

VIRGINIA BASKETBALL 2002-2003 MEDIA NOTES

Virginia (3-2)

vs.

East Tennessee State (3-3)

December 17, 2002 • 7:30 p.m.

University Hall (8,392)

Charlottesville, Va.

2002-03 SCHEDULE

3-2 Overall / 0-0 ACC

Home: 1-0

Away: 0-1

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	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	GARDNER-WEBB	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Rutgers	8:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	GEORGETOWN (CBS)	2:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	LIBERTY	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 2	WOFFORD (Com/Sunshine)	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	at N.C. State (FSN)	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	NORTH CAROLINA (ESPN)	Noon
Jan. 15	at Duke (ESPN)	7:00 p.m.
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

Tonight's game against East Tennessee State will not be televised.

RADIO

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

OFFICIALS

THE GAME

Virginia (2001-2002: 17-12/7-9 ACC) stands at 3-2 this season. In its last game, UVa lost to then 21st-ranked Michigan State 82-75 (Dec. 4) in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge in East Lansing, Mich. East Tennessee State (2001-2002: 18-10/11-5 Southern Conference) is 3-3 on the season. The Buccaneers are coming off a 106-70 home victory against Virginia-Wise (Dec. 14).

The Series vs. East Tennessee State

Tonight's game is just Virginia's third meeting against East Tennessee State with the Cavaliers winning the first two games. In the initial meeting in the 1985-86 season, UVa posted an 83-56 victory (Dec. 10) at University Hall. Last season, the Cavaliers won 85-62 (Nov. 18) at U-Hall.

Virginia vs. the Southern Conference

This is Virginia's first of two games this season against schools from the Southern Conference. The Cavaliers will play Wofford College at University Hall on January 2.

Virginia was one of the 13 original members of the "old" Southern Conference from 1922-37 and has a long and rich history of competition against the Southern Conference.

Against the 12 current members of the Southern Conference, the Cavaliers are 115-19 all-time. Most of the games were against VMI—a series Virginia leads 99-15. The Cavaliers are 2-0 vs. The Citadel and East Tennessee State, 1-0 vs. Appalachian State and the College of Charleston, and 10-4 against Davidson.

Of the Southern Conference's current membership, Virginia has never faced Chattanooga, Furman, Georgia Southern, North Carolina-Greensboro, Western Carolina or Wofford.

There have been 40 other schools besides UVa that have been members of the Southern Conference at one time or another since 1922. These schools include many current members of the Southeastern Conference and the ACC. Virginia is 273-244 (.528) against these schools at the time they were in the Southern Conference.

Cavalier Captains

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

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.

Two Starting Times Changed

The starting times for Virginia's games at Rutgers on December 21 and at Virginia Tech on January 21 have been changed. The Rutgers game will begin at 8:00 p.m. and the Virginia Tech contest will start at 7:30 p.m.

Non-Conference Teams at University Hall

Virginia is 195-29 (.871) all-time in University Hall against non-conference opponents since the building opened for the 1965-66 season. The Cavaliers have won 77 of their last 87 home games against non-conference opponents dating back to the 1989-90 season. UVa had its 15-game home winning streak against non-conference opponents snapped with a 74-67 loss to South Carolina in the first round of the 2002 National Invitation Tournament (Mar. 13). Virginia's previous home non-conference loss was also in the NIT as the Cavaliers fell to Georgetown 115-111 in triple overtime in the first round of the 2000 NIT (Mar. 15).

The last time UVa lost a regular season home game to a non-conference opponent was December 12, 1998 when the Cavaliers fell to 12th-ranked St. John's 95-68. Virginia has won 23 consecutive regular season home games against non-conference foes.

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 have 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.

Head Coach Pete Gillen

Pete Gillen is in his 18th season as a collegiate head coach and sports a 347-179 record for a .660 winning percentage. Gillen is in his fifth season at Virginia and has posted a 73-51 record (.589 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).

A Busy Week After Final Exams

Tonight's game against East Tennessee State is the Cavaliers' first in 13 days (since falling to Michigan State 82-75 on Dec. 4). The game also marks the first of three games in five days for UVa. After playing the Bucs tonight, UVa hosts Gardner-Webb on Thursday (Dec. 19) and plays at Rutgers on Saturday (Dec. 21).

