

VIRGINIA

Basketball

2005-06

Media Notes

Virginia (6-5, 0-1 ACC)

vs.

Clemson (12-2, 1-0)

January 7, 2006 • Noon

University Hall (8,392)

Charlottesville, Va.



2005-06 Schedule

6-5 Overall / 0-1 ACC

Home: 4-1

Away: 1-4

Neutral: 1-0

Nov. 11	CONCORDIA (ex)		W, 98-62
Nov. 18	LIBERTY		W, 79-44
Nov. 22	at Richmond	CN8	W, 59-43
Nov. 27	at #9 Arizona	FSN	L, 51-81
Nov. 30	NORTHWESTERN%	ESPNU	W, 72-57
Dec. 4	at Georgia Tech		L, 54-63
Dec. 7	FORDHAM		L, 60-62
Dec. 17	at #10 Gonzaga	FSN - NW	L, 69-80
Dec. 23	Loyola (Md.)		W, 98-59
Dec. 28	vs. UMBC #		W, 77-66
Dec. 31	HARTFORD		W, 71-62
Jan. 2	at Western Kentucky		L, 68-78
Jan. 7	CLEMSON		Noon
Jan. 11	FLORIDA STATE		7:00 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Virginia Tech		4:00 p.m.
Jan. 19	NORTH CAROLINA		7:00 p.m.
Jan. 24	MIAMI	ESPNU	9:00 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Duke		7:00 p.m.
Feb. 1	at N.C. State	RSN	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 4	WAKE FOREST		1:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Maryland	RSN	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 11	VIRGINIA TECH		8:00 p.m.
Feb. 15	LONGWOOD		7:00 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Florida State		4:00 p.m.
Feb. 21	BOSTON COLLEGE	RSN	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 25	at Clemson		2:00 p.m.
Mar. 1	at North Carolina		9:00 p.m.
Mar. 5	MARYLAND		3:30 p.m.
Mar. 9-12	ACC Tournament ^		TBA

% - ACC/Big Ten Challenge

- Siegel Center, Richmond, Va.

^ - Greensboro, N.C.

All Times Eastern

TELEVISION

Today's game will be televised by Raycom/Jefferson Pilot. Tim Brant 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

Referee: Gary Maxwell. Umpires: Leslie Jones and Roger Ayers

THE GAME

Virginia enters today's Atlantic Coast Conference game with a 6-5 overall record and a 0-1 mark in the ACC. The Cavaliers had their three-game winning streak snapped with a 78-68 loss to Western Kentucky (Jan. 2) in Bowling Green, Ky.

Clemson stands at 12-2 overall and 1-0 in the ACC. The Tigers, who won their first 11 games of the season, are coming off a 61-55 home win over Florida State (Jan. 4).

The Series vs. Clemson

Virginia leads the all-time series with Clemson 63-46. The Cavaliers won the only meeting against Clemson last season 81-79 (Jan. 22) at University Hall. UVa has won the last four meetings in the series.

Virginia swept three games from the Tigers in the 2003-04 season. UVa snapped a two-game losing streak to the Tigers with a 61-50 win (Jan. 20) in Charlottesville. Virginia earned a sweep with a 58-55 victory (Feb. 21) in Clemson, S.C., and then defeated Clemson a third time with an 83-79 overtime victory (Mar. 11) in the ACC Tournament in Greensboro, N.C. It marked only the second time the Cavaliers beat Clemson three times in the same season (UVa also won three times in 1982).

UVa has won 11 of the last 15 games against the Tigers and 22 of the last 31 in the series dating back to the 1989-90 season. The Cavaliers swept the season series seven times in the last 13 seasons (since 1992-93) and are 18-8 vs. the Tigers during that span.

The Tigers swept the 2002-03 season series from UVa, winning 78-77 (Jan. 18) in Clemson, S.C., and 73-64 (Feb. 18) in Charlottesville. It marked Clemson's first season sweep since the 1996-97 campaign.

Virginia had its four-game winning streak against the Tigers snapped with a 68-52 loss (Jan. 8) in the first meeting in the 2001-02 season in Clemson, S.C. Virginia earned a split in the 2001-02 series with an 85-71 win (Feb. 10) in University Hall.

The Cavaliers swept the 2000-01 season series versus Clemson, winning 104-76 (Jan. 27) at Littlejohn Coliseum and 84-65 (Feb. 28) at University Hall. Virginia also swept the 1999-00 season series from Clemson.

Virginia has won seven of the last eight contests against Clemson at University Hall. The Cavaliers had their five-game home winning streak against Clemson snapped with a 73-64 loss to the Tigers on February 18, 2003. UVa won for the seventh time in the last eight tries at home with an 81-79 victory (Jan. 22) last season.

The Cavaliers are 37-15 all-time at home against the Tigers, including 31-9 at U-Hall. Prior to the 2002-03 season, the last UVa loss to the Tigers at University Hall was a 62-52 setback on December 7, 1996 (Clemson was ranked 12th in the nation).

