern Mississippi strongman Clarence Weatherspoon to the Philadelphia 76ers. Also gone are Radenko Dobras (from South Florida) and Henry Williams (UNC-Charlotte).

However, the Metro is still top-heavy in talent. From Kendrick Warren to Anthony Reed, from Glen Whisby to Jarvis Lang, the Metro is still loaded with prime-time players.

The following is a team-by-team breakdown of the Metro, in order of predicted finish. Current records and computer rankings are as of Dec. 9.

Louisville

1991-92 Record: 19-11, 7-5 (tied for 2nd in Metro)

Postseason: NCAA's (defeated Wake Forest 81-58 in 1st round, lost to U.C.L.A. 85-69 in 2nd round).

Returns (8): Dwayne Morton (6-6 forward, junior); Keith LeGree (6-1 guard, sophomore); Greg Minor (6-6 forward, junior); James Brewer (6-3 guard, senior); Brian Hopgood (6-10 center, junior); Troy Smith (6-8 forward, senior); Derwin Webb (6-4 forward, senior); Mike Case (6-6 forward, senior).

Starters Lost (2): Everick Sullivan and Cornelius Holden.

Newcomers (5): Clifford Rozier (6-10 forward, sophomore); Tick Rogers (6-5 guard, freshman); Brian Kiser (6-7 forward, freshman); John Strickland (6-8 forward/center, junior, transfer from Jacksonville (Texas) College); DeJuan Wheat (6-1 guard, freshman).

Current Record: 1-1 (ranked 9th in country)

USA Today computer ranking: 15

Overview: This Louisville team could rank as one of the best in the past few years. Gone are Everick Sullivan and Cornelius Holden, and gone are the 23 points and 9.5 rebounds they combined to average during the past season, when they rebounded from their first losing campaign in 48 years to finish in a tie for second in the Metro, in the top 25, and in the NCAA tournament, where they advanced to the second round. However, the Cardinals will be returning more than they are losing, and will be gaining quite a bit, too.

Cardinal followers want more than just a trip to the NCAAs, though. And more is what they will get, with forwards Dwayne Morton (13.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg) and Greg Minor (9.7 ppg, 5.1 rpg) returning to the lineup.

Add to that backcourt returnee Keith Legree (7.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg) and North Carolina transfer Clifford Rozier, seen by many preseason magazines as the best of the Metro newcomers, and one can see the reason for the heightened expectations and high national ranking.

The class of '96 is none too shabby, either. Leading the freshmen at Louisville is Tick Rogers, who was tabbed as Kentucky's prep "Mr. Basketball". He is the star recruit for Denny Crum, and is in contention for a spot in the backcourt's starting rotation.

Finally, the reserves, especially guard James Brewer (7.9 ppg) and frontcourt veteran Derwin Webb (2.6 ppg), will earn their fair share of minutes on the court. They should also make a push for a shot at making the starting rotation.

Schedule: The toughest in the league. Home games against Kentucky, DePaul, UNLV, and Notre Dame, as well as road games with Georgia Tech and Michigan State (which they won) add up to one of the toughest slates in the country.

Prediction: Denny Crum has guided the Cardinals to nine regular season Metro titles, 16 berths in the NCAA tournament, 17 seasons of 20 or more wins, and is the winningest coach in Metro history (170-60, .739 in Metro games). There is no reason to believe that Crum's legacy will not be augmented during the 1992-93 season.

Predicted Record: 21-5; 9-3
Postseason: NCAA, maybe Final Four?.

UNC-Charlotte

1991-92 record: 23-9, 7-5 (tied for 2nd)
Postseason: NCAA (lost to Iowa State 76-74 in first round)

Returns (10): James Terrell (6-0 guard, junior); Delano Johnson (6-0 guard, senior); Rodney Odum (6-11 center, junior); Jarvis Lang (6-6 forward, sophomore); Malru Dottin (6-6 forward, senior); Daryl DeVaul (6-9 forward, senior); Cedrick Broadhurst (6-4 guard, senior); Bershuan Thompson (6-3 guard, junior); Jermaine Parker (6-11 center, sophomore); Kenneth Wylie (6-5 guard, junior).

Starters Lost (1): Henry Williams

Newcomers (5): Jason Dominick (6-10 forward, freshman); Andre Davis (6-1 guard, freshman); Bobby Kummer (6-7 guard, freshman); Aaron Wilhite (6-7 forward, junior); Pino Pipes (6-7 forward, freshman)

Current Record: 3-1

USA Today computer ranking: 71

Overview: Henry Williams has departed for the pros. The all-time points leader for the UNC-Charlotte 49ers is no longer a part of the program.

So why is coach Jeff Mullins so happy? Simple. Everyone else is returning. Rodney Odum (11.3 ppg, 7.6 rpg) is back in the middle for the 49ers. James Terrell (13 ppg), who, along with Williams, led the Metro in three-point accuracy (.430) is back. And Jarvis Lang, who led all freshmen in the nation two years ago in points (19.6 ppg) and rebounds (10.6 ppg), has fully recovered from the broken wrist he obtained in the second game of last season. With a medical hardship, he will still have three years of eligibility remaining. That's three years in which he can terrorize foes in the paint, on both sides of the ball.

The backups will be lobbying for playing time, as well. Jermaine Parker, a center who also received a medical hardship last season, will be a capable backup for Odum. Malru Dottin (6.7 ppg, 6.3 rpg) and Daryl Devaul (6 ppg, 4.6 rpg) will press for a spot in the starting lineup, along with highly touted transfer Aaron Wilhite (12.8 ppg, 7.7 rpg in 1990-91 at Cal-State Fullerton).

The freshmen class is also encouraging, too. Jason Dominick might be the heir apparent to the spot at center for the 49ers. Andre Davis and Bobby Kummer will be in contention for a spot in the starting five alongside "Trigger" Terrell.

Now it's obvious why Jeff Mullins is so happy.

Schedule: Average. Road games with Florida State and Florida, as well as home games with two underrated teams (George Washington and Pepperdine) are counterbalanced by a home-and-home cakewalk with Davidson and home games with Appalachian State and Butler.

Prediction: Despite an early setback to Baylor, the 49ers have a lot of potential. If Jarvis Lang can regain the form that brought him so much praise as a freshman, then this campaign may be the most successful for the 49ers since their trip to the Final Four in 1977. A shot at the Metro title is not out of the question.

Predicted Record: 19-7, 8-4
Postseason: NCAA lock

Tulane

1991-92 Record: 22-9, 8-4 (1st)

Postseason: NCAA (defeated St. John's 61-57, lost to Oklahoma St. 87-71)

Returns (11): Pointer Williams (6-0 guard, sophomore); G.J. Hunter (6-3 guard, senior); Bret Just (5-10 guard, junior); Antonio Jackson (6-1 guard, sophomore); Matt Greene (6-7 forward, senior); Cartner Nichols (6-6 guard/forward, senior); Carlin Hartman (6-7 forward, junior); Mekaba Perry (6-9 forward/center, junior); Matt Popp (6-9 center, senior); Pete Rasche (6-10 center, junior); Anthony Reed (6-9 center/forward, senior)

Starters Lost (2): David Whitmore; Kim Lewis (injured).

Newcomers (2): LeVeldro Simmons (6-3 guard, freshman); Vershawn Eley (6-9 center, freshman).

Current Record: 3-1 (ranked 19th in country)

USA Today Computer Ranking: 52
Overview: Before Tulane entered the Preseason NIT, many Metro followers tabbed the Green Wave as the team to beat in the Metro. However, when Tulane left the court after having lost to Indiana in the tourney's second round, they did so without one of their catalysts. A broken wrist felled Kim Lewis during the Tulane-Indiana contest, and he will be lost for the season. This unexpected twist of bad luck pushes coach Perry Clark's five-year plan back a little.

Don't count the Green Wave, or Clark for that matter, out of anything, including the Metro race. Eleven lettermen from last season's miracle team returns, including Anthony Reed (14.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg) as the man in the middle, and Carlin Hartman (9.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg) and Mekaba Perry (4 ppg, 3.2 rpg) to round out the Green Wave's frontcourt.

The backcourt can hold its own, despite the loss of Lewis. Led by 1992 Metro Freshman of the Year Pointer Williams (5.9 ppg, 11.2 assists, 56 steals) at the point, the guards of the Green Wave can still generate their fair share of excitement.

The real attraction, though, is still "The Posse." This year, however, the "Posse's" strength has diminished a touch. Still, G.J. Hunter (7.1 ppg) and Matt Greene (6.8 ppg), among others, should stir up a little action this year.

The recruiting class is small, but talented. Both Vershawn Eley and LeVeldro Simmons are more than capable of either entering the "Posse," or becoming starters in their own right in the next year or two.

Schedule: Guarantees a 20-win season. A home game with Prairie View A & M, traditionally the weakest program in Division I, is indicative of the ease that the Wave should handle this schedule. The toughest road test of the year for the Wave passed Wednesday night, when they knocked off Memphis State.

Prediction: The preseason magazines picked Tulane to either win the Metro, or come very close. However, despite all the talent and potential this team has, the loss of Kim Lewis may knock the Green Wave out of the race. Of course, it still is possible for the Wave to roll back to the catbird's seat. Now, it's just not quite as likely.

Predicted Record: 21-7, 7-5
Postseason: Back to the NCAAs

Virginia Commonwealth

1991-92 Record: 14-15, 5-7 (tied for 5th)
Postseason: None

Returnees (6): Kendrick Warren (6-8 forward, junior); Sherron Mills (6-8 center, senior); Chris Brower (6-3 guard, senior); Tyron McCoy (6-5 guard, sophomore); Rodney Ashby (6-7 forward, junior); Konstantin Pepeliaev (7-2 center, senior).

Starters Lost (3): Rod Ladd; Carl Weldon; Eric Atkins.

Newcomers (9): Kenny Harris (6-1 guard, junior); Terrence Gibson (6-3 guard, junior); Mike Hargett (5-11 guard, senior); Rich Mount (6-4 guard, junior); Kareem Washington (6-5 forward/guard, sophomore); Alvin Mobley (6-9 forward, junior); Eugene Ksourine (6-9 forward, junior); Bob Osborne (6-8 center, junior); James Barnes (freshman).

Current Record: 3-1

USA Today Computer Ranking: 70

Overview: This may very well be the year that coach Sonny Smith has been waiting for. Nine new players, eight with college experience, will augment the already solid starting core.

Of course, one player that, newcomers or not, will be the standard-bearer for the team, and the Metro as a whole, is Kendrick Warren. A first-team All Metro member last

year, Warren (19 ppg, 9.5 rpg) has since added a outside jumper to his repertoire. This should increase his point production, since he will feel more confident behind the three-point arc.

The backcourt will be the most competitive one in recent memory for the Rams. Three-point ace Chris Brower returns (8.7 ppg), but will be under tremendous pressure for his spot from Terrence Gibson and Mike Hargett, both experienced transfer guards. The job of playing point will fall on Kenny Harris, a transfer from North Carolina. His ability to hold the offense together will play a big role in the success of the Rams this year. It's possible a mini-"Posse" could develop within the two guards that do not start at the 2-guard.

The frontcourt situation should be more stable. Obviously, Warren will hold the power forward spot down. Tyron McCoy (5.2 ppg, 3.2 rpg) should get the small forward spot. However, should the two become tired or get into foul trouble, transfer forwards Alvin Mobley and Eugene Ksourine should be able to back them up sufficiently. Also, rapidly improving Rodney Ashby should play a part in the Rams frontcourt this season.

The importance on winning this year, however, is tremendous. 14 of the 15 players are upperclassmen, and being able to mesh together will be the deciding factor dictating the success or failure of the Rams this year. Sonny Smith understands this. He knows the pressure that is coming down on his shoulders from some of the boosters and alumni. Fortunately for Smith, the 92-93 campaign of the VCU Rams is talented enough to keep everyone happy.

