

Friday: It's raining, it's pouring, the old man is snoring. High 60, low 43.

Saturday: More freakin' rain. High 57, low 43.

Commonwealth Times

Thursday, February 26, 1998

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 30, No. 50

Daughter vows to carry King's dream

Jennie W. Blizzard
CT NEWS EDITOR

Just as Martin Luther King Jr. made the choice to head the Montgomery bus boycotts at the youthful age of 26 and Rosa Parks the choice not to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus one winter morning, Yolanda King chose to continue "The Dream" her father embraced during the civil rights movement.

"I am a 100 percent believer wool-dyed, card-carrier of the dream," said King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s eldest daughter, "capital T, capital D."

As part of "Freedom's Long Quest," VCU's Black History Month celebration on Tuesday, King stressed the importance of individual choices that can impact society.

King classified individuals into three groups: "The Woulda Coulda Shoulda folks," "The Cant's" and those who make things happen.

"You have those who sit on the sideline and watch what is going on, those who get involved in what is going on and then others who wonder what is going on," she said.

King acknowledges that civil rights for minorities are better than they were decades ago but she said changes must be made.

"I'm glad to say that in 1998 Jim Crow is dead," she said, "but his son J. Crow Esquire is alive and kicking."

To continue to legacy that her father and many other civil-rights activists began, King said society must address certain issues such as a stronger education curriculum, more political participation by citizens and a willingness to talk about

"I'm glad to say that in 1998 Jim Crow is dead, but his son J. Crow Esquire is alive and kicking."

— Yolanda King

racism.

She compared the educational system in America to a factory assembly line saying that children are continuously promoted to higher grades without the fundamental educational skills they need.

"No wonder kids drop out because no one ever knew they dropped in," King said. "More black males under 25 are in prison than in universities."

Concerning voting, she calls the system "the first step" in evoking change.

"We have to hold political officials accountable even if we voted for them or not," she said. "Voting doesn't work because we don't work it."

Displaying charisma reminiscent of her father's, King used a strong voice and often stepped from behind the podium to illustrate points in her speech.

King also made references to the period of turmoil in Birmingham, known as "Bombingham" during the late '50s, where the homes of many civil rights activists were firebombed.

As her personal choice in implementing the dream, King, an actress, is the founder of the Christian Theater Artists and Higher Ground Productions, the group that promotes positive social change through the arts.



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

THE DREAM — Yolanda King encourages listeners Tuesday to keep the dream alive during VCU's celebration of Black History Month.

Lawmakers consider \$54 million for VCU construction, maintenance

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Former Gov. George Allen recommended more than \$54 million for VCU in his biennial budget that now is being studied by the state's lawmakers and could go to the governor's desk on March 14, the final day of the General Assembly.

"I think the money for VCU is going to go through," Delegate John S. "Jack" Reid, R-Henrico County, said. "Everybody in the delegation realizes the importance of VCU from both an economic and health standpoint. I had an opportunity to tour both

campuses and that brought home pretty vividly VCU's construction needs."

The biggest request, \$25.9 million would go for construction of a Life Sciences Building on the Academic Campus and \$13.9 million would go for renovations of MCV's Sanger Hall.

"The new building and improvements, as a whole, will make VCU more of a modern and state-of-the-art university," VCU President Eugene P. Trani said. "It will be a better learning environment for the students."

LAWMAKERS continued to page 3 >

SGA candidates square off

Ben Wasson
CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Presidential and vice presidential candidates for VCU's Student Government Association spent an hour Tuesday answering questions before a busy lunch crowd in the University Student Commons.

Charnessa Paige, a sophomore political science major vying for student body president, and her running mate, Evonda Newton, a sophomore mass communications major, squared up against presidential candidate Rob Milesnick, a junior English major and his running mate, Justin Gunther, a sophomore biology major.

"Our No. 1 priority," Milesnick said, "is

to energize that campus feeling and to keep parking fees as low as possible and spread out as far as possible (over time)."

His running mate Gunther added that he hopes to keep the proposed technology fee as low as possible and have it cover printing costs.

"Expanding the Fan shuttle service, decreasing the waiting time at shuttle stops" and revising the campus escort service to make it safer, Gunther said, were also important to him.

Newton cited "student parking, transportation, financial aid and higher education" as her main concerns.

SGA continued to page 3 >

World NEWS

News from around the globe



WORLD/NATION



•China comments on 40-year rule over Tibet

China called its 40-year rule over Tibet a victory over feudalism while labelling the exiled Dalai Lama a liar in a document released last Tuesday by China's official news agency, Xinhua.

"The democratic reform carried out in Tibet in 1959 ended the history of a feudal serf system which merged religion and politics, and gave more than one million serf and slaves in Tibet, accounting for more than 95 percent of the population, the right to be their own masters," the document stated.

In 1959, China crushed an anti-Chinese uprising in Tibet and the Dalai Lama, the county's spiritual leader, escaped to northern India.

•Forest fires in Indonesia

Another round of forest fires in Indonesia added more troubles to a country suffering its worst economic crisis in decades.

1,000 fires were reported burning on the Indonesian side of Borneo Island.

Last year, brush fires in Indonesia blan-

keted much of Southeast Asia in smog. Environmentalists say the approaching dry season could further compound the environmental impact.

•Annan gives kudos to Clinton, Blair

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan called President Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair the "perfect peacekeepers" after returning from his diplomatic visit to Iraq.

"We taught our peacekeepers that the best way to use force is to show it in order not to have to use it," Annan said.

In the deal brokered by Annan, Iraq promised to allow unimpeded weapons inspections. Clinton left open the possibility of military action if Iraq failed to honor the agreement.

•Starr responds to attacks

Prosecutor Kenneth Starr subpoenaed Clinton communications adviser Sidney Blumenthal and private investigator Terry Lenzer to question them about criticism of his investigative staff.

Starr is reportedly upset over damaging information spread by the two men about his staff and believes the mud-slinging could constitute obstruction of justice, sources said.

•U.S. skeptical of Iraq deal

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said there were "questions and ambiguities" in the U.N. agreement with Iraq while testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Tuesday.

"We are going to have to work closely with the Security Council to make sure to close any possible loopholes," Albright said.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said, "We're in the disgraceful position of either going along with whatever deal Mr. Annan brought home or being regarded as the bad guys who rejected peace and insisted on war."

•38 killed in Florida twisters

At least 38 people were killed and hundreds were injured as a swarm of tornadoes descended through Central Florida. 11 people are still missing.

6 to 10 twisters swept through the region late Sunday night knocking out power to 135,000 people.

"To have that number of strong and violent tornadoes concentrated in a small geographic area is unprecedented for Florida," meteorologist Dave Sharp said.

VIRGINIA



•Morrissey sentenced to 90 days in jail

Richmond lawyer Joe Morrissey was sentenced last Tuesday to 90 days in jail for two contempt of court charges.

U.S. District Judge Robert E. Payne also sentenced Morrissey to three year's probation and 300 hours of community service. Payne also barred Morrissey from practicing law in U.S. District Court for Eastern Virginia for two years.

With his combative courtroom behavior, Morrissey has received eight contempt convictions in Virginia, a three-day jail sentence, a six-month suspension from the bar and a number of reprimands and fines.

One of Morrissey's career highlights was a fistfight with another lawyer outside a courtroom. Morrissey's lawyers said they will appeal the sentence.

•JMU's speech program cited

The graduate speech pathology program at James Madison University was named 41st out of 50 top programs in the country by U.S. News and World Report. This is the first time a JMU graduate program has been named in the magazine's collegiate rankings.

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LEGISLATORS

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Sanger Hall, built in 1963, lodges the School of Medicine's academic and administrative offices as well as laboratories, lecture halls and classrooms. If approved, the funds will be used to repair and replace electrical systems, elevators, plumbing, water and heating plus ventilation and air conditioning systems. Besides indoor improvements to lecture halls and classrooms, Sanger's doors and windows will be replaced. Work would commence in the summer.

Construction of the Life Sciences Building, scheduled to begin this fall, would be completed in January 2001.

The facility, which replaces the current structure built in 1965, will be constructed on the corner of West Cary and Harrison streets next to Oliver Hall. It will house instructional laboratories and office space as well as the Department of Biology and the Environmental Studies Center.

In addition to the Life Sciences Building and Sanger Hall, the budget calls for VCU to receive \$6.7 million for general use, \$6.6 million for maintaining facilities, \$1.5 million for the Virginia Microelectronics Clean Room, \$350,000 for campus police officers and a 2.25 percent pay raise for classified staff.

Trani said the maintenance funds will be used for a variety of uses, including housekeeping and building repairs.

"The maintenance funds are obviously very important because we have some very old buildings to be worked on have not been determined.

VCU's campus police force will use its appropriation to provide an additional officer on-duty at all times, Trani said, explaining that the plan involves having one more officer on each shift to provide security and other policing of the campus.

Funds requested for VCU do not come entirely from state coffers. As a state university, VCU must ask permission from the legislature to spend its own money. For example, of the \$25.9 million earmarked for Sanger Hall, the state pays approximately \$22 million with VCU picking up the rest.

Reid said the benefits the Richmond-area receives from the university's presence brightens VCU's image in the legislature.

"For years VCU has been great for Richmond," said Reid, who has been a delegate since 1990. "Teachers can attend classes there at night and I believe that Motorola would not be moving to Goochland if VCU (were) not building the Engineering School."

Besides capital funds, Trani said that like other public schools, VCU also receives operating funds, which have been decreasing steadily.

Last year, state schools received \$230 million in operating costs. This year, the

Gehring asks assembly for med student funds

Jennie W. Blizzard
CT NEWS EDITOR

Changes in health care are not only being felt by insurers purses but also by VCU's.