Virginia's PROBABLE Starters

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Ppg.	Rpg.	App.	Mpg.	Notes
11	F	Laurynas Mikalauskas	6-8	241	Fr.	5.6	4.7	0.1	23.2	8 points, 9 rebounds vs. Western Kentucky (1/2)
33	F	Jason Cain	6-10	212	Jr.	8.6	8.3	0.5	23.8	Four double-doubles in last seven games
24	G/F	Mamadi Diane	6-5	185	Fr.	8.9	4.2	1.1	28.8	Career-high 18 points vs. Northwestern (11/30)
2	G	J.R. Reynolds	6-2 1/2	197	Jr.	14.9	3.0	3.7	31.8	Season-high 26 points vs. Western Kentucky (1/2)
44	G	Sean Singletary	6-0	174	So.	17.4	4.5	4.5	33.0	Five games of 20 or more points this season
Virginia's Key Reserves										
12	G	Billy Campbell	6-0	184	Sr.	1.6	1.1	0.6	9.4	Made first career start vs. Fordham (12/7)
15	G	T.J. Bannister	5-10 1/2	176	Jr.	1.0	0.5	1.0	4.5	Only played vs. Georgia Tech (12/4) and Fordham (12/7)
21	C	Tunji Soroye	6-11	212	So.	2.5	4.7	0.1	21.5	Career high 12 points vs. Fordham (12/7)
30	F	Adrian Joseph	6-7	195	So.	9.9	4.4	0.4	27.5	Career-high 24 points (5 threes) vs. Loyola (12/23)

Tale of the Tape

Here's a statistical comparison of Virginia and Clemson in the 2005-06 season.

Virginia	Category	Clemson
68.9	Points	77.9
63.2	Points Allowed	62.2
+5.7	Scoring Margin	+15.7
42.8	Field Goal %	46.3
40.4	Field Goal % Defense	42.0
33.7	3 Point Field Goal %	31.4
30.5	3 Point Field Goal % Defense	33.8
73.8	Free Throw %	59.2
39.8	Rebounds	40.4
+7.5	Rebound Margin	+6.0
10.8	Assists	16.1
14.9	Turnovers	16.2
5.8	Steals	11.3
4.1	Blocked Shots	5.9

Last Season vs. Clemson

Virginia shot a season-high 57.1 percent (32-56) from the field, committed only six turnovers and held off a late charge by the Tigers to register an 81-79 win (Jan. 22) over Clemson at University Hall. It marked the first ACC win of the season for the Cavaliers.

Devin Smith led four UVa players in double figures with 22 points, while Elton Brown had 16 points and seven rebounds. Sean Singletary netted 15 points and seven assists, while J.R. Reynolds added 11 points and tied Brown for team-high honors in rebounds with seven. Those four players combined to make 25-45 (55.6 percent) of their field goal attempts.

The Cavaliers led by as many as nine points, 35-26, with 5:17 remaining in the first half. Clemson closed to within six points, 41-35, at the intermission. UVa shot 51.7 percent (15-29) in the opening half, while the Tigers shot 50 percent (12-24).

The Tigers opened the second half with an 8-2 run to tie the game at 43-43 with 17:53 to play. Virginia responded with an 11-1 run to open up a 54-44 advantage. Clemson slowly chipped away at UVa's lead and pulled within two points, 68-66, with 4:36 to go. Smith increased the Cavaliers' advantage to five with 4:25 left with a three-pointer and UVa eventually pushed its lead to seven, 75-68, with 3:26 left. A jumper by Cliff Hammonds pulled Clemson within 77-75 with 1:57 left to play. A bucket by Brown and two free throws from Reynolds sandwiched around a Tiger free throw gave UVa an 81-76 advantage. A three-pointer by Olu Babalola with 17.1 seconds left made the score 81-79. Reynolds then missed the front end of a one-and-one with 13 seconds to go and Clemson had a chance to win the game, but Sharrod Ford's three-pointer at the buzzer was short.

UVa shot a season-best 57.1 percent (32-56) from the floor while holding Clemson to 41.0 percent (25-61) accuracy from the field. The Tigers made 13-30 three-pointers for 43.3 percent.

Clemson also held a 35-29 edge in rebounds, including a 16-8 edge on the offensive glass. Virginia committed a season-low six turnovers while forcing 10.

Babalola led Clemson with 22 points, seven rebounds, five assists, two steals and a blocked shot. Cheyenne Moore added 15 points, while Ford scored 13 points, had five rebounds and blocked four shots.

ACC Openers Unkind to Virginia

Virginia lost its 2005-06 Atlantic Coast Conference season opener 63-54 to Georgia Tech (Dec. 4) in Atlanta. The Cavaliers have lost their last 11 ACC openers. UVa is 19-34 all-time in ACC openers and 6-18 in away ACC openers.

More Success in Second ACC Games

Virginia has lost its last 11 ACC openers (19-34 all-time), including a 63-54 setback to Georgia Tech (Dec. 4) in Atlanta earlier this season. However, UVa has fared much better in its second ACC contest of the season over the same span. Over the last 10 years, the Cavaliers have won five times in their second ACC game. Four of the wins have come at home at University Hall and the fifth win came in Richmond (against Wake Forest in the 1997-98 season).