Schedule: Now that the Carrier Classic is history, it should be pretty easy for the Rams. The toughest game left is a road game with Texas. Other than that, it should be much easier than last year.

Prediction: This is the best load of talent that the Rams have played with in years. The talent is there to challenge for the Metro. The keyword is potential, however. If the newcomers play well in the new atmosphere, this team could make some waves.

Predicted Record: 20-7, 7-5

Postseason: NIT lock, NCAA bubble

South Florida

1991-92 Record: 19-10, 7-5 (tied for 2nd)
Postseason: NCAA (lost to Georgetown in 1st round 75-60)

Returnees (3): Derrick Sharp (6-1 guard, senior); Jarvis Jackson (6-7 forward, junior); Chad Dollar (6-1 guard, junior)

Starters Lost (4): Radenko Dobras, Gary Alexander, Fred Lewis, and Bobby Russell.

Newcomers (10): Chris Coleman (6-3 guard, freshman); David Delancy (6-2 guard, sophomore); Mike Greene (6-4 guard, freshman); Chuck Atkins (5-10 guard, freshman); Robert Polk (5-11 guard, junior); Jesse Salters (6-6 forward, sophomore); Vince Hyatt (6-6 forward, junior); Donzel Rush (6-8 forward, freshman); Sean Allen (6-8 center, freshman); Mike Hostetter (6-7 forward, junior).

Current Record: 1-1

USA Today Computer Ranking: 114

Overview: What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time, the Bulls were on the verge of a tremendous season, defeating Florida and Florida State to claim the title "Best team in Florida," and then moved on to the NCAA tourney. A great year was had by all in Tampa.

Now, however, is a new season.

And the Bulls, who rose to the top of the Metro with players such as Radenko Dobras and Gary Alexander, are so drastically different from last year's squad that if they weren't wearing the same uniforms that they were last season, one might not recognize them at all.

The Bulls bring in 10 new players, and most are either freshmen or sophomore transfers. Only three holdovers from last season remain, and only one started. It will be up to Derrick Sharp (14.6 ppg) to lead this team in their year of ultimate rebuilding.

Most of the new players are talented, and given time, the Bulls will become better. But for now, Bobby Paschal will have to be patient.

Schedule: Weak, but suitable for a team as young as the Bulls' is. A couple of toughies do pop on the schedule, such as home dates with Cincinnati and Marquette, and a road trip to Florida State. Primarily, though, it reflects the need to build the confidence of a young team by giving them winnable games.

Prediction: Nobody in Tampa, even the most strident South Florida fans, expect too much from their team this year. For them, a .500 season is more than enough, and anything else that may happen would be counted as a bonus. Unfortunately for the Bulls, this year will be more valleys than hills. However, if the new guys mature in a hurry, then they have the ability to open some eyes early.

Predicted Record: 9-17, 4-8
Postseason: Not for a while

Southern Mississippi

1991-92 Record: 13-16, 5-7
Postseason: None

Returnees (9): Glen Whisby (6-9 forward, sophomore); Ron Rembert (6-4 guard/forward, senior); Bernard Haslett (6-3 guard, junior); Terry Cameron (6-1 guard, senior); Newton Mealer (6-7 forward, senior); Jason Dunn (6-5 guard/forward, junior); Fred Williams (6-7 forward, freshman); Avery Thomas (6-1 guard, sophomore); Shawn Hadley (6-5 guard, sophomore).

Starters Lost (2): Clarence Weatherspoon and Dallas Dale.

Newcomers (3): Herman Myers (6-7 forward, junior); George Scott (6-5 guard/forward, freshman); Sam Shelton (6-4 guard/forward, freshman)

Current Record: 0-3

USA Today Computer Ranking: 185

Overview: For a team that returns 9 players, things certainly look bleak in Hattiesburg. Most coaches would feel the way M.K. Turk does if they lost the greatest player in their school's history. Now that Clarence Weatherspoon is in the bigs (NBA), the rebuilding process will be slow and arduous. Complicating the picture is that the only other starter to leave was their underrated point guard Dallas Dale. This is a team that is in desperate need of a savior.

Actually, they might have one right now in Glen Whisby. This is a man that is the target of a lot of pressure by followers of the Golden Eagles. Whisby (9.7 ppg, 6.5 rpg) is expected to bear the brunt of the team's scoring and rebounding, and that will do one of two things for him: either break him or prepare him to become a great player. More than likely, the latter of the two scenarios will occur.

The bad news for the Golden Eagles is that everything else is in disarray. Ron Rembert (9.3 ppg) and Bernard Haslett (8.5 ppg) will lead the backcourt again, but without the ominous presence of Weatherspoon, they will be less effective. John lacey is the only center on the team, and probably won't be a major factor.

Schedule: It appeared easy at the beginning of the year, but it appears they may have trouble even handling teams like Tennessee-Chattanooga and NE Louisiana (they already lost to them once).

Prediction: If Glen Whisby matures into a Kendrick Warren/Jarvis Lang style player, then the future of the Eagles will improve. If this does not occur, and the team cannot recover from a poor showing at the

Carrier Classic and an upset loss to NE Louisiana, then 6th in the Metro may be too optimistic.

Predicted Record: 8-18; 2-10
Postseason: none

Virginia Tech

1991-92 Record: 10-18; 3-9
Postseason: none

Returnees (6): Thomas Elliot (6-7 forward, senior); Corey Jackson (6-7 forward, junior); Jay Purcell (6-3 guard, junior); Steve Hall (6-4 guard, senior); Donald Corker (6-3 guard, junior); Jim Carruth (6-10 center, senior).

Starters Lost (2): Erik Watson and John Rivers

Newcomers (8): Jim Jackson (6-5 forward, freshman); Delwyn Dillard (6-5 forward, freshman); Adrian Custis (6-7 forward, freshman); Shawn Good (6-3 guard, freshman); Dwayne Archibald (6-9 forward, freshman); Damon Washington (6-2 guard, freshman); Travis Jackson (6-8 center, freshman); Shawn Smith (6-6 forward, freshman).

Current Record: 1-1

USA TODAY Computer Ranking: 164

Overview: Bill Foster has a reputation for rebuilding programs, so they can rise like the phoenix from the ashes. Clemson, UNC-Charlotte, and Miami, Fla. have all seen their basketball programs rebuilt, in large part due to Bill Foster.

However, the 1992-93 Virginia Tech Hokies may prove to be Foster's biggest challenge to date. A whopping eight out of the 14 players on the Hokie roster are freshmen. Only two seniors are on the squad. This infusion of new blood will be beneficial to the Hokies in the long run, but will hurt them greatly.

The Hokies best player is Thomas Elliot (12 ppg, 4.7 rpg). Along with Corey Jackson (6.9 ppg) and Jimmy Carruth (4.6 ppg), the Hokies frontcourt will be experienced, but not very intimidating.

The backcourt consists of Jay Purcell (9.8 ppg, 4 rpg) and Steve Hall (9.5 ppg). The guards should be solid performers, but will be backed up by freshmen. When anyone in the starting rotation is tired or in foul trouble, then the Hokies have to go to the bench a pull out a freshman. And not exactly Fab Five freshmen, at that.

Schedule: Suitable for a freshman team. Outside of a game at the Richmond Coliseum against Virginia and a road trip to play West Virginia, the schedule has more cupcakes than a Girl Scout bake sale.

Prediction: The Hokies will be a good team in a couple of years. For now, they'll be awful. The schedule might allow them to actually improve on their record from last year. Of course, once they get to the Metro slate, they might be fortunate to win a single game.

Predicted Record: 9-17; 1-11
Postseason: are you kidding?

First Team All-Metro

Guard: Pointer Williams, sophomore, Tulane.
Guard: Derrick Sharp, senior, South Florida
Center: Anthony Reed, senior, Tulane
Forward: Kendrick Warren, junior, VCU
Forward: Dwayne Morton, junior, Louisville

Second Team All-Metro

Guard: Keith LeGree, sophomore, Louisville
Guard: James Terrell, junior, UNC-Charlotte
Center: Sherron Mills, senior, Va. Commonwealth
Forward: Jarvis Lang, sophomore, UNC-Charlotte
Forward: Clifford Rozier, sophomore, Louisville

Player of the Year: Kendrick Warren, junior, VCU

Newcomer of the Year: Clifford Rozier, sophomore, Louisville

Coach of the Year: Sonny Smith, VCU

The VCU Ram Coaches

Walvius fast becoming big-time coach

by Leanne Anama
associate editor

With the women's basketball team coming off a successful 1991-92 season with a 17-12 record, coach Susan Walvius has the upcoming season to help her squad improve upon last year.

Walvius came to the women's basketball program three years ago at age 25 with four years of coaching under her belt. She was an assistant coach at Bradley University and Rhode Island for two years at each university.

"The reason I was hired here," Walvius said, "was my coaching experience along with my successful playing days in Division I basketball."

Walvius had a successful high school and collegiate career. She led her high school team to the Virginia state tournament all of her four seasons and was named an All-American. Walvius then went on to Virginia Tech to make her name in the record books, which still stand today.

Walvius, once noted as one of

"I think we're ready to accept the challenge of the Auburn's and the UVA's," Walvius said. "I think we can play with them this year."

the youngest coaches in Division I basketball, has achieved a career record of 29-28 (.509) in her two years at VCU. And since taking over the head coaching reigns, she has helped guide the Rams to five more victories than the previous year (12-16) and continued that success by adding five more wins to last season's record.

With that in mind, along with the fact she has all of her players returning, it would be logical to assume that Walvius has high expectations and goals for the team. In fact, she appears relaxed and conservative in her goals for this season.

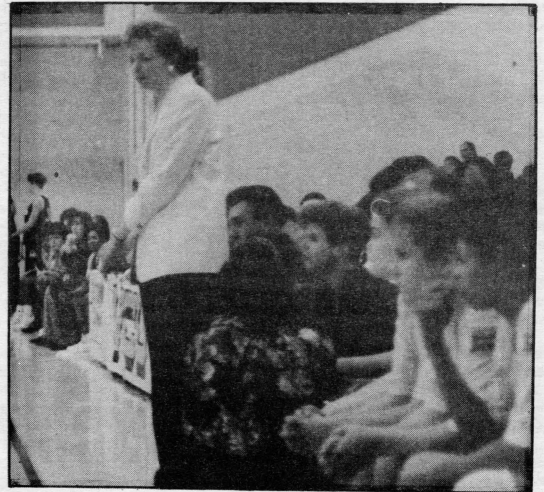
"My goals are more game-to-game," Walvius said. "My coaching philosophy isn't centered only

on wins and losses. I could win a game and not feel good about the win. I want to see execution and movement."

The Rams will need all of that execution and movement to face their conference and non-conference opponents on their schedule. The Rams being in the Metro Conference, which is among the top seven conferences in the country, face a difficult conference against teams like Louisville and Southern Mississippi. On top of their tough conference rivals, VCU added top teams in the nation like Auburn and the University of Virginia.

"I think we're ready to accept the challenge of the Auburn's and the UVA's," Walvius said. "I think we can play with them this year."

"We're getting to the point where we're going to be exciting basketball to watch. We will be there this season. The team's experience is important because three years ago, they didn't know what it took to win and now they know hard work and determination will finish it."



staff photo by Derrick Washington
Susan Walvius, one of the hottest young coaches in the country, is expected to lead the Rams to post-season play.

The confident Charles 'Sonny' Smith

by Mike Rutherford
staff writer

As you enter the plush and quaint office of the VCU Rams men's basketball coach, there to greet you is a sharply dressed man with a warm smile.

Don't let the grin fool you.

