

VIRGINIA BASKETBALL 2002-2003 MEDIA NOTES

Virginia (10-4 / 1-2 ACC)
vs.
Clemson (10-2 / 0-2 ACC)
January 18, 2003 • 3:00 p.m.
Littlejohn Coliseum (11,020)
Clemson, S.C.

2002-03 SCHEDULE

10-4 Overall / 1-2 ACC

Home: 7-0

Away: 1-3

Neutral: 2-1

Nov. 10	Big Apple Basketball (EX)	W, 84-60
Nov. 17	One World All-Stars (EX)	W, 73-57
Nov. 22	LONG ISLAND	W, 90-86
Nov. 25-27	Maui Invitational Tournament	
Nov. 25	Chaminade* (ESPN)	W, 86-72
Nov. 26	vs. #15 Kentucky* (ESPN)	W, 75-61
Nov. 27	vs. #19 Indiana* (ESPN)	L, 63-70
Dec. 4	at #21 Michigan State# (ESPN)	L, 75-82
Dec. 17	EAST TENN. STATE	W, 84-76
Dec. 19	GARDNER-WEBB	W, 72-65
Dec. 21	at Rutgers	W, 61-57
Dec. 28	GEORGETOWN (CBS)	W, 79-75
Dec. 30	LIBERTY	W, 77-58
Jan. 2	WOFFORD (Com/Sunshine)	W, 87-65
Jan. 5	at N.C. State (FSN)	L, 63-75
Jan. 11	NORTH CAROLINA (ESPN)	W, 79-72
Jan. 15	at #1 Duke (ESPN)	L, 93-104
Jan. 18	at Clemson (R/JP)	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Virginia Tech (ESPN2)	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	WAKE FOREST (ESPN2)	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 29	FLORIDA STATE	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Georgia Tech (R/JP)	4:00 p.m.
Feb. 6	at Maryland (ESPN2)	9:00 p.m.
Feb. 9	N.C. STATE (R/JP/ESPN)	4:00 p.m.
Feb. 12	at North Carolina (ESPN)	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 15	DUKE (ESPN)	9:00 p.m.
Feb. 18	CLEMSON (R/JP)	8:00 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Wake Forest (FSN)	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	at Ohio University	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 1	at Florida State (RSN)	Noon
Mar. 5	GEORGIA TECH (ESPN)	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 9	MARYLAND (FSN)	8:00 p.m.
Mar. 13-16	ACC Tournament^	TBD

*Maui Invitational, Maui, Hawaii

#ACC/Big 10 Challenge

^Greensboro, N.C.

Rankings listed are from the Associated Press Poll

TELEVISION

Today's game against Clemson will be televised by Raycom/Jefferson-Pilot. Mike Hogewood will handle the play-by-play. Dan Bonner is the analyst.

RADIO

All UVa games are heard on the Virginia Sports Network originating at WINA/WWV in Charlottesville. Mac McDonald calls the play-by-play. Jim Hobgood provides the analysis.

OFFICIALS

THE GAME

Virginia stands at 10-4 overall and 1-2 in the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2002-2003. In its last outing, UVa fell to top-ranked Duke 104-93 (Jan. 15) in Durham, N.C. Clemson stands at 10-2 overall and 0-2 in the ACC this season. In their last game, the Tigers lost to North Carolina (Jan. 14) 68-66 in Chapel Hill, N.C.

The Series vs. Clemson

Virginia leads the all-time series with Clemson 59-44. UVa had its four-game winning streak against the Tigers snapped with a 68-52 loss (Jan. 8) in the first meeting last season in Clemson, S.C. Virginia earned a split in the 2001-2002 series with an 85-71 win (Feb. 10) in University Hall. The Cavaliers have won seven of the last nine games against the Tigers.

The Cavaliers swept the 2000-2001 season series versus Clemson, winning 104-76 (Jan. 27) at Littlejohn Coliseum and 84-65 (Feb. 28) at University Hall. Virginia also swept the 1999-2000 season series from Clemson. The Cavaliers swept the season series five times in the last 10 seasons and are 14-6 vs. the Tigers during that span. The last time Clemson swept the season series was in the 1996-97 season.

All-time the Cavaliers are 15-19 at Littlejohn Coliseum and 19-29 in Clemson. Virginia had won its previous two games (98-91 – Jan. 15, 2000 and 104-76 – Jan. 27, 2001) at Littlejohn prior to last season's 68-52 loss.

Overall the Cavaliers have won 18 of the last 25 games in the series dating back to the 1989-90 season.

He's Back

After missing 70 consecutive games spanning 1,032 days, junior guard Majestic Mapp made his long anticipated return to the Cavalier lineup against North Carolina (Jan. 11). Mapp entered the game to a standing ovation with 7:23 remaining in the first half and played just over two minutes.

Mapp had been sidelined after tearing the ACL in his right knee on August 2, 2000. He missed the entire 2000-01 and 2001-02 seasons. The last time Mapp had played for UVa was March 15, 2000 against Georgetown in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament.

Mapp did not play in the Cavaliers' last game at Duke (Jan. 15).

Cavalier Captains

Seniors Travis Watson and Jason Rogers, and junior Majestic Mapp are the captains of the 2002-03 Virginia basketball team.