That's why Don Gehring, vice president for external relations at VCU, will advocate that this year's state legislature provide more money for undergraduate medical education.

"UVA and MCVH does 35 percent of the free medical services for the state," he said. "The doctors provide \$13 million a year worth of free services."

These free services, indigent care, are causing the universities to lose signifi-

cant amounts of money for undergraduate medical education, therefore causing the university to request approximately \$5 million of assistance from the state.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia supports VCU's request.

The potential effects of the no car tax pledge by Gov. Jim Gilmore has not only caused fear for the loss of a substantial amount of revenue for localities, but Gehring also believes that this loss will cause a trickle-down effect for universities. "Nothing is without costs and you can't fund projects without money," he said.

amount is \$100 million less. Gov. Jim Gilmore, Trani said, reduced that amount to \$106 million for the first year of the biennium, partially to pay for the elimination of the car tax.

"The car tax is the big issue this time," Trani said of this year's legislature. "Everything else is secondary."

If approved by the legislature's money

committees and the governor, VCU would receive \$13 million for renovations from a \$211-million bond referendum that goes to the voters in the Nov. 3 general election.

In addition to funds Allen designated for VCU, Delegate Frank Hall, D-Richmond, introduced a budget amendment that would provide \$8.2 million for undergraduate medical education at MCV. With his proposal approved, VCU would receive \$2.8 million in the first year of the biennium and \$5.4 million in the second.

"Virginia does not fund undergraduate medical education nearly as much as it should," said Hall, the amendment's sponsor in the House.

Sen. Benjamin J. Lambert III, D-Richmond, sponsors the amendment in the State Senate. Once the assembly approves all budgetary matters Gilmore has until the reconvened session on April 22 to veto the budget, sign the measures or send part or all of those back to the lawmakers.

SGA

continued from page 1

She said her campaign promise would include working to improve parking and escort services.

In addition, Paige told the group that students need more aid and are lacking resources to search for money options to traditional financial aid.

"We need to make resources available to the student body that there are other possibilities out there besides taking out loans," Paige said.

As the crowd outside McDonald's quieted, SGA President Tiana Nelson, who moderated the event, asked the candidates to discuss their plans to increase student involvement.

Paige said making the students "aware that there is a student government here to represent them" is one goal she and Newton intend to pursue.

Dunther agreed saying, "Students need to find out that there is an SGA out there."

To do this, he detailed sources of information such as the SGA WEB page, SIT-TV, comment-card boxes and the proposed student body listserv.

When Nelson asked the candidates to list the top three responsibilities of the SGA president and vice president, Milesnick replied that representing the student body, commitment to duty and the ability to work well with SGA members and those who want to be in the SGA are his priorities.

Newton identified her priorities as communication, organization and ensuring that all ideas and opinions have a chance to be heard.

Nelson also introduced the issue of commuter student parking to the candidates.

Paige said 90 percent of VCU's approximately 22,000 students are commuters and "the price of parking does not fit into the budget of the ordinary student."

Milesnick said he hopes to expand shuttle services to reduce the waiting time for students who park farther from campus.

The candidates also addressed safety concerns on campus.

Both Gunther and Newton agreed that inadequate lighting in areas surrounding campus remains a safety concern and the SGA is currently working on the issue with city officials.

One audience member asked the candidates how they plan to communicate with the student body.

"We need to be able to come to you," Paige said. "We need to find out from the students what is convenient to you to communicate with us."

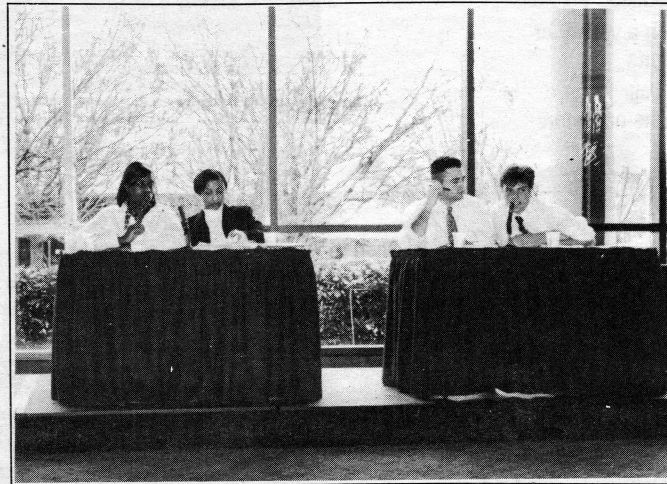
Gunther said the on-line comment card on the SGA's Web page and the comment card boxes on campus are ways the students can communicate with the SGA.

In his closing remarks, Milesnick said, "I want to congratulate them (Paige and Newton) on the campaign they've run and the work they've done. Our main topic is to energize that campus feeling."

Paige reciprocated, congratulating the other candidates and said that her's and Nelson's differences from the other candidates set them apart because VCU thrives on diversity.

"Our sole purpose is to protect the interests of our constituent, the student body," Paige said.

Elections for SGA president and vice president will be Monday through Wednesday.



Peter S. Martin/Commonwealth Times

NEXT? — SGA presidential and vice presidential hopefuls (from left to right) Charnessa Paige, Evonda Newton, Rob Milesnick and Justin Gunther, answer debate questions at the Student Commons Tuesday.

SGA Elections

- Students must bring their VCU identification cards to vote.

March 2 - March 4.

Polls are located in:

- Rhoads Hall Multipurpose Room 9a.m.-7 p.m.
- GRC Computer Lab noon-7 p.m.
- Commons 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Cabell Library 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

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Justin M. Wilson

Generation X just woke up

Maybe we can blame it on El Nino, but I have to say that Generation X just woke up. The generation that's been called the "I-Don't-Care Generation" stormed streets across America to protest our involvement in another Persian Gulf conflict and they did it quite effectively.

The way I feel about the Persian Gulf situation doesn't matter. I was just happy to see my generation get excited about something besides Kurt Cobain. We haven't exactly been the most proactive generation.

Thirty years ago, as our parents made their way through college, civil disobedience was the norm. They marched across campuses and often suffered bodily harm for what they believed in. The closest we have been to a protest is watching PCU.

Our generation votes less, argues less and cares less than any before. We worry about our bank statements more than wars in foreign lands. We worry about whether our parents will pick up the tuition bills more than religious persecution half a world

away. We worry about whether the Hondas our parents bought us will impress our friends more than whether the homeless will find a bed to sleep in.

We live in a coddled generation with no hotbed issues. Instead of worrying about whether Congress would pass the Civil Rights Act, we worry about whether our president made a pass at one too many women.

We talk a good game, but we have never been ones to stand in the street and ask, "What if they held a war and nobody came?" Now it's "What if they held a war and nobody cared?"

It's fitting that this generation finally wakes up during the term of the first "Baby-Boom" president, himself a former antiwar protester.

Yet I wonder whether he should even listen to our concerns. This generation has never showed a willingness to vote, for him or for any other candidate. We sit around and complain, yet do nothing to remedy the situation.

While the protests across the country, including in Richmond, were nice to see, it's still a select sector out there marching. They are of the few who have the global vision to realize that however insignificant we are, we can make a difference.

In fact, in this era, we are in the position to make even more of a difference than many were in the past.

Politicians rely on public opinion quite often to make decisions. They are increasingly hesitant to stray into unpopular areas.

People like Lyndon Johnson would never succeed in today's political world. People who had guts to go against the public will for what they thought was right just wouldn't make it. The bottom line is that we are in an unprecedented position to bring about social and political change. We just have to seize the opportunity.

The marches last week had to be the most excited I've seen this generation get — at least since the heated debates of "less filling" versus "tastes great."

Mason A. Ballard

WVCW Advertising Director

WVCW with the program

There are three things that a student needs in his or her life: a package of Ramen noodles, someone to hold tight when it's cold and some good tunes to get you through the day. The Ramen noodles and the special someone are things you have to find on your own, but leave the tunes to us.

WVCW is your radio station and always has been — we've just been quiet for the last couple of years. Now, it is time for us to speak up! Let me tell you what we are all about.

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Our format is comprised of new music that record companies throw at us and we think is cool. Take the Zambunis, a band made up of all hockey players that sing about the ups and downs of the NHL. You can hear their new single "Away Game" on WVCW. To wake up in style, try listening to Milton the Albino Love God and John from 7 to 9 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. If the music is loud, you can bet on these guys playing it.

How do you get WVCW? Just move into Rhoads Hall or GRC or try cable radio. All you have to do is plug your cable TV line into your stereo receiver by buying an adapter at any electronics store. Tell the sales person that you want WVCW on your radio and they will be more than happy to help.

There is much more, but I will leave you, the reader, in suspense. If you can't take all the suspense and want to know more right now, then give us a call at 828-1061 and ask for anyone. Until next time, keep tuning into the coolest radio station in Richmond: WVCW 640am, 90.1 cable radio.

Lindsay Kastner

Spring-Break Syndrome strikes

America seems to be settling into the end of winter. It looks like we will, for now, avoid any military conflict with Saddam. The Olympics have ended, causing a four-year lapse in our fascination with 70-pound ice princesses, and, I hope, taking our humiliating excuse for a men's hockey team out of the public eye.

Unless you are still recovering from an impromptu Mardi Gras bash, you are probably absorbed in the anticipation of spring break.

This coveted break is a blessing to all. Whether you're going to vacation in some sunny locale, work extra hours for much-needed funds, or head to mom's house to do two zillion loads of laundry for free, spring break is welcome.