Because here is a man who has never been confronted with what he now has to face at VCU.

Win. Or else.

The entire career of Coach Sonny Smith is a winning one. His career record as a college basketball coach is 242-226.

Everywhere he has been, he has won. Especially at Auburn.

It was at Auburn that he made five straight NCAA appearances in which he made it to the "Elite Eight" and the "Sweet Sixteen" on two occasions.

Smith and his teams also won the SEC Tournament once and placed second in the league for times.

At VCU, however, Smith has experienced the worst era of his coaching career. For the past three seasons he has posted losing records.

Overall, Smith's record at VCU is 39-49. To Sonny, this is not a crowning achievement.

His policy has always remained the same: Compete well in league play, win league championships and compete in post-season play.

Smith has yet to achieve any of these goals while at VCU.

When asked to describe this year's team, Sonny replied,

"We're bigger, stronger, quicker and deeper," he said. "We have 10 players that will be rotating instead of seven."

Smith said that, barring injury, the Rams should be a good team.

With just one freshman on the team, the Rams are full of new players who provide somewhat of a facelift.

"When you coach a program for four years, that program should be a good one," SMith said. "If you're not winning something's wrong."

Sitting back in his large chair, Smith explained the strengths and weaknesses of his team.

"Our strength is the return of Kendrick Warren," he said. "Our weakness is the unknown."

That unknown factor is the mixing of the new talent with the old.

"There are eight new players on the roster," he said. "If the chemistry is there, we should be a very good team."

If the chemistry is not meshing, Smith vows to make a change.

"In the future, we will be looking for guys that are stronger and quicker," he said.

What will it take to make the Rams a winning team?

"If the chemistry is there, we'll be in the hunt," he said.

VCU's opener against New Hampshire is possibly a good sign. Great chemistry, good outside shooting, fast and exciting basketball and a good start were all a part of the game.

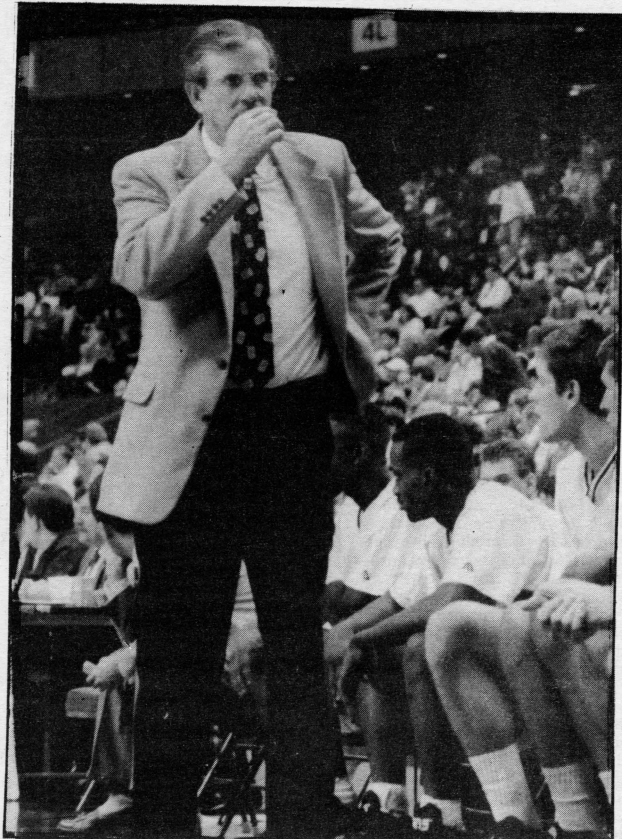
If this carries over to the remaining scheduled games, Smith could be looking at a great year.

What if at the end of the year you don't have a winning season?

With a lot of pride, Smith answered, "When you coach a program for four years, that program should be a good one," he said. "If you're not winning something's wrong."

This year the public's expectations are high.

But if Smith doesn't win this year, it might be his last.



staff photo by Derrick Washington

Coach Sonny Smith heads into the season with his best team ever at VCU.

Kendrick Warren

by Jason T. Bonardi
editor

First let me say I'm sure Mr. Warren is glad to see that we are not using that unappealing picture of him taken his first year.

You know, the one that ... Well, let's just say it wasn't a very good shot.

Everyone remembers when Warren's head hit the floor of the Richmond Coliseum last year against Louisville. The Rams were on the verge of winning their first Metro Conference game and "The Man" had gone down.

Warren left to get six stitches over his eye while his teammates held onto a lead.

Oh! remember when Warren came back out on the court. He ran right past Sonny Smith to check in at the scorers' table.

The crowd was nuts, and my colleagues and I were having a hard time controlling our emotions along the stoic press row.

Well, in case you've been in a cave for a year, we won the game. Kendrick had 17 points and 15 boards on the night.

But back to Warren, or Scorin' Warren, or Ken, or Air Warren, or The Man or the man sittin' next to the man.

Make no mistake about it, whatever you call him, Kendrick is VCU. No doubt about it.

In this, his junior year, Warren has continued to impress all. Not only is he averaging more than 20 points a game, but he is leading his team, not just by example, but by voice as well.

"I knew that I was going to have to start being more vocal this year," he said in an

interview earlier this year.

After gaining all the accolades one can get in high school and living up to the hype when he came to VCU, Warren has continued to live up to all expectations.

In his freshman year he was voted Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year as well as earning a spot on the all-conference first team.

He led the team in scoring and rebounding his first two seasons and continues to do so this year.

What more can I say, he's great.

Dick Vitale, a basketball guru with ESPN, called Warren one of the top four sophomores in the country last year.

And this year there's talk of NCAA Player of the Year. Of course, with all the politics involved, the Rams will have to win 20 games. And upsetting maybe a Tulane or Texas along the way wouldn't hurt.

"The biggest strength in our team this year is the return of Kendrick Warren," Sonny Smith said.

Having trouble getting national attention his first two years, Warren is finally getting his "props."

He was selected to the fourth team All-American squad this year and was also named to the first team All-Metro's preseason squad.

This week was *deja vu* all over again as Warren was selected the Metro's first Player of the Week.

Stay tuned the rest of the year, but I'll tell you one thing:

If Kendrick Warren has anything to say about it, the script won't change.

Sherron Mills

by Drew Geary
associate editor

Sherron Mills is VCU's big man with the soft touch.

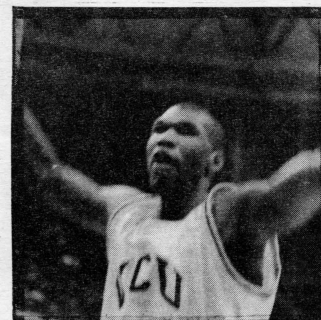
The 6-9 center from Snow Hill, Md., is entering his entering his senior year at VCU with high expectations. And because of his ability to be both a force inside and a sharpshooter from outside, Mills should meet those lofty goals set by both him and his coaches.

"I just want to do whatever it takes to help this team win," Mills said. "Whether that means getting rebounds, blocking shots or score points, it doesn't make any difference. I just want to do what it takes."

Named Maryland's Player-of-the-Year by Mid-Atlantic Sports after leading Snow Hill High School to a state championship his senior year, Mills transferred to VCU after spending a year at Chowan Junior College. He became eligible following the conclusion of the first semester of the 1990-91 school year and scored 10 points in his first game as a Ram.

Mills ended his inaugural season at VCU in the starting lineup and has not looked back since.

Last year Mills was second on the team in both scoring and rebounding, averaging 13 points and 7.5 boards a game. His 55 blocked shots led the Rams and was good for second in the Metro Conference. For his performance last season, Mills was named this year to the Preseason All-



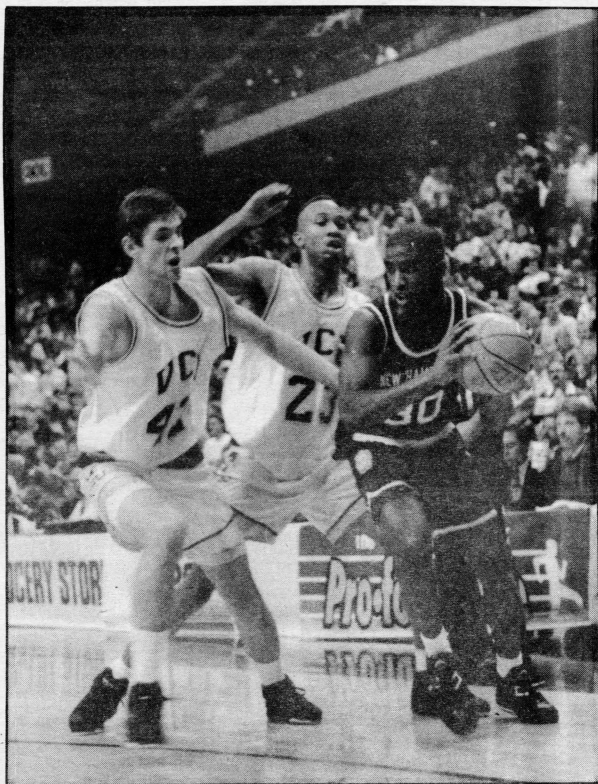
Conference team.

Nicknamed "40" by his teammates because of his jersey number, Mills believes the 1992-93 version of the Rams will win with team chemistry.

"We're real close on and off the court and that really helps a lot as far as playing well," he said. "We know each other real well ... we know what each of us can do on the court and we help each other off the court as well."

VCU head coach Sonny Smith would like to see his center be more aggressive in the paint to spur the Rams' most recognized weakness: rebounding.

"If we can get our big men to be a force inside, this team can be very successful," Smith said.



staff photo by Derrick Washington

Kendrick Warren (center) applies defensive pressure with teammate Eugene Kissourine against the University of New Hampshire in the Rams' season opener.

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Chris Brower

by Drew Geary
associate editor

He still pulls his socks all the way up. He still drains 3-pointers with amazing regularity. He's Chris Brower and, when he's hot, he's an opponent's nightmare.

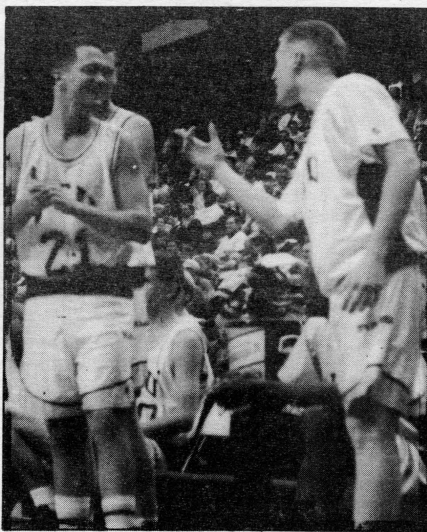
This is Brower's fourth season as a Ram, a season that will see one of VCU's best shooters ever end his collegiate career. The 6-3 sophomore guard from Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., entered the 1992-93 season as the university's all-time leader in 3-pointers made with 121. In three seasons he has hit 40 percent of his shots from behind the arc, good for third place in the 24-year history of VCU basketball. He also broke the school record for treys made in a game when he made seven last year against Western Kentucky.

And to think he once wanted to be a professional surfer. Instead of hitting threes he could be hanging ten.

"We're a lot better than last year," Brower said. "I think the biggest change is the amount of pressure we put on the ball for 40 minutes. We have a lot of guys who can score and our depth is the key."

This year Brower will team with newcomer Kenny Harris as the team's starting backcourt duo while Mike Hargett and Terrence Gibson will be the formidable tandem that relieves them.

Recruited out of Ft. Walton Beach High School, where he hit over 50 percent of his 3-point attempts, Brower played in 26 games as a VCU freshman. It was then that head coach Sonny Smith realized Brower's poten-



tial.