The Cavaliers then host three games in six days after Christmas. UVa hosts Georgetown on December 28, Liberty on December 30 and Wofford on January 2 before the start of ACC play on January 5 (at N.C. State).

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.

2002-2003 ACC Pre-Season Media Prediction

(Indicates first place votes)

	Team	Points
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	Second Team	
Travis Watson, UVa	85	Dahntay Jones, Duke 24
Steve Blake, Md	83	Edward Scott, Clem 12
Chris Duhon, Duke	83	Tahj Holden, Md 5
Josh Howard, WF	78	Marcus Melvin, NCSU 5
Julius Hodge, NCSU	62	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

More Double-Doubles

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has picked up where he left off last season as he recorded double-doubles in three of the first five games of the season. With the three double-doubles, Watson has 41 in his career which trails only Ralph Sampson's school record 84 career double-doubles. Watson opened the season with 26 points and 13 rebounds in UVa's

90-86 win over Long Island (Nov. 22). He tallied 16 points and 14 boards in the Cavaliers' 86-72 victory over Chaminade (Nov. 25). Watson notched his third double-double of the season with 14 points and 11 rebounds against Indiana (Nov. 27). Watson's 41 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.

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.

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.

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's former career-best was 11 points against Duke (Jan. 27, 2002). He made four of six shots from the field and four of five attempts from the free throw line.

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.

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).

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.

50th Anniversary of the ACC

The Atlantic Coast Conference is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season. Former University of Virginia stand-outs 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.

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.

3 • Virginia vs. East Tennessee State, December 17, 2002

Transfers Ready to Play

Guard Todd Billet (Rutgers) and center Nick Vander Laan (California-Berkeley) are eligible to play for the Cavaliers during the 2002-03 season after transferring to Virginia prior to the 2001-02 academic year.

Billet is a 6-0 guard from Middletown, N.J. He 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 made eight three-pointers against Lafayette during the 2000-01 season.

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

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 seven 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.

Watson Moves Up to Fourth in Rebounds

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has opened the 2002-2003 season by grabbing 52 rebounds (10.4 per game) in the Cavaliers' first five games. He now stands fourth on Virginia's career rebounding list with 846. Watson needs 14 rebounds to move past Bryant Stith (1989-92) into third 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 103 career blocked shots and ranks fifth all-time. He blocked a career-high tying five shots against Chaminade (Nov. 25) to jump from seventh to fifth place. He needs six blocked shots to move past Steve Castellan (1976-79) for fourth place.

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

Watson 30th in Scoring

Senior forward/center Travis Watson is 30th on the Cavaliers' all-time scoring list with 1,176 career points. He needs just three points to move past Joe Noertker (1947-50) – 1,177 points and Mike Katos (1966-68) – 1,178 points. Jim Miller (1982-85) holds the 27th spot with 1,218 career points.

Michigan State Tops UVa in ACC/Big Ten Challenge

The Cavaliers lost to 21st-ranked Michigan State 82-75 (Dec. 4) in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge in East Lansing, Mich. The Spartans used a 20-2 run midway through the first half to turn a four-point deficit (17-13) into a 14-point lead (33-19).

Michigan State used its big run in the first half to take a 36-25 lead at the intermission. The Cavaliers shot 56.3 percent (18-32) in the second half, but the Spartans were equally impressive, connecting on 56.0 percent (14-25) of their attempts from the floor in the final stanza. For the game, Michigan State shot 51.0 percent (26-51) from the field and made 24 of 32 free throws. The Cavaliers were 27-57 (47.4 percent) from the field and made a season-high 11 three-pointers (11-21 – 52.4 percent).

Junior guard Todd Billet and sophomore forward/guard Devin Smith paced all players with 28 and 24 points, respectively. Billet made a season-high six three-pointers and had

three steals and two assists, while Smith made nine of 13 attempts from the floor (4-6 three-pointers) and added three rebounds and two assists. Senior forward/center Travis Watson rounded out UVa's double figure scorers with 10 points and grabbed a team-high six rebounds.

