

# VIRGINIA BASKETBALL 2002-2003 MEDIA NOTES

Virginia (6-2)

vs.

Georgetown (7-0)

December 28, 2002 • 2:00 p.m.

University Hall (8,392)

Charlottesville, Va.

## 2002-03 SCHEDULE

6-2 Overall / 0-0 ACC

Home: 3-0

Away: 1-1

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	W, 84-76
Dec. 19	GARDNER-WEBB	W, 72-65
Dec. 21	at Rutgers	W, 61-57
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

Today's game against Georgetown University will be televised by CBS. Craig Bolerjack will handle the play-by-play. Clark Kellogg is the analyst.

### RADIO

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

### OFFICIALS

Referee: Karl Hess. Umpires: Jim Burr and Doug Shows.

### THE GAME

Virginia (2001-2002: 17-12/7-9 ACC) stands at 6-2 this season. In its last game, UVa defeated Rutgers 61-57 Saturday (Dec. 21) in Piscataway, N.J. for its third consecutive victory. Georgetown (2001-2002: 19-11/9-7 Big East) is 7-0 in 2002-2003 and is coming off a 91-66 victory over Howard (Dec. 20) at MCI Center.

### The Series vs. Georgetown

Georgetown leads the series with Virginia 12-10, but the Cavaliers have won six of the last eight meetings. Three of the last five games have been decided in overtime. Georgetown won the first six meetings of the series, which dates back to the 1906-07 season. Since then, Virginia holds a 10-6 edge in the series.

In the last meeting, the Cavaliers recorded a 61-55 victory (Dec. 20) at MCI Center last season to win the John Thompson Foundation Classic. In the previous meeting, Georgetown defeated UVa 115-111 in triple overtime in the first round of the 2000 National Invitation Tournament at University Hall (Mar. 15). Prior to last season's victory, Virginia's last win over the Hoyas was a 76-66 overtime triumph in the ACC/Big East Challenge at the Greensboro Coliseum in the 1991-92 season. UVa also recorded a 68-63 win over the Hoyas at the Capital Centre in Landover, Md., in the 1982-83 season. The game was billed as the "game of the decade" with two of the premier players in the country, Ralph Sampson and Patrick Ewing, squaring off against one another.

Virginia is 5-5 against the Hoyas at home in Charlottesville. Georgetown has won the last two games at University Hall, one in overtime and the other in triple overtime. The Cavaliers' last victory over Georgetown in Charlottesville was a 76-75 win on February 10, 1953.

### Non-Conference Teams at University Hall

Virginia is 197-29 (.872) all-time in University Hall against non-conference opponents since the building opened for the 1965-66 season. The Cavaliers have won 79 of their last 89 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 25 consecutive regular season home games against non-conference foes.

## Virginia vs. the Big East Conference

The Cavaliers are 118-87 (.576) against the 14 schools in the Big East Conference. Most of the games occurred prior to a school's membership in the Big East. This afternoon's game is the second of three contests Virginia plays against Big East teams this season. UVa posted a 61-57 win at Rutgers (Dec. 21) and plays at Virginia Tech (Jan. 21). The win over Rutgers marked UVa's fifth consecutive win over a Big East team. Virginia's last loss to a Big East foe was to Georgetown in the 2000 NIT.

In all games against the current membership of the Big East, Virginia is 72-44 vs. Virginia Tech, 10-12 vs. Georgetown, 8-8 vs. West Virginia, 7-3 vs. Pittsburgh, 5-1 vs. Notre Dame, 4-1 vs. Villanova, 3-0 vs. Boston College and Rutgers, 3-1 vs. Providence, 2-6 vs. Connecticut, 1-1 vs. Syracuse, 0-2 vs. Miami (Fla.) and Seton Hall, and 0-6 vs. St. John's.

Virginia was the only ACC school to win all three games in the defunct ACC-Big East Challenge held from 1989-91. Syracuse was the only Big East school to win all three games in the challenge.