"He could be one of the best outside shooters I have ever seen," Smith said.

Brower averaged 5.3 points per game coming off the bench his first year. His 3-point percentage was .357, a percentage that has increased each year — .408 in 1990-91 and .413 last season.

So what does a player who can shoot with uncanny ability do during the off-season?

Pump iron.

"I lifted a lot of weights and did a lot of running because I knew we'd be pressing all over the place," Brower said. "Coach Smith told us last year before we went home to get stronger and faster and that's what I did."

Eugene Kissourine

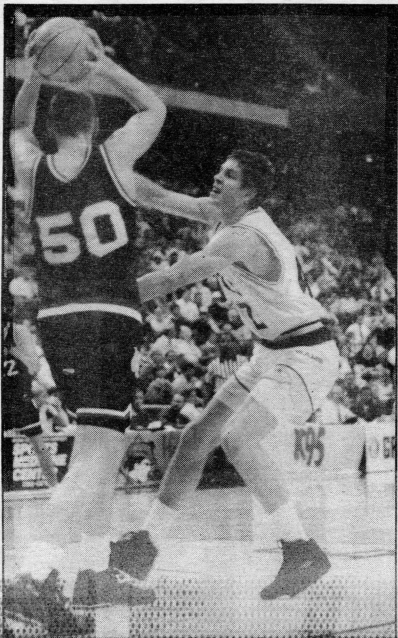
by Brian French
staff writer

Eugene Kissourine was born October 28, 1969, in Russia. He attended Lesgraf Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia, along with fellow VCU basketball player Konstantin Pepeliaev. Along with his wife, Kissourine left St. Petersburg for Virginia Commonwealth University this August. He also has a child, one of only two team members that are parents (along with Mike Hargett).

His playing experience prior to VCU was during his days at Lesgraf, when he played within Russia, as well as the national team that toured the United States during the college exhibition.

Early into the season, Kissourine has found a niche on the Rams, backing up Kendrick Warren and Tyron McCoy. He has proved to be an instrumental part of the Rams bench, making some key plays on both ends of the floor while in play.

For his part, Kissourine has been very content here. He is also very confident about the future. "We have an excellent team. We work together, we play together," said Kissourine. "I think I can do a lot more for the team, but I need the time for other things."



Kenny Harris

by Leanne Anama
associate editor

Junior Kenny Harris, a transfer from the University of North Carolina, has given the Rams a new look in the point guard position.

"He's been a really good addition to the ball club," Coach Sonny Smith said. "He's a true point guard. He's very talented and has leadership qualities."

The 21-year-old criminal justice major transferred to VCU after spending two seasons with the Tar Heels.

"It (UNC) was okay but basketball-wise, it wasn't for me," Harris said. "I chose VCU because it was close to home and I was familiar with it since I live in Petersburg."

While at UNC, Harris played in 32 out of 34 games his freshman year, averaging 1.8 points a game.

In his sophomore season, he played in 27 games averaging 1.5 points per game and shot 33.3 percent from the field and 72.7 percent from the charity stripe.

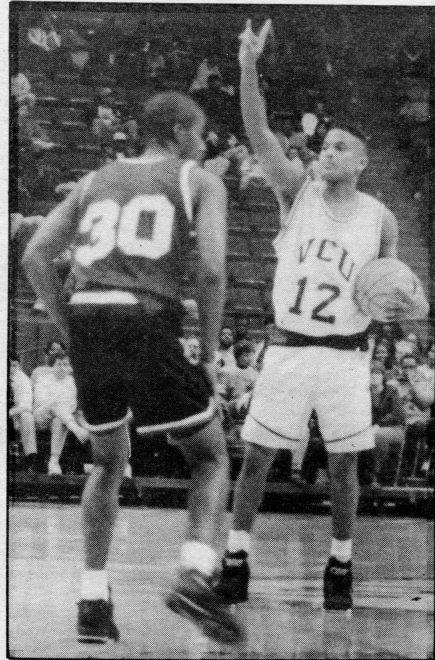
Sitting out last season as a red shirt, Harris worked on his familiarity with the program as well as on his own skills.

This helped with his transition to the program.

While in the off-season, Harris worked harder on his game because he knew he had a good chance to start the next season.

Harris starts this year and fills in the hole former point guard Rod Ladd left when he transferred after the 1991-92 season. Although there should be pressure on Harris to make up for Ladd's departure, he said, "I don't feel any pressure at all. I do what I have to do for the team."

According to Smith, Harris appears to have adjusted well to the role of offensive



leader.

"Kenny's doing a good job," Smith said. "He puts good pressure on the basketball and because of that our defense is a lot better."

As for team expectations, Harris doesn't hesitate to make predictions.

"Hopefully, we'll make it to the NCAA (tournament) and on the way, the Metro Championship," Harris said. "Hopefully, we'll have a 20-plus season. It will be a team effort. We have a lot of talented players. And with our talent, defense and depth, we can do a lot this season."

Terrence Gibson

by Brian French
staff writer

A transfer from Imperial Valley Junior College, Terrence Gibson came to VCU in the hopes of getting playing time at a Division I school.

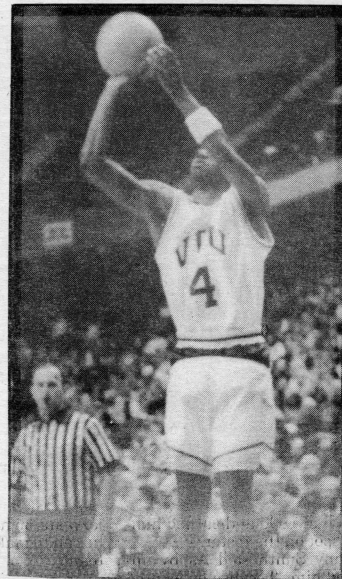
He's getting that, and much more.

In the first four games this year, he's averaging 15 points per game, and, along with Mike Hargett, a backup guard team has formed to relieve Kenny Harris and Chris Brower. They are more than holding their own in this position.

Gibson was a little surprised that he got so much playing time early in the season. Asked if he expected the time on the court that he has had, Gibson replied "Yes and no. I expected to play (some this season), but only enough to help the team. 30 minutes, 10 minutes, whatever is needed to help the team win."

Terrence Dante Gibson was born July 16, 1972, in Columbia, S. C. His major at VCU is accounting.

As a starter at Imperial Valley, Gibson averaged 20 points, 7.6 rebounds and 6.6 assists per game. He also led the team in points, rebounds, assists and steals during the 1991-92 season, leading them to the Pacific Coast Conference title.



Rich Mount

by Brian French
staff writer

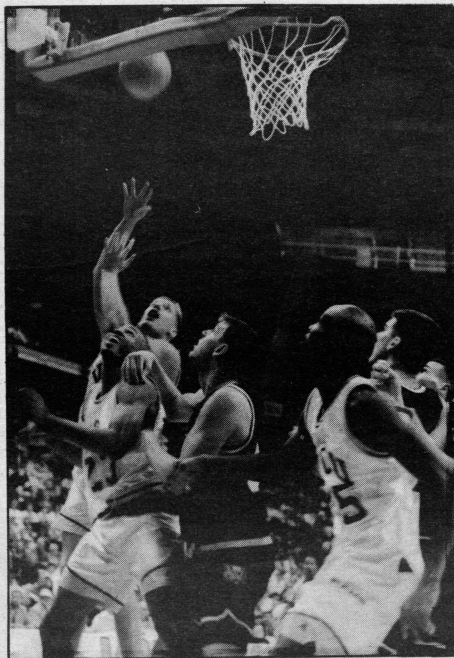
Rich Mount was born January 25, 1970, in Lebanon, Indiana, and was raised in that town. He graduated from Lebanon High School, where he became the 13th all-time leading scorer in Indiana high school history. After that, he went on to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where his father, Rick Mount, had played.

During his freshman season at Purdue, Mount scored 12 points a game in the 17 games he played in. However, Mount transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall of 1991. After sitting out a season, he returned to varsity play.

"I feel that I can contribute hard play overall," Mount continued. When asked about his biggest weakness in his game, Mount replied "Mostly ball-handling."

Mount also admitted the difficulties of playing in the shadow of his father, who was the fourth highest scorer in Indiana high school history, and the two-time runner-up to Lew Alcindor for college Player of the Year. Asked if pressure to be like his father had anything to do with his transfer, Mount replied "It is in a way. I needed to get away from playing (in that atmosphere)."

"It was mixed emotions," said Mount concerning his transfer to VCU. "I had buddies on that team, and I still keep in touch with them. But I had to be happy with myself."



staff photo by Derrick Washington

A transfer from Purdue, Rich Mount rises up for two points against UNH in the season opener as Kendrick Warren and Alvin Mobley look on.

Tyron McCoy

by Jim Johns
staff writer

Soft-spoken and confident, Tyron McCoy has a unique role on the basketball team.

Even though this is McCoy's second year, seven of the team's eight new players are older than he is.

As a sophomore, McCoy has more experience playing at Virginia Commonwealth University than many of his teammates, like junior transfer guard Kenny Harris and senior transfer guard Mike Hargett.

"Both Kenny and Mike have great leadership ability," McCoy said, noting their experience at other schools. "I listen to them and get pointers from them."

He is focused on helping the Rams win the Metro Conference and on securing a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Extraneous circumstances aren't a distraction for his basketball or his studies.

For instance, head coach Sonny Smith announced if he doesn't have a winning season he will leave VCU. The potentially distracting situation doesn't faze the 210-pound forward.

"I haven't really thought about it," McCoy said. "Some players may think about it, but I think we're going to have a pretty good season. That (situation) is not really on my mind."

McCoy, a business administration student, said balancing his athletic career and his academics is no easy task. Practice time, which cannot exceed 20 hours a week according to NCAA rules, and classes occupy most of his time.

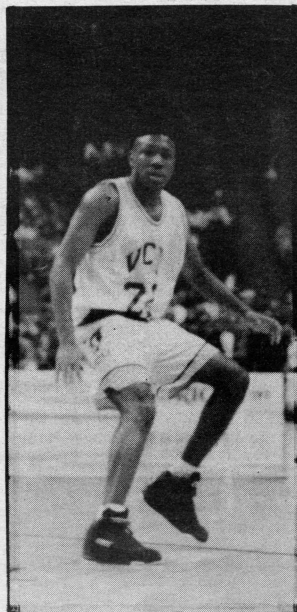
"That's the hardest job there is," McCoy said with a sigh. "There's a lot of long nights of studying. I can't do things I want to do."

Parties and other extracurricular activities take a raincheck in favor of studying.

After his college basketball career, McCoy plans to enter the business world.

"I don't really plan to play basketball after college," McCoy said. "It's not my first priority."

In addition to learning business, he and the rest of the team are learning this year's plays. He said everyone is picking up the plays, but perfecting them is the hard part.



"Most of us know the plays," McCoy said, adding that executing the timing and cutting correctly will make plays flow. That is what the team is working on now.

As both McCoy's and VCU's sophomore season in the Metro Conference begins, he sees several old rivalries continuing and others developing.

"I think there will always be rivalries with the old Sunbelt schools," he said, for example Old Dominion.

"For me a developing rivalry is Tulane because they're really good. That was a tough game, (Tulane at VCU: 87-85). They won in overtime."

McCoy said Tulane had lost that week and really wanted to win.

"But we also wanted to beat them," he said.

McCoy said the fans down in New Orleans are tough.

"They can get to you down there."

Rodney Ashby

by Leanne Anama
associate editor

Looking past the Rams' big men on the court might uncover junior Rodney Ashby on the floor ready to contribute.

The 6-7 forward saw limited action last season, appearing in only 15 games. But coach Sonny Smith suggested that Ashby will get more court time this year.

"His role is the same as last year but with added playing time," Smith said.