Most of you are probably lost in some reverie about palm trees, paychecks, or the simple pleasure of sleeping 'till noon. I'd venture to say that Spring-Break-Longing Syndrome has captured the minds of the majority of the C.T. readers.

Professors are probably noticing eyes glazing over and students may notice a few glassy eyed professors. One of mine has

been missing all week. I think he left early for some tropical paradise (he told us he had a workshop, or presentation, or something).

Though Spring-Break-Longing Syndrome can cause listlessness and increased daydreaming, the real problems don't begin until after the break. How-Am-I-Going-To-Stay-Awake-For-The-Rest-Of-The-Semester Syndrome is a far more serious ailment. As this syndrome sets in, we'll see tardy professors, empty lecture halls and zombie-like students struggling to make it 'till summer. Symptoms include falling grades, falling asleep, and falling over while trying to walk.

For those of you who know that your post-break fate will include this syndrome, I have two items of minor importance you may want to note: 1) If you smoke indoors on campus, you may need to relocate. 2) If you commute to school, your parking possibilities may be altered.

Aside from these changes you should survive until May with relative ease in your semi-awake state. Have a nice break and good luck battling the syndrome.

Editorial Board

Lindsay Kastner — Editorial Editor
Chris Irving — Spectrum Editor
Angela D. Hill — Executive Editor

The editorial section of the Commonwealth Times is a forum open to all members of the Virginia Commonwealth University community. Students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit editorials expressing their opinions and concerns. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth Times or VCU.

We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers. Editorial e-mail: s2adhill@titan. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: 1149 General Purpose Academic Building (outside of the Commonwealth Times office).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VCU for students, not for homeless!

Open the Commons' Ballroom to homeless at nights? Are you out of your mind?

Here's a news flash for you! VCU is a college campus, not a public institution founded to protect the homeless from cold, wind or rain.

Yes, I also feel that VCU should take an active role in finding help for the unfortunate homeless, but the main role of VCU should be to provide better service to its students.

There are many other important issues that concern the students at VCU; such as housing, parking, cafeteria, campus security, etc. — these should be the main issues that VCU needs to work on, not on the homeless!

Being located in a city like Richmond, students here at VCU don't get the opportunity to experience the scenery and atmosphere like those at

W & M or Va. Tech. One of few scenic sites here at VCU, Monroe Park, is already taken over by the homeless.

Do we need to give up our Commons, also?

VCU should help the homeless as a part of the Richmond community, but not by giving up its identity. VCU is for students who came to obtain a higher education for a better future by spending thousands of valuable dollars.

Simply — students are more valuable and important to VCU!

— Sarah Yoon
VCU Freshman

Help those less fortunate

In response to the insightful letter from Mr. Stuart Squier, I would like to say that I totally agree with his ideals on the homeless situation here at VCU.

VCU, as a learning institution, has an automatic responsibility to act as a role model. Do we want to send the message that we don't care? I would hope not.

After all, most of us attend VCU with hopes of one day making the world a better place. Why wait? We should start now by helping those less fortunate than us.

We cannot push aside those who in terms of possessions have less than us. We all have one common possession — a heart — and I am sure if the roles were reversed you would want a show of kindness.

— Virginia Figuly
VCU Freshman

MONDAY ←
 5-7P LOCAL
 7-10P PUNK
 10-12M FUNK
 TUESDAY ←
 5-7P CONCRETE JUNGLE
 7-10P HEAVY METAL
 10-12M SKA
 WEDNESDAY ←
 5-7P BLUES
 7-10P INDUSTRIAL
 THURSDAY ←
 5-7P CLUB & HOUSE
 7-10P R & B JAMS
 FRIDAY ←
 5-7P CLUB
 7-10P SLOW R & B JAMS
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SUNDAY ←
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CAA TOURNAMENT

Seahawks top CAA men's seed

George Templeton
CT STAFF WRITER

With CAA men's basketball, all sorts of unexected things can happen, especially during the conference tournament.

Thanks to a winning coin flip on Monday night, CAA regular season co-champions, North Carolina-Wilmington is the top seed. This could be a good sign since the No. 1 seed has won the last three CAA tournaments.

"My wife makes all the big decisions in my life. She called heads and we won it," UNCW coach Jerry Wainwright said.

"No. 1 seed in this league doesn't mean anything. In fact it's a disadvantage because you don't know who you will play when you practice this week."

The Seahawks, who are 11-1 in their last 12 games, will face either the East Carolina Pirates, the no. 8 seed, or Virginia Commonwealth University, the no. 9 seed, in the quarterfinal round. The Seahawks swept both teams this year.

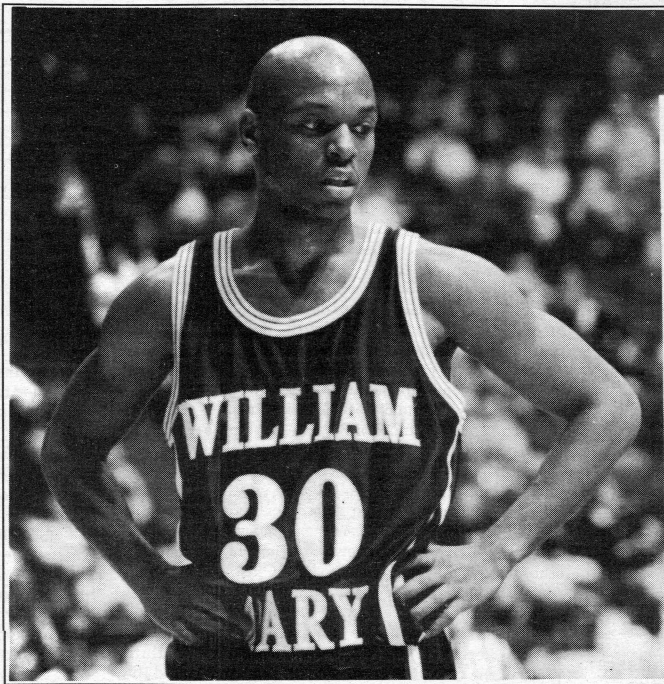
The Seahawks' backcourt trio of Billy Donlon, Stan Simmons and Mark Byington have been a large part of UNCW's success.

"We have very good guards," Wainwright said. "Coaches and players respect Donlon, Simmons is so explosive, and Byington is very experienced."

"Donlon has an absence of speed, but he is quick with the ball, has good anticipation, and he has great vision. He can see the whole floor really well." Donlon is second in assists in the CAA.

The William & Mary Tribe, the second seed in the CAA Tournament, have won six straight heading into the tournament. But possibly blunting their chances, W&M has

MEN'S continued to page 8 >



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

HOT SHOT — William & Mary guard Randy Bracy, a candidate for the CAA's Player of the Year award, will lead the Tribe Thursday against American.

Lady Monarchs set to once again become CAA's queens

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Facing Old Dominion's Lady Monarchs in this year's CAA Tournament, things do not look good for the other eight women's basketball teams if the Colonial Athletic Association.

Old Dominion (24-2, 16-0), the six-time defending CAA champion, has been playing at an entrance level higher than before, says their coach Wendy Larry.

"Over the last two weeks, the team has been as focused as they can be," she said. "They have been playing their best basketball over that period."

Beating the Lady Monarchs has not been something that teams in the CAA have done often. The Monarchs have won their past 63 regular season CAA games, and 110 of their last 111.

ODU's grip on the CAA appeared loosen slightly in January when James Madison (16-10, 10-6) only lost by 11 and, VCU (14-12, 10-6) trailed by six with :55 left before losing by 12.

In February, however, ODU won its

games by an average margin of 35.6 points. Over the past two weeks, their average victory margin has been 44.2 points.

"Ticha (Penicheiro) has just been having a great deal of fun, and that has spread throughout the rest of the roster," Larry said, explaining her team's strong play over the past fortnight. "We used to have five or six players competing in practice. Now we have 12 players competing everyday in practice because of her enthusiasm."

ODU sees its first action Thursday in the quarterfinals against East Carolina, (10-16, 4-12) the winner of the play-in game.

The Lady Monarchs' recent 85-61 loss to No. 1 Tennessee has not discouraged ODU. In fact, Larry said the team improved from the defeat and became more determined.

"The loss brought us greater focus," Larry said. "It reminded us we need to take care of the basketball and aggressively attack the glass. We came out of that game knowing that we have to be strong in both offensive rebounds and defensive rebounds."

The trio of center Nyree Roberts, forward Mery Andrade and Penicheiro at point guard will rank among the CAA's all-time greatest. All three are All-American candidates, and Roberts and Penicheiro are in the running for numerous player-of-the-year honors.

Roberts leads the CAA in scoring this season, averaging 19.9 points and Andrade is fifth, averaging 14.1. Penicheiro ranks as the league's all-time leader in steals and assists.

The No. 2 seed in the tournament, American (21-5, 11-5), will take on UNC Wilmington (11-15, 4-12) noon today. Though the Eagles defeated the Seahawks twice this season, 81-69 and 76-71, AU will not have a problem with over confidence.

WOMEN'S continued to page 8 >

SCHEDULE

Men's Quarterfinals

Friday

#1 UNCW vs. #9 VCU
Noon

#4 ODU vs. #5 JMU
2:30 p.m.

#2 W&M vs. #7 AU
6 p.m.

#3 UR vs. #6 GMU
8:30 p.m.

Men's Semifinals

Saturday

UNCW/VCU vs. ODU/
JMU
6 p.m.

W&M/AU vs. UR/GMU
8:30 p.m.

Men's Final

Sunday

7 p.m. ESPN2

Women's Quarterfinals

Thursday

#2 AU vs. UNCW
Noon

#3 JMU vs. #6 UR
2:30 p.m.