The three times in the last six years UVa didn't win its second ACC game was in 2001-02 (a 68-52 loss at Clemson – Jan. 8), in 2003-04 (a 93-71 home setback to then second-ranked Duke – Jan. 11) and last season (a 92-69 loss at then ninth-ranked Georgia Tech – Jan. 8).

Back to ACC Play

The Cavaliers opened ACC play on Dec. 4 (a 63-54 loss to Georgia Tech) and are playing their second conference game on Jan. 7 against Clemson. The 33 days between ACC games is the longest stretch ever between ACC contests for Virginia. The previous longest length of time between ACC games for UVa was 31 days in the 1979-80 season – Dec. 1 (vs. Georgia Tech) to Jan. 2 (vs. Wake Forest).

Virginia has also played six non-conference games between league matchups. The six games ties for the second most all-time between ACC contests (1997-98, 1996-97, 1981-82, and 1967-68). In 1979-80, the Cavaliers played eight non-conference contests between their first two ACC games.

New UVa Coaches in Home ACC Debut

Dave Leitao is making his ACC home game coaching debut against Clemson. Only two of six UVa coaches have won their first home ACC game. Billy McCann was the first UVa coach to win his home ACC debut in the 1957-58 season (a 66-61 win over Wake Forest – Dec. 14). In 1990-91, Jeff Jones was the second (and last) UVa coach to win his first home ACC game (an 81-64 win over #8 Duke – Jan. 5).

Virginia Quick Facts

Location: Charlottesville, Va.
Founded: 1819 by Thomas Jefferson
Enrollment: 20,018 (13,140 undergraduates)
President: John T. Casteen III
Athletics Director: Craig Littlepage
Faculty Athletic Rep.: Carolyn M. Callahan
Conference: Atlantic Coast Conference
Arena: University Hall (8,392)
Colors: Orange and Blue
Nicknames: Cavaliers, Wahoos, 'Hoos
Mascot: Cavalier

Basketball Information

Head Coach: Dave Leitao (Northeastern '83)
Career Record: 86-74 (sixth season)
Record at Virginia: 6-5 (first season)
Assistant Coaches: Gene Cross (Illinois '94) – first season, Rob Lanier (St. Bonaventure '90) – first season, Steve Seymour (Bridgewater State '81) – first season
Director of Basketball Operations: Drew Diener (Saint Louis '03) – first season
2004-05 Record: 14-15
2004-05 ACC Record: 4-12 (10th-tie)
Starters Returning/Lost: 3/2
Lettermen Returning/Lost: 8/6
Media Relations: Rich Murray (primary contact)
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Head Coach Dave Leitao

Dave Leitao was named the 10th head men's basketball coach at Virginia on April 16, 2005. Leitao was the head coach at DePaul University the last three seasons. His DePaul teams compiled an overall record of 58-34 and competed in a postseason tournament each season. The Blue Demons participated in the NCAA Tournament in 2004 and in the National Invitation Tournament in 2003 and 2005. Leitao also spent two seasons as the head coach at his alma mater, Northeastern University, and now sports an 86-74 record in six seasons as a head coach.

This is Leitao's first meeting against Clemson as a head coach.

Leitao has coached in 22 games against AP ranked teams and is 5-17. Against top 10 AP teams, Leitao is 0-7. He was 0-4 against ranked teams in two seasons at Northeastern, 5-11 vs. ranked opponents in three years at DePaul, and 0-2 against ranked foes at UVa.

In six season-openers, Leitao is 4-2. In addition to this year's season-opening win, Leitao won all three season openers while at DePaul and lost both openers at Northeastern. Here's a look at the results of Leitao's six season-openers:

1994-95	Northeastern lost at Duke 93-70
1995-96	Northeastern lost at Marist 73-55
2002-03	DePaul won at Northern Illinois 63-48
2003-04	DePaul won at home over Loyola-Chicago 73-61
2004-05	DePaul won at home over Bowling Green 69-59
2005-06	Virginia won at home over Liberty 79-44

Dave Leitao Makes Virginia Debut

A new era of Virginia basketball began on Nov. 18 when Dave Leitao made his Virginia coaching debut. The Cavaliers rolled to a 79-44 victory over Liberty. Leitao became the seventh (of 10) head coach to win his opener at UVa. Here's a look at how the nine other coaches fared in their Cavalier debut:

Henry Lannigan (1905-06)	W	30-9	Charlottesville YMCA (H)
Roy Randall (1929-30)	L	65-32	Duke (H)
Gus Tebell (1930-31)	W	32-15	Staunton Collegians (H)
Evan "Bus" Male (1951-52)	W	56-50	Catholic (H)
Billy McCann (1957-58)	L	73-69	William & Mary (A)
Bill Gibson (1963-64)	L	75-64	Kentucky (A)
Terry Holland (1974-75)	W	77-69	Washington & Lee (H)
Jeff Jones (1990-91)	W	80-77	Siena (N)
Pete Gillen (1998-99)	W	86-70	Va. Commonwealth (N)
Dave Leitao (2005-06)	W	79-44	Liberty (H)

Leitao also earned a win in his second game at Virginia and joined four of the previous nine head basketball coaches at UVa to start out their stay at Virginia with consecutive wins. Jeff Jones (1990-91), Terry Holland (1974-75) and Gus Tebell (1930-31) each started out 2-0, while Henry Lannigan (1905-06) is the only Virginia coach to win more than his first two games. He led UVa to four consecutive victories in the first year of the Cavalier basketball program in 1905-06.