"He's a great hustler and he has learned a lot. He lost a lot of weight so that he can get up the court quicker. He's the guy coming off the bench to get some time in."

Ashby has a selfless attitude when it comes to his role for the Rams. "My expected role is to go in and play defense, don't work for a shot but create shots for other people," Ashby said. "I'll come in and play where they (the coaches) ask me to play. It's better for the team."

Ashby, a native of Petersburg, Va., transferred from Richard Bland Community College after playing his freshman year there. He came to the VCU program as a walk-on in 1990 and earned himself a spot on the roster.

Sonny Smith said Ashby impressed him, "because he wanted

it bad, he hustled and he liked VCU a lot and those things make a lot of difference."

He red-shirted the 1990-91 season so he could improve his basketball skills, which paid off in the end because he earned a scholarship for the 1991-92 season.

Highlights of Ashby's contributions to the team last season spotlight VCU's victory over Old Dominion, in which Ashby had four points and a pair of rebounds for the night and the Memphis State game, in which he had two points and four rebounds.

"I don't have enough athletic ability and I try to make up for it in hustle and things like that," Ashby said.

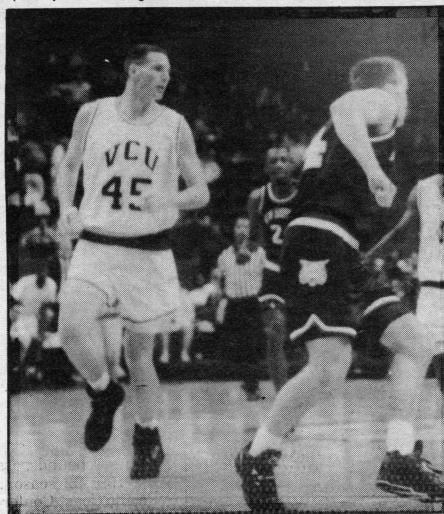
Over the off-season, Ashby worked hard to improve his overall game. At the suggestion of the coaches, he lost weight so that he could be quicker on the court. Now he sports a new, leaner look.

"I lost a lot of weight, which helped me be quicker," Ashby said. "And with the new defense where we play a more up-tempo game, we use more players. I lost the weight so that other players and coach would have more confidence in me."

The administrative justice major plans on helping out anywhere he can to make the Rams a better team.

Hustle is the name of junior Rodney Ashby's game, here seen in the season opener against UNH.

staff photo by Derrick Washington



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Mike Hargett

by Arthur Mills
managing editor

After helping his team win the Colonial Athletic Association championship as a freshman, former Highland Spring basketball stand out Mike Hargett had little reason to regret leaving the Richmond area for the bustling suburbia of Fairfax County and George Mason University.

Receiving the personal accolades that come along with averaging more than 17 points a game during his junior year, Hargett found himself a respected player for a solid program.

But something was missing.

Hargett charished his time at George Mason, saying that it allowed him to grow, but he found that the satisfaction of a good college experience wasn't enough to overcome the desire to be close to his wife and first child back in Richmond.

A father of two, Hargett married his high school girlfriend and saw the birth of his first child, Samantha, during his junior year at Mason, prompting his transfer to VCU.

Happy to be back, Hargett has at least one fan in Coach Sonny Smith.

"(He will bring) experience, aggressiveness, more effort and leadership to the team," Smith said, adding that his teammates already have a great deal of respect for him. "He is already one of the most popular players on the team.

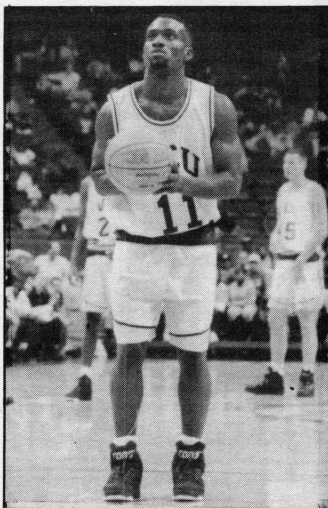
"He finished with the fourth-most votes for captain, which shows how popular he is with the other players."

Believing that the popularity he has with his teammates comes from the respect they have for him as a father to Samantha, 18 months, and Micah-Joelle, who is just two weeks old, Hargett said his family has changed him.

"My family has helped me as far as growing — making me more assertive on the court and in the classroom," he said. "(My family) has made me a more driven person."

After sitting out the Rams disappointing season a year ago, Hargett hopes that drive will help translate into victories for his talented new team.

"This team seems to be much more mature than my last one at Mason," Hargett said. "The attitude has been great."



If the team succeeds, Hargett said, the credit would have to go to the often-criticized Smith.

Standing a generous press guide measurement at 5'10", Hargett adds depth to VCU's guard position bring his scoring ability to both the point and shooting guard slots, though his defensive skills will be more helpful.

"He is very well built, powerfully built," Smith said. "(His build) makes him an excellent defender. He takes defense as a personal challenge."

Hargett agreed that his defense is a strength that could help him attain his goal of playing professional basketball when his college career comes to an end.

"I want to go on after this and play somewhere," he said. "I want the NBA and with my size defense is important. A lot of guys can shoot, but not a lot of guys can shoot and play defense."

Article reprinted from the *Henrico Gazette*.

Konstantin Papeliaev

by Drew Geary
associate editor

Konstantin Papeliaev is tall. *Really* tall. He's also the first Russian to ever play collegiate basketball in the United States.

A native of Perm, Russia, Papeliaev is listed at 7-2 and is one of four seniors on the VCU squad. Though his frame only carries 220 pounds, the lanky Papeliaev has an armspan that makes him quite an imposing player under the basket.

Papeliaev appeared in 21 games last season, but the one against South Florida on Jan. 18 was perhaps the most memorable. During a stretch of six minutes he scored a season-high six points and grabbed three rebounds against a more talented and muscular Gary Alexander to help lead the Rams to a 71-63 triumph over the Bulls.

"When I came here (The United States) I went through all three steps of culture shock," said Papeliaev, the tallest player in VCU history. "First you're surprised, then you hate everything and then you start liking everything. I feel like I adjusted really well."

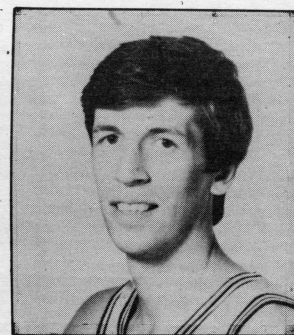


photo courtesy of Sports Information

Although not expected to rack up a plethora of playing time this year, Papeliaev, who wants to coach basketball after college, is an able veteran who Coach Smith can turn to when a spark is needed to lift the Rams.

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3. Red Hot Chili Peppers - Under the Bridge
4. Pearl Jam - Even Flow
5. B-52's - Good Stuff
6. Matthew Sweet - Girlfriend
7. Live - Operation Spirit
8. Toad the Wet Sprocket - All I Want
9. Material Issue - What Girls Want
10. Cracker - Teen Angst

Look out for these #1's in 1993's year-end list:
Peter Gabriel and R.E.M.

Women's Metro Team Previews

by Jason T. Bonardi
editor

•Louisville Cardinals 1991-92 Record: 20-9 1991-92 Metro: 11-1, First Head Coach: Bud Childers

Preview•

Last year's Lady Cardinal team was something of a monster, hurting teams with their powerful inside play and deft shooting. Not worried about making friends along the way, the Cards continually beat up on opponents en route to a 11-1 conference mark.

This year's team promises to be much like the last three Cardinal teams, who have had just as many consecutive winning seasons for head coach Bud Childers.

Returning three starters and 10 letterwinners, the two players who should lead the way this season are inside bangers Nell Knox (14.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg) and Kelly Rose (9.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg).

Knox, a senior, has been an big part of the Cardinal offense in her three years on the squad. She has already scored 1,269 points and should break all of U of L's records this year.

Rose, a 6-1 center, a threat both offensively and defensively, should take some of the scoring pressure off Knox and lead the team in rebounding.

At guard, senior Carol Edwards (5.7 ppg, 3.4 apg) will start at the point position after sitting out last season due to medical redshirt.

The two-guard will be Jody Martin (9.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 2.5 apg) who should bring the defense out to the perimeter, allowing the inside players more room.

Depth is the Cards big strength this year, as Childers has depth at virtually every position.

Senior Jenny Pearson (7.1 ppg, 4.6 rpg) will spell the inside players with sophomore center Jennifer Bursley (2.1 ppg, 1.3 rpg).

Renee Huntsinger (3.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg), who hit .787 from the free throw line last season, will give a lift to Martin and Edwards in the back court.

With just four freshmen, the Cardinals are overflying with the experience it takes to win the Metro.

•UNC Charlotte 1991-92 Record: 20-8 1991-92 Metro: 8-4, Third Head Coach: Ed Baldwin

Team Preview•

Senior forward Charlita Davis (15.6 ppg, 7.0 rpg) was an All-Metro selection a year ago is now set to give the 49ers the boost they need to compete in the Metro this year.

Head Coach Ed Baldwin, who came to UNCC four years ago, can now look at his roster and see that everyone on the sheet is someone who he recruited.

The energetic coach has 10 letterwinners on the squad for the 1992-93 campaign. The team has produced at least 20 wins the past three seasons.

The downfall of the 49ers this season will be the absence of last year's Metro Freshman of the Year Markita Aldridge, who will sit out this season due to a knee injury. Oct. 26 Aldridge underwent reconstructive surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee.

The other two forwards, Angela Barden (11.0 ppg, 6.4 rpg) and Julia Burton (10.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg), are ready to give UNCC a balanced attack in the frontcourt.

Barden, a sophomore, was named to the All-Rookie team last year.

At the guard spot, Tammy Gilliam (3.0 apg, 7.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.3 spg) returns as the only player to start every game last season.

Sophomore guard Angie Woods will give the team strength around the perimeter. Last year she hit a school-record .456 from the three-point range.

The center position will be filled by 6-3 junior Heather Hart, who averaged 5.7 points, 6.0 rebounds and 1.2 blocks per game last season.

With only two newcomers and the absence of Aldridge, the 49ers are going to have to rely on their experience if they plan to win 20 games this season.

•South Florida 1991-92 Record: 13-15 1991-92 Metro: 3-9, Sixth (tie) Head Coach: Trudi Lacey

Team Preview•

The loss of Angie Snyder, who left S. Florida last year after becoming the all-time 3-point shooter, No. 2 all-time scorer and No. 2 all-time assist leader, will hurt the Bulls. But it won't kill them.

Head coach Trudi Lacey looking forward to a team with a lot of depth and the most players Lacey has ever had (12).

Four of the six new players are from the junior college ranks, which should help the Bulls compete in the ever improving Metro Conference.

Sophomore Tamara Johnson (1.3 ppg, 1.2 rpg) will return to the guard position. She provided a spark off the bench last year and see even more playing time this season.

At the shooting guard position, who has the monumental task of filling Snyder's shoes, will be Tammy Van Oppen. She is an all-around player who should provide a bulk of the scoring, as well as rebounding and blocking.

At 6-1, Van Oppen creates a match-up problem for the teams in the Metro.

Van Oppen was named Illinois State's Miss Basketball last year after averaging 20.1 points, 9.8 rebounds and 3.0 blocks for Limestone Community High School in Bartonville, Ill.

Senior Kristi Poore (7.0 ppg, 7.8 rpg) and junior Renee Bellamy (12.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg) are the returnees at the forward spot.

Poore led the team in rebounding and steals (1.9 spg), while Bellamy led the team in scoring and assists (4.7 apg) last season.

Bellamy set a USF single-season record with 131 assists, and is expected to return to the small forward position after playing the two-guard last year.