Chris Hill led Michigan State with 22 points, while Alan Anderson added 15 points.

Cavaliers Fall to 19th-Ranked Indiana

Virginia advanced to the championship game of the Maui Invitational, but fell to 19th-ranked Indiana 70-63 (Nov. 27) at the Lahaina Civic Center. The Cavaliers led by one, 33-32, at halftime, but Indiana used a 14-1 run midway through the second half to pull out the victory.

Senior forward/center Travis Watson, who was named to the All-Tournament Team, led the Cavaliers with 14 points and 11 rebounds for his third double-double of the season. Sophomore forward Elton Brown added 12 points, while freshman forward Derrick Byars scored a career-high 11 points. He made all three of his three-point field goal attempts. Junior center Nick Vander Laan was the fourth UVa player to reach double figures in scoring with 10 points.

After taking a one-point halftime advantage, Virginia took its last lead of the game at the 13:19 mark when Byars made his third and final three-pointer to give UVa a 42-39 lead. With the score tied at 44-44, Indiana's George Leach began a 15-1 Hoosier run with a free throw. Indiana built its lead to 14 (59-45) with 6:54 to play. A pair of three-pointers by junior guard Todd Billet sandwiched around a Hoosier basket pulled Virginia within six, 61-55, with 4:51 left.

Bracey Wright, the Maui Invitational MVP, led Indiana with 21 points. Marshall Strickland and Jeff Newton added 15 and 11 points, respectively.

UVa Notches Upset Win Over 15th-Ranked Kentucky

The Cavaliers made several key three-pointers down the stretch to break open a tight game and post a 75-61 victory over 15th-ranked Kentucky (Nov. 26) in the Maui Invitational. With the win, UVa earned a berth in the championship game of the tournament.

Sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith and junior guard Todd Billet led the way with game-highs of 15 points apiece. Smith made three three-pointers in the final six minutes of the game, while Billet made his three treys in the second stanza as UVa outscored the Wildcats 45-29. Sophomore guard Keith Jenifer scored a career-high 13 points and handed out six assists, while freshman forward Derrick Byars reached double figures for the first time in his collegiate career with 10 points. Smith, senior forward/center Travis Watson and junior center Nick Vander Laan each pulled down eight rebounds.

Kentucky led by as many as nine points (18-9) in the first half and took a 32-30 advantage at the intermission. The Cavaliers took the lead for good (44-42) on Billet's first three-pointer of the game at the 14:30 mark. UVa stretched its lead to eight (61-53) on a Smith three-pointer with 5:51 to play, but Kentucky answered with six consecutive points to pull within two (61-59). Smith then nailed back-to-back threes to increase Virginia's lead to 67-59 and put the game out of reach.

Marquis Estill, Keith Bogans and Jules Camara each

scored 12 points for the Wildcats. Camara led all players with 10 rebounds and four blocked shots.

UVa shot 47.5 percent (28-59) from the field while Kentucky made only 25 of 67 attempts (37.3 percent). Virginia made eight threes in the game compared to the Wildcats' two. UVa shot a season-best 11-12 (91.7 percent) from the free throw line. The Wildcats were equally as accurate, making 9-10 from the line. The Cavaliers held a 41-32 edge in rebounds.

Cavaliers Knock Off Chaminade

Virginia opened the Maui Invitational with an 86-72 victory over Chaminade (Nov. 25) at the Lahaina Civic Center. Sophomore forward Elton Brown scored a career-high 22 points and senior forward/center Travis Watson recorded his second double-double of the season with 16 points and 14 rebounds in leading the Cavaliers to the victory.

Brown made eight of 13 attempts from the field and was five for seven from the free throw line en route to his career-high 22 points. His previous career-best was 20 points vs. Georgia Tech (Jan. 22, 2002). Brown also added six rebounds. Watson posted his 40th career double-double and second of the season with 16 points and 14 boards. He also equaled his career-high with five blocked shots, and added two steals and two assists. Sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith had 16 of the Cavaliers' 47 points off the bench.

