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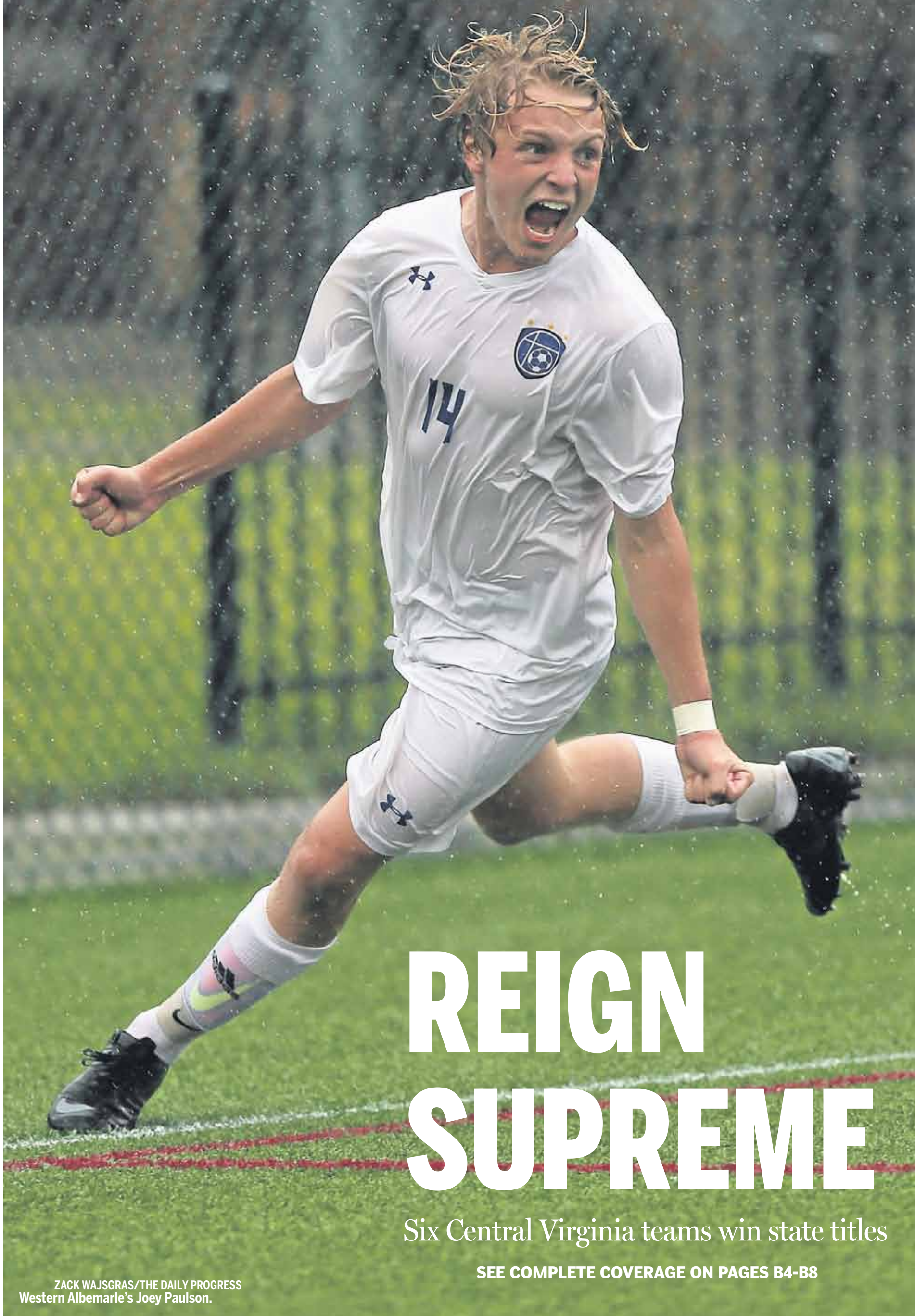
SPORTS

B1

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To report scores, contact sports editor John Shifflett at sports@dailyprogress.com or (434) 978-7250.



REIGN SUPREME

Six Central Virginia teams win state titles

SEE COMPLETE COVERAGE ON PAGES B4-B8

ZACK WAJSGRAS/THE DAILY PROGRESS
Western Albemarle's Joey Paulson.

WESTERN ALBEMARLE
GIRLS SOCCER

ALBEMARLE
GIRLS SOCCER

WESTERN ALBEMARLE
GIRLS TENNIS

CHARLOTTESVILLE
BOYS SOCCER

WESTERN ALBEMARLE
BOYS TENNIS

WESTERN ALBEMARLE
BOYS SOCCER

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Another Triple Crown surprise: Sir Winston takes Belmont

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWYORK — Sir Winston provided a perfect finish to a crazy Triple Crown.

After a disqualification in the Kentucky Derby and a runaway horse in the Preakness, of course the Belmont Stakes goes to a 10-1 long shot.

Sir Winston captured the \$1.5 million race Saturday, holding off favored Tacitus by a length.

The win gave trainer Mark Casse the final two jewels in the showcase for 3-year-old thoroughbreds. He won the Preakness with War of Will, who was expected to battle Tacitus in the 1½-mile Belmont.

Instead, Casse's other's colt took the lead after a ground-saving ride by Joel Rosario.

It wasn't really a shock to Casse.

"I said all week he was doing really well," Casse said. "He had a race over the track. What can I say? It's just exciting."

Sir Winston, who was making his Triple Crown debut, finished second in the Peter Pan Stakes, the traditional prep for the Belmont.

Rosario rode him for the first time in that race, and the two put on a show Sat-



Sir Winston, ridden by Joel Rosario, wins the 151st running of the Belmont Stakes on Saturday at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York.

urday in front of a crowd of 56,217, earning \$800,000 for owner Tracy Farmer.

Long shot Joevia finished third and Tax was fourth.

The Triple Crown grind caught up to Preakness winner War of Will, who ran in all three races. He finished ninth in the 10-horse field.

"I could see where War of Will was struggling a little bit," Casse said. "He looked like maybe he was a little flat today."

The Belmont capped an entertaining Triple Crown highlighted by the disqualification of Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby.

It sparked interest in thoroughbred racing despite no

possibility of the third Triple Crown winner in five years, coming on the heels of Justify last year and American Pharoah in 2015.

It was all positive. There were no tragedies on the track. No horses died.

The Belmont was a jockey's race and Rosario was the right rider on a horse full of run.

Breaking from the No. 7 post, Rosario guided the chestnut colt to the rail for an energy-saving trip. Sir Winston was eighth for the first half-mile and then started to rally on the final turn.

Up front, 21-1 long shot Joevia continued to set

the pace with Tax closely tracking. In the stretch, Rosario angled Sir Winston — named for Winston Churchill — off the rail and slightly bothered stablemate War of Will.