The Opener

UVa's 35-point margin of victory over Liberty (Nov. 18) marked the largest in a season-opener since the 2000-01 season when the Cavaliers won by 46 points over Long Island (Nov. 17) – 96-50. The 44 points allowed by UVa are the fewest in a season opener since 1991-92 when Virginia posted a 78-43 win over William & Mary (Nov. 24).

Singletary Named ACC Player of the Week

Sophomore guard Sean Singletary was named the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Week on Dec. 19. Singletary scored a career-high 35 points in UVa's 80-69 loss to 10th-ranked Gonzaga (Dec. 17). In addition to the 35 points, Singletary tied his career high with six steals and added six rebounds and four assists.

Singletary, who was a five-time ACC Rookie of the Week last season, is the first UVa player to garner the ACC's Player of the Week award since Elton Brown captured the honor on Dec. 27, 2004.

Singletary is currently sixth in the ACC with 17.4 points per game.

Cavalier Captains

Junior J.R. Reynolds and sophomore Sean Singletary are co-captains of the 2005-06 Virginia basketball team. Singletary is the first sophomore since Donald Hand in the 1998-99 season to be a team captain.

Cavaliers Open Season Strong

Virginia opened the 2005-06 season with a pair of victories, marking the seventh consecutive year UVa started out the season 2-0. UVa won its season-opener 79-44 over Liberty (Nov. 18) and then registered a 59-43 victory at Richmond (Nov. 22). The Cavaliers had their two-game winning streak snapped with an 81-51 loss to ninth-ranked Arizona Nov. 27.

Thief

Sean Singletary is second in the ACC in steals with 2.4 steals per game. Singletary has 24 steals in 10 games this season. He has three or more steals in five games this season.

Singletary Goes for 35

Sean Singletary scored a career-high 35 points in UVa's 80-69 loss at Gonzaga (Dec. 17). The 35 points set a McCarthy Athletic Center record for the most points scored by a Gonzaga opponent. Singletary, who missed UVa's previous game against Fordham (Dec. 7) with a hip injury, made 11-20 attempts from the field (4-9 three-pointers) and 9-14 free throws. He also had a career-high tying six steals, six rebounds and four assists in 39 minutes.

Singletary's 35 points are the most scored in a game by a UVa player since J.R. Reynolds tallied 32 points vs. Miami (Mar. 10) in last year's ACC tournament. The last time a UVa player scored more than 35 points in a game was last season when Devin Smith tallied 40 points against Iowa State (Dec. 6).

Singletary scored just over half of Virginia's points in the game against Gonzaga. The last time one player scored more than half of UVa's points in a game was when Smith scored his 40 points against Iowa State last season (UVa had 79 as a team).

Virginia Drops 78-68 Decision to Western Kentucky

J.R. Reynolds and Sean Singletary combined for 46 points, but it wasn't enough as Western Kentucky hit several clutch shots down the stretch to post a 78-68 victory (Jan. 2) over Virginia at E.A. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, Ky.

The Hilltoppers shot 55.2 percent (32-58) from the field, including 10-21 (47.6 percent) from three-point range, to keep UVa from winning its fourth consecutive game.

Reynolds led all players with a season-high 26 points on 9-15 shooting from the field, including 4-7 from three-point range. Singletary totaled 20 points and six assists, while both players recorded three steals. Jason Cain added 10 points and Laurynas Mikalauskas contributed eight points and a career-best nine rebounds.

Western Kentucky used an 8-0 run late in the first half to take an 11-point lead, 37-26, with 1:20 remaining. The Cavaliers closed out the first half with four consecutive points to cut the deficit to 37-30 at the intermission.

The Hilltoppers opened the second stanza with a 7-2 spurt to take their biggest lead of the game, 44-32, with 18 minutes to play. Virginia slowly cut into the WKU lead and pulled within 53-51 on a Cain jumper off his own offensive rebound at the 11:33 mark. Western Kentucky extended its lead back to seven points, 60-53, with 8:57 to play, but again UVa responded with a 7-2 run to pull back within two (62-60) with 6:14 left. The Hilltopper's Anthony Winchester scored 12 points during the final six minutes of the game, including a pair of three-pointers when defensive stops by the Cavaliers would have made it a one possession game.

Western Kentucky shot 55.2 percent (16-29) from the field in both the first and second half. UVa shot 42.4 percent (25-59) from the floor, including 53.8 percent (14-26) in the second half. The Cavaliers held a slim 32-31 lead in rebounds and both teams committed 16 turnovers.

Winchester led Western Kentucky with 23 points and five rebounds, while Courtney Lee had 21 points and seven boards.