Virginia's PROBABLE Starters

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Ppg.	Rpg.	Mpg	Notes
33	F	Devin Smith	6-5	230	So.	10.9	4.1	26.8	Tied for team lead with 19 blocked shots
35	F	Travis Watson	6-8	255	Sr.	15.3	10.3	30.0	7 double-doubles this year, 45 in career
42	F	Elton Brown	6-9	270	So.	9.6	4.4	19.1	Tallied career-high 22 pts. vs. Chaminade
10	G	Keith Jenifer	6-3	161	So.	7.1	3.8	34.0	Averaging 5.5 assists per game
22	G	Todd Billet	6-0	192	Jr.	13.2	1.9	31.8	ACC best 94.3% (50-53) from FT line

Virginia's Key Reserves

5	F	Derrick Byars	6-7	200	Fr.	7.9	3.3	21.9	Averaging 10.6 ppg at home
34	F	Jason Clark	6-8	234	So.	4.8	2.5	13.8	Shooting 72.7 % (24-33) from the field
4	C	Nick Vander Laan	6-10	255	Jr.	6.3	5.2	16.2	UVa career-high 17 pts. vs. Gardner-Webb
24	G	Jermaine Harper	6-3	165	So.	5.6	1.8	15.2	Averaging 8.0 ppg at home
11	G	Majestic Mapp	6-2	185	Jr.	0.0	0.0	2.0	Played vs. UNC; first game since 3/15/00

Gillen Registers 350th Career Win

Virginia head coach Pete Gillen won his 350th career game on December 21 when his Cavaliers posted a 61-57 victory over Rutgers.

Gillen is in his 18th season as a collegiate head coach and sports a 354-181 record for a .662 winning percentage. Gillen is in his fifth season at Virginia and has posted an 80-53 record (.602 winning percentage). Gillen won the 300th game of his career when Virginia defeated then 21st-ranked North Carolina 87-85 on January 18, 2000 at University Hall.

Gillen has led his teams to postseason play 14 times in 17 seasons (nine NCAA, five NIT), including the last three seasons at Virginia. He has been selected as the conference Coach of the Year five times – all while coaching Xavier (Midwestern Collegiate Conference).

Billet Scores 1,000th Career Point

Junior guard Todd Billet reached the 1,000 point milestone in UVa's 79-72 win over North Carolina (Jan. 11). Billet scored his 1,000th career point with a three-point field goal with 4:15 remaining in the first half. Billet tallied 24 points in the game against North Carolina. He has scored 1,029 points in his collegiate career. Billet scored 844 points in two seasons at Rutgers and has scored 185 points this season in a Virginia uniform.

200

The Cavaliers' 87-65 victory (Jan. 2) over Wofford marked their 200th victory over a non-conference opponent at University Hall since the building opened for the 1965-66 season. Virginia is 200-29 for an impressive .873 winning percentage all-time in University Hall against non-conference opponents.

Four Consecutive Double-Doubles

Senior forward/center Travis Watson had his streak of double-doubles in four consecutive games snapped against Duke (Jan. 15). He has seven double-doubles this season (see page 4 of the notes for a listing of those double-doubles). It marks the third time in his career Watson recorded four consecutive double-doubles (he did it twice last season). The last player other than Watson to notch four consecutive double-doubles was in the 1997-98 season when Norman Nolan accomplished the feat. Nolan posted consecutive double-doubles against Clemson (Feb. 21) - 24 pts., 12 rebs., Maryland (Feb. 24) - 26 pts., 15 rebs., Florida State (Feb. 28) - 24 pts., 10 rebs., and Duke (Mar. 3) - 13 pts., 15 rebs.

Ralph Sampson is the last UVa player to have five con-

secutive double-doubles as he concluded his stellar career with five double-doubles in a row in the 1982-83 season. Sampson's career high for consecutive double-doubles is nine, but interestingly enough, that is not the school record. Norm Carmichael posted a school record 12 consecutive double-doubles in the 1967-68 season.

Watson has led UVa in rebounding in 10 of 14 games this season and is averaging an ACC-best 10.3 boards per game. He is also averaging a team-high 15.3 points per game (11th in the ACC) and is shooting 56.7 percent (76-134) from the field (2nd in the ACC).

Starting Time Changed

The starting time for Virginia's game at Virginia Tech on January 21 has been changed. The contest will start at 7:30 p.m., 30 minutes later than originally scheduled.

20/20

Against Wofford (Jan. 2), senior forward/center Travis Watson accomplished what no UVa player has been able to do in 20 years – register 20 or more points and rebounds in the same game. In the Cavaliers' 87-65 victory, Watson scored 21 points and pulled down a career-high 20 rebounds.

The last Virginia player to accomplish the feat was Ralph Sampson on Jan. 12, 1983 when he had 33 points and 21 rebounds against N.C. State.

Billet and Watson Among NCAA Leaders

Junior guard Todd Billet and senior forward/center Travis Watson are ranked among the NCAA Division I leaders in free throw percentage and rebounding, respectively, for games played through Jan. 13.

Billet is tied with Matt Logie of Lehigh for fourth in free throw percentage at 93.3 percent. Billet has improved his free throw percentage to 94.3 percent (50-53).

Watson is ninth among all Division I players in rebounds with an average of 10.8 per game. Watson is currently averaging 10.3 rebounds (134 rebounds in 13 games).