This time, there was no inquiry or objection. Sir Winston surged to the lead with an eighth of a mile to go and held off a late run from Tacitus, who had an extremely wide trip under jockey Jose Ortiz.

The second-place finish denied trainer Bill Mott two-thirds of the Triple Crown. His Country House was awarded first place in the Kentucky Derby. Sir Winston paid \$22.40,

\$8.80 and \$6.10. Tacitus returned \$3.90 and \$3.20 as the 9-5 favorite. Joevia hung on for third, paying \$8.70.

After Tax, Master Fencer was fifth followed by Spinoff, Everfast, Intrepid Heart, War of Will and Bourbon War. The winning time was 2:28.30 on the fast track under sunny skies.

The win was the third in 10 starts for the slow-developing Sir Winston. Casse always believed in the horse despite early struggles.

"We're very proud of him," the 58-year-old trainer said. "He's kind of what our operation represents. We develop horses. The first two times he ran, he got beat 10 or 20 lengths. I can remember having a conversation with Mr. Farmer up at Saratoga and I said 'Don't give up on him.'"

The feeling paid off — big time.

This unpredictable Triple Crown season started with a wild result in the Kentucky Derby. Maximum Security crossed the finish line first and become the first apparent winner to be disqualified, taken down for interfering with War of Will in the stretch. Country House was elevated to first, giving Mott his first Derby win and becoming the second longest shot (65-1) to

win the Derby.

War of Will came back two weeks later to win the Preakness, but his impressive performance was overshadowed when a rival threw his jockey and ran around the track as the race continued.

There were three major races on the Belmont undercard.

Mitole extended his winning streak to seven with a gutsy victory in the \$1.2 million Metropolitan Handicap. Pressing the pacesetter Coal Front every step, Mitole put away that rival in midstretch and held off the late challenge by 8/5 favorite McKinzie to prevail by three quarters of a length. Thunder Snow, the richest active thoroughbred with over \$16 million in earnings, was third.

Trainer Chad Brown dominated the Manhattan Stakes as his horses swept the first three spots in the \$1 million Manhattan turf race. Bricks and Mortar rallied to extend his winning streak to five, besting stablemate Robert Bruce by 1½ lengths. Raging Bull was third.

Guarana, also trained by Brown, beat Kentucky Oaks winner Serengeti Empress by six lengths in the \$700,000 Acorn for 3-year-old fillies.



Ashleigh Barty celebrates after winning the French Open on Saturday at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

Barty wins French Open

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Ash Barty knew she needed a break from tennis, from the pressure and expectations, from the week-in, week-out grind. So she stepped away in 2014 and wound up trying her hand at cricket, joining a professional team at home in Australia.

After almost two years away, Barty was pulled back to the tour.

Good choice. Now she's a Grand Slam champion.

Taking control right from the start of the French Open final and never really letting go, the No. 8-seeded Barty capped a quick-as-can-be rise in her return to the sport by beating unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-3 Saturday for her first major championship.

"I never closed any doors, saying, 'I'm never playing tennis again.' For me, I needed time to step away, to live a normal life because this tennis life certainly isn't normal. I think I needed time to grow as a person, to mature," Barty said.

And as for why she came back three years ago?

"I missed the competition. I missed the 1-on-1 battle, the ebbs and the flows, the emotions you get from winning and losing matches," said Barty, who will jump to a career-

best No. 2 in the rankings Monday behind Naomi Osaka. "They are so unique and you can only get them when you're playing and when you put yourself out on the line and when you become vulnerable and try and do things that no one thinks of."

That last part is an apt description of how she approaches each point, looking for just the right angle or speed, understanding where an opponent might be most vulnerable at any given moment. After using her slice backhand, topspin forehand and kick serve to do just that to Vondrousova, she called it a "kind of 'Ash Barty brand' of tennis."

Vondrousova's take?

"She's mixing things up. And she has a huge serve," Vondrousova said. "So it's all, like, very tough to play against."

Barty raced to a 4-0 lead and then held on, showing that she learned her lesson after blowing a 5-0 edge in the opening set of her quarterfinal victory a day earlier against another unseeded teenager, 17-year-old American Amanda Anisimova.

"An absolute rollercoaster," Barty called it.

Her coach, Craig Tytzer, said the two of them huddled with Ben Crowe, who helps Barty with the mental side of things, and they had a "really good discus-

sion about it" to make sure she'd avoid that sort of trouble in the final.

Neither Barty, 23, nor Vondrousova had ever played in a Grand Slam final before. Neither had even been in a major semifinal until this week, either. But it was only Vondrousova who seemed jittery at the outset; she was playing at Court Philippe Chatrier for the first time.

Barty wound up with a 27-10 edge in winners to become the first Australian to win the trophy at Roland Garros since Margaret Court in 1973.

"I played the perfect match today," Barty said. "Pretty close to it, particularly at the beginning. By the end, Barty compiled a 27-10 edge in winners."

It took all of 70 minutes to wrap things up.

"She gave me a lesson today," said Vondrousova, who is ranked 38th. "I didn't really feel good today, because she didn't let me play my game."

The women's final started about 1½ hours later than scheduled because it followed the resumption of Dominic Thiem's 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 victory over Novak Djokovic in the men's semifinals, a match suspended Friday evening because of rain.

Thiem will face 11-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal on Sunday in a rematch of last year's final.

Germany edges China in opener

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENNES, France — Giulia Gwinn scored a second-half winner as two-time champion Germany opened its Women's World Cup campaign by beating China 1-0 on Saturday.

Gwinn's powerful 66th-minute shot from the edge of the penalty area flew into the left corner. The ball fell to her after Chinese defenders failed to properly clear a corner floated in from the right.

In an even first half at Roazhon Park, in the Brittany city of Rennes, Germany defender Carolin Simon hit the crossbar and China striker Yang Li hit the post.

China failed to take advantage of pressure it created in the second half.

Germany won its last title in 2007 and next faces South Africa in Group B on June 17 in the southern city of Montpellier. China, runner-up to the United States in 1999, plays Spain the same day in the northern port city of Le Havre.

Spain 3, South Africa 1

LE HAVRE, France — Spain won a game at the Women's World Cup



Germany's Dzsenifer Marozsan (left) and China's Zhang Rui fight for the ball during their Women's World Cup Group B match at the Roazhon Park stadium in Rennes, France on Saturday.

for the first time, beating South Africa behind two penalty kicks by Jennifer Hermoso. Spain, ranked No. 13 in the world, finished last in its group four years ago in Canada, the country's only other appearance in the tournament.

Thembi Kgatlana scored in the 25th minute, dodging two defenders before putting her shot in the upper corner and out of goalkeeper Sandra Pannos' reach. South Africa, ranked 49th, was making its first World Cup appearance.