#4 VCU vs. #5 GMU
5 p.m.

#1 ODU vs. #8 ECU
8:00 p.m.

Women's Semifinals

Saturday

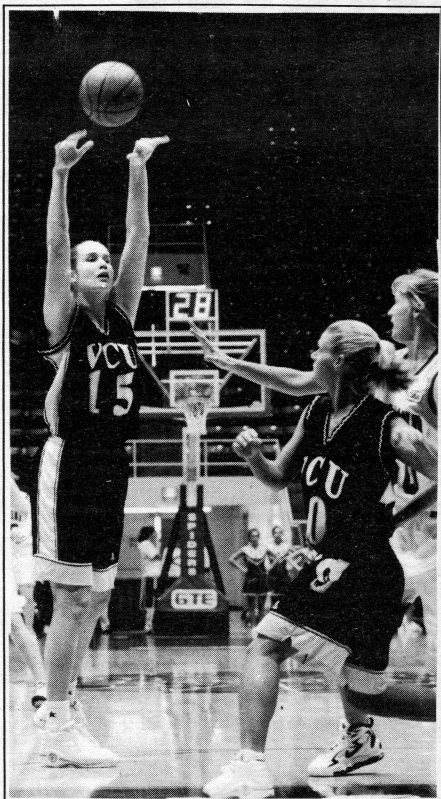
AU/UNCW vs. JMU/UR
Noon

VCU/GMU vs. ODU/ECU
2:30 p.m.

Women's Finals

Sunday

3:30 p.m. HTS



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

LAUNCH PAD — VCU center Mona Karlsson throws up a shot as teammate Meredith Sisson battles for rebounding position against UR.

Lady Rams to face GMU in tournament quarters

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The George Mason team that the VCU women's basketball will face Thursday night in its quarterfinal game will be a different Patriots squad than one that knocked off the Lady Rams 77-71 Feb. 8.

GMU's leading scorer, Krista Jay, will be back in uniform after missing two weeks with an ankle injury. Her return to the lineup will force the VCU coaching staff to adjust its strategy early in the contest, depending on how the Patriots' play differs from the game in February.

"We have to get a feel for how much of an integral part of their offense she (Jay) is going to be," VCU coach David Glass. "In her absence, others have stepped up, and they have really made an effort to get the ball inside to their post players, which has been very effective."

VCU post players should get a workout if the Patriots chose to work the ball inside. The Lady Rams start 6-foot-6 Mona Karlsson and 6-foot-2 Marika Rasmussen in the post. The two combined for 34 points and nine rebounds the last time the two teams played.

The Lady Rams could see GMU continue the style of play it used while Jay was injured, or see them revert to the style-offense they used before her injury, when the native of Artemas, PA, was is the primary focus.

"She is such a good player that when she returns, the other players may defer back to her," Glass said. "But we need to be prepared for either situation and adjust as the game goes on."

The loss the Lady Rams suffered at the hands of the Patriots kept VCU, who finished tied with JMU for third place in the CAA, from finishing alone in third. Had the Lady Rams beaten GMU, VCU would have finished one game ahead of the Dukes.

The Lady Rams could see GMU continue the style of play it used while Jay was injured, or see them revert to the style offense they used before her injury, when the native of Artemas, PA, was is the primary focus.

VCU has one of its own players returning from injury. Guard Meredith Sisson, hospitalized in late January with pneumonia and a kidney infection, looks to be back playing at full capacity. Sisson returned Feb. 6 against East Carolina, but struggled at first.

"She had to go through a difficult period when she came back," Glass said. "It was difficult for me. She was still sick and not at 100 percent."

Sisson, VCU's leading scorer last season, looked like her old self in the Lady Rams' 89-80 win over Richmond Feb. 22.

The native of Myrtle Beach, S.C. scored 13 points and recorded eight rebounds and nine assists.

"Three or four days before the Richmond game, she looked like she was getting back in shape," Glass said. "She needs to step up and play at a higher level. I told her that if she was not ready, I would have to sit her down."

If the Lady Rams defeat GMU, they will face Old Dominion in the semifinals, assuming the Lady Monarchs, third-ranked nationally defeat East Carolina. ODU defeated the Lady Pirates by 39 points in their final regular season game Feb. 22.

WOMEN'S

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"All the games will be very competitive," said AU coach Jeff Thatcher. "We'll have our hands full in the first round and have to take care of business."

Thatcher and company know all too well about losses in the first round. Last year their NCAA Tournament hopes went up in smoke with a loss to VCU in the first round.

AU's star player, forward Mary Klima will be looking for a NCAA Tournament bid to finish her career with the Eagles. Klima's average of 18.5 points per game rates her third among CAA scorers.

"I have never enjoyed coaching a player as much as I've enjoyed coaching Mary," Thatcher said. "She will leave a huge void when she graduates. She's excellent on the court and in the classroom."

The third seed, James Madison, will face Richmond, last year's third seed. The Dukes earned the third spot by winning at AU 71-65 Feb. 20.

"When we played Madison the first time (a 69-66 AU win), we played one of our better halves of the year in the first half, and then held on in the second half," Thatcher said. "(JMU coach) Bud Childers has done a great job there. In the second game, they came into our building and executed us to death."

The fourth and fifth seeds, VCU and George Mason (11-13, 8-8), meet for the right to play ODU in the semifinal, assuming the Lady Monarchs defeat the Lady Pirates.

The two teams last met Feb. 8 at Franklin Street Gym, with the Patriots winning 77-71. Though the Lady Rams are seeded higher than the Patriots, VCU will not be cocky Thursday night.

"Last year we were the seventh seed, and made the semifinals," VCU coach David Glass said. "We have to focus on George Mason, or we'll be watching the Old Dominion game."

Not only the seventh-seeded Lady Rams made the semifinals last season, but so did ECU, the sixth seed.

Schools in the CAA are improving, making each tournament extremely competitive.

"No question that the conference is getting stronger and stronger," Larry said. "People measure the league just by Old Dominion sometimes, but that's not necessarily true. As the conference goes up so does ODU."

Ever Notice?

Lady Rams are 4-0 this month when coach David Glass wears a tie during games and 0-3 when he does not.

NCAA's or Bust



CT File Photo

The winners of both the men's and women's tournament receive automatic bids to the NCAA Tournament, which starts March 14.

Spiders on a Beilein to 'The Big Dance'

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

No, they are not the top seeded team in the tournament.

Yes, last year they were in the play-in game. And yes, the Richmond Spiders are my choice to win the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, which started Wednesday night with the play-in game.

This year's top seed, UNC Wilmington, finds the going tough playing away from their homecourt at Trask Memorial Coliseum. The Seahawks were 6-9 on the road, and all three of their league losses took place on the road.

UNCW, six hours from home, will not have the fan support of UR, whose fans are just a few minutes from the Coliseum. Actually, tournament games are almost home games for the spiders. Players can sleep in their own beds, a tremendous advantage according to most coaches, and will have a larger cheering section than other teams.

The personnel UR puts out on the floor may be the best in the CAA.

Guard Jarod Stevenson (18.7 ppg), has caught the eyes of NBA scouts. During last Saturday's contest with VCU, a Denver Nugget scout was court-side to watch the native of Fayetteville, NC.

Stevenson has also been noticed by the coach of one of the top teams in America. After defeating UR 84-65 Nov. 19, North Carolina coach Bill Guthridge said Stevenson has enough talent to play in the Atlantic Coast Conference, arguably the best basketball league in the NCAA.

Besides Stevenson, the Spiders boast one of the CAA's best big men in 6-foot-8-inch Eric Poole, a candidate for the all-conference squad. Poole gives opposing players and coaches fits with his play in the paint.

Joining Stevenson in the backcourt is Marseille Brown, averaging 9.8 points and

3.85 assists, the 1997 CAA Rookie-of-the-Year.

Patrolling the sidelines for UR, coach John Beilein has turned the Spiders around. After being a play-in participant last season, this year UR challenged for the CAA regular season title.

Beilein has something that most CAA coaches do not — experience in the NCAA Tournament. Besides Beilein, who coached Canisius to 'The Big Dance' in 1996, just two other coaches have experience in the NCAA's. VCU coach Sonny Smith and ODU's Jeff Capel have received invitations to the NCAA's prom.

The Rams finished last in the conference and the Monarchs are still recovering from the graduation of Odell Hodge.

Now that the praises of the Spiders have been sung, as a VCU student writing this column in the VCU student newspaper requires me to note that I back UR, but do so with no joy in my heart.

The Rams and Spiders have been fierce rivals for years, and supporting UR on VCU's campus, at times, was likened to being a Ulysses S. Grant fan in Richmond during the 1860's.

This season was a tough way for Smith to end his coaching career, but let's hope that Mack McCarthy can bring the Rams the level of success he brought Tennessee-Chattanooga during his 12 seasons there.

Though my analysis hopefully sound scientific, the CAA hurls science out the window. In this conference, no game is easy, and teams in the lower half of the standing's often knock off teams above them.

No choice can be made with a high degree of certainty. I choose the Spiders, but don't hold me to it.

better in conference play.

ODU is led by three point marksman Mark Poag. In the CAA Tournament Poag is seventh in scoring, and third in the conference in three point percentage at 47.3 percent.

ODU faces the James Madison Dukes in the quarterfinal. The Dukes have won five of their last six games, jumping from last place to the fifth seed.

The Dukes are led by post players Lamont Boozer, and Rob Strickland, along with leading scorer Eugene Atkinson. JMU and ODU split their matchups with each other, both winning on the other's home floor.