Duke Ties a Record

In UVa's game against Duke (Jan. 15), the Blue Devils made 37 of 40 free throws (92.5 percent) with the 37 made free throws tying the school record for most free throws made in a game by a Virginia opponent. St. Joseph's (Pa.) made 37 free throws (43 attempts) against UVa on February 21, 1958.

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'Hoos Starting

The Cavaliers have played 14 games this season and have used eight different starting lineups. UVa's latest starting lineup (vs. Duke – Jan. 15) featured sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith, sophomore forward Elton Brown, senior forward/center Travis Watson, sophomore guard Keith Jenifer and junior guard Todd Billet. The same five started UVa's games against Gardner-Webb (Dec. 19) and Liberty (Dec. 30).

Billet, Watson and Jenifer lead the team with 12 starts apiece. Smith has started 10 games, while freshman forward Derrick Byars and Brown have eight starts. Eight different players have started games this season for Virginia.

Here's a breakdown of UVa's starting lineup in each game this season with the number of different starting lineups in parenthesis:

LIU	(1)	Byars	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet
Cham	(2)	Byars	Watson	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Billet
Kent	(3)	Byars	Brown	Watson	Billet	Smith
Ind	(4)	Byars	Watson	Vander Laan	Billet	Smith
MSU	(5)	Byars	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Smith
ETSU	(6)	Smith	Watson	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Billet
GWU	(7)	Smith	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet
Rut	(8)	Smith	Clark	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Billet
G'town	(8)	Smith	Clark	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Billet
Liberty	(7)	Smith	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet
Wofford	(2)	Byars	Watson	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Smith
NCSU	(1)	Byars	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet
UNC	(1)	Byars	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet
Duke	(7)	Smith	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet

Harper Reinstated

Sophomore guard Jermaine Harper has been reinstated to the team after being suspended for a violation of team rules. Harper missed the Cavaliers' first five games of the season. He did not practice during the suspension.

In the nine games Harper has played he is averaging 5.6 points and 1.8 rebounds per game. He is averaging 15.2 minutes of playing time per game.

Tough Early Season Schedule

The Cavaliers played three nationally-ranked teams (Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan State) in their first five games of the season. It is the first time in school history the Cavaliers played three of their first five games of a season against ranked teams. In the 1963-64, 1968-69, 1991-92 and 1996-97 seasons, UVa played two ranked teams in the first five games of the season.

Jenifer Finds the Range

Sophomore guard Keith Jenifer started off the season making only nine of 34 (26.5 percent) attempts from the field. In his last nine games, Jenifer has made 44.2 percent (23-52) of his field goal attempts – admittedly, not a great percentage. However, when Jenifer has stepped behind the three-point line, he has been deadly accurate.

Jenifer has made 10 of his last 14 three-point attempts (71.4 percent) over the last eight games after missing his first six threes of the season. His 10 three-pointers this season are eight more than he had during the entire 2001-2002 season.

He has scored seven or more points in a game eight times this season after scoring seven or more points in only six games last year. He has reached double figures in scoring three times in 2002-2003 after reaching double digits in points only once last season.

Jenifer is averaging 7.1 points, 5.5 assists (6th in the ACC) and 3.8 rebounds per game this season.

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PRESEASON ACC PREDICTIONS

2002-2003 ACC Pre-Season Media Prediction

(Indicates first place votes)

1.	Duke (79)	852
2.	Maryland (9)	686
3.	N.C. State (4)	595
4.	Georgia Tech (1)	548
5.	Virginia	488
6.	Wake Forest	380
7.	North Carolina	348
8.	Clemson	168
9.	Florida State	138

2002-03 Media Pre-Season All-ACC Selections

First Team

Travis Watson, UVa	85
Steve Blake, Md	83
Chris Duhon, Duke	83
Josh Howard, WF	78
Julius Hodge, NCSU	62

Second Team

Dahntay Jones, Duke	24
Edward Scott, Clem	12
Tahj Holden, Md	5
Marcus Melvin, NCSU	5
Raymond Felton, UNC	5

2002-03 Media Pre-Season ACC Player of Year

Chris Duhon, Duke	26
Travis Watson, Virginia	23
Josh Howard, Wake Forest	20
Steve Blake, Maryland	9
Julius Hodge, N.C. State	5
Dahntay Jones, Duke	3
Drew Nicholas, Maryland	1
Jawad Williams, North Carolina	1

2002-03 Media Pre-Season ACC Rookie of Year

Raymond Felton, North Carolina	65
Chris Bosh, Georgia Tech	10
Rashad McCants, North Carolina	4
Shavlik Randolph, Duke	4
Eric Williams, Wake Forest	4
J.J. Redick, Duke	2
Jarrett Jack, Georgia Tech	1

2002-2003 UVa ACC Players of the Week

Jan. 6 – Travis Watson

Jan. 13 – Todd Billet

Junior guard Todd Billet was named the Co-ACC Player of the Week after scoring 24 points in UVa's 79-72 home victory over North Carolina (Jan. 11). He also had three rebounds, two assists and two steals in the win. Billet was eight for 15 from the field, including six of 11 from three-point range. He also made both free throw attempts.

Billet reached a career milestone in the victory as he scored his 1,000th career point with a three-point field goal with 4:15 remaining in the first half.