Norway 3, Nigeria 0

REIMS, France — Guro Reiten and Lisa Marie Utland scored to help Norway open the Women's World Cup with a victory over Nigeria. The 1995 winners played without Ada Hegerberg, the 2018 FIFA Ballon d'Or winner who stepped down from the national team because of what she says are differences in the way the federation treats the men's and women's teams.

Reiten's deflected shot in the 17th minute gave Norway the lead, and Utland scored in the 34th minute.



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The Albemarle girls soccer team won the Class 5 state championship on Saturday in Richmond.

COURTESY OF TOM WARD

TWICE AS NICE

Albemarle girls soccer team wins second state title in three years

BY JOSHUA NEEDELMAN
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RICHMOND — They jumped from their seats and onto the Hermitage High School turf, making off the for the coach who they can't help but still adore.

In the minutes after Albemarle clinched its second VHSL Class 5 state championship in three seasons, a handful of Patriots alums stormed the field and surrounded Coach Amy Sherrill, wrapping their arms around her and cheering:

"You did that! You just did that!"

Albemarle entered halftime Saturday trailing Deep Run, 1-0. Sherrill, ever the optimist, urged her players to believe. To push forward. The Patriots took the message to heart and stormed to the 4-1 victory.

"It's really nice to have a coach that's so involved," forward Madeline St. Amand said of Sherrill, who also teaches health and physical education at Albemarle. "She really helps everyone on the team feel really accepted."

Sherrill has been known to stage impromptu conversations with her players in the halls at Albemarle, and she's found small ways to connect with the team on deeper levels. She urges each player to come up with a personal handshake to perform with her, which they do after games.

"I saw, I think, a basketball team do it a while back," Sherrill said. "I just thought that that was something that creates a special relationship with each player. They come up with it on their own. Just, to carry that for four years and beyond is unique for that relationship."

Sherrill shared the special handshakes with her players Saturday as their names were called during the championship cel-



Albemarle players celebrate after Megan Schantz (20) made her penalty kick in overtime during the Class 5 VHSL state semifinals against Douglas Freeman on Friday. The Patriots defeated Deep Run to win the state championship on Saturday.

DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

bration. Among them was forward Kora Jillions. It was Jillions who scored Albemarle's first goal of the second half, knotting the contest at 1.

"It was a beautiful cross, and I was just lucky enough to get into

the goal," Jillions said.

Midfielder Savannah Alexander scored next, and the Patriots would not trail again. St. Amand scored twice before the final whistle, at which point Albemarle mobbed goalkeeper Jaya

Daniel.

Sherrill handed the trophy off to her players, then hung back as they walked over to the scoreboard for a team photo. It was then that she was stormed by the group of Patriots alums, who

had smiles on their faces and fond memories in their hearts.

"We're so lucky to have great alumni," Sherrill said. "It's cool that we're all one family and they believed in us and cheered for us through the thick and thin."

"It's really nice to have a coach that's so involved. She really helps everyone on the team feel really accepted."

— Madeline St. Amand, Albemarle forward on Patriots coach Amy Sherrill



POWER OF 3

Western Albemarle girls soccer team wins third straight title



PHOTOS BY ZACK WAJSGRAS/THE DAILY PROGRESS

The Western Albemarle girls team celebrates winning the VHSL Class 3 state championship on Saturday in Salem. See more photos at DailyProgress.com.

BY JOHN HARVEY
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SALEM — Katrine Berg has been preaching all year about the importance of ending the season with a bang.

The Western Albemarle senior forward completed her mission Saturday afternoon as the Warriors' girls soccer team defeated Brentsville District 3-1 in the VHSL Class 3 state championship game at Spartan Stadium.

Julia Berg, Katrine Berg and Kate DeJong, three of Western's four seniors, netted goals in their final high school game to secure the Warriors' third straight state championship.

"We've been such a close team all year and this has been our goal," Julia Berg said. "Our mindset was to win states for the third time in a row and we did that. It feels incredible and it's so surreal. I wouldn't have wanted to do it with any other team. It was amazing."

After dealing with sickness the past two days, Julia Berg was unsure that she'd get a chance to play Saturday. She joined the warm-up line just before kickoff, but took her normal role in the lineup.

"I wasn't sure I was going to be able to play today because I didn't feel that well this morning," Berg said. "But I wanted to give it a go. It was my last game ever in high school and I just wanted to play some minutes if I could and I ended up with a goal."

Berg's return to the lineup was rewarded 10 minutes into the game when she scored off a beautiful cross from Erin Meier on the right wing.

"My thought was don't shoot it at the goalie, but place it right



Western Albemarle's Sofia Benedetti (15) heads a shot during the state final against Brentsville on Saturday.

and it went in," Berg said. "I couldn't have done it without [Erin]. She was amazing."

Western Albemarle added to its lead just before halftime on a rebound goal by Katrine Berg.

Ellie Cox beat Brentsville District goalkeeper Emily Cipolla to a loose ball in the box, but Cipolla managed to stop the initial shot. The ball fell at Berg's feet and she calmly tapped it into the back of

the net for a 2-0 lead with 8:22 left.

"It's incredible," Berg said. "We've had such a great season and I think all the effort we put in today has really paid off and

it was pretty cool to see the outcome."

The second half was more of the same as DeJong got her name on the scoresheet off a set piece. Meier took the corner kick from the right post and curled the ball just in front of the goal and DeJong got her head on the ball and placed it in the back of the net for a 3-0 lead.

"It was absolutely amazing," DeJong said. "Being on defense, there aren't a lot of opportunities to score. That set play was a perfect opportunity. The cross in was amazing and I couldn't have asked for a better setup."

Brentsville District finally broke through in the final five minutes of the game on a 25-yard strike from Catherine Frost to close out the scoring.

The victory marked Western Albemarle's fourth state championship in girls soccer since 2002.

"I think this one has to be the most special because it is our last season," Katrine Berg said. "It's a bittersweet ending. I'm going to be sad that it's ending, but I'm also very happy because it couldn't have ended on a better note."

DeJong won her sixth state title as a student-athlete at Western Albemarle, including three track titles. The senior said the feeling is very special.

"If you had told me four years ago that we would walk away with three state championships in soccer and three more in track as well, I think I would've been blown away," DeJong said. "It just shows the level of coaching and the level of support we have at our school and I'm so appreciative of all of that. I love this team so much."

"I think this one has to be the most special because it is our last season. It's a bittersweet ending. I'm going to be sad that it's ending, but I'm also very happy because it couldn't have ended on a better note."

— Katrine Berg, Western Albemarle senior girls soccer player

2   1 (OT)



The Charlottesville boys soccer team celebrates after winning the VHSL Class 4 state championship on Saturday in Salem.

PHOTOS BY RON COUNTS/THE DAILY PROGRESS

CONQUEST COMPLETE

Black Knights capture Class 4 boys soccer championship

BY RON COUNTS
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SALEM — Benhui Ryang isn't the Charlottesville boys soccer team's leading scorer, but he had a good feeling about Saturday's rain-drenched Class 4 state championship game at Roanoke College.