The sixth seeded George Mason Patriots will be Richmond's first opponent. The Patriots are led by transfers Erik Herring and Jason Miskiri. The Patriots also have CAA-Rookie-of-the-Year candidate, George Evans.

Evans, a former military serviceman, has become a force in the middle. He is fourth in blocks, averaging 1.6 per game, third in rebounds, averaging 8.2 per game; and fourth in field goal percentage, shooting 52.5 percent.

Facing the Tribe in their first matchup will be one of the three teams to defeat them in conference play this year, American.

Strong "D" should make UNCW champs

George Templeton
CT STAFF WRITER

Welcome to March Madness. So what if the tournament starts in February, the meaning of March Madness is clear, win or your season is done.

Of course, in the CAA this rule is only mostly true. There have been rumblings about the Richmond Spiders and the William & Mary Tribe possibly heading to the National Invitational Tournament if they were to lose in the CAA tournament.

However, for most teams in the mid-major conferences like this one, one loss means the season is over. Such a situation makes for great basketball, and some high drama.

With the CAA Tournament the normal is abnormal. Logic usually won't help you pick a champion, but there is no reason not to try.

Unlike last year, when the top eight teams were only separated by three games, this year there are two separate groups.

The tournament's top three, Richmond, William & Mary, and the North-Carolina Wilmington, are four games ahead of fourth place Old Dominion. The second group has fifth place separated from ninth place by only two games.

What does that mean? It means there should be a lot of good close matchups, and the potential for some more typically strange happenings at the Richmond Coli-

seum this year.

If you want a darkhorse to win this tournament take a good look at the fifth seeded James Madison Dukes, and sixth seeded George Mason Patriots.

JMU is coming into the tournament probably playing the best basketball of any team in the conference. The Dukes have won five of their past six games.

Their one loss, was a one point defeat at co-champion William & Mary. The Dukes are getting hot at the right time and healthy.

The Patriots, however, aren't as hot coming into the tournament. They have lost four straight, although three of them have been nailbiters.

GMU lost to the Tribe by one point in overtime, by five points to Richmond, and by four points to Old Dominion.

Darkhorses are fine but the winner is going to come from the top three. It won't likely be local teams Richmond or William & Mary.

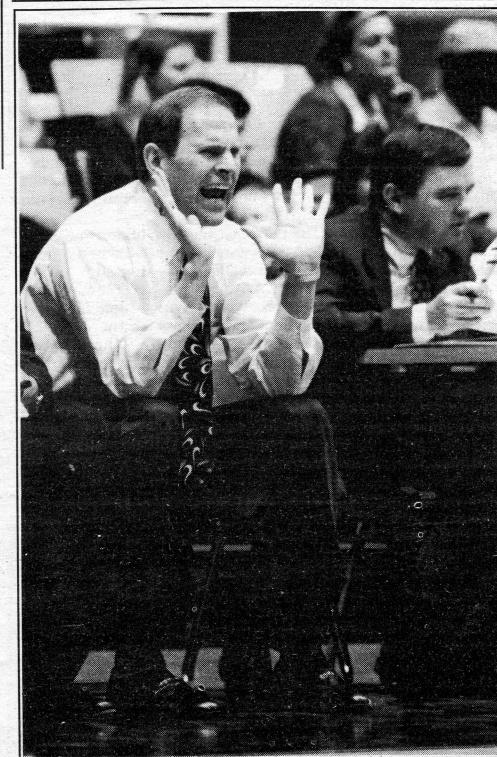
It will be the UNCW Seahawks winning there first CAA tournament title, and getting there first NCAA tournament bid.

The Seahawks will win because defense wins championships and UNCW has the second best defense in the league. The Seahawks only give up 61.3 points per game.

Good guard play is also key to winning and the trio of Mark Byington, Stan Simmons, and Billy Donlon form one of the top backcourts in this league.

These two factors will carry UNCW to victory over George Mason (don't laugh) in the finals. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Charity Stripes



OPENING NIGHT — UR coach John Beilein is one of eight coaches making their CAA Tournament debut this week.

MEN'S

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an injury problem as they head into to the tournament.

Rookie-of-the-Year candidate Jim Moran, who started every game except the last two, has a severely sprained ankle and his participation remains questionable.

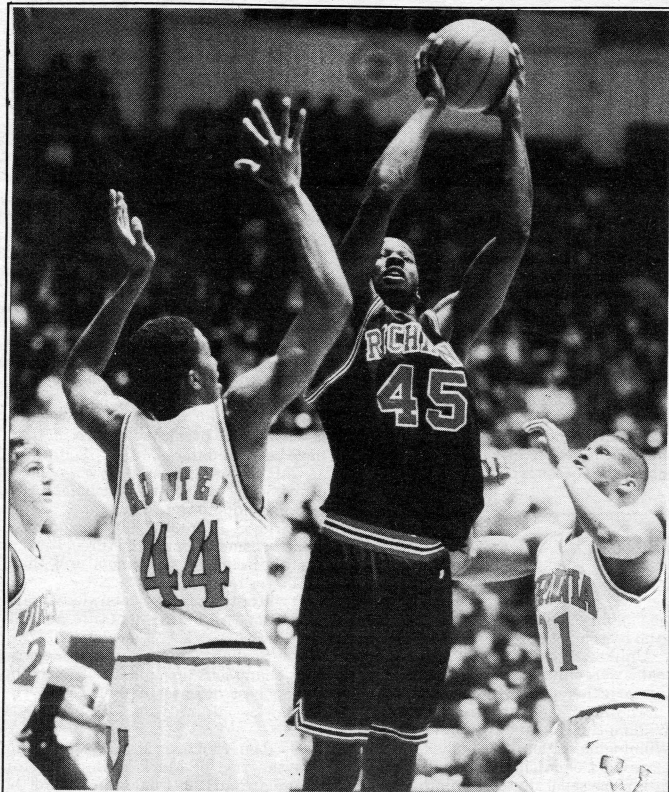
"We would love to have Jimmy," W&M coach Charlie Woollum said, "he really gives our team and a spark and is a good player."

Trying to fill the void left by Moran are senior guard Sam Steen, and freshman guard Mit Winter.

The Tribe will face the seventh-seeded American Eagles in the quarterfinal. The two teams split the season series. The Richmond Spiders, the third seed, have won four straight games leading up to the tournament. They are led by three-time CAA player of the week and conference leading scorer Jarod Stevenson.

The Spiders boast the league's stingiest defense, giving up only 61.0 points per game and has the second-highest-scoring offense in the league, averaging 69.8 points per game. Stevenson averages 19.1 points per game and is first in the league in three-point percentage, shooting 47.9 percent.

Despite Reggie Bassette, and Skipper Youngblood, the Monarchs are the only other team in the CAA to finish at .500 or



Courtesy Richmond Sports Information

BIG MAN — Center Eric Poole's play in the paint has helped spark UR's third-place finish in the conference (after finishing eighth last year).

Eagles clawing for NCAA berth

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

At the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, the goal of the American University Eagles women's basketball team is clearly defined — earning a berth to the NCAA Tournament.

"A successful tournament, for us, is seeing our name show up on the television screen March 8," said AU coach Jeff Thatcher, referring to "Selection Sunday" the day that the NCAA announces bids. The Eagles can be invited to the NCAA's in two ways. The easy way, winning the CAA Tournament, would garner them the conference's automatic bid. If that does not happen, a strong showing (at least reaching the semifinals) would snare the Eagles an at-large selection.

Capturing the CAA Tournament's championship would be a feat for the second-seeded Eagles. Top seed and third-ranked nationally Old Dominion University has a stranglehold on the CAA in both regular season and tournament competition. The Lady Monarchs have won the last six conference tournaments.

"I would be surprised if someone gave them (ODU) a competitive game," Thatcher said. "Earlier in the year, they were hurt and tired, trying to make up for injuries. Now they are healthy and playing great basketball."

The second method of qualification, earning an at-large bid, requires that ODU win

at least one, and probably two games in the CAA Tournament.

"I would hope that if we get to the championship game, we'd be in," Thatcher said. "If we only make the semifinals, I am not sure that we'd get in."

The CAA last had two teams make the NCAA Tournament in 1996 when James Madison and ODU were invited.

"The CAA deserves two teams," said ODU coach Wendy Larry. "Jeff Thatcher has done a tremendous job there (AU). I think they are in, definitely, if they win two games, and probably are in if they only win their first."

The Eagles' campaign for an at-large selection may have been hampered by their loss to JMU Feb. 20.

The NCAA's selection committee looks at, among other things, the team's record in its last 10 games. Should AU lose its game in the first round Thursday to UNC Wilmington, AU would be 1-2 in its last three games and 6-4 in its last 10 contests.

"If they win two games, they are deserving of a bid and I can't imagine they wouldn't get invited," said VCU coach David Glass, whose team split the season series with AU. "Before they lost to Madison, I thought just one win (at the CAA Tournament) and they would be in. But now, a first round loss, or even a second round loss, and they may not be in."

The Eagles, currently 41st in the Ratings Percentage Index, the NCAA's computer ranking of teams, were in a similar

Preseason picks not even close

George Templeton
CT STAFF WRITER

This season in the Colonial Athletic Association proves one thing — that the coaches and media sometimes have no earthly idea what is going to happen over the course of a season.

When the media and coaches gathered together for CAA media day in October, they came up with some predictions that seemed safe. The Old Dominion Monarchs were picked to repeat as CAA champions with the East Carolina Pirates in second place and the James Madison Dukes in third.

They placed the Rams, the North Carolina Wilmington Seahawks and the Richmond Spiders in the middle of the pack to finish fourth, fifth, and sixth, respectively.

The bottom three teams were the William & Mary Tribe, the American Eagles, and the George Mason Patriots, placed seventh, eighth and ninth.