He shared the award with Duke's Dahntay Jones.

Making Free Throws Down The Stretch

The Cavaliers have struggled from the free throw line this season, making just 68.3 percent (228-334) of their attempts from the charity stripe. However, UVa has been more reliable from the charity stripe in the final five minutes of games.

In the first half of games, Virginia is shooting 67.9 percent (72-106) from the line. UVa has made 68.4 percent (156-228) of its attempts in the second half of games. In the final five minutes of games, the Cavaliers have made 85 of 120 attempts for 70.8 percent. (UVa is only 71-108 for 65.7 percent in the first 15 minutes of the second half.) In its last 11 games, UVa has made 74 of 98 attempts from the foul line in the final five minutes of games for 75.5 percent.

Cavaliers Finish Second in Maui Invitational

Virginia won two of three games to finish second in the 2002 EA Sports Maui Invitational (Nov. 25-27) at the Lahaina Civic Center in Maui, Hawaii. The Cavaliers defeated Chaminade 86-72 (Nov. 25) and 15th-ranked Kentucky 75-61 (Nov. 26) before falling to 19th-ranked Indiana 70-63 (Nov. 27) in the championship game.

Senior forward/center Travis Watson was named to the All-Tournament team. Watson registered two double-doubles and averaged 12.7 points and 11.0 rebounds in the three games. He also blocked nine shots and added seven assists and five steals.

Billet Unkind to Former Team

He was booed all game long, but it didn't faze junior guard Todd Billet, who was making his return to Louis Brown Athletic Center and Rutgers on December 21. Billet, who played for Rutgers for two seasons before transferring to Virginia, scored a game-high 22 points in leading his new team to a 61-57 victory over the Scarlet Knights. Among his 22 points were a pair of free throws with 14 seconds remaining that broke a 57-57 tie and gave the Cavaliers the lead for good.

In two seasons at Rutgers, Billet averaged 14.6 points per game, including 16.6 per game in 2000-01. He also established a school record for three-pointers in a season with 82 in 2000-01.

Billet is second on the team in scoring this season with 13.2 points per game. He tops the Cavaliers in three-point field goals (35) and also leads all ACC players in free throw shooting (50-53 for 94.3 percent).

More Double-Doubles

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has picked up where he left off last season as he has recorded seven double-doubles this season, including a stretch of four consecutive double-doubles, which was snapped against Duke (Jan. 15). With the seven double-doubles, Watson has 45 in his career which trails only Ralph Sampson's school record 84 career double-doubles.

Here's a list of Watson's double-doubles in 2002-03:

Travis Watson – 26 pts., 13 rebs. vs. Long Island (Nov. 22)
Travis Watson – 16 pts., 14 rebs. vs. Chaminade (Nov. 25)
Travis Watson – 14 pts., 11 rebs. vs. Indiana (Nov. 27)
Travis Watson – 20 pts., 15 rebs. vs. Liberty (Dec. 30)
Travis Watson – 21 pts., 20 rebs. vs. Wofford (Jan. 2)
Travis Watson – 10 pts., 12 rebs. vs. N.C. State (Jan. 5)
Travis Watson – 18 pts., 12 rebs. vs. North Carolina (Jan. 11)

Watson's 45 career double-doubles are the most of any

active ACC player. Watson, who recorded an ACC-best 17 double-doubles last year, also had double-doubles in both of UVa's 2002-2003 exhibition games.

Vander Laan Joins Growing List

Junior center Nick Vander Laan became the latest Cavalier to set a UVa career-high in scoring (see notes to follow). Vander Laan poured in 17 points in Virginia's 72-65 win over Gardner-Webb (Dec. 19). His previous UVa best was 10 points against then 19th-ranked Indiana (Nov. 27). Vander Laan's overall career-high is 23 points against Oklahoma in the 1999-2000 season while playing for Cal-Berkeley.

Vander Laan also set a UVa career-best in rebounds with 11 vs. Rutgers (Dec. 21). His previous season-high was eight rebounds on two occasions. Vander Laan's overall career best rebounding game is 13 against Washington during the 1999-2000 season while playing for Cal-Berkeley.

Byars Joins Career High Club

Freshman forward Derrick Byars became another in a long line of Cavaliers to set a career high in scoring. Byars registered career-highs in back-to-back games. Byars scored 16 points, including 14 in the second half, in UVa's 84-76 win over East Tennessee State (Dec. 17). He then scored a game-high 20 points in the Cavaliers' 72-65 victory over Gardner-Webb (Dec. 19). His previous career high was 11 points against Indiana (Nov. 27).

Byars also registered a career-high five steals against Gardner-Webb. His previous career-best was two steals against Michigan State (Dec. 4).

Billet and Smith Net UVa Career Bests

Junior guard Todd Billet and sophomore forward/guard Devin Smith scored career-highs as Cavaliers in UVa's game against Michigan State (Dec. 4).

Billet poured in 28 points off the bench – including 26 in the second half. His career-high is 37 points against James Madison during the 2000-2001 season while playing at Rutgers University. He is averaging 13.2 points per game this season (second on the team).

Smith scored 24 points against the Spartans. He was 9-13 from the floor, including 4-6 from three-point range, and made both of his free throw attempts. Smith is third on the team in scoring at 10.9 points per game.