"He told me before the game he was going to score, and what a moment to step up," Charlottesville head coach Martin Braun said. "I'm so happy for him."

Ryang's words proved prophetic, but even he couldn't have imagined the magnitude of his goal.

After Charlottesville trailed the entire game, then scored the equalizer with less than two minutes left in regulation and survived two scoreless overtime frames, Ryang found the ball at his feet. He got his right cleat on it and put it away in a 2-1 victory over Chancellor, which clinched the Black Knights' first state championship since 2004. When Ryang scored, there were less than three minutes left before the game went to penalty kicks.

"In overtime, I was telling myself we've been given a second chance and I don't want to squander it,"



Ryang said. "I was confident in taking one, but I didn't want it to go to PK's. I was given the opportunity and I was able to take it."

After both goals in regulation ended with victory slides, Ryang's resulted in a dog pile as his teammates streamed off the sideline to bury him. It was the second time in as many days that Charlottesville

handed a team its first loss of the season.

"To be honest, it was just surreal and I didn't really know what was going on," Ryang said. "It's crazy and it feels so good to win."

Braun was a player on Charlottesville's 2004 state championship team. Having been there before, he warned his team what it could

expect Saturday and much like Ryang's, his words proved prophetic.

"I told them you have to come out and really battle in the finals because it's going to be a tough game no matter what," he said. "The guys deserve this more than many people probably know. They kept fighting and working hard,

and I'm super proud of them."

Chancellor (22-1) scored less than seven minutes into the game when Mike Krieder got his forehead on a corner kick. He celebrated with a sprint toward the sideline and slid across the wet turf on his knees and his arms extended to either side. The Chargers' 1-0 lead lasted until the final two minutes of regulation.

With time winding down on their season, the Black Knights (18-1-1) just missed on two late opportunities. The game-tying goal was set up by a shot Chancellor goalie Josh Reid saved but couldn't corral. Charlottesville's Joe Von Storch collected the ball and fired it back toward the goal. Reid dove and got a hand on it, but it bounced over him and just beyond his outstretched fingertips to send the game into overtime.

Von Storch sprinted toward his teammates on the sideline and slid across the yellow boundary stripe like he was stealing second base.

"This just showed the heart and resilience we've had all season," Ryang said. "We've been down before. Towards the end, I was getting a little nervous, but what a great way to finish it off."

"This just showed the heart and resilience we've had all season. We've been down before. Towards the end, I was getting a little nervous, but what a great way to finish it off."

— Benhui Ryang, Charlottesville boys soccer player



RIDING HIGH

Western boys soccer team completes dominant run with Class 3 crown



PHOTOS BY ZACK WAJSGRAS/THE DAILY PROGRESS

Western Albemarle's Joey Paulson (14) and Lachlan Murphy (5) celebrate a goal during the Class 3 state championship game against Northside on Saturday. BELOW: Western Albemarle's Sam Duska (11) heads a ball during the Class 3 state championship game against Northside on Saturday.

BY JOHN HARVEY
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SALEM — Western Albemarle boys soccer coach Milo Oakland raved about his team's ability to score early, especially during the team's run through the VHSL Class 3 state tournament.

The Warriors didn't score early Saturday afternoon, but they made up for it with four second-half goals to defeat Northside in the state championship game at Spartan Stadium.

Joey Paulson scored a pair of goals and Carter Spilman added a goal and an assist as the Warriors claimed their fourth state title in program history, and third since 2014.

"It's the best feeling in the world, I can't even describe it," Spilman said. "I've been in this program playing for a championship every single year and this is the first one we've gotten. It's unbelievable."

Western Albemarle turned in a strong 80 minutes of soccer and allowed the offense to come alive in the second half to secure the victory.

"We got really focused right from the start," Spilman said. "The weather and some other things were kind of distracting at first, but we held it together as a team. We talked a lot at halftime about playing our game and playing together and we really showed that in the second half."

Oakland's halftime pep talk worked wonders.

Western Albemarle scored two minutes into the second half on a header from Sam Vigilante on a corner kick for a 1-0 lead with 38:25 left.

"We got that corner and nor-



mally Colby [Wren] floats it to the back post," Vigilante said. "He hit this one hard and fast to the near post and I was working my butt off to get to the near post to beat my man and just by chance and got a great header on it. When I saw that net move, it was such a relief."

Vigilante celebrated with his teammates following the goal that gave the Warriors a new-found confidence.

"That was everything," Vigilante said. "That first goal really revived us and gave us the energy to finish it out."

Northside tried to answer in the next 10 minutes with two quality chances. Daniel Pereira, a Virginia Tech signee, had a free kick opportunity from about 25 yards out that curled around the wall, but just above the crossbar and out of play.

Five minutes later, Western Al-

bemarle goalkeeper Jack Frey made a great save on a long strike from Giovanni Maffucci Murillo to preserve the one-goal lead.

"I had a lot of confidence in us and I thought one goal was all we needed," Spilman said. "Our mentality is not to [score] one goal and drop in. We're always pressuring and want to keep our foot on the gas so we did that."

That's when Spilman took over the game.

The senior forward was fouled in the penalty area with 16:13 left in the game, resulting in a penalty kick. Spilman calmly stepped to the spot and buried a chance inside the right post for a 2-0 lead.

"I usually always go right," Spilman said. "But you're always nervous on the spot. I wasn't thinking at all; I was just hoping it would go in, so I'm thankful."

Six minutes later, Spilman was hauled down in the box again, resulting in another penalty kick opportunity. Casey Williamson was called on to take the shot, but Northside goalkeeper Scott Newman punched the ball out to make the save.

The play wasn't over, however. Paulson corralled the loose ball and scored on the rebound for a 3-0 lead. The junior said he was ready to pounce in case the keeper made the save.

"There were two guys to my right, so I figured I might as well put myself in front of these guys," Paulson said. "That ball rebounded right back out to me and saw the right corner and slipped it by."

Paulson capped the scoring two minutes later on a nice feed from Spilman to take a commanding 4-0 advantage with seven minutes to play.

Carter slipped me in, an incredible ball by him, and I was super stoked to score," Paulson said.

The championship marked a sensational ending to a great season for Western Albemarle.

"It's pretty freaking awesome," Paulson said. "This is my first soccer championship. My brother had two state championships, so it's good to get one under my belt."

"It's pretty freaking awesome. This is my first soccer championship. My brother had two state championships, so it's good to get one under my belt."

— Joey Paulson, Western Albemarle soccer player



WARRIORS SWEEP

Western Albemarle tennis teams roll to state championships

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Western Albemarle boys and girls tennis teams both capped impressive seasons on Saturday by winning VHSL Class 3 state championships in Roanoke.