Cavaliers Improve to 4-2 in ACC/Big Ten Challenge

With a 72-57 victory over Northwestern (Nov. 30), Virginia improved to 4-2 in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. The Cavaliers also helped the ACC win the series for the seventh consecutive year as ACC schools won six of 11 contests. The ACC's cumulative record in the Challenge is 40-24.

Virginia Signs Three Players

Head basketball coach Dave Leitao announced the signing of three individuals to letters of intent with Virginia during the November signing period.

The three players are 6-6 forward Will Harris from Corona, N.Y.; 6-8 forward Johnnie Lett of Mobile, Ala.; and 6-9 forward Jamil Tucker of Gary, Ind.

Minter No Longer on Team

Head coach Dave Leitao announced on Dec. 22 that Donte Minter is no longer on the team for personal reasons. He is not expected to return to the team.

"Donte is a fine young man and I wish him well," Leitao said.

Minter, a 6-8 junior forward/center from Salisbury, N.C., did not play in a game for the Cavaliers this season.

Minter lettered for Virginia the last two seasons. He played in all 31 games for the Cavaliers and started three as a freshman during the 2003-04 season. He averaged 5.6 points and 2.6 rebounds a game that season, while shooting 56.0 percent (70-125) from the field and 71.7 percent (33-46) from the free throw line.

Minter was hampered by injuries in 2004-05. He played in 18 games that season, scoring 23 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

Bannister Makes Debut

After missing the first four games of the season, guard T.J. Bannister made his 2005-06 season debut against Georgia Tech (Dec. 4). Bannister played two minutes during the first half and made his only field goal attempt. He also played seven minutes against Fordham and had two assists and one rebound. Bannister has not played in UVa's last five games – Gonzaga (Dec. 17), Loyola (Dec. 23), UMBC (Dec. 28), Hartford (Dec. 31) or Western Kentucky (Jan. 2).

Last season, Bannister averaged 4.3 points and 3.7 assists per game.

Ruling the Offensive Glass

Jason Cain registered an amazing 16 offensive rebounds in two games (7 vs. Georgia Tech – Dec. 4 and 9 vs. Fordham – Dec. 7). The 16 offensive rebounds ties Bryant Stith for the most offensive rebounds in back-to-back games in school history. Stith had 16 offensive boards (eight each) against Wake Forest (Mar. 1, 1989) and Maryland (Mar. 5, 1989).

Furthermore, Cain's nine offensive rebounds vs. the Rams was just one shy of the single game school mark which is shared by three players (Stith, Matt Blundin, and Travis Watson). Only one other player – Junior Burrough – has had nine offensive boards in a game (against Old Dominion on Dec. 11, 1993).

On the season, Cain has 41 offensive rebounds for an average of 3.73 per game. He leads the ACC in offensive rebounds.

Really Raising Cain

Jason Cain has recorded back-to-back double-doubles twice this season. He has four double-doubles in his last seven contests and is averaging 9.7 rebounds per game during that span. He has led Virginia in rebounding in six of the last eight games.

Cain had his first career double-double in UVa's 63-54 loss to Georgia Tech (Dec. 4). The junior forward tallied then career highs of 15 points and 11 rebounds. Against Fordham (Dec. 7), Cain posted career bests with 16 points and 15 rebounds. Against Loyola (Dec. 23), he recorded 15 points and 16 rebounds with the 16 boards setting yet another career high. Against UMBC (Dec. 28), Cain tied his career high with 16 points and added 12 rebounds for his fourth double-double of the season.

His former career highs of 13 points and nine rebounds came in different games against NC State last season.

Cain is the only current UVa player to have a double-double to his credit (and is also the only Cavalier to have a double-digit rebounding performance). He leads UVa with 91 rebounds (8.3 per game), including 41 offensive rebounds (3.73 per game). Cain is fifth on the team in scoring with 8.6 points per game.

Home is Sweet for Diane

Freshman Mamadi Diane has excelled at home this season while struggling on the road. Here's a breakdown of Diane's statistics at home vs. on the road.

Category	Home (5 gms)	Away (6 gms)*	Overall
Points per game	11.4	6.8	8.9
FG shooting	47.5% (19-40)	27.3 % (15-55)	35.8% (34-95)
3-pt FG shooting	40.0% (4-10)	20.0% (3-15)	28.0% (7-25)
Turnovers	2	12	14
Assists	10	2	12
Steals	4	4	8
Blocks	4	4	8
Rebounds	4.4	4.0	4.2
Minutes Played	29.0	28.7	28.8

*UVa's game against UMBC (Dec. 28) is included as an away game. Diane had 16 points (6-11 field goals), three rebounds, three steals, one assist and one blocked shot with no turnovers.

Reynolds Breaks Out

After making only four three-point field goals (on 28 attempts) in the first seven games of the season, J.R. Reynolds drained a career-high tying five three-pointers against Loyola (Dec. 23) on seven attempts.

Including the Loyola game, Reynolds has made 12-22 (54.5 percent) three-point attempts in the last four games. Reynolds is now 16-50 (32.0 percent) from beyond the three-point line this season.