## 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.

## 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.

## Gillen Registers 350th Career Win

Virginia head coach Pete Gillen won his 350th career game Saturday night (Dec. 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 350-179 record for a .662 winning percentage. Gillen is in his fifth season at Virginia and has posted a 76-51 record (.598 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).

## Last Season vs. Georgetown

Virginia put forth a solid defensive effort in downing then 16th-ranked Georgetown 61-55 at MCI Center (Dec. 20) to win the John Thompson Foundation Classic. UVa held the Hoyas to 35.7 percent shooting (20-56) and outrebounded the physical hosts 49-30.

Forward Chris Williams, who was named the Classic's Most Valuable Player, registered a double-double with a game-high 17 points and 11 rebounds. Forward/center Travis Watson recorded his fourth double-double of the season with

12 points and a game-high 13 rebounds. Guard Roger Mason, Jr., added 16 points, six assists and four rebounds. Forward Elton Brown rounded out UVa's double figure scorers with 10 points, including the first two three-pointers of his career. Watson and Mason joined Williams on the All-Tournament team.

Georgetown only led three times in the game and the last occasion was 9-8 at the 13:38 mark of the first half. A layup by Williams with 12 minutes left in the opening stanza ignited an 11-0 UVa run that gave the Cavaliers a 19-9 advantage with 8:12 left in the first half. Virginia led by as many as 14 points in the first half and took a 32-24 advantage at the intermission.

Georgetown cut Virginia's lead to four points seven times during the second half, but each time the Cavaliers answered with a clutch basket. Mason made a pair of baskets and also twice drained a pair of free throws to push UVa's lead from four to six points in the second half.

Tony Bethel led the Hoyas with 12 points, while Mike Sweetney added 10 points and seven rebounds.

## 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.	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>488</b>
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	
<b>Travis Watson, UVa</b>	<b>85</b>	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
<b>Travis Watson, Virginia</b>	<b>23</b>
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

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### A Busy Week 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).

The Cavaliers will now host three games in six days. After today's game against Georgetown, UVa hosts 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.

### 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.

### Cavalier Captains

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

### 'Hoos Starting

The Cavaliers have played eight games this season and have used eight different starting lineups. Senior forward/center Travis Watson had been the only player to start every game this season, but he missed the Rutgers game (Dec. 21) with an ankle injury. Watson and junior guard Todd Billet have both started seven games, while sophomore guard/forward Devin Smith and sophomore guard Keith Jenifer have registered six starts apiece.

Here's a breakdown of UVa's starting lineup in each game this season:

<b>LIU</b>	Byars	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet
<b>Cham</b>	Byars	Watson	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Billet
<b>Kent</b>	Byars	Brown	Watson	Billet	Smith
<b>Ind</b>	Byars	Watson	Vander Laan	Billet	Smith
<b>MSU</b>	Byars	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Smith
<b>ETSU</b>	Smith	Watson	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Billet
<b>GWU</b>	Smith	Brown	Watson	Jenifer	Billet
<b>Rut</b>	Smith	Clark	Vander Laan	Jenifer	Billet

### Making Free Throws Down The Stretch

The Cavaliers have struggled from the free throw line this season, making just 68.6 percent (127-185) of their attempts from the charity stripe. However, UVa has been extremely reliable from the charity stripe in the final five minutes of games.

In the first half of games, Virginia is shooting 71.2 percent (42-59) from the line. UVa has made only 67.5 percent (85-

126) of its attempts in the second half of games. In the final five minutes of games, the Cavaliers have made 50 of 69 attempts for 72.5 percent. (UVa is only 35-57 for 61.4 percent in the first 15 minutes of the second half.) In its last six games, UVa has made 39 of 47 attempts from the foul line in the final five minutes of games for 83.0 percent.

### 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 leads UVa in scoring this season with 14.5 points per game. He tops the Cavaliers in three-point field goals (23) and free throw shooting (31-33 for 93.9 percent) as well.

### More Double-Doubles

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has picked up where he left off last season as he has recorded three double-doubles this 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.