New Career High for Clark

Sophomore forward Jason Clark scored 12 points – all in the second half – in the Cavaliers' 90-86 win over Long Island (Nov. 22) to establish a new career high. Clark equaled his career high with 12 points against Rutgers (Dec. 21) in his first start of the season. He also blocked a season-high five shots and grabbed a season-best eight rebounds vs. Rutgers. Clark's former career-best was 11 points against Duke (Jan. 27, 2002).

Brown Nets New Career High for Points

Sophomore forward Elton Brown established a new career high for points in a game when he scored 22 in UVa's 86-72 victory over Chaminade (Nov. 25). Brown, who surpassed his old career best of 20 points against Georgia Tech (Jan. 22, 2002), made eight of 13 shots from the floor and five of seven attempts from the charity stripe.

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Jenifer Sets Career Highs

Sophomore guard Keith Jenifer became the third returning player to establish a new career high in scoring this season. Jenifer tallied 13 points in UVa's 75-61 victory over Kentucky (Nov. 26). His previous career high was 10 points against Duke (Feb. 28) last season.

Jenifer has also set a new career high for assists. He handed out a career-best seven assists in the season-opener against Long Island (Nov. 22) and then increased his career high to eight against Indiana (Nov. 27). He equaled his career-best with eight assists against Wofford (Jan. 2).

With nine rebounds against Rutgers (Dec. 21), Jenifer set a new career high in that category. His previous career high for rebounds was five on two occasions.

Three Shy of a Career-High

Sophomore guard Keith Jenifer has handed out 77 assists (5.5 per game) this season and needs just three to equal his freshman season total of 80. Jenifer has a 1.97 to 1 assist to turnover ratio this season (5th in the ACC).

Not Just a Scorer

Sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith came to Virginia with a reputation as a terrific scorer (19.4 ppg, at Coffeyville Community College), but he has also shown a knack for blocking shots. He has blocked 13 shots in the last six games, including a season-high four against Liberty (Dec. 30). With 19 blocks this season (1.4 per game), Smith is tied with senior forward/center Travis Watson for the team lead.

Making the Most of His Opportunities

Sophomore forward Jason Clark has only taken 33 shots this season, but he's made 24 baskets for an impressive .727 field goal percentage. He has shot 50 percent or better in every game excluding the three games (Indiana – Nov. 27, East Tennessee State – Dec. 17, and Wofford – Jan. 2) he did not attempt a field goal. Clark has been perfect from the field five times this season. He is shooting 62.7 percent (64-102) from the field in his career. In ACC contests during his career, Clark is 31-42 for an amazing 73.8 percent.

Home Cookin'

Freshman forward Derrick Byars is averaging 7.9 points per game this season, however, he is averaging better than 10 points per contest in games played at University Hall. (His average at home was 12.3 points per game prior to not scoring against North Carolina. He injured his left shoulder early in the game against UNC and played only eight minutes). Byars is averaging 10.6 points per game in seven home games and is averaging only 5.1 points in seven games away from home. To go one step further, Byars has only scored seven points in UVa's four games on opponents home courts.

Watson 20th in Scoring

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has moved up to 20th on the Cavaliers' all-time scoring list with 1,301 career points. He needs 21 points to move past Norman Nolan (1995-98) into 19th place.

Watson Third in Rebounds

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has opened the 2002-2003 season by grabbing 134 rebounds (an ACC-best 10.3 per game) in the 13 games he has played. He is now

third on Virginia's career rebounding list with 928. Watson needs one rebound to tie and two more to move past Junior Burrough (1992-95) into second place.

Here's a look at Virginia's all-time rebounding leaders:

All-Time Blocked Shot Leaders

Senior Travis Watson ranks among Virginia's all-time leaders in blocked shots. Watson has 109 career blocked shots and ranks fourth all-time. He blocked a career-high tying five shots against Chaminade (Nov. 25) to jump from seventh to fifth place. He needs 18 blocked shots to move past Kris Hunter (1997-99) for third place.

Here's a look at UVa's all-time blocked shots leaders:

Virginia Returns to Postseason Play

The University of Virginia men's basketball team received an invitation to the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) following the 2001-02 regular season. UVa lost to South Carolina 74-67 in the first round of the tournament. It was the Cavaliers' ninth NIT appearance and the team's third consecutive postseason appearance. Following the 2000-2001 season, UVa received a bid to the 2001 NCAA Tournament. UVa lost to Gonzaga 86-85 in the first round of the 2001 NCAA South Region Tournament. The game marked the Cavaliers first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1997. Virginia made the first of three straight postseason appearances with a bid to the 2000 National Invitation Tournament (NIT). UVa lost to Georgetown 115-111 in triple overtime in the first round of the NIT.

Transfers Making Big Impact

Virginia's three transfers – junior guard Todd Billet (Rutgers), junior center Nick Vander Laan (California-Berkeley), and sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith (Coffeyville Community College) – have made a big impact on the team in 2002-03. The trio have combined to start 28 times and average 30.7 points and 11.1 rebounds per game. Billet and Smith have made 59 of UVa's 98 three-point field goals this season as well. Billet also leads UVa in free throw percentage (.943 – 50-53) and Smith is second (.792 – 19-24).

Billet and Vander Laan are eligible to play for the Cavaliers during the 2002-03 season after transferring to Virginia prior to the 2001-02 academic year.