No one at media day could have envisioned the current situation. Not one team finished where predicted.

For starters, the Seahawks ended up sharing the regular season title for the second consecutive year. Even more stunning, UNCW shared the title with the William & Mary.

The Tribe had their first 20-win season since the 1982-83 season when they posted a 20-9 mark and went to the National Invitational Tournament.

"We've had better depth than we did last year, and that's one of the reasons why we've had such a good season," Tribe coach Charlie Woollum said.

The Seahawks were expected to fall to the middle of the pack because of the loss of premier big man and first team all-CAA pick Bill Mayew.

"We were worried about who would fill his shoes at the beginning of the year, but (Oleg) Kojenets, (Marcus) Green, and (Tadearl) Pratt have improved in the middle

as the year has gone on," UNCW coach Jerry Wainright.

The Spiders, who had played in the play-in game the last two years, made a run at the title. Richmond finished third, just one game behind UNCW, and William & Mary.

Led by CAA player of the year candidate Jarod Stevenson, Richmond won 19 games for first-year coach John Beilkin.

That was the highest number of victories for the Spiders since the days when Dick Tarrant lead the program.

Another surprise came when GMU finished a competitive sixth in the conference.

The Patriots had lost their top returning player, Demetrius Somerville, and looked to be a team that would have a difficult year.

Transfer players Jason Miskiri and Erik Herring helped make the team instantly competitive.

The Patriots also were helped by the emergence of freshmen post player George Evans.

Evans, a 25-year-old freshman, is being touted by coach Jim Larranga as a player deserving of the CAA Rookie of the Year award.

Now come the teams that didn't perform up to expectations.

The two teams that played in the play-in game were both expected to finish in the top half of the conference.

ECU looked to be one of the leading contenders in the conference this year. The Pirates, led by preseason All-CAA pick Raphael Edwards, and returning guards Alico Dunk, Tony Parham and Othello Meadows look to have a solid veteran team capable of winning the championship.

The Pirates started out of the gate 1-3 and won two straight conference games just once this year.

ECU's opponent VCU was picked to finish fourth but started 0-3 and lost their last six games on the way to the worst record the Rams have had since Sonny Smith became coach.

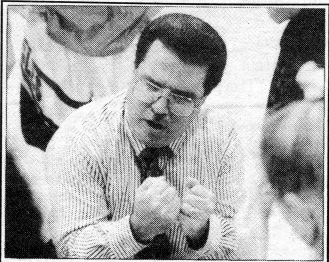
position last season. Instead of winning two games, advancing to the championship game and earning a berth, they were upset 71-65 by seventh-seeded VCU in the first round.

AU already defeated its first round opponent, UNCW, twice this season, but beating the same team three times in a season does not happen easily.

"UNCW presents a lot of problems," Thatcher said. "(Chandra) Watkins and (LaTonia) Beale played really well against us. It will be a tough situation for us."

Should AU beat UNCW, the Eagles would face the winner of the third-seeded James Madison versus sixth-seeded Richmond contest. AU, who swept the Spiders and split with the Dukes, has prepared for both teams.

The Eagles will play their game with UNCW before JMU and UR square off, allowing the AU coaching staff to scout that game, and will have all day on Friday to implement a game plan for the semifinal.



Thatcher

"It's hard to know who is going to win those games," Thatcher said. "Toward the end of the (regular) season we were able to do a little preparing for possible opponents. But we have to be ready for UNCW."

• The Lady Rams eliminated American from the 1997 CAA Tournament in the quarterfinals.

Dylan's performance 'resurgent'

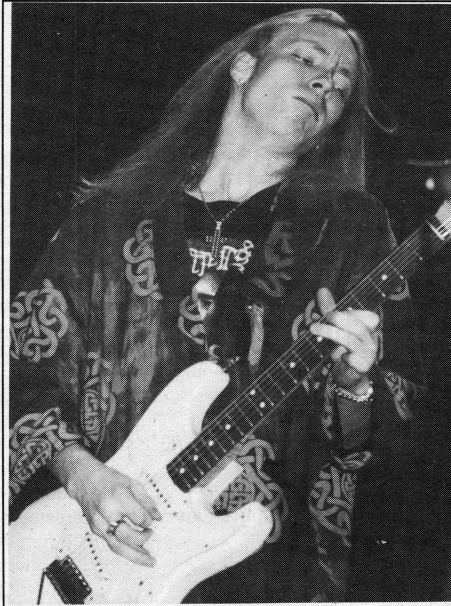
by Tom Netherland
CT STAFF WRITER

Amid a swirling cloud of pungent smoke, Bob Dylan casually strode onstage Sunday night at George Mason University's Patriot Center in Fairfax looking more like a grizzled honky tonk veteran than the man who once sang folk music for tips in New York City's Greenwich Village.

Neatly dressed in a coal black western suit and string tie, his famously tousled mane of hair topped with a white cowboy hat, Dylan, over the span of a somewhat suprisingly jubilant 80-minute set, played mostly high decibel rock that featured his guitar playing nearly as much as his oh-so-familiar voice.

Appearing a tad bit uneasy as he opened with "Silvio," Dylan soon thereafter warmed up to the appreciative diverse crowd of revelers. Even his voice, at times, sounded as strong as it has in years. But then, after his death scare last May, a resurgent, focused Dylan seems to have replaced the oftentimes indifferent legend of recent years.

Several performances of tracks from his latest release, the Grammy nominated "Time Out of Mind," lyrically



Kenny Wayne Shepherd of the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band opened for Bob Dylan last Sunday at the Patriot Center in Fairfax.

seemed at odds with the party-like milieu, yet the songs were transformed a bit from their more dour album arrangements. "Love Sick," with lyrics as deeply personal and foreboding as anything in the Dylan catalog, became more of an atmospheric piece that slightly deemphasized trembly groove

the former, possessed a vigor that raised more than one appreciative eyebrow. His guitar solos, on the latter and on a loud and rowdy set closing "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35," were extended, free-wheeling sonic blasts that finely displayed a largely overlooked aspect of Dylan's talent.

set to wax, becoming something of a blues rave, superbly complimented by Dylan's guitar leads built around Bucky Baxter's soul-stirring pedal steel guitar.

An acoustic, practically knee-slap worthy offering of "It Ain't Me Babe" and a decidedly southern rock transmutation of "Highway 61 Revisited" (sounding

The Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band all but turned their 50-minute opening set into an expansive jam session that prominently featured Shepherd's guitar playing prowess.

A large silver crucifix swayed from around Shepherd's neck, intermingling with his flailing blond hair as Shepherd looked skyward while he peeled off on one inspired solo after another.

Listening to him play, it's hard to believe that such command comes from within this lanky 20 year old frame, yet like his forefathers, Stevie Ray Vaughn and Jimi Hendrix, Shepherd

Appearing a tad bit uneasy as he opened with "Silvio," Dylan soon thereafter warmed up to the appreciative diverse crowd of revelers. Even his voice, at times, sounded as strong as it has in years. But then, after his death scare last May, a resurgent, focused Dylan seems to have replaced the oftentimes indifferent legend of recent years.

more like a ZZ Top trailblazer than an anthem of the '60s) stood out. Dylan's vocals, especially on

effortlessly displayed a mastery of his battered Stratocaster on tunes such as the band's current hit, "Blue on Black." Standing out on their short set of mostly originals was Shepherd's performance of Hendrix's "Voodoo Child."

Shepherd, who was wearing a Hendrix t-shirt, interlaced his effects-laden solo with a brief bit of "Purple Haze," a fitting homage to the man who laid the foundation upon which Shepherd now stands.

As the Turtle Observes

by Nalini Sharma
CT STAFF WRITER

Theatre Virginia is currently featuring Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia" now through March 14.

Derbysire, England serves as the backdrop for this contemporary production, which begins in 1809, when the Coverlys and their friends debate science, discuss the chaos theory, and argue about Lord Byron. The scene then switches to the present day, when the Cloverly family descendents encounter scholars who attempt to reinvent the lives of their ancestors. This shift between time periods may initially be confusing for viewers unfamiliar with the storyline of this play. However, the display of the 19th century formal attire followed by the casual wardrobe of

present day, accurately represent the changing eras. During both periods, a turtle observes the actions of the characters, who are portrayed as energetic, curious, and imaginative with an intense passion for ideas; they want to transform reality to fit their illusionary conceptions.

In addition to the confusion in time shift, the dialogue of "Arcadia" is often difficult to understand as well, and as a result, viewers may not completely grasp the storyline. Yet, this same language, filled with intellectual curiosity and sexual innuendos, provides humor of this production.

Theatre Virginia offers VCU students discount rates for "Arcadia." If you are in the mood to exercise your mind and determine the significance of the turtle, call 353-6161 for tickets.