The Cavaliers, who held Chaminade to 28 percent (7-25) shooting in the first half, led by five, 36-31, at the intermission. UVa shot a sizzling 65.4 percent (17-26) while putting 50 points on the scoreboard in the second half. For the game, Virginia shot 48.4 percent (31-64) from the field while limiting the Silverswords to 34.9 percent (22-63) accuracy. UVa held a 44-40 edge in rebounds as well.

Roy Stigall led Chaminade with 18 points, while Rahshaw McAfee added 10.

Virginia Downs Long Island in Season-Opener

Senior forward/center Travis Watson registered a double-double with 26 points and 13 rebounds in leading UVa to a 90-86 season-opening win over Long Island University (Nov. 22) at University Hall.

Watson made 11 of 13 attempts from the field en route to his game-high 26 points. In addition to his game-best 13 rebounds, Watson led all players with four blocked shots and four steals.

Junior guard Todd Billet also turned in an outstanding performance with 20 points, four rebounds, three assists and a key blocked shot of a three-point attempt with the Cavaliers leading by three points late in the game. Billet made five of 10 three-point attempts. Sophomore forward Jason Clark came off the bench to score a career-high 12 points, all of which came in the second half. Sophomore guard Keith Jenifer chipped in with a career-high seven assists, four points and two steals.

The Cavaliers shot a blistering 66.7 percent (18-27) in the first half, but the Blackbirds' trailed by only four points (44-40) at the intermission, thanks in part to six three-pointers.

Virginia trailed just once in the second half (47-46 with 16:47 to play), but could never put Long Island away. UVa built a 10-point lead, 78-68, with 4:40 to play, only to see

Long Island go on an 11-2 run to pull within a point, 80-79, with 3:21 left. With the Cavaliers leading 86-83 with 12 seconds to go, Billet blocked Antawn Dobie's three-point attempt to help seal the victory.

UVa shot 50 percent (33-66) in the game, while LIU connected on 33-68 attempts from the floor (48.5 percent), including 10 three-pointers. The Blackbirds held a 41-30 edge in rebounds. UVa committed only nine turnovers in the game while forcing 15 Blackbird miscues.

JaJa Bey had four three-pointers and led Long Island with 21 points, while Maurice Yearwood drained five three-point field goals and finished with 17 points. Derek Bell and Dobie added 16 and 15 points, respectively.

UVa Closes Exhibition Season with 73-57 Victory

Senior forward/center Travis Watson registered a double-double with 16 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Cavaliers to a 73-57 exhibition win over One World All-Stars (Nov. 17) at University Hall.

In addition to his 16 points and game-high 16 rebounds, Watson blocked a pair of shots. Junior guard Todd Billet led all scorers in the game with 17 points while playing 39 minutes. He also recorded a game-high seven assists. Junior center Nick Vander Laan and sophomore guard Devin 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.

Virginia trailed for most of the first half, but a layup by Watson with 22 seconds remaining gave UVa a 35-34 half-time advantage. 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.

Gordon Malone led One World All-Stars with 15 points, 13 rebounds and two blocked shots, while Kareem Reid tallied 14 points.

UVa shot 44.6 percent (29-65) from the field in the game while limiting One World All-Stars to 31.1 percent (19-61) accuracy. The Cavaliers also held a 45-38 edge in rebounds.

Cavaliers Open Exhibition Season with 84-60 Win

Virginia began the exhibition portion of the 2002-03 season with an 84-60 victory over Big Apple Basketball (Nov. 10) at University Hall. 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. He also added three assists, two steals and a blocked shot. 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. Senior center/forward Jason Rogers was the only other Cavalier to score as he had two points.

Virginia shot 44.7 percent (34-76) from the field in the game while holding Big Apple Basketball to 34.3 percent (23-67) shooting from the floor. The Cavaliers also held a 63-37 advantage in rebounding, including a 29-14 edge on the offensive glass. UVa shot 52.6 percent (20-38) in the first half as it took a 47-28 lead at the intermission.

Forward Michael Tabb led Big Apple Basketball with 19 points, a game-high four blocked shots and five rebounds. Forward Roberto Gittens added 13 points and eight rebounds, while former Cavalier guard Harold Deane contributed 10 points and three assists.

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.

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."

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. In addition to those games, Virginia plays 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).

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.