The center position belongs to Keira Rozier (9.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg), who will return for her sophomore year after being named to the Metro All-Freshman team.

Rozier will be spelled by Kristi Cheatham (2.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg), who will provide depth at the center spot. She played in every game last year and is the Bulls most expensive player.

•Southern Mississippi 1991-92 Record: 21-10 1991-92 Metro: 9-3, Second Head Coach: Kay James

Team Preview•

If I may use the opening statement about S. Miss used in the Metro's Media guide, I'll tell you that last season, Southern Missis-

sippi head coach Kay James guided her Lady Eagles to a 21-10 record, a Metro Conference tournament championship and their fifth appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

One of the team's biggest highs last year came at the conference tournament when USM beat Louisville for the title. It was an admirable feat considering the Cards had beaten USM twice during the regular season.

With eight returning letterwinners and four newcomers to the squad, James expects a quicker and more experienced team. A team that not only will compete for the Metro, but also for a trip to the NCAA's.

All-America Janice Felder (20.5 ppg, 10.4 rpg) returns for her junior campaign. Felder is considered one of the best to ever play women's basketball. She was named Metro Player of the Year last year.

The center position will be shared by Angela Sanders (3.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg) and freshman Melissa Collins.

James is counting on both players to provide defense against some of the tough post players in the Metro Conference.

Sophomore Patricia Nash will be looked upon to handle the duties at point guard.

The pistol on the team is Tanya Bullock (13.4 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 4.6 apg), who will return to the No. 2 guard position. Bullock, a 5-9 junior, was an all-conference performer last year.

USM will also benefit from the talent of Retha Greer, a junior college All-America, who will play at the small forward spot.

James expects Greer to rank among team leaders in both scoring and rebounding.

•Tulane 1991-92 Record: 9-19 1991-92 Metro: 4-8, Fourth (tie) Head Coach: Candi Harvey

Team Preview•

The forwards will be the mainstay of the Green Wave this season.

Junior Keisha Johnson and freshman Mary Ann Marino to create a winning combination.

Johnson (14.3 ppg, 9.2 rpg) is one of the most gifted athletes on the team and was among the leaders in the conference in rebounding last year.

Marino, who is considered by nearly every expert to be the best player to emerge from the Louisiana High School ranks in 1992, is one of the most heralded recruits in the history of Lady Wave basketball.

Together, the two hope to dominate the inside game along with senior Cassandra Howell (3.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg) and sophomore Kathey Young (4.3 ppg, 2.5 rpg).

At the center position will be Sarah Captain (5.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg), a 6-2 senior, who has the track inside the paint this season with experienced reserves ready to step in.

Guard Kristi Pertuit (8.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.7 apg) is coming off possibly one of the best freshman seasons a Tulane player has ever had. The 5-6 sophomore played in every game, starting the final 17.

Pertuit will lead a quartet of dead-eye shooters at the shooting guard position, including Deborah Rusch (10.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.8 spg) a 5-7 junior, who is the team's leading three-point shooter (37 of 121).

The point guard position will be filled by Roma Coleman (7.7 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 4.5 apg, 2.2 spg). The 5-8 sophomore was named to the Metro Conference All-Rookie team last year.

She was the only player to start every game last year and has demonstrated that

she can get the ball into the scorer's hands. An interesting note about the Green Wave is that coach Candi Harvey has a 100 percent graduation rate for all four-year players.

•Virginia Tech 1991-92 Record: 10-18 1991-92 Metro: 3-9, Sixth (tie)

Team Preview•

The Hokies are young; 11 of the team's 13 players are freshmen or sophomores.

Head coach Carol Alfano doesn't seem to mind though. She believes her team has more quality depth than at any time in the program's history.

The Hokies will be two and three players deep at every position so there will be competition for the starting roles.

The lone senior on Tech's 1992-93 team is Lisa Griffith (12.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg).

The 6-3 center was named to the All-Metro Conference second team last year.

What's more, she can also hit the 3-pointer. Last year she shot 50 percent from the field and 48 percent from bonus land. She was the Metro's third most accurate three-point shooter and will be the team leader again this year from behind the arc.

Shooting guard Sue Logsdon, who's back after knee surgery, will be looked upon to provide leadership this year.

Logsdon, who is a senior, was a Metro All-Rookie selection in 1990-91 and finished fourth in the nation in free throw shooting that year with a .889 percentage.

Alfano will also look to Christi Osborne (10.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg) to score, rebound and play solid defense. She became Tech's second Metro All-Rookie selection in two years when she earned the honor last year.

Power forward Angela Donnell (6.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg) will be asked to repeat her board crashing performance last year as she led the team in rebounding.

With the young talent and the experience of the leaders, the Virginia Tech Hokies are looking for a rebuilding year.

All-American candidate Anna Pavlikhina

All-Metro performer Anna Pavlikhina will be shooting for an All-America season this year. Last year she ranked 25th in the nation in scoring (20.5).



VCU Women



by Jason T. Bonardi
editor

One of the many strengths of the VCU women's basketball team this year is experience.

With all the players from last year's team returning, head coach Susan Walvius didn't need to waste time with introductions.

Sure there are some new players, but all of them have played in junior college or on a national team.

So the idea was to once again improve on a team that has steadily improved since Walvius took over.

In fact, Walvius has improved her win total by five more games than the previous season both years.

She inherited a team that had won seven games the year before. Since then, she has won 12 and 17 respectively.

This year the Rams seem to have started where they left off last year.

The first game they defeated Delaware State 81-59 and then lost a heartbreaker to No. 23 Auburn 54-53.

Tuesday night they rebounded to post a 72-67 win over Old Dominion. It was the first time VCU defeated the Lady Monarchs since 1974-75.

Nobody wants to hear it, but don't look for

Walvius to be around much longer. She's young and good, and some big name schools are starting to get the word.

Getting back to the Rams; They won four of their last five games before being knocked out of the semi-finals of the Metro Tournament at the hands of Louisville 88-80.

"I felt at that point that we were playing like a top 20 team," Walvius said. "The Louisville game will be hard to forget."

Walvius said that if the team picks up where they left off last year, they should be in contention for the conference championship.

Here are the players to watch.

STACY AGEE #12

5-5 Guard, Scottsville, VA

Don't let the cute smile fool you. Stacy Agee is tough.

Hailing from Buckingham County High School, Agee has been the backcourt leader for the Rams for the past two years.

Due to an administrative error in her counseling office, Agee won't be able to compete until January, but that's just a test as far as she's concerned.

"My teammates are giving me a lot of support," she said before the start of the season. "I just hope this mistake doesn't



Beth Mollerup.

happen again to someone else."

During the first half of the season, Agee is taking stats and providing a boost of support from the bench.

"Stacy is learning so much just watching from the bench," Walvius said. "She's still practicing and is looking forward to her first game next semester."

During her junior season she finished seventh in the nation in steals per game, snaring 4.12 a contest. Her total of 114 was good enough for best in the conference.

She also ranked among the leaders in the conference in assists per game.

To give you an idea of her quickness, consider this. She moved into second on the single season steals list and third on the all-time career list in steals with the Rams last year.

She also set a Metro Conference and school record with 11 steals versus Virginia Tech (1/4/92).

And get this, Agee has at least one steal in 54 consecutive games.

Agee also can score, reaching double figures in 14 games last season.

Against top-ranked Virginia, she recorded 14 points, nine rebounds, five steals and three assists.

Majoring in Physical Education, Agee was the Seminole District Player of the Year while in high school.

As a senior she averaged 27 points, 3 assists and seven steals.

HEATHER HARLOW

#13

5-8 Guard, Spotswood, VA

Harlow has had a change of duty this year, but has performed well in her surroundings position.

Taking over for Stacey Agee, Harlow, who is normally the Rams off-guard, has taken over the point duties and proceeded to average just under seven points per game and six rebounds a contest.

With the transition of Russian Natalia Nikulina taking longer than expected, Harlow is getting a lot of time.

Last year Harlow, who's nickname is "H-squared," ranked 10th in the Metro in steals per game (1.70).

A member of the AIA Europe Competing That went to Czechoslovakia and Hungary in 1991, Harlow has consistently improved her first three years.

In high school Harlow averaged 14.5 points, five steals and five assists per contest. She was selected to the first team All-State, Region and District while at Riverheads High School.

Harlow is a physical therapy major.

JENNIFER MELTON

#44

5-10 Guard, Troy, VA

If the Rams gave the "Most Improved Player" award, last year's plaque would most certainly go to Melton.

The senior guard scored in double figures 14 times last year, averaging 9.4 a game. An improvement from 6.3 in her sophomore campaign.

Melton was the fifth-best free throw shooter in the Metro with a 77.5 percentage clip.

She also had 13 games with four or more rebounds and 15 games with three or more assists.

And her scoring in the Metro was at 10.4 points a game.

Melton works hard both on and off the court. The senior was class valedictorian in high school and was selected to the Sun Belt Conference honor roll as a freshman.

Melton is majoring in economics.

BETH MOLLERUP #23

5-11 Forward, Waynesboro, VA

Many would argue, including this writer, that senior forward Beth Mollerup was the team's most valuable player last year. And not Anna Pavlikhina.

Mollerup does two things Pavlikhina doesn't. Rebound and rebound some more.

Molly, as she is called by her teammates, although I've never heard it, led the Metro Conference in rebounding last year.

She can score too. Against Hampton, Mollerup recorded 23 points and 24 rebounds (a VCU record).

She was ranked 19th in the country in rebounding with a season total of 309.

If you're tired of hearing about the rebounding, listen to this.

Mollerup ranked third in the Metro in free throw percentage and eighth in scoring. She had a streak of 16 games with 10 or more points.

She lettered four sports in three years in high school; basketball, volleyball and track.

Mollerup is majoring in marketing.

ANNA PAVLIKHINA

#42

6-2 Guard/Forward, St. Petersburg, Russia

Last year was the year of the three-pointer for Anna Pavlikhina, who by the



Heather Harlow

time she was through, ranked 27th in the nation in scoring and first in the Metro at 20.6 a game.

This prolific scorer, who led VCU in scoring 21 times, scored 598 points last year. That's 437 more than in her sophomore year.

She should be closing in on the 1,000 point mark in the later part of the season.

The only part of Pavlikhina's game that is suspect is her defense.

"She's not always the most productive player out on the court," Walvius said. "She may score 20 points, but then give up 20 on the other end."

Walvius says that Pavlikhina is definitely an All-American candidate, she just needs to work on her defense and become more aggressive on the boards.

On a more personal note, Pavlikhina says her biggest sports thrill was winning the World Championships in 1989 as a member of the Russian 2- and-under team.

Pavlikhina, who was the first Russian player to compete at the Division I level, is majoring in physical education.

TAMMY CARTER #21

5-7 Guard, Sterling, VA

Having to sit out last season after transferring from Old Dominion, Tammy Carter missed an entire year of game situations.

The time off hasn't helped, but Carter is ready this year.

With such a deep bench at the guard position, she may not see much time, but like many talented scholarship athletes, Carter is a leader and a role player.

She attended King William High School, where she was named Female Athlete of the Year in 1987-88 and 1988-89. She was also a four-year letterman in basketball and volleyball.

Carter also scored over 1,000 points in her high school career, and lettered three years in softball and track.

Majoring in physical education, Carter was class president her sophomore through senior years.

KAROL KING #11

5-11 Forward, Scarborough, Ontario

A transfer from Mt. Aloysius Junior College, Karol King is probably the Rams most athletic athlete.

Averaging 12 points a game last year, her team went 28-6 and ranked eighth nationally.

At the beginning of this season Walvius said she expected a lot from King, who incidentally can grab the rim.

"She hasn't caught onto the system yet," Walvius said after one of the Rams' exhibition games. "She one of our most athletic players and we need her out there, but she needs to run the offenses."