Reynolds snapped an 0-11 slump that spanned four games when he made his first three against Loyola with 12:53 left in the first half. His 5-7 effort from long range against Loyola also snapped a 1-20 slump over the previous five games.

Reynolds is 9-22 (40.9 percent) from three-point land at home, but just 7-28 (25.0 percent) from long range away from University Hall. He made four threes against Western Kentucky after having just three three-pointers in his previous five games away from U-Hall.

In the same four-game span, Reynolds is averaging 21 points per game while shooting 49.0 percent (24-49) from the field.

Turnovers

UVa is averaging 14.9 turnovers per game through the first 11 contests. The Cavaliers committed 18 or more turnovers in four of their first five games. In the last six games, UVa has cut its turnovers down to 12.8 per game (77 turnovers). The most miscues UVa has made in its last six games is 17 vs. Hartford (Dec. 31).

Against Northwestern (Nov. 30), UVa had only eight turnovers, including just two miscues in the second half against the Wildcats. In its previous game against Arizona, Virginia committed a season-high 24 turnovers.

No Threes

UVa was 0-13 from three-point range against Georgia Tech (Dec. 4). The last time Virginia failed to make a three-pointer in a game was Jan. 31, 2004 at Wake Forest.

28 Offensive Rebounds

UVa pulled down 28 offensive rebounds against Georgia Tech (Dec. 4) and it ties for the second highest offensive rebounds total in a game in school history. The Cavaliers also had 28 offensive boards against Virginia Tech on Jan. 25, 1989. The school record for offensive rebounds in a game is 30 vs. Towson on Dec. 3, 1994.

Virginia gave up 28 offensive rebounds to Hartford (Dec. 31). The 28 offensive boards by the Hawks is the fourth highest total by a UVa opponent ever.

Guards Lead the Way

Starting guards Sean Singletary and J.R. Reynolds are pacing the Cavaliers this season. The two guards have combined to lead UVa in scoring in eight of 11 games.

Singletary leads UVa with 17.4 points per game and is averaging 4.5 assists per game (45 assists). Reynolds is second on the squad with 14.9 points per contest and has tallied 41 assists (3.7 per game).

Singletary has led UVa in scoring four times – 24 points against Arizona, 23 points vs. Northwestern, 35 points vs. Gonzaga, and 22 points vs. Hartford. Reynolds has also led the Cavaliers in scoring four times – 23 points against Richmond, 25 vs. Loyola (Md.), 20 points vs. UMBC and 26 points vs. Western Kentucky.

Rebounding a Key

One of the keys to success for UVa this season is rebounding and so far Virginia has more than held its own on the glass. The Cavaliers have outrebounded nine of their first 11 opponents and are averaging 7.5 more rebounds per game than the opposition. UVa is averaging 39.8 rebounds overall and 14.6 offensive boards per contest.

Free Throw Accuracy

UVa is currently shooting an impressive 73.8 percent (169-229) from the free throw line this season which ranks second in the ACC. The Cavaliers have two players ranked among the leaders in the ACC in free throw shooting. J.R. Reynolds is sixth in the conference at 81.5 percent (44-54), while Sean Singletary is seventh at 78.8 percent (52-66).

Mamadi Diane is shooting 88.5 percent (23-26) from the free throw line, but does not qualify to be listed among the ACC's leaders because he hasn't made enough free throws (2.5 made per game is the requirement to be ranked).

Double Figures in First Six Games

After scoring in double figures in back-to-back games only once last season, Sean Singletary scored in double figures in the first six games he played in this season before having his streak stopped when he scored only four points against Loyola (Md.). Singletary, who is averaging 17.4 points a game, scored only seven points against UMBC (Dec. 28). He came back to tally 22 points against Hartford (Dec. 31) and 20 vs. Western Kentucky (Jan. 2). Singletary has scored in double figures in eight of the 10 games he has played this season.

Singletary scored in double figures in 13 games last season, but not in back-to-back games until he scored 17 vs. NC State (Mar. 2) and 11 vs. Florida State (Mar. 6).

Dating back to the final game of the 2004-05 season, Singletary scored in double digits in seven consecutive games (he tallied 16 points in the ACC Tournament vs. Duke - Mar. 11) before having the streak snapped against Loyola (Md.).

Reynolds from the Line

J.R. Reynolds has made his last 19 free throws. His streak started when he made his last free throw vs. Loyola (Dec. 23). Reynolds was a career-best 10-10 against UMBC (Dec. 28) and then made all four attempts from the line against Hartford (Dec. 31). He also made all four attempts from the charity stripe against Western Kentucky (Jan. 2).

Impressive Start

Virginia limited its first two opponents to an average of 43.5 points per game (Liberty 44 points, Richmond 43 points) and 25.7 percent (27-105) shooting from the field. The last time UVA held its first two opponents under 50 points was way back in the 1948-49 season. In 1948-49, the Cavaliers held Lynchburg Independents to 40 points (in a 72-40 win) and Langley Field to 38 points (in a 78-38 win).

On the season, Virginia's opponents are shooting 40.4 percent (256-633) from the field and averaging 63.2 points per game.