Both Warrior squads faced James Monroe in the state finals and both came away with identical 5-0 victories, but both matches took longer than hoped for.

Due to an inclement weather forecast in Southwest Virginia, both matches were moved from the outdoor courts at the Salem Complex to indoor courts in Roanoke.

The boys match shifted to Hunting Hills Country Club in Roanoke, while the girls match was moved to the Sun Tennis Center in Roanoke.

While most high school tennis matches are played in facilities that have six courts, both Hunting Hills Country Club and the Sun Tennis Center only have two indoor courts, which

made both matches take longer than usual.

In the boys match, Western Albemarle No. 1 player Gavin Segraves, who won both the Class 3 singles and doubles titles earlier this week, made quick work of his opponent to give the Warriors a 1-0 lead. Alex Ix, who won the doubles title with Segraves on Friday night, defeated his opponent to make it 2-0.

Western continued to cruise from there, with James Damien Heller-Chen clinching the match with his singles win to give the Warriors a 5-0 victory and its third straight VHSL Class 3 state championship.

The Western girls made quick work of their opponent as well.

The Warriors jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead before Stephanie Hass won a three-set thriller to give WAHS a 4-0 advantage. Sarah Randolph Warren clinched the match and the Warriors' first state championship since 2014 with a straight-set victory.



The Western Albemarle boys and girls tennis teams both won VHSL Class 3 state championships on Saturday in Roanoke.



Western girls lacrosse team falls in final

Dominion uses big first half run to knock off Warriors and win Class 4 championship

BY JOHN HARVEY
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SALEM — When Dana Boyle took over the Western Albemarle girls lacrosse program three years ago, the goal was to guide the Warriors to a state championship.

Western moved one step closer to that goal this Saturday in a 15-11 loss to Dominion in the Virginia High School League Class 4 state championship game at Salem High School.

Western Albemarle led

5-3 with 14:44 left in the first half, but Dominion countered with a 7-0 run over the next 10 minutes to seize control of the game and take home the program's first state title.

"I think looking at the beginning of the season until now and looking at the girls, you have to be proud," Boyle said. "They've come a long way. It takes practice to get to the state championship game, but it also takes practice to win a state championship. So, to now have been there, we can kind of learn from

this and come back next year even hungrier."

With WAHS trailing 2-1, Mattie Shearer scored a natural hat trick and Sophie Lanahan and Reid Ferguson added goals as the Warriors built a 5-3 lead and forced Dominion to call timeout.

The Titans inserted Katherine Eberhardt into the faceoff circle and the junior excelled by winning draws to get her team the ball. Dominion took advantage of the possession, scoring seven straight goals to regain the lead.

Jamie Lee, a Villanova

signee, led the charge with a pair of goals and an assist and Mya Brock added two more to give the Titans a 10-5 lead with 1:59 left in the first half.

Western Albemarle regained momentum just before halftime as senior Erica Repich scored off a feed from Libby Carbo to trim the lead to 10-6 at intermission.

The comeback continued in the second half as the Warriors scored four goals in the first 10 minutes to trim the lead to 12-10. Anna Kreienbaum scored in front off a feed

from Lanahan to make it a two-goal margin.

That would be as close as Western Albemarle would get as Brock and Molly Battaglia scored back-to-back goals to stretch the lead to four and put the game out of reach.

After the loss, Boyle told her players to hold their heads high.

"I just told them to be proud of themselves," Boyle said. "We've had some ups and downs throughout the season and they've done a pretty good job of weathering that storm and I think

that's a testament to their fight, hard work, skill and also our senior leadership."

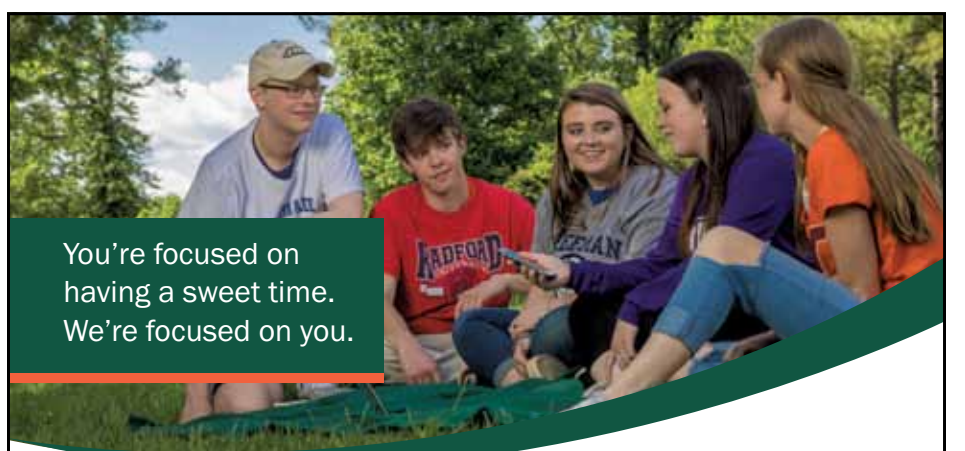
With just four seniors departing, the bulk of the Warriors' roster is set to return next season.

Boyle, who started when members of the current senior class were sophomores, will have fond memories of the group.

"I was just telling them in the huddle, we had fun this year," Boyle said. "They gelled off the field and, on the field, and they're just a really good group of kids."



Western Albemarle's Sophie Lanahan (1) pushes the ball downfield during the Class 4 state championship game against Dominion on Saturday.



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GEORGE WELSH: 1933-2019

CAVALIER LEGEND



PHOTOS COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Virginia football coach George Welsh is carried off the field by his players following a game. Welsh died earlier this week at the age of 85. See more photos at CavalierInsider.com.

Welsh era had plenty of memorable moments

BY JOHN SHIFFLETT
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George Welsh led the Virginia football team to unprecedented success during his nearly 20 years leading the program.

During Welsh's tenure, which ran from 1982-2000, the Cavaliers went 134-86-3, won two ACC championships and appeared in 12 bowl games. Virginia also reached No. 1 in the AP college football poll in 1990.

When Welsh retired, he was the winningest coach in ACC history. His tenure at Virginia included numerous moments that still resonate with Wahoo fans to this day.

Here are five of the most memorable moments of the Welsh era at Virginia.

1. Seminoles stopped

The Florida State football program was an unbeatable juggernaut during its first three seasons in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Led by legendary coach Bobby

See **MOMENTS**, Page B5



Virginia coach George Welsh holds up the Peach Bowl championship trophy on Dec. 31, 1984 in Atlanta.

Coach left a lasting impression on players

BY RON COUNTS
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Nobody likes Mondays.

That was especially true for captains on the Virginia football team when George Welsh was the head coach. They began each week with a meeting in the coach's office, and generally, he wasn't very jovial.