King is majoring in Mass Communication.

KAREN PARKER #31

6-0 Forward, Severna Park, MD

With the addition of Svetlana Pankratova, Karen Parker has seen little action through the Rams first few games.

"Karen is a good offensive player," Walvius said. "But right now we are looking at productivity and Svetlana is one of our most productive."

A junior, Parker averaged 11.4 minutes last year, scoring double figures in four games.

Her season highs last year were, 13 points versus Siena and eight rebounds against South Florida.

Parker is majoring in Biology and is interested in Veterinary Medicine.

DAWNITA PRICE #50

6-3 Center, Blacksburg, VA

As a sophomore, Dawnita Price saw her minutes increase last year to 18.2 a contest. Look for more of the same this year.

Although VCU has added more height to the team, Walvius seems to like a big team in the game.

Price, who started 17 games last year, finished among the top five in the Metro in blocked shots with a 0.8 contest.

This year Price has continued the shot blocking, stuffing ODU's Pam Huntley in her attempt to tie the game in the waning minutes of the Rams 72-67 win.

Scored a career high 14 points in the season finale against Louisville.

Price is majoring in psychology.

TASHA COURTNEY #30

5-10 Forward, Springfield, VA

Saw action in twenty games last season before being sidelined with a broken nose against Southern Miss.

Scored 27 points and grabbed 17 rebounds on the season. Now back for her sophomore season, Courtney has already seen an increase in minutes this season.

Her biggest output last season was against James Madison, when she had four points and grabbed three rebounds.

Courtney is majoring in business.

NIAMH DARCY #54

6-4 Center, Dublin, Ireland

Niamh started the final six Rams games last season. In games that she started, Darcy averaged 7.0 a game.

Probably happy that she no longer has the distinction of being the team's tallest player. But I can't say for sure.

Last year she was the fifth leading scorer on the team at 5.9., while shooting a team-best 49 percent from the field.

Was second on the team in rebounds and blocked shots.

Majoring in physiotherapy.

KIM LAUDERDALE #32

5-9 Guard, Chantilly, VA

One of many sophomores on the team, Kim Lauderdale is going to have to make the best of her time out on the court.

Lauderdale, who selected VCU over rival Richmond, can hit the outside shot and should get a chance to take it.

But if she's to get some decent minutes, she needs to make the most of all her time in the game.

She scored a season-high five points on 17 separate occasions, while playing in 13 games.

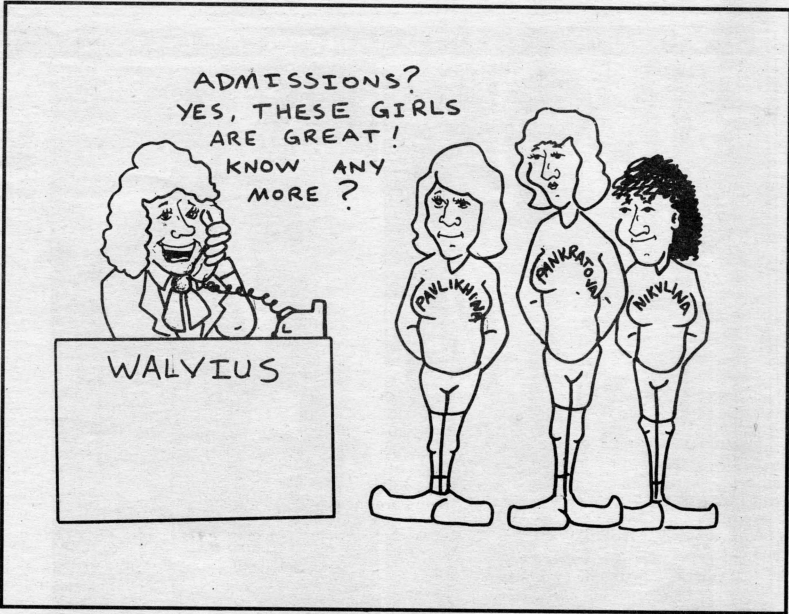
Kim is majoring in physical education.

NATALIA NIKULINA #14

5-11 Guard, St. Petersburg, Russia

Before the start of the season, Natalia Nikulina knew something was missing: her two-year-old son Boris.

Now that Boris is here and her husband



is on the way, Natalia can concentrate on what she does best.

Captain of the Soviet National Team that won the European Championships, Nikulina is an excellent ballhandler and has great court vision.

"She's getting better and better each game," Walvius said.

Nikulina is one of three Rams who attended the Lesgaft Institute in Russia.

SVETLANA PANKRATOVA #35

6-7 Center, St. Petersburg, Russia

The tallest female basketball player in VCU history just walked in the room.

You try not to stare, but her height is pretty amazing. She's 6-7, which means she looks right into the eyes of most of the men's

team.

Consider this: she's nine inches taller than Mike Hargett.

Has already vied for a starting spot and with only sophomore status, has the potential to have a great career with VCU.

She was a member of the Soviet Junior National Team.

ROBERTA ROBINSON #24

6-1 Forward, Wheeling, WV

Sat out last year as a redshirt and appears to be out again this year.

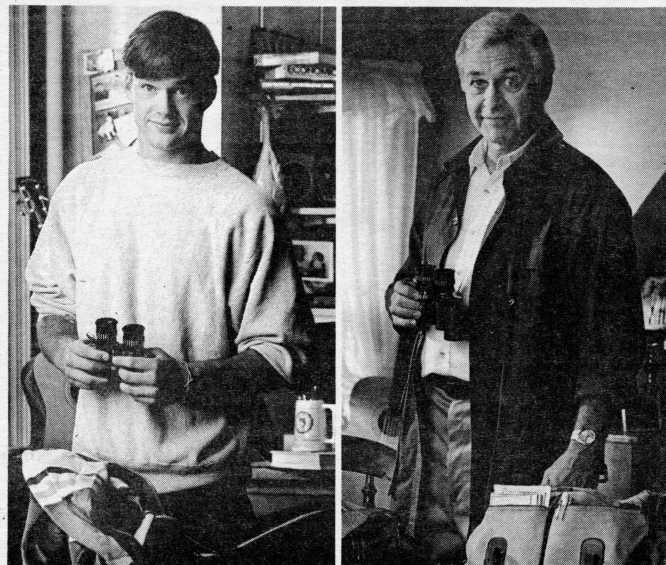
She played the first ten games of the 1990-91 season, but has not played since then because of shoulder and arm problems.

Robinson's major is business management.



Jennifer Melton in a game against Old Dominion.

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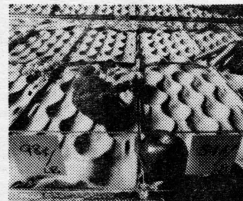
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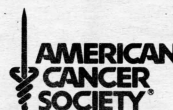
Consumers are reacting to studies which show that foods high in vitamins A and C, high in fiber and low in fat, may help reduce cancer risk.

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The American Cancer Society, sponsor of the Food Fight, has more information. Call 1-800-ACS-2345.

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Top 20

by Arthur Mills
managing editor

After nearly concluding a historic run at an unprecedented third straight NFL Picks title, one could hardly blame Commonwealth Times staff members for asking the Swami to compile the annual Top 20 list for college basketball.

Knowing that I have written the Top 20 for the previous two basketball supplements, Jason Bonardi, sports editor and participant in the Picks, decided to keep with the policy of "to the victor go the spoils."

In fact, he was overheard telling a couple of "dope honeys" that he "just loved last year's janhke" adding that "he can write but does he look this good in a beard, I don't think so."

With that, on with the most comprehensive look at the best 20 basketball teams seen since last year. Oh, and by the way, be sure to watch for the CT Top 25 poll next semester.

1. **Duke** — An Indian friend of mine who keeps stats for the VCU men's basketball games would be pleased with the choice of Duke at No. 1 and despite my personal dislike for the Blue Devils it's hard to argue with the ranking. After beating Michigan last week, Grant Hill, Bobby Hurley, Cherokee Parks, Thomas Hill, Mike Krzyewski and company showed that there is life without Christian Laettner. Duke continues to play the smartest basketball in the country on offense, while daring opposing teams to beat them with a stifling man-to-man defense. Still, I don't think Duke is capable of winning a third straight championship, but until someone beats them in a tough game that has meaning, it's hard to say the Devils can't.
2. **Kansas** — Rex Walters and Adonis Jordan give Kansas one of the best backcourts in the country, but, as has been

- the case in recent years, any talent the Jayhawks have simply serves as a bonus to a system that creates winning programs. Coach Roy Williams, who coached under Dean Smith at North Carolina, has perfected Smith's motion offense at Kansas. Of course, it doesn't hurt a team to add Darrin Hancock, the juco Player of the Year at Garden City, to the mix, while sporting a solid bench led by Steve Woodberry.
3. **Michigan** — Despite having more raw talent than anyone in the country, the Duke game showed the Wolverines' one major flaw. It is a team comprised of some of the dumbest players in the country. They talk, they dance, they scowl, while falling behind in games, forcing them to make remarkable comebacks that they should never have had to make in the first place. Michigan coach, Steve Fisher, is more of a caretaker at a zoo than a coach, but this team is still capable of big things. Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Jimmy King and Juwan Howard will give Michigan a chance in every game, but it might take a major attitude adjustment before these Super Sophs live up to expectations.
4. **North Carolina** — The Tarheels are still a step behind Duke for supremacy

- in the ACC but the gap may be tightening, though not necessarily because of advancement the Tarheels part. When Duke lost Laettner, the gap closed automatically, the only question is if North Carolina can overcome the loss of Hubert Davis. Eric Montross has improved and George Lynch remains college basketball's version of A.C. Green. Also, the year before Michigan landed the Fab Five, North Carolina had the greatest recruiting class of all time. If Carolina beats Duke for ACC supremacy, look for this team to go a long way.
5. **Indiana** — Once again, the Hoosiers find their way into the Top 5. Under the management of Bobby Knight, Indiana will find its way into a dogfight with Michigan for the top spot in the Big 10. If Damon Bailey can mature and play with more consistency, and if Calbert Cheaney can re-establish himself as the premier player in the league, then the Hoosiers may be in line for a shot at the NCAA title. If these things fail to materialize, however, then heads will roll (and chairs will toss).
6. **Kentucky** — Last year Rick Pitino put together a Wildcat team that went 29-7,

continued to page 14



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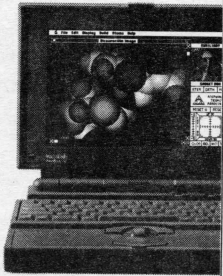
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INTRAMURAL SPORTS



Cary Street Gym

Sport	Entry Period	Meeting	Play Begins
Basketball (M/W/C)	12/14-1/27	1/28	2/1
3 on 3 Basketball	12/14-1/27	1/28	1/30
Table Tennis	1/25-2/8		2/13
Racquetball (M/W)	2/1-2/15		2/20
Squash (M/W)	2/1-2/15		2/20
Volleyball (M/W/C)	2/8-2/22	2/24 at 4pm	3/1
Softball	2/15-3/8	3/10 at 4pm	3/22
3-Point Shootout/Slam Dunk	2/22-3/22		3/27
Mini Flag Football	3/22-4/12	4/9 at 4pm	4/12
8-Ball Tourney	3/29-4/12		4/17
Tennis Tourney	3/29-4/19	4/21 at 5:30	4/24-4/25

MCV Gym

Sport	Entry Period	Meeting	Play Begins
Basketball (M/W)	12/7-1/19	1/21	1/25
Women's Basketball	12/7-1/13		1/19
Table Tennis	1/25-2/9		Sat., 2/13
Coed Volleyball (Sundays)	1/19-1/29	2/2 at 5:15 pm	2/7-3/7
Racquetball (M/W)	2/1-2/16		Sat., 2/20
Squash (M/W)	2/1-2/16		Sat., 2/20
Volleyball (M/W)	2/8-2/19	2/23 at 5:15pm	3/1
1 on 1 Basketball (M/W) & Free Throw	2/15-2/26		3/2
Coed Softball (Sundays)	3/1-3/22	3/25 at 5:15pm	3/28-5/6
Softball (M/W)	3/1-3/23	3/23 at 5:15	3/29-5/6
8-Ball Pool Tourney (M/W/C)	3/29-4/13		Sat., 4/17

Top 20

continued from page 13

making its mark as a 3-point bomb squad and national leader of white guys with mustaches. This year, Kentucky has some talent to complement Jamal Mashburn. The biggest addition for Pitino is New York product Rodrick Rhodes, who so far this season has shown more promise than any freshman except Othella Harrington of Georgetown and Jason Kidd of California. Pitino will again put team that could come close to beating Duke, though a lack of size could prevent the team from equalling last year's accomplishments.