Last Season in University Hall

The 2005-06 campaign is the last season in University Hall for Virginia's men's and women's basketball teams. After calling University Hall home since the 1965-66 season, the Cavaliers will move across the street to their new facility, the John Paul Jones Arena, for the 2006-07 season.

In 41 seasons (including 2005-06), the Cavaliers are 397-141 (.738) all-time at University Hall.

Shiembob Shines

Walk-on freshman forward Drew Shiembob made outstanding contributions in UVA's wins over UMBC (Dec. 28) and Hartford (Dec. 31).

In seven minutes vs. UMBC, Shiembob had a career-high four points while making both attempts from the field. Against Hartford, Shiembob equalled his career best with four points (2-3 shooting from the field) and also tallied a career-high two rebounds (both offensive). He also had an assist and a steal while playing a career-high 16 minutes.

Shiembob has played in seven games this season.

Two Players Join Virginia Squad

University of Virginia men's head basketball coach Dave Leitao announced on Nov. 8 that junior Matt Deasey and freshman Drew Shiembob joined the Virginia team after going through a tryout process.

Deasey is a 6-0 guard from Wynnewood, Pa. He lettered three times in basketball at Episcopal Academy and was the team captain his senior season.

Shiembob is a 6-4 freshman forward from Richmond, Va. He was a four-year starter at St. Christopher's School. He averaged 18.5 points and 6.9 rebounds a game as a senior and earned Virginia League of Independent Schools first-team All-State honors. He finished his career at St. Christopher's as the school's career leader in rebounds (582) and ranked fourth in scoring (1,097 points). Shiembob was the team's captain as a junior and a senior.

UVa Returns Three Starters

The Cavaliers return three starters from last year's team. The returning starters are guards T.J. Bannister, J.R. Reynolds and Sean Singletary.

UVa Guards Make Game-Winning Plays

Three returning guards for the Cavaliers provided game-winning heroics during the 2004-05 season. Sean Singletary scored Virginia's final four points, including the winning basket with 2.2 seconds to play, in a 64-62 victory at North Carolina State. J.R. Reynolds' driving layup with 1.5 seconds remaining in overtime provided UVA with its margin of victory in a 79-77 win over Loyola Marymount. T.J. Bannister's jumper in the lane with 2.7 seconds left in the second overtime period gave the Cavaliers' an 80-79 win over Western Kentucky.

Singletary and Reynolds Earn ACC All-Freshmen Honors

Virginia has had a player earn All-ACC Freshmen honors each of the last two seasons.

Sean Singletary was named to the All-ACC Freshmen Team in 2005 after earning ACC Rookie of the Week honors five times. He averaged 10.5 points, 3.9 assists, 3.0 rebounds and 29.9 minutes played a game, and was the only UVA player to start all 29 games during the 2004-05 season.

J.R. Reynolds was named to the All-ACC Freshmen Team in 2004. He averaged 9.4 points, 1.7 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 24.7 minutes played a game during the 2003-04 season.

Singletary, Bannister in Last Year's ACC Rankings

Guard Sean Singletary led Virginia in assists (3.9 apg.) and steals (1.66 spg.) in 2004-05, and ranked first among Atlantic Coast Conference freshmen in those two categories. He also ranked second among ACC freshmen in minutes played (29.9 mpg.) and third in scoring (10.5 ppg.). Overall, he ranked sixth in the ACC in assist/turnover ratio (1.61, 113 assists and 70 turnovers), and ninth in assists and steals.

Guard T.J. Bannister ranked fifth in the ACC in assist/turnover ratio (1.71, 108 assists and 63 turnovers) and 10th in assists (3.72 apg.). He had an assist to turnover ratio of 2.18 in ACC games (74 assists and 34 turnovers) that ranked second in the conference.

J.R. Reynolds in the ACC Tournament

Guard J.R. Reynolds has played very well in the first two Atlantic Coast Conference Tournaments of his Virginia career.

In two games in the 2005 ACC Tournament, Reynolds scored 43 points and earned second-team All-Tournament honors. He scored a career-high 32 points and tied his career-high with 39 minutes played in the 66-65 victory over Miami in the opening round of the tournament. His 32 points tied for the third highest point total ever by a Virginia player in an ACC Tournament game. He is Virginia's first All-Tournament selection since Junior Burrough was a first-team pick in 1995.

Reynolds scored 38 points in UVA's two games in the 2004 ACC Tournament. He had a season-high 20 points against Duke in the tournament quarterfinals and 18 against Clemson in the first round.

Virginia Assistants have Head Coaching Experience

Two members of University of Virginia men's head basketball coach Dave Leitao's coaching staff have head coaching experience at the Division I level.

Rob Lanier was the head coach at Siena College the last four years (2001-05). During his four years as Siena's head coach, the Saints participated in one NCAA Tournament and one National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

Siena won the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament Championship in 2002 to earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament. The Saints defeated Alcorn State in the NCAA Tournament opening round game before losing to eventual national champion Maryland.

During the 2002-03 season, Lanier led Siena to a 21-11 record and a third-place finish in the MAAC with a 12-6 record. The Saints earned a berth in the NIT where they defeated Villanova and Western Michigan before losing to Alabama-Birmingham.