Billet, a 6-0 guard from Middletown, N.J., started all 58 games and averaged 14.6 points per game in his two seasons at Rutgers. He is a three-point specialist who established the Rutgers' school record for three-pointers in a season with 82 and tied the school's single-game record when he

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made eight three-pointers against Lafayette during the 2000-01 season.

Vander Laan, a 6-10 center from Sacramento, Calif., averaged 7.5 points and 6.1 rebounds a game in two seasons at California-Berkeley. He was voted honorable mention Pac-10 All-Freshman following the 1999-2000 season.

The 6-5 Smith averaged 19.4 points and 6.6 rebounds per game while earning first-team Junior College All-America honors as a freshman at Coffeyville Community College in 2001-02.

Bench Scoring – 48, 47, 46

Virginia's reserves have played a major role in several of the Cavaliers' wins this season. Reserves have combined to score 46 or more points in three victories this season.

Four Cavaliers off the bench combined to score 48 of UVa's 72 points in a 72-65 victory over Gardner-Webb (Dec. 19). The 48 points are the most this season scored by players off UVa's bench. Freshman forward Derrick Byars and junior center Nick Vander Laan scored 20 and 17 points, respectively.

The previous 2002-2003 high was 47 points in an 86-72 win over Chaminade (Nov. 25). Sophomore forward Elton Brown led the way with 22 points, while sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith added 16 points.

UVa's bench came through again in a 79-75 victory over Georgetown (Dec. 28) as the four players who came off the bench combined to score 46 points. Senior forward/center Travis Watson led the way with 16 points, while Brown tallied 14 points.

Two Busy Weeks After Final Exams

After a 13-day break for final exams, the Cavaliers won three games in a span of five days. UVa won the first two games of the stretch – 84-76 over East Tennessee State (Dec. 17) and 72-65 over Gardner-Webb (Dec. 19) – at home in University Hall. UVa closed out the stretch with a 61-57 victory at Rutgers (Dec. 21).

Virginia then won three home games in a span of six days. UVa began its homestand with a 79-75 victory over Georgetown (Dec. 28) and posted a 77-58 win over Liberty (Dec. 30). The Cavaliers closed their homestand with an 87-65 victory over Wofford (Jan. 2).

Rod Jensen Joins Coaching Staff

Rod Jensen, formerly the head men's basketball coach at Boise State University, joined the University of Virginia's men's basketball coaching staff during the summer. Jensen joined the staff after Tom Herrion left Virginia to become the head coach at the College of Charleston. Other members of head coach Pete Gillen's staff include assistant coaches Walt Fuller and Alexis Sherard, and director of men's basketball operations Scott Shepherd.

Cavaliers Welcome Six Newcomers

Joining the Cavaliers this season are 6-7 freshman forward Derrick Byars and 6-5 sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith.

Byars, a three-year letterman at Ridgeway High School in Memphis, Tenn., averaged 23.2 points, 10 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game as a high school senior during the 2001-02 season. He shot 37 percent from three-point range and 77 percent from the free throw line. He was a fourth-team

Parade All-America selection and the Gatorade Player of the Year in Tennessee as a high school senior.

Smith earned first-team Junior College All-America honors as a freshman at Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kan., last season. During the 2001-02 season he averaged 19.4 points and 6.6 rebounds a game, shot 51.8 percent (251-485) from the field, including 45.8 percent (108-236) from three-point range, and made 90.2 percent (129-143) of his free throw attempts.

Four additional players joined the Virginia team after participating in open tryouts October 7-8. The players are guard Billy Campbell (6-0, Fr., Atlanta, Ga.), forward Greg Harrell-Edge (6-8, Sr., Vienna, Va.), guard Robert Lodge (6-4, Fr., Raleigh, N.C.) and forward Rob Williams (6-7, So., Martinsville, Va.). See page 8 of the notes for bios on the four walk-ons.

Watson Named Candidate for CLASS Award

Senior All-America candidate Travis Watson is one of 36 candidates for the second annual Senior CLASS Award as announced by the award's organizing committee. The Senior CLASS Award – an acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School – is presented annually to the nation's senior player-of-the-year for NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball. The award was developed in response to the recent trend of college basketball players leaving college early to turn professional.

Selection criteria is based on a number of factors, the most important being that the recipient must have exhausted his four years of eligibility and have fulfilled his commitment to his respective university. In addition, the recipient must be working toward his degree, be in good academic standing and be of sound moral character.

Ten finalists will appear on the official ballot during the national voting process in March. The winners will be announced during the respective NCAA Final Four events.

Cavaliers Fall to Top-Ranked Duke

Virginia played very well against the top-ranked team in the nation, but in the end the Blue Devils accuracy from the free throw line helped Duke to a 104-93 victory (Jan. 15) over the Cavaliers. The Blue Devils made 37-40 free throws in the game for an impressive 92.5 percent. The 37 free throws made ties the school record for most free throws made by a UVa opponent in a game.

Senior forward/center Travis Watson led the Cavaliers with 26 points, while sophomore forward Elton Brown and junior guard Todd Billet tallied 19 and 18 points, respectively. Sophomore guard Keith Jenifer rounded out UVa's double figure scorers with 12 points. He also registered team highs of six rebounds, five assists and two steals.