NEW RELEASES IN MUSIC & MOVIES

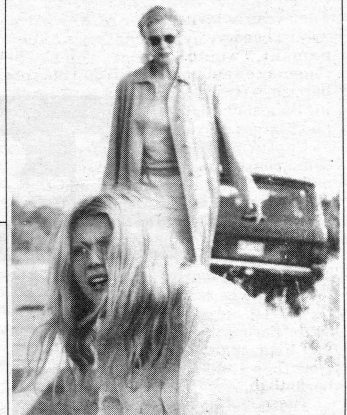
March 3
Madonna Ray of Light

March 10
Eric Clapton *Pilgrim*
Scott Weiland *Bar Blues*

March 17
Van Halen *VH3*

February 27
Kissing a Fool with David Schwimmer,
Jason Lee, Mili Avital

March 6
Hush (see photo at right) with Gwyneth
Paltrow, Jessica Lange
U.S. Marshalls with Tommy Lee Jones,
Wesley Snipes
Twilight Jessica Lange, Gwyneth Paltrow



Paltrow and Lange in Hush

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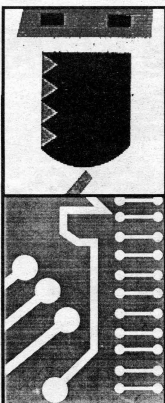
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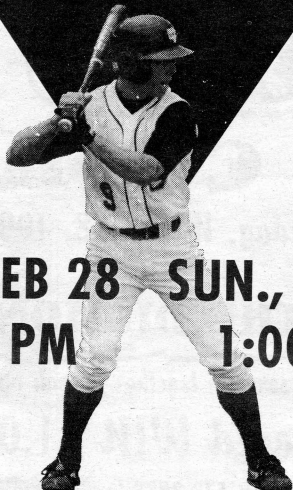


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VCU BASEBALL vs. MARYLAND



SAT., FEB 28 2:00 PM **SUN., MAR 1 1:00 PM**

BOTH GAMES PLAYED AT THE DIAMOND

VCU TENNIS



LADY RAMS

19 RAMS

vs.
Pennsylvania
Sat., Feb. 28
1:00 pm

vs.
Michigan
Tues., Mar. 3
3:00 pm

Both matches played at the VCU Tennis Bubble (Thalhimer Tennis Center)

The Picks



"Nyuk Nyuk"
Leiss



"Wrastlin'"
Rogalsky



Franke-'ly
Speaking"



Templeton
"the Tied Rat"



"Willie Wonka"
Wilson



Jack
"Neidhart"



Dovi-'
san"



Tricia
"la Bamba"



"Capitol"
Hill

THUR. & FRI., FEB. 26 & 27

Clemson @ NC State UNC-Charlotte @ Cincinnati Texas Christian @ Tulsa New Mexico St. @ Utah St. James Madison v. ODU George Mason v. Richmond American v. William & Mary	NC State Cincinnati Texas Christian Utah St. James Madison Richmond William & Mary	Clemson Cincinnati Texas Christian New Mexico St. James Madison Richmond William & Mary	Clemson Cincinnati Texas Christian Utah State ODU Richmond Dean & Mary	NC State Cincinnati Texas Christian New Mexico St. James Madison George Mason William & Mary	NC State Cincinnati Tulsa New Mexico St. ODU Richmond William & Mary	NC State Cincinnati Cincinnati New Mexico St. ODU Richmond William & Mary	NC State UNC-Charlotte Tulsa New Mexico St. ODU Richmond William & Mary	Clemson Cincinnati Texas Christian New Mexico St. ODU George Mason William & Mary	Clemson Cincinnati Tulsa New Mexico St. JMU Richmond William & Mary
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SAT. & SUN., FEB. 28 & MARCH 1

Stanford @ Arizona Kentucky @ South Carolina North Carolina @ Duke Maryland v. Temple Saint John's @ Connecticut West Virginia @ Miami, (Fla.) Indiana @ Iowa Purdue @ Michigan State Memphis @ Marquette Oregon @ Oregon State Kansas @ Oklahoma State Massachusetts @ Temple Dayton @ Xavier	Arizona Kentucky Duke Temple Connecticut West Virginia Indiana Michigan State Marquette Oregon Kansas Temple Dayton	Arizona Kentucky North Carolina Maryland Temple St. John's Miami (Fla.) Indiana Purdue Memphis Marquette Oregon Kansas Temple Xavier	Arizona Kentucky Duke Temple Connecticut Miami (Fla.) Indiana Purdue Marquette Oregon St. Kansas Temple Xavier	Arizona Kentucky Duke Maryland Connecticut Miami (Fla.) Iowa Purdue Memphis Oregon Kansas Massachusetts Dayton	Arizona Kentucky Duke Temple Connecticut West Virginia Iowa Michigan State Marquette Oregon State Oklahoma St. Temple Xavier	Arizona Kentucky Duke Temple Saint Louis Miami (Fla.) Indiana Michigan State Memphis Oregon Oklahoma St. Temple Dayton	Arizona Kentucky North Carolina Maryland Connecticut West Virginia Indiana Michigan State Marquette Oregon State Kansas Temple Xavier	Stanford South Carolina Duke Maryland UConn Miami (Fla.) Indiana Michigan State Memphis Oregon Kansas Temple Dayton
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Last Week:	17-3	12-8	13-7	14-6	14-6	13-7	10-10	12-8	14-6
Season to date:	85-35	81-39	81-39	81-39	78-42	74-46	73-47	65-55	59-61
Percentage:	.708	.675	.675	.675	.650	.626	.608	.541	.491
Games Back	---	4	4	4	7	11	12	20	26

■ "Takedown" Tom has taken over. The Associate Sports Editor's lead, the largest of the semester, will be the target of those behind him. Speaking of the trio closest to "Leaping" Leiss, there could not be a wierder trio. "Gangway" George can barely stand being tied with the crafty redhead. "Marxist" Mary. The third member of the purported menage-a-trois, "Bad Boy" Rogalsky, maintains he will remove "Lockjaw" Leiss from the lead, despite the distractions with the same record as his. "Midwest" Mary's photography capabilities have slipped recently, perhaps due to her involvement in the Sports Department sandwich. Now that those treading within the bounds of taste and decency have been ridiculously offended and are about to pick up the phone to voice their disgust, and partially to save ourselves from complete, total and utter expulsion, the rest of this space will be reduced in its outrageousness, yet just as entertaining as the preceding words. Even though Angela "the Angel of Death" Hill has fallen hopelessly out of contention for The Picks' championship, she hasn't given up on the possibility of NOT FINISHING LAST Queen of the Hill still has time to catch the forbidden tag-team of "Squishy" Trishy, Ben "Big Little Daddy" Wasson and Chris "Why can't I write more for the CT" Woodford. These three have come together over the last couple of weeks, along with anybody else that can give "Squishy" advice on who to pick, to hold on to NOT being in last place. Jack "Tower of Power" Southworth has put "Missing In Action" Dovi in a submission hold and jumped one position closer to thinking he has a chance to win. While Justin "Case" is hanging around just in case those ahead of him should stumble.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

(Through Feb. 24)

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	%	pts.	W-L	%	pts.
UNC Wilmington	13-3	.813	18-9	667		
William & Mary	13-3	.813	20-6	769		
Richmond	12-4	.750	19-7	731		
Old Dominion	8-8	.500	11-15	423		
James Madison	6-10	.375	11-15	423		
George Mason	6-10	.375	9-17	346		
American	5-11	.313	8-18	308		
East Carolina	5-11	.313	10-16	385		
VCU	4-12	.250	8-18	308		

*** Regular Season Over ***

CAA SCORING LEADERS

(Through Feb. 24)

Player	gp	fg	3-pt	ft	pts.	avg.
Jarod Stevenson, UR	26	179	72	81	511	19.7
Randy Bracy, W&M	25	165	62	82	434	17.4
Raphael Edwards, ECU	26	165	9	99	430	16.8
Nathan Smith, AU	24	124	78	69	395	16.5
Jason Miskiri, GMU	20	109	31	73	322	16.1
Stan Simmons, UNCW	26	141	32	68	402	15.8
Mark Poag, ODU	26	134	86	47	401	15.4
Eugene Atkinson, JMU	26	123	35	92	374	14.4
Jamar Perry, JMU	26	115	46	80	366	14.1
Terence Jennings, W&M	26	123	46	71	363	14.0

CAA REBOUNDED LEADERS

(Through Feb. 24)

Player	g	no.	avg.
Cal Bowdler, ODU	26	220	8.8
Raphael Edwards, ECU	26	218	8.4
George Evans, GMU	26	212	8.2
Reggie Bassette, ODU	22	165	7.5
Dink Peters, ECU	24	178	7.4
Eric Poole, UR	26	187	7.2
Dave Small, AU	24	172	7.2
Eugene Atkinson, JMU	26	180	6.9
Torrence Archie, VCU	26	173	6.7
David Graduloff, W&M	26	165	6.3

RESULTS/SCHEDULE

(Through Feb. 16)

DATE	VCU	OPP.
Nov. 16	55	GEORGIA ST. 54
Nov. 18	71	@ SW Louisiana (OT) 77
Nov. 22	69	TENNESSEE-MARTIN 42
Nov. 25	74	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 77
Dec. 6	75	@ Miami, Oh 85
Dec. 13	67	VIRGINIA 73
Dec. 17	70	NORFOLK ST. 59
Dec. 20	70	@ Kansas St. 76
Dec. 28	57	vs. Cornell 54
Dec. 29	57	@ California 66
Jan. 3	53	@ W & M 67
Jan. 10	54	GEORGE MASON 62
Jan. 12	58	UNC WILMINGTON 57
Jan. 17	61	@ OLD DOMINION 65
Jan. 20	60	EAST CAROLINA 54
Jan. 24	62	RICHMOND 56
Jan. 26	70	@ AMERICAN 78
Jan. 29	61	JAMES MADISON 56
Jan. 31	56	OLD DOMINION 69
Feb. 4	69	AMERICAN 64
Feb. 7	79	@ EAST CAROLINA 83
Feb. 10	60	@ GEORGE MASON 62
Feb. 14	70	@ JAMES MADISON 88
Feb. 18	63	@ UNCW 85
Feb. 21	61	@ RICHMOND 67
Feb. 23	67	WILLIAMS & MARY 72
Feb. 25	67	CAA Championships, @ Richmond, Va. 7:30p.m. vs. East Carolina

VCU STATISTICS

(Through Feb. 24)