"I think he's the only guy who would call you in for a meeting and have nothing to say. He would just sit there and look at you," said former UVa All-American linebacker Chris Slade, who was a team captain as a senior in 1992. "For a guy his size, he was very intimidating and I didn't get intimidated by many people."

The Virginia ball cap perched on his head would routinely fly across the room, and if Welsh took his glasses off "you knew you were in trouble," Slade said.

"He was small in stature but when he walked into the room, you thought he was Andre the Giant," Slade said. "That was what kind of presence he had."

According to a press release from UVa, Welsh died on Wednesday "peacefully and in the presence of his family."

See **WELSH**, Page B4

GEORGE WELSH: BY THE NUMBERS

134

The number of wins George Welsh amassed as Virginia coach.

13

Welsh's UVa teams had a streak of 13 straight seasons with 7 or more wins.

2

Welsh led Virginia to two ACC championships, 1989 and 1995.

12

The Cavaliers went to 12 bowl games during Welsh's tenure.

1

In 1990, Virginia was ranked No. 1 for the first time in school history.

Black Knights blow out Hornets

BY ERIC HOBECK
For The Daily Progress

Give the Charlottesville girls basketball team less than a full day of rest between games against Jefferson District opponents, and they'll respond by swarming all over the floor so doggedly that, at times, you wonder if you're watching eight against five.

The Black Knights attacked the bucket on offense on Friday night against Orange County, nearly scoring 100 points, but it was a staggering defense that left the young Hornets squad mystified and without answers.

For the second time in as many nights, CHS forced a running clock to start the fourth quarter, this time making easy work of Orange with a 94-16 win at home. Fresh off an 84-33 win over Powhatan, Charlottesville (6-5, 3-3 Jefferson) took control early and didn't hesitate to showcase its superiority over a smaller Orange (1-9, 0-4) team in both stature and numbers; they have just one senior and often plays three freshmen at once.

"The nine girls we have are really strong players," CHS coach Jim Daly said, evidenced by each player who dressed for the game scoring at least four points. "The game's gonna be up-and-down [the floor], our girls play really hard and they share the ball really well in transition. We had 23 assists last night and I felt like we had a ton tonight too. Nearly every bucket's coming from them



**CHARLOTTESVILLE 94,
ORANGE 16**

Jefferson District matchup

Key stat: Four Black Knights scored in double figures.

being unselfish and sharing with each other."

Their defensive efforts did not go unnoticed either. The Black Knights allowed six or fewer points in each quarter and held the Hornets scoreless for the last couple minutes of the second quarter and almost all of the third before Jordan Carter's layup with less than 30 seconds left in the period went down. After a 0-3 start to district play, Charlottesville has gotten back to .500 by averaging less than 26 points allowed per game in wins over Monticello, Powhatan, and Orange — no small feat when taking into account the breakneck pace at which they play.

Four Black Knights scored in double figures, including a game-high 20 points off the bench from Jessica Antwi.

Daly pointed to last Saturday's loss to William Monroe in the Daily Progress Holiday Hoops Classic championship as an extra motivator for his team.

"One of the things that I hope we learned from the Christmas tournament final was that we need to be able to play hard without fouling. Be-

cause fouling is just giving the other team points, it's slowing the game down. And against a team that really executes like Monroe, they did a great job of getting to the foul line," he said. "Maybe the sting of that loss helped it sink in that our job is not to get every steal but to speed up the tempo and play at our pace without fouling. I thought the girls have done a great job of that the last two nights."

"Charlottesville's a good team," first-year Orange head coach Willie Alexander said with a laugh when asked what they did so well. "I hate to keep on making excuses ... we're young. I can't keep on saying that, [but] we are. They [Charlottesville] get up and down the floor on you, and we're not quick enough, smart enough, [or] experienced enough."

"We knew what we needed to do to break the press, but you can lead a horse to water, you can't make him drink," he said. "Half-court defense tonight, which we played very little of because they fast break and rebound, I was pleased with that part of our game."

With time almost gone in the game and the result long decided, Orange's Lindsey Slaughter pulled up for a three from straight away. Her shot was good as the buzzer sounded, and with a slight grin on her face she looked to her bench.

All she could do was shrug her shoulders.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW SHURTLIFF/THE DAILY PROGRESS

Charlottesville's Taylor Ward shoots a 3-point basket over Orange defenders during the game Friday night at Charlottesville High School.



Charlottesville's Carmella Jackson (center) shoots between Orange's Hadasha Aquin (left) and Brooke Squiers (right) during Friday's game at Charlottesville High School.

Balanced Lions defeat Patriots for district lead

BY JOHN HARVEY
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MINERAL — With four of his players averaging double figures in scoring, Louisa County coach Robert Shelton knows his team can score with anyone in the Jefferson District.

That balanced effort proved beneficial Friday night as the Lions outlasted visiting Albemarle 61-52 to take sole possession of first place atop the district standings. Xavien Hunter and Marcus Isaac Haywood scored 13 points apiece, while Jarrett Hunter added 11 more to lead four Lions in double figures.

Jarret Hunter scored nine points in the first half and Xavien Hunter added eight more over the first two quarters as Louisa County (9-0, 4-0 district) built a 26-8 lead with 4:36 left in the first half.

The duo's output was



**LOUISA 61,
ALBEMARLE 52**

Jefferson District matchup

Key state: Four different Louisa players scored in double figures.

necessary to offset leading scorer Chris Shelton being held without a field goal in the first half.

Teams are going to face guard Chris and I know that Buck [Xavien Hunter] and Jarret can play that type of game," Louisa County coach Robert Shelton said. "Then we get some contributions from some big guys Isaac Haywood, Mark Carter and Shyleek Washington and that was big for us. We're not a one-man show, we kind of show some balance."

Derrick Jones Jr., Albemarle's top scorer, struggled from the field in the first half as well but made up for it in other areas. The junior guard matched up with Shelton defensively and had two steals and three blocks as the Patriots trimmed the lead to 32-15 at intermission.

Coach Greg Maynard's team carried that momentum into the third quarter, opening the second half with a 13-3 run. Josh Morse and Myles Ward scored six points apiece in the quarter as the Patriots trimmed the lead to 39-34 with one quarter to play.

"We talked about it at halftime because we knew they were going to make a run," Shelton said. "We were prepared for it and our guys didn't panic, and when they made their run, we knew we just had to keep fighting and weather the storm. The good thing about it is Jarret is a

three-year varsity starter, so he was poised and got us into our offense and we were able to get some key buckets at the right time."

After scoring just two points in the first three quarters, Chris Shelton made his presence felt at crunch time for Louisa County. The senior small forward scored eight points during a 12-5 run to open the quarter as the Lions led 51-39 with 3:37 to play.

Albemarle mounted another late rally as Dasaun Taylor scored four points and Jones added three-point play to pull the Patriots within 57-51 with less than a minute to play. That would be as close as AHS would get, as Shelton sank two free throws and Haywood added a layup to seal the win.