The Cavaliers got out of the gates quickly and led by five points (22-17) with 11:52 remaining in the first half. Duke eventually took a 50-45 lead at the intermission.

A three-pointer by J.J. Redick to open the second half extended the Blue Devil lead to eight points, 53-45. The Cavaliers then went on a 9-0 run to take a 54-53 lead with 17:48 to play. Billet capped off the run with a pair of free throws. UVa took its last lead of the game (56-55) at the 17:06 mark on a jump shot by Watson. The game was tied four times after Virginia took the 56-55 edge, but the Cavaliers could never regain the lead. The Blue Devils made 12 of 13 free throws in the final 5:03 to help seal the victory.

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UVa shot 50.8 percent (31-61) from the field in the game while Duke was 29-58 (50.0 percent) from the floor, including nine of 15 three-point attempts (60.0 percent). Duke drained 37 of 40 free throws (92.5 percent) and the Cavaliers made 27 of 39 attempts from the charity stripe (69.2 percent). UVa held a 32-31 edge in rebounds.

Redick led Duke with 34 points, while Dahntay Jones added 23.

UVa Wins Two Exhibition Games

The Cavaliers won both of their 2002-2003 exhibition games. Virginia posted an 84-60 victory over Big Apple Basketball (Nov. 10) and a 73-57 exhibition win over One World All-Stars (Nov. 17) at University Hall.

Against Big Apple Basketball, the Cavaliers' starting front court of senior forward/center Travis Watson, junior center Nick Vander Laan and sophomore forward Elton Brown combined for 69 points and 47 rebounds.

Watson picked up where he left off last year and recorded a double-double with a game-high 32 points and 17 rebounds. Watson connected on 14 of 22 shots from the field, including three of six attempts from three-point range. In his first game as a Cavalier, Vander Laan grabbed a game-high 24 rebounds, including 13 offensive, and added 14 points for a double-double. Brown made 10 of 20 attempts from the field en route to 23 points. He also pulled down six rebounds. Junior guard Todd Billet rounded out UVa's double digit scorers with 13 points. He also contributed five rebounds and three assists. Watson, Brown, Vander Laan and Billet combined to score 82 of UVa's 84 points.

The Cavaliers used just eight players in the game as sophomores Jason Clark, Jermaine Harper and Keith Jenifer were serving a one-game suspension for a violation of team rules. Junior Majestic Mapp, sophomore Devin Smith and freshman Derrick Byars missed the game with injuries.

In the 73-57 win over One World All-Stars, Watson registered a double-double with 16 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Cavaliers. He also blocked four shots. Billet led all scorers with 17 points and also recorded a game-high seven assists. Vander Laan and Smith rounded out UVa's double figure scorers. Vander Laan scored 12 points and added seven rebounds, two blocked shots and two assists. In his first game for the Cavaliers, Smith tallied 11 points.

One World All-Stars built a five-point lead (40-35) early in the second half, only to see the Cavaliers quickly respond with baskets by Watson, Billet and Vander Laan. UVa took the lead for good midway through the second half when sophomore forward Elton Brown converted a layup off an offensive rebound to give the Cavaliers a 51-50 lead.

Cavaliers Ink Two

University of Virginia men's head basketball coach Pete Gillen has announced the signing of two individuals to national letters of intent with Virginia. The two individuals are 6-6 Gary Forbes of Brooklyn, N.Y., and 6-3 J. R. Reynolds of Roanoke, Va.

Forbes, a guard, averaged 25 points, 11 rebounds and five assists a game as a junior during the 2001-02 season at Benjamin Banneker Academy.

Reynolds, a combination guard, started for four seasons at Roanoke Catholic High School before transferring to Oak Hill Academy for his senior year. He scored 2,237 points, made 217 three-point field goals and had 570 assists during his career at Roanoke Catholic. He was named the Most Valuable Player in the Virginia Independent Schools Division II three times.

"We are thrilled to officially have these two young men join our Virginia basketball family," Gillen said. "They are both very talented guards who can play a couple of positions. I sincerely feel they will be impact players on our team next season."

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACC

The Atlantic Coast Conference is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season. Former University of Virginia standouts **Jeff Lamp, Barry Parkhill** and **Ralph Sampson** were named to the 50th Anniversary ACC Men's Basketball Team.

Lamp lettered four times for Virginia from 1978-81, and was a first-team All-America selection in 1980 and 1981. He helped lead the Cavaliers to the 1980 NIT Championship and the 1981 NCAA Final Four. He was named the Most Valuable Player of the 1981 NCAA East Regional and was an All-Tournament selection at the 1981 Final Four. A team captain during his UVa career, Lamp ranks second on Virginia's all-time scoring list with 2,317 points. Lamp was a first-round selection by the Portland Trail Blazers in the 1981 NBA Draft.

Parkhill lettered for Virginia from 1971-73 and was a first-team All-America selection in 1972 and 1973. He was selected the ACC Basketball Player of the Year and the ACC Athlete of the Year in 1972. Parkhill earned first-team All-ACC honors in 1972 and was a second-team All-Conference selection in 1971 and 1973. He was also an All-ACC Tournament selection in 1971 and 1972. He holds Virginia's single-game scoring record with 51 points against Baldwin-Wallace on December 11, 1971. Parkhill was a first-round draft selection by both the Virginia Squires (ABA) and Portland Trail Blazers (NBA) after his collegiate career.