7. Seton Hall — P.J. Carlesimo has the Big East's best player in Terry Dehere, the biggest player in 7-2, 270-pound, Luther Wright and best all-around defensive team, but it still wasn't enough to lead the Pirates past the second-best team in the Big 10, Indiana. Why? As usual Carlesimo takes a while to teach his team how to play together and if these Pirates do so soon, it is probably the only team in the Big East that has a legitimate shot at a national championship.

8. Iowa — Last year I predicted the Hawkeyes could finish in the top 10 if helped by a couple of upsets. I was wrong, but I probably won't be this year. Acie Earl continues to improve from year to year and Chris Street give Tom Davis' club good size along the frontline. Last year, Iowa was the team being beaten in close games losing three overtime games en route to an 19-11 record. If Iowa can turn fortunes around this season a top 10 finish is guaranteed.

9. Georgetown — Shut up. It doesn't matter that the Hoyas are my favorite team and they are probably being rated higher than they should be, the fact remains that I am writing the article and you're not. Besides, with Othella Harrington and Duane Spencer as 6-10 freshman with lots of promise, joining a club with no seniors, the future looks bright and the present could be better than expected if the freshmen mature. Remember last season, Michigan wasn't ranked in the beginning of the season and almost won the national championship. You never know.

10. Florida State — Two early season losses to UCLA and Indiana in the Preseason NIT hasn't quieted Seminole faithful who claim their team is the only one that has a chance to knock off Duke in the ACC. State fans have to hope that Bob Sura and Sam Cassell can keep the team from losing any more games until Charlie Ward is available after his starting quarterback duties for the 'Nols football team are completed. Florida State is athletic and exciting, but so too have been teams Duke has dismissed.

11. Arizona — An early season loss to an unranked Arkansas team in Tucson has brought into question an old problem for the Wildcats. Chris Mills and Ed Stokes give experience to a team with five freshmen but the problem is that Arizona, regardless of talent, has not been able to win a big game for several years. This season will be no different.

12. Syracuse — Generally considered a down year for the Orange in what well could be the norm in the near future, Syracuse continues to win despite recent NCAA sanctions. Shoot, any team that can beat VCU in the finals of the Carrier Classic must be good, especially with Lawrence

Moten and Adrian Autry. Still, whether this team is good enough to win it all is irrelevant because it can't participate in the tournament.

13. Oklahoma — Billy Tubbs doesn't have his Sooners back to where he had them five years ago, but this team is still athletic and cocky enough to beat a lot of team's. A No. 13 ranking may be a little high for a team with Bryan Sallier, a power forward in size at 6-8, playing center, but expect this team to surprise some people before the year is over.

14. Louisville — Despite a two-point loss to Vanderbilt this week, Denny Crum is slowly rebuilding his Cardinals back into a national power. Always playing a tough schedule, Louisville has added Clifford Rozier from North Carolina as an inside force to cope with the competition. Expect, as always, a late flurry of great play, but don't expect much else. Who knows, VCU may even take a bite out of them again this year.

15. Arkansas — Nolan Richardson shouldn't have enough talent to scare anyone this season with the loss of Todd Day, Lee Mayberry and Oliver Miller, but so far the Razorbacks have surprised everyone. After beating Memphis State, an early season Top 10 pick, and Arizona in Tucson, Richardson has his hogs playing the tough defense that made it a Top 5 team last year. Without a name player to turn to, defense will be important for the overachieving Hogs.

16. UCLA — The Bruins lost a chance at the national title last year, when it was a good team. Now, UCLA can only hope Ed O'Bannon fully regains his high school dominance so he can lead his team to the NCAA finals. Unfortunately for Bruins fans, it is more realistic to hope that Kareem gets an extra year of eligibility and can still play.

17. Nebraska — The Big Red machine has an outside shot of duplicating the football team's Big Eight Championship if some players take a step up. The Cornhuskers need big seasons from guard Jamar Johnson and center Derrick Chandler if it hopes to go to the Orange Bowl.

18. Purdue — Rich Mount may begin to wish he didn't leave Purdue and Gene Keady for VCU and Sonny Smith if the Boilermakers continue to make waves. After beating Connecticut, Glenn Robinson and his team have shown that for the first time in years, maybe since Rick Mount, they could be a major factor in the Big 10.

19. Tulane — Losing Kim Lewis for the season will certainly hurt the Green Wave, though Perry Clark may have enough talent to overcome the loss. Anthony Reed and Pointer Williams could help improve on last season's 22-9 record.

20. Connecticut — Love them Huskies, even though they have played badly in losing to Purdue and nearly losing to St. Johns without Louie Carnesecca. Scott Burrell and Donyell Marshall will help lead the Huskies, who were ranked as high as No. 5 last season. Still, Georgetown may be too talented and Seton Hall may be too tough for UConn to take the Big East crown, though it is possible.

Solid basketball being played in Va. colleges

by Brian French
staff writer

All over the state of Virginia, from the Tidewater to the Shenadoah, from northern suburbs to southern college towns, from downtown coliseums seating 10,000 or more to little gyms that could only seat 500 if they broke the fire code, the sport of college basketball is played.

Some states are well known for their devotion to a sport. Indiana is known for its rock-steady reverence of high school and college hoops. Texas is best recognized for its love of football. Kentucky is split between basketball and horse racing. Pennsylvania and Iowa hold wrestling (college, not pro) dear to their hearts.

In Virginia, the unofficial state sport is college basketball. While not as competitive as North Carolina's "Tobacco Road," or the "Big 5" of Philadelphia, college basketball is still a hotly contested sport of kings in the Old Dominion.

This is how the teams that take up the sport of college basketball will perform during the 1992-93 campaign, along with postseason, if any.

• **George Mason: 1991-92 record: 7-21**

Times have been tough up at the Fairfax university. The George Mason Patriots, once a consistently successful program, have fallen hard over the last few years. With their best player transferring to VCU last year (Mike Hargett), the Patriots struggled. The rebuilding process figures to continue into this season, but Ernie Nestor's Patriots

figure to improve over the next few years.

Predicted record: 10-18

• **James Madison: 1991-92 record: 21-11**

Patience on the part of Lefty Drisell and his Dukes will go a long way. For the past few years, the Dukes have rolled in CAA regular season play, then, for one reason or another, would falter come tournament time. What this would mean is that the Dukes, despite having a 20-win season, would go to the NIT, instead of the NCAA. Bryan Edwards and Kent Cuiluko, JMU's powerful guard duo, will lead them into the CAA tourney as the top seed. This time, they'll win the whole thing. **Predicted record: 22-7 (NCAA)**

• **Liberty: 1991-92 record: 22-7**

The Flames made the biggest improvement in college basketball history when they improved from a 5-23 record in 1990-91 to last year's 22-win season. The good days should continue in Lynchburg. In fact, their biggest weapon may not be their coach or anyone in their starting rotation; but rather their home-court advantage, generally regarded as the best in both the Big South Conference and the state of Virginia. When the Vines Center fills to its capacity of 9,000, the edge that Liberty has is awesome. Combine this with the 11 lettermen that the Flames are returning, and the potential for success is there, although a letdown is equally possible. **Predicted record: 19-10**

• **Old Dominion: 1991-92 record: 15-15**

The Monarchs suffered through an up-and-down season and ended the regular season on a high note, but still under .500. Then

the miracle occurred. Back-to-back upsets of James Madison and Richmond brought Old Dominion to the big dance. A first-round loss to Kentucky ended the Cinderella season, but the memories were good enough for Oliver Purnell and company. Until now. Although yeoman player Ricardo Leonard has left, the Monarchs still boast a talented rotation, with super sophomore Petey Sessoms and senior swingman Keith Jackson leading the Monarchs to another good season. **Predicted record: 17-12 (NIT)**

• **Radford: 1991-92 record: 20-9**

Despite a 20-win season, the Highlanders did not make it to either the NCAA or the NIT tourneys. Ron Bradley will reload his troops for the new year. Radford's fortunes will be dictated by Doug Day, the most underrated player in the state. As he goes, so goes the Highlanders. If the inside game is beefed up, another 20-win season is possible. Otherwise, expect a letdown from 1991. **Predicted record: 16-14**

• **Richmond: 1991-92 record: 22-8**

Year in and year out, the Richmond Spiders seem to find their way to the upper division of the CAA. NBA draftee Curtis Blair has departed, but the Spiders still have enough talent, especially with forward Kenny Wood, with whom the fortunes of the team rests. If Wood plays up to his potential, then the Spiders may win the CAA. If not, then Richmond might be in for a long season. However, with enough talent in the wings, such as Tim Weathers and Jim Springer, the Spiders should stay in the hunt, although it will be tough to extend their string of 5 20-win seasons. **Predicted record: 19-9 (NIT)**

• **Virginia: 1991-92 record: 20-13**

Cavilier coach Jeff Jones became the first ACC coach to lead his team to two consecu-

tive 20-win seasons in his first two years as a head coach. Expect these happy days to come to a screeching halt this season, though. The loss of Bryant Smith will hurt Virginia profoundly, especially since they recruited no one to take his place. If any success is to emanate from the Cavalier program, it will come from sophomores in point guard Cory Alexander and power forward Junior Burroughs. The development of these two players, as well as that of senior center Ted Jefferies, will be a determinant in the future of the Cavalier program. Look for the string of 20-win seasons to end this season. **Predicted record: 17-12 (NIT)**

• **Virginia Military: 1991-92 record: 10-18**

Don't expect much from the Keydets this year. Unless field goal percentage goes up from an atrocious .430 from last year, then the winter will be long and hard for VMI followers. **Predicted record: 8-19**

• **Virginia Union: 1991-92 record: 30-3**

Awesome. It fit last year; it fits this year. How else can one describe the defending Division II national champions? The scary thing is, all the guys that were sophomores last year are juniors this year. The entire starting lineup will have matured a year, from Derrick Johnson to Walter Hurd, and it should show in their play. This may be the best college basketball team in Virginia. **Predicted record: 26-2 (NCAA Division 2 champions)**

• **William & Mary: 1991-92 record: 10-19**

It's not getting any better in Williamsburg these days. Low crowds, lousy games, a team with either little talent or little motivation. Chuck Swenson somehow kept his job despite a year of total disappointment, but expect things to still be slow going for the Tribe. **Predicted record: 6-21**



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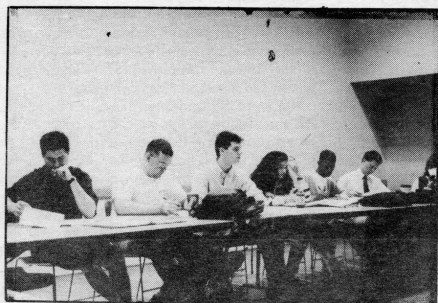
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