Shelton finished with 14 points to lead Louisa County. Shyleek Washington and Mahlik Munnerlyn combined for eight

points off the bench.

Ward led all scorers with 15 points for Albemarle. Morse tallied 10 points, while Jones and Taylor finished with seven points apiece.

Robert Shelton said Friday's game was a good measuring stick game for his team.

"We knew Albemarle was a good team," he said. "They've been on the top of the district and are still at the top of the district. It was a big game. Hats off to those guys, they really played hard and posed a challenge for us and made us work for it and I think our guys did a good job of adjusting. They did some things defensively that our guys weren't used to seeing and we had to adjust on the fly. I think overall, a good team win and that's from [players 1 through 14]. We had a tough week of practice and I think that prepared us for today."

NFL



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington Redskins head coach Jay Gruden will return to the team next season.

'Skins coach Jay Gruden back for the 2019 season

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Washington Redskins coach Jay Gruden was informed Friday that he will remain the team's coach through this offseason and into the 2019 season, according to a source with knowledge of the situation.

Gruden has just one playoff appearance during his five years in Wash-

ington, but has also dealt with a rotating cast at quarterback, and a roster that seems to be perpetually injury-prone.

Decisions on assistant coaches have not yet been made.

With the decision to retain Gruden, the Redskins are one of the teams that can be forced by the league to participate in next year's "Hard Knocks" show on HBO, which goes

behind the scenes at training camp.

Teams can be forced to participate if they have not made the playoffs each of the past two seasons, and do not have a first-year coach.

With Gruden's retention, a busy offseason begins.

Given Alex Smith's injury status and salary cap hit, the Redskins will likely select a quarterback in this year's NFL Draft.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 4 Virginia kicks off league play against No. 9 Florida State



FLORIDA STATE 12-1)
AT VIRGINIA 12-0)

ACC matchup

3 p.m. Saturday; TV: ESPN2

BY JOSHUA NEEDELMAN

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Virginia's season is broken down into three portions, coach Tony Bennett said: Nonconference play, conference play and postseason play.

The Cavaliers wrapped up the third Monday afternoon with a 100-64 win over Marshall. The second part kicks off Saturday, when the No. 4 Cavaliers host No. 9 Florida State in the beginning of ACC play for both teams.

Virginia won its lone matchup against the Seminoles last season, but it didn't come easily. After going into halftime trailing by 10 points, the Cavaliers stormed back to pick up the 59-55 victory on the road Feb. 7, 2018.

Bennett certainly hopes things go more smoothly Saturday. Here are four things to watch for when Virginia (12-0) hosts Florida State (12-1) at John Paul Jones Arena.

1. Will Bennett go big in the starting lineup?

Florida State has more size than most of the teams the 'Hoos played during the nonconference slate. No player is shorter than 6-foot-1, and the tallest, center Christ Koumadje, is 7-4. Eight players are at least 6-7.

It'll be an interesting matchup for the Cavaliers, who have often played four guards alongside one big this



ZACK WAJSGRAS/THE DAILY PROGRESS

Virginia forward Mamadi Diakite (left) grabs a rebound over two Marshall defenders in the second half at John Paul Jones Arena on Monday.

season. Mamadi Diakite, the team's 6-foot-9 forward, has started the past three games alongside 6-foot-11 center Jack Salt, and Bennett might look to pair the two big men on the floor for large portions of the game Saturday.

2. Will Jay Huff see time?

UVA's tallest player, 7-foot-1 forward Jay Huff, has received inconsistent playing time so far. The redshirt sophomore did score 14 points in 13 minutes the last time out against Marshall, but he didn't leave the bench in the team's previous two games against ranked teams, Wis-

consin and Maryland.

Huff would certainly provide length and height against a towering FSU team, but Bennett might be hesitant to play Huff, who at times has struggled as a rebounder against more physical opponents.

3. How will Kihei Clark play without the cast?

Since undergoing surgery on his fractured left wrist Dec. 10, Clark has played with a protective cast. He has struggled on the offensive end in the three games, scoring just seven points on 2-for-12 shooting.

The cast was removed Wednesday in favor of a splint, which is less restrictive and should make it easier for the point guard to dribble and shoot. The 5-foot-9 Clark could see less playing time than normal against the bigger Seminoles, but the lack of the cast could lead to more effective minutes.

4. How dominant will UVA's defense be against stiffer competition?

The Cavaliers turned in perhaps their most impressive defensive performance on Nov. 23, when they held then-No. 25 Wisconsin to 46 points on 43.8 percent shooting. The Badgers didn't convert a single 3-pointer in the first half and finished 2-for-11 from behind the arc.

It was a different story five days later, though, when the Cavaliers played at then-No. 24 Maryland. Four Terrapins scored in double figures as the team shot 54 percent from the field and 41.2 percent from long-range.

The two performances offer contrasting studies of Virginia's defense. Saturday's game against an FSU team averaging 81.3 points per game should provide more clarity on the state of the 'Hoos' defense.

Boston College at No. 10 Virginia Tech



» When: Noon, Saturday

» Where: Cassell Coliseum

» Records: BC 9-3, 0-0 ACC; Virginia Tech 12-1, 1-0

» TV: NBC Sports Washington

» Last meeting: Virginia Tech won 85-80 in overtime on Feb. 1, 2018 at BC.

» BC probable starters: F Nik Popovic (13.7 ppg, 7.5 rpg), F Jairus Hamilton (6.1 ppg), G Chris Herren Jr. (5.7 ppg), G Wynston Tabbs (14.6 ppg), G Ky Bowman (20.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg).

» Va. Tech probable starters: F Kerry Blackshear Jr. (13.6 ppg); G Justin Robinson (13.4 ppg, 6.1 apg); G Ahmed Hill (13.2 ppg); G Nickell Alexander-Walker (18.3 ppg, 2.4 spg), G Wabissa Bede (4.0 ppg).

» Notes: BC is coming off a home overtime loss to Hartford. BC also has lost at home to IUPUI and Providence this season. The Eagles have beaten Loyola of Chicago, Minnesota and DePaul. ... The Hokies lead the country in 3-point field-goal percentage (45.3 percent). They rank third nationally in scoring margin (outscored foes by 24.2 ppg); fourth in scoring defense (57.3 ppg); fifth in field-goal percentage defense (51.8 percent); sixth in 3-pointers (11.2 per game); 12th in assist-turnover ratio; and 14th in assists (18 apg). ...