Steve Seymour was the head coach at Drexel University for two years (1999-2001). Drexel compiled a 21-15 record in the America East Conference during his two years as head coach. He later served as an assistant coach at Siena during Rob Lanier's first three years as head coach of the Saints.

Brown Named Strength and Conditioning Coach

Shaun Brown, the head strength coach of the Toronto Raptors of the National Basketball Association the last two years, was named strength and conditioning coach for the University of Virginia men's basketball program on October 13.

Brown has 17 years of experience at the professional and collegiate levels. Before joining the staff of the Toronto Raptors, he was the head strength coach for the Boston Celtics from 1997-2003.

From 1992-97, Brown was the head strength coach for men's basketball at the University of Kentucky. During his time at Kentucky, the men's basketball team won the 1996 NCAA Championship.

"The hiring of Shaun Brown continues to move our program in the right direction and helps us provide the best possible student-athlete experience," said UVa men's head basketball coach Dave Leitao. "Shaun comes to Virginia with credentials that speak for themselves. He has been a part of a national championship program, and has successfully trained athletes at the professional and collegiate levels."

Evan Marcus is Virginia's head strength coach and director of the McCue Center weight room. Ed Nordenschild (head strength coach for Olympic sports), and assistant coaches Bill Miller, Shad Pospahala and Lorenzo Rivers assist Marcus. Nordenschild will continue his work with the UVa women's basketball team.

"The strength training unit is critical to our success and has done a tremendous job in support of the athletics department's 10-year goals," said Virginia Executive Associate Athletics Director Jon Oliver. "Shaun Brown is an important addition in this area. His credentials are reflective of the type of professionals we have in the strength training unit."

Brown served as the head strength coach at Providence College from November of 1989 until April of 1992. Prior to that he was an assistant strength coach at Rutgers University from August of 1989 until he accepted the position at Providence.

A native of Hornell, N.Y., Brown earned a bachelor's degree from Canisius College in 1987 and a master's degree from Ohio State University in 1988. He served as a graduate assistant strength coach at Ohio State and as strength and conditioning coach at Dublin High School in Dublin, Ohio, from August of 1988 to August of 1989.

Littlepage Chairs NCAA Basketball Committee

University of Virginia Athletics Director Craig Littlepage is the chair of the NCAAMen's Division I Basketball Committee. The main responsibility of the committee is the administration of the NCAA men's basketball tournament. Littlepage has been a member of the committee since Sept. 1, 2002. His term on the committee ends on Sept. 1, 2006.

John Paul Jones Arena On Its Way

On May 30, 2003 ground was broken on the University of Virginia's new special events center, the John Paul Jones Arena. Scheduled for completion in the summer of 2006, the arena will replace University Hall. The new 15,000-seat arena will feature training and weight rooms, men's and women's basketball locker rooms, coaches' offices, and one-and-a-half practice courts per program so the men's and women's basketball teams can practice simultaneously, and when the arena is being used for other purposes.

25 Matt Deasey

G • 6-0, 178 • Jr.

Episcopal Academy • Wynnewood, Pa.

[Pronunciation Key: Dee-see]

WORTH NOTING: Joined the team as a walk-on prior to the 2005-06 season ... team captain his senior season at Episcopal Academy ... received team Hustle and Coaches Awards as a senior ... earned All-Area and team Most Improved Awards his junior season.

HIGH SCHOOL: Competed four seasons for head coach Dan Dougherty at Episcopal Academy ... served as team captain his senior season ... lettered three times in basketball ... three-sport athlete in high school ... also competed in water polo and baseball.

PERSONAL: Matthew Joseph Deasey ... born February 7, 1985, in Wynnewood, Pa. ... son of Geoffrey and Molly Deasey ... has two siblings ... father rowed at the University of Pennsylvania ... Jefferson Scholar finalist ... Dean's List student ... neuroscience major.

35 Drew Shiembob

F • 6-4, 199 • Fr.

St.Christopher's School • Richmond, Va.

[Pronunciation Key: Shem-bob]

WORTH NOTING: Joined the team as a walk-on prior to the 2005-06 season ... team captain as a junior and senior at St. Christopher's ... finished his high school career as St. Christopher's career leader in rebounds (582) ... fourth in career scoring (1,097 points) at St. Christopher's ... Virginia League of Independent Schools first-team All-State selection as a senior.

HIGH SCHOOL: Averaged 18.5 points and 6.9 rebounds per game during the 2004-2005 season ... a four-year starter for head coach Chuck Thomas at St. Christopher's ... school's all-time career leader in rebounds (582) and ranked fourth in scoring (1,097 points) at the conclusion of his high school career ... team captain in both his junior and senior seasons ... named first-team All-Prep League as a junior and senior ... Virginia League of Independent Schools first-team All-State as a senior ... participated in the Dominion Classic All-Star game.

PERSONAL: Andrew Reed Shiembob ... born September 11, 1986, in Richmond, Va. ... son of Mark and Cheryl Shiembob ... has one sibling ... father earned both his undergraduate and Law degrees at UVa ... Jefferson Scholar finalist.