Sampson lettered four times for Virginia from 1980-83, and was a three-time National and ACC Player of the Year. He was a four-time first-team All-America selection and a three-time first-team All-ACC selection. Sampson received three consecutive Rupp trophies, two consecutive Eastman Awards and two John R. Wooden Awards. He was the ACC Rookie of the Year in 1980. Sampson helped lead the Cavaliers to the 1980 NIT Championship and the 1981 NCAA Final Four. He was named the Most Valuable Player of the 1980 NIT. Sampson holds Virginia career records for rebounds (1,511), field goals made (899) and blocked shots (462). He led the ACC in rebounding three times and ranks fourth on UVa's career scoring list with 2,228 points. Sampson was selected by the Houston Rockets as the NBA's number one draft choice in 1983 and went on to earn NBA Rookie of the Year honors.

Watson Looks Toward Senior Year

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has been named to the Wooden Award Preseason All-American Basketball Team and is also a preseason Naismith Award candidate. Watson is a third-team preseason All-America selection by *Street & Smith's* and is rated sixth nationally at center in *Lindy's* preseason basketball magazine. Watson added to his already impressive career at UVa by being named to the All-ACC second team after the 2001-02 season. He led the ACC in four statistical categories last season: double-doubles (17), rebounds (9.7 rpg), offensive rebounds (3.43 pg), and defensive rebounds (6.29 pg).

At the ACC's annual Operation Basketball, Watson was selected to the conference's 2002-03 Pre-Season First Team. He received 85 votes, the most of any player. Watson was also second to Duke's Chris Duhon in the Pre-Season ACC Player of the Year voting.

Twelve Games against Tournament Teams

Of Virginia's 29 regular-season games before the 2003 ACC Tournament, 12 are against eight teams that participated in either the 2002 NCAA Tournament or the National Invitation Tournament (NIT). Two of the games are against national champion Maryland. The Cavaliers also meet league foes Duke, N.C. State and Wake Forest twice. Those teams all participated in last season's NCAA Tournament. In addition to those games, Virginia has played Michigan State, an NCAA participant and Rutgers, which earned an NIT bid.

At the Maui Invitational (November 25-27), UVa played Kentucky (NCAA) and Indiana (NCAA runners-up).

UVa is 2-4 in 2002-2003 against teams that competed in postseason play last season.

2002-2003 VIRGINIA MEN'S BASKETBALL ADDITIONAL PLAYER BIOS

BILLY CAMPBELL

Freshman Guard 6-0
Atlanta, Ga./Paideia School

HIGH SCHOOL: Lettered four times as a point guard in basketball, four times in baseball as a pitcher and center fielder, and once in soccer as a goalkeeper at the Paideia School...scored more than 1,000 career points, and had more than 400 assists and 400 rebounds in basketball...earned Most Valuable Player honors...was captain of the basketball team and received the Coaches' Award...twice earned All-Fulton County honors in baseball...honored as the baseball team's Most Valuable Player, Best Offensive Player and Best Defensive Player during his career...also received the Coaches' Award in baseball. **PERSONAL:** William R. Campbell...born October 12, 1983 in Atlanta, Ga....son of Sharon and William Campbell...has a younger sister, Christina...his uncle, Ed Tapscott, was formerly the head basketball coach at American...was a National Achievement Finalist as a high school senior...received the Dartmouth Book Club Award as a junior.

GREG HARRELL-EDGE

Senior Forward 6-8
Vienna, Va./Jefferson

HIGH SCHOOL: Lettered twice in basketball at Jefferson High School...received the Coaches' Award as a senior...earned National Merit honorable mention recognition as a senior. **PERSONAL:** Gregory Thomas Harrell-Edge...born May 22, 1981 in Richmond, Va....son of Sharon Harrell and Robert Edge...has a younger sister...would like to be a basketball coach...government major.

ROBERT LODGE

Freshman Guard 6-4
Raleigh, N.C./Millbrook

HIGH SCHOOL: Lettered three times in basketball and three times in football at Millbrook High School...earned All-Conference honors as a guard/forward in basketball...honored as a Regional Most Valuable Player during the 2002 state tournament...earned All-Conference honors as a receiver in football. **PERSONAL:** Robert Jenkins Lodge...born September 6, 1983 in Atlanta, Ga....son of Suzanne and Marc Lodge...has a sister, Elizabeth (17)...member of the National Honor Society and a student government class representative at Millbrook High School...has worked with Habitat for Humanity, and taken mission trips to Mexico and Jamaica.

ROB WILLIAMS

Sophomore Forward 6-7
Martinsville, Va./Martinsville

HIGH SCHOOL: Lettered and started four years in basketball at Martinsville High School...earned All-State, All-Region and All-District honors as a senior during the 2000-01 season when Martinsville won the State AA Championship...established the record for most total blocks in three state tournament games...named the team's Most Valuable Player as a junior and senior...also earned Scholar-Athlete honors his last two years in high school...played in the 2001 Virginia High School League All-Star Game...member of the National Honor Society. **PERSONAL:** Robert A. Williams, Jr....born November 25, 1982 in Winston-Salem, N.C....son of Patricia and Robert Williams, Sr....has a younger sister, Jamiese.