Player	m-a	3-pt	ft	avg.	pts.
Brooks	109-226	7-18	70-92	5.5	19
Archie	91-168	1-2	80-130	6.7	30
Lilly	69-153	32-76	40-54	3.0	34
Mills	71-199	46-136	22-36	2.7	63
Drake	75-146	2-16	38-60	4.6	85
Dyke	53-176	17-76	26-39	2.6	82
Kodjoe	54-149	14-60	7-15	5.1	16
Hoggatt	39-136	28-103	9-13	1.5	11
Moore	35-82	-1-3	27-43	3.6	12
VCU	596-1438	148-491	319-482	37.1	352
Opponent	630-1467	181-493	307-462	34.0	360

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

(Through Feb. 22)

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	%	pts.	W-L	%	pts.
Old Dominion	16-0	1.000	24-2	923		
American	11-5	.688	21-5	808		
James Madison	10-6	.625	16-10	615		
VCU	10-6	.625	14-12	538		
George Mason	8-8	.500	14-13	519		
Richmond	6-10	.375	12-14	462		
UNC Wilmington	4-12	.250	11-15	423		
East Carolina	4-12	.250	8-18	308		
William & Mary	3-13	.188	10-16	385		

*** Regular Season Over ***

CAA SCORING LEADERS

(Through Feb. 22)

Player	gp	fg	3-pt	ft	pts.	avg.
Nyree Roberts, ODU	26	220	0	98	538	20.7
Jennifer Meade, UR	26	195	0	97	407	18.7
Mary Klima, AU	26	156	0	167	479	18.4
Krista Jay, GMU	23	114	26	116	370	16.1
Kari Gaskins, 26	26	128	51	70	377	14.5
Mery Andrade, ODU	26	124	3	118	369	14.2

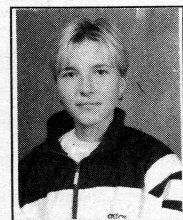
VCU STATISTICS

(Through Feb. 22)

Player	m-a	3-pt	ft	avg.	pts.
Rasmussen	126-272	1226	71-96	4.4	19
Waller	125-308	1-3	82-120	5.2	49
Karlsson	121-234	0-0	82-113	6.4	53
Kyhlistedt	56-141	17-69	40-59	3.6	82
Sisson	64-171	12-37	14-30	4.5	86
McKinnon	45-110	5-18	46-59	2.0	67
McKenna	38-124	19-67	18-29	1.8	23
Burns	21-63	0-0	27-32	2.2	4
Remus	19-51	6-16	12-18	1.2	22
Delagarza	9-24	0	10-25	1.8	2
Millsaps	6-24	0	4-6	0.5	19
Mergenthal	5-27	2-11	2-2	1.1	2
VCU Totals	639-1559	74-247	410-596	37.8	484

Athlete of the Week
Andrea Ondrisova

Women's Tennis



■ Ondrisova won both of her singles matches in the Lady Rams' wins over West Virginia and Richmond. She is 3-1 in dual singles matches and 13-2 overall. Her team is 2-2 this season.

Ram Stat

•The baseball team lost 13-5 to N.C. State Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Sports

Commonwealth Times

Inside

•The CT's Colonial Athletic Association Tournament Supplement.

Rams survive East Carolina in play-in, 65-62

Joe Rogalsky
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Coach Sonny Smith and his VCU men's basketball team live to fight another day. Smith, who will retire at season's end, and the Rams knocked off the East Carolina Pirates Wednesday night 65-62 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament.

The Rams battled back from seven points down in the second half to win the play-in game, keeping their season alive. VCU's scoring attack was led by Torrance Archie's 14 points.

Forwards Randy Mills and Patrick Kodjoe each chipped in 11 points. Most of VCU's scoring came from the posts, but outside shooting was also effective, as the Rams finished the night shooting 43.9 percent from the floor.

"Going down inside won the game for us," Smith said. "We had an outside and inside game, and made free throws. We have never been able to do that for two halves, until tonight."

The Pirates had an opportunity to tie the game in the final seconds, but Archie blocked ECU guard Tony Parham's three-point attempt with two seconds to play. Pirate coach Jeff Dooley thought that Parham was fouled by guard Melvin Drake (eight points, four rebounds) or Archie, but the officials did not agree.

"We just tried to get the best shot available," Parham said of the Pirates' strategy in the final seconds.

Guard LaMar Taylor's jump shot with :34 seconds to play gave the Rams a 64-62 lead and VCU looked to have things under control.

On ECU's ensuing possession, however, Archie tripped and fell, leaving guard Garrett Blackwelder (14 points) wide open for a three-point shot. Blackwelder's shot clanked off the rim. Pirate forward Raphael Edwards grabbed the rebound, but his

shot missed as well.

Kodjoe tipped the ball out to VCU guard Scott Lilly, who was quickly fouled by Pirate center Dink Peters. Lilly made the front end, but missed the back end of a one and one, giving VCU its 65-62 advantage.

"I was just thinking about not fouling," Kodjoe said. "I was fortunate enough to tip the ball to Scott."

VCU snapped a six-game losing streak with the victory. No VCU team has ever lost seven straight games.

"Tonight we brought it all to the table," Archie said. "The talk about confidence finally went to the head and we put it all together."

The Rams' opponent in the quarterfinals will be UNC Wilmington, the tournament's top seed. The Seahawks swept VCU in the season series, most recently defeating the Rams 85-63 in Wilmington on Feb. 18.

The first time the teams met this season, Jan. 12 in Richmond, the Rams lost 67-58. VCU made a run late in the second half, but was turned back by UNCW guard Mark Byington's three-pointer in the final minute.

"We played an unusual style of defense all year long," said Smith, explaining the difference in scores of the two games. "The first game we had under control until Byington hit that three. In the second, they figured us out."

"They are a great basketball team in taking advantage of (opponents') foul trouble. They are a very unselfish basketball team and are much stronger than they look."

Unlike previous seasons, a day between the play-in game and the quarterfinals allows the Rams a breather. In past years, the quarterfinals were played the day after the play-in game.

"It (the day off) will help us," Archie said. "But we have been taking breaks all year. The guys want to get at it and make a statement."



Mary Franke/Commonwealth Times

TOUGH 'D' — VCU point guard LaMar Taylor closely defends ECU's Alico Dunk. Taylor sunk the game-winning basket for the Rams, who won 65-62 Wednesday night.

Lady Rams face Penn Saturday

VCU will put its two-match winning streak on the line Saturday at 1 p.m. when it hosts the University of Pennsylvania.

After falling to two ranked teams to open the fall season, the Lady Rams have bounced back with a hard fought 4-3 victory over Richmond and a 7-0 white-wash of West Virginia.

The continued strong play of VCU's

Martina Nedelkova, ranked 16th in the nation, and Andrea Ondrisova has keyed the Lady Rams last two wins.

VCU's (2-2) impressive doubles play has also been a key, as the team has gone 3-1 in doubles in the last two matches and 12-6 overall.

— compiled from news sources

Men's tennis remains perfect

Lee Kelley
CT STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, VCU's 19th ranked men's tennis team extended its unbeaten winning streak at home winning streak and intrastate dominance with a 6-1 victory over the Virginia Cavaliers (4-2).

The win improved the Rams to 11-0 and continued the streak they started last season. It was the 57th straight dual-match win for VCU.

The Cavaliers' (ranked 31st) plans to record their first victory against a Paul Kostin-coached Rams' team were quickly squelched.

VCU's topseeded doubles team of Daniel Andersson and Manuel Kropfrietor won the decisive match 9-8, to break a 1-1 tie giving the Rams the doubles point.

"Winning the doubles point makes a tremendous difference in close matches," Andersson said.

VCU won five of the six singles matches to earn the 6-1 victory.

Richard Wernerhjelm started the Rams off strong in the singles matches dispatching UVA's Brain Vahaly, 6-1, 6-2, in little over an hour.

Later Andersson sealed the victory with a 6-3, 6-4 win over UVA's Bear Schofield, giving the Rams an insurmountable 3-1 lead.

Kropfrietor (6-3, 6-4), Jose Manuel Sanchez (6-3, 5-7, 6-3) and Olle Lundberg (6-2, 6-4) won their singles matches to provide the final margin of victory.

"Winning is meaningless, if you don't win the matches that will get you into the NCAA Tournament at the end of the season," Kostin said.

Three days earlier, the Rams traveled to the University of North Carolina (ranked 27th) and hung on for a 4-3 victory.

"Our schedule will only get tougher," Kostin said.

Rams in Action

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS	Notes
MEN'S BASKETBALL (9-18, 4-12)	FEB. 27-1 CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS, RICHMOND, VA.	The Rams face UNCW at noon on Friday in the quarterfinals
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (14-12, 10-6)	FEB. 22 CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS, RICHMOND, VA.	The Fourth seeded Lady Rams will face fifth-seeded GMU Tonight at 5p.m.
MEN'S TENNIS (11-0, 0-0)	FEB. 28 ILLINOIS MARCH 1 WAKE FOREST MARCH 3 MICHIGAN	This weekend the 19th ranked Rams take on 15th-ranked Illinois in Winston Salem, N.C.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (2-2, 1-1)	FEB. 28 PENN MARCH 4 UMD MARCH 10 LOYOLA MARYMONT	The Lady Rams play Pennsylvania Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Thalheimer Tennis Center.
BASEBALL (7-4, 0-0)	FEB. 28 UMD MARCH 1 UMD MARCH 4 WAKE FOREST	VCU All-American Brandon Inge has five homers in 36 plate appearances this season.

■ INDICATES HOME GAME □ INDICATES AWAY GAME