### 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

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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 a team-high 14.5 points per game this season.

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 11.0 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 also 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.

#### **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).

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.

#### **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.

#### **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 sea-

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sons 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 Tied for Third in Rebounds

Senior forward/center Travis Watson has opened the 2002-2003 season by grabbing 65 rebounds (9.3 per game) in the seven games he has played. He is now tied with Bryant Stith (1989-92) for third on Virginia's career rebounding list with 859.

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

1. Ralph Sampson (1980-83)	1,511
2. Junior Burrough (1992-95)	929
3. <b>Travis Watson (2000-pres.)</b>	<b>859</b>
Bryant Stith (1989-92)	859
5. Steve Castellan (1976-79)	799
6. Ted Jeffries (1990-93)	787
7. Chris Williams (1999-02)	786

### All-Time Blocked Shot Leaders

Senior Travis Watson ranks among Virginia's all-time leaders in blocked shots. Watson has 104 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 five blocked shots to move past Steve Castellan (1976-79) for fourth place.

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

1. Ralph Sampson (1980-83)	462
2. Chris Alexander (1993-96)	148
3. Kris Hunter (1997-99)	126
4. Steve Castellan (1976-79)	108
5. <b>Travis Watson (2000-pres.)</b>	<b>104</b>
6. Chris Williams (1999-02)	97
7. Junior Burrough (1992-95)	96
8. Colin Ducharme (1997-00)	88

### Watson 28th in Scoring

Senior forward/center Travis Watson is 28th on the Cavaliers' all-time scoring list with 1,190 career points. He needs 29 points to move past Jim Miller (1982-85) for 27th place.

### Bench Scoring

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 is the most this season scored by players off UVa's bench. The previous 2002-2003 high was 47 points in an 86-72 win over Chaminade (Nov. 25). Freshman forward Derrick Byars and junior center Nick Vander Laan led the way against the Runnin' Bulldogs with 20 and 17 points, respectively.

### Billet Leads UVa Past Former Team

Junior guard Todd Billet scored a game-high 22 points to lead the Cavaliers to a 61-57 victory (Dec. 21) over Rutgers, his former school, at the Louis Brown Athletic Center in Piscataway, N.J.

Billet, who played two seasons for Rutgers before transferring to Virginia, clinched the victory by making a pair of free throws with 14 seconds remaining that broke a 57-57 tie. Sophomore forward Jason Clark, who equaled his career high with 12 points, iced the game by making two free throws with four seconds left. Clark also pulled down eight rebounds and blocked five shots. Sophomore guard Keith Jenifer added nine points, a career-high nine rebounds and five assists, while junior center Nick Vander Laan grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

The Cavaliers led by as many as 13 points in the first half and took a 33-24 advantage at the intermission. Virginia struggled from the field in the second half and Rutgers slowly whittled away at the UVa lead, eventually taking a 45-43 edge with 8:01 left to play. The Scarlet Knights increased their lead to four (48-44), but a Billet three-pointer and a layup by sophomore forward Elton Brown erased the Rutgers lead and put

the Cavaliers up by a point (49-48). Trailing by two points, Jenifer tied the game (51-51) with a pair of three throws at the 3:06 mark and made a jumper nearly two minutes later to make the score 53-51. Brown stretched the UVa lead to four with two free throws, but Rutgers made a three-pointer to close within one (55-54). Jenifer drained two more foul shots only to have the Scarlet Knights tie the game at 57-57 with another three-pointer. Billet and Clark provided the final margin by combining to make four three throws in the final 14 seconds of the game. UVa made 10 consecutive free throws in the final 3:06 of the contest.

Virginia shot only 38.5 percent (20-52) from the field in the game, but held Rutgers to 31.3 percent (21-67) accuracy from the floor. The Cavaliers also held a 52-36 edge in rebounds. UVa committed 24 turnovers in the game and forced only seven.

Ricky Shields and Sean Axani led the Scarlet Knights with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

### **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."

### **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.