Tech has beaten BC four straight times. ... Bowman is the only player in the nation averaging at least 20.9 points, 7.8 rebounds, 3.5 assists, 1.6 steals and 0.9 blocks. He scored a career-high 44 points in Monday's overtime loss to Hartford. It was the sixth-highest scoring total in BC history. He also had 10 rebounds, five steals and two blocks in the loss. ... Tabbs is the only freshman in the country averaging at least 14.6 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.2 steals. ... Jordan Chatman (12.6 ppg) returned to action for BC against Hartford after being sidelined by injury for three games. ... Robinson needs 22 assists to move past Malcolm Delaney into second place on the Tech career list. He needs 26 assists to move past Bimbo Coles for the top spot.

Mark Berman, The Roanoke Times



THE ROANOKE TIMES

Virginia Tech forward Kerry Blackshear Jr. goes up for a basket against Maryland-Eastern Shore forward Tyler Jones during a recent game in Blacksburg.

Welsh

From Page B1

He was 85 years old.

Welsh coached the Cavaliers from 1982 to 2000, and he transformed a program that experienced two winning seasons in 29 years into one that won at least seven games 13 years in a row.

"He had a clear vision for how to make Virginia competitive, he stuck to it and he succeeded," said former UVA head coach Al Groh, who replaced Welsh after his retirement following the 2000 season. "He never sacrificed his values or what he believed in. He did it the right way."

Former Virginia safety Anthony Poindexter — a captain in 1997 and 1998 — said it wasn't until he started attending those Monday meetings that he began to see through Welsh's gruff exterior and understand the compassion he had for his players.

"I was terrified of him my whole college career," Poindexter said. "His outward appearance made it seem like he was an unapproachable kind of guy, but coach had a big heart for his players and he al-

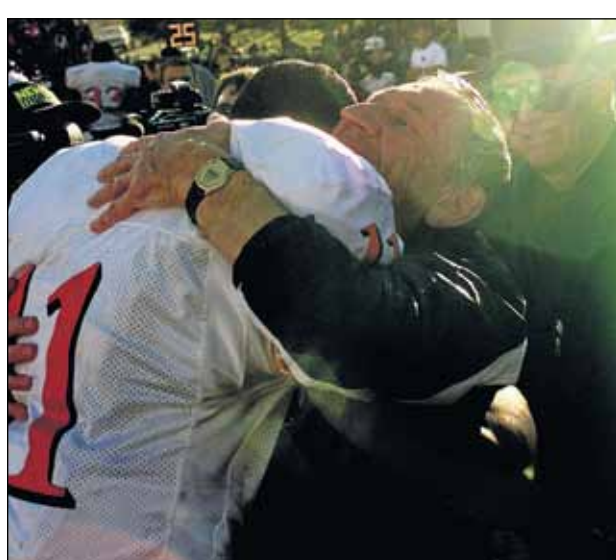
ways had our best interest in mind."

That was never more evident than after the 1997 season when Poindexter was debating leaving school a year early for the NFL Draft or returning for his senior year. After many conversations with Welsh, he opted to return for his final season.

"He sat me down and said 'I have my money. Of course, I'd like to have you back, but you have to do what is best for you and your family,'" Poindexter said. "He wasn't just looking out for George Welsh and the University of Virginia at that point. He was a great man, and he treated all of his players well."

Slade said Welsh chucked his hat at him and kicked him off the practice field for hitting quarterbacks more times than he can count. He even went as far to say that most players wouldn't have considered Welsh a "players' coach" during their playing days, but all that changed outside of football.

The bond he and Welsh shared didn't begin to form until after Slade retired from the NFL and broke into the coaching profession himself. Slade



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Virginia coach George Welsh hugs quarterback Aaron Brooks after the Cavaliers' win over Virginia Tech in 1998.

spent eight seasons with the New England Patriots and one with the Carolina Panthers.

"When you played for George, he didn't let you get too close to him," Slade said. "After you were done playing, that's when he would open up."

For the past six years, Slade has coached high school football at Pace Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. Welsh opened up to his former outside linebacker three years ago with a three-page handwritten letter after Pace won a state championship.

"He talked about how he always knew I was going to be a coach and he knew I was going to do well," Slade said. "That got me emotional."

Now both coaches themselves, Slade and Poindexter continue to implement lessons learned from Welsh.

"You always knew you were going to be well prepared on Saturday afternoons, and he was one of the best at in-game adjustments that I've ever seen," Slade said.

After stints as an assistant at Virginia and the

defensive coordinator at Connecticut, Poindexter is now the co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach at Purdue. He spent two seasons in the NFL with the Ravens and Browns.

"His attention to detail and the toughness he instilled in his players are definitely lessons I took from him," Poindexter said. "He also let his players be the type of players they wanted to be. I think that's why I went on to have the kind of career I did, because I wasn't playing with restrictions."

Former Virginia linebacker Dennis Haley only got to play for Welsh for one year before he retired, but it was long enough to show Haley exactly how well his coach understood the game and his players.

Haley was a running back at Salem High School. He was one of five running backs in the Cavaliers' 2000 recruiting class, and he was 6-foot-3 and 250 pounds. Welsh pulled him aside during the first week of camp and informed him he'd be moving to defense.

"That was a defining moment in my football career, and I'll be forever grateful that he had such vision," said Haley, a volunteer as-

istant coach at the Blue Ridge School in St. George. "He saw something in me, and I ended up loving linebacker and it took me to the NFL."

Haley spent three seasons as a member of the Jets, Ravens and 49ers before playing two years in the Canadian Football League.

"He had a hand in bringing in a lot of the players who got Virginia on a national stage and the players who kept it on the national stage," said Haley, who finished his UVA career in 2004. "There were a lot of guys in my class alone who got a shot in the NFL, and that was all before of Coach Welsh."

Stern, no-nonsense and even grumpy are words Welsh's former players have used to describe his personality and coaching style, but they all agree he left a lasting impression on their lives on and off the field.

"People know him for the wins and what he did for the university, but I saw him more like my granddad," Poindexter said. "I never wanted to disappoint him because I knew how much he cared."

NFL: Redskins linebacker Ryan Kerrigan to miss Sunday's game against Panthers **B2**

SPORTS

B1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2019

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To report scores, contact sports editor John Shifflett at sports@dailyprogress.com or (434) 978-7250.

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SOAK IT IN

UVa ends losing streak to Virginia Tech, wins Commonwealth Cup



PHOTOS BY ANDREW SHURTLEFF/THE DAILY PROGRESS

Virginia head coach Bronco Mendenhall is doused with water after defeating Virginia Tech 39-30 to win the Commonwealth Cup on Friday at Scott Stadium.

Cavaliers reach ACC title game for the first time

BY BENNETT CONLIN

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The streak is over. It's finally over.

Bryce Perkins made plays with his arms and his legs. Noah Taylor played like a senior in a sophomore's body. The Cavaliers hung tough. And for the first time since 2003, Virginia beat Virginia Tech.

The Cavaliers outlasted the Hokies and won 39-30, on Friday at Scott Stadium.

The win also gives the Cavaliers (9-3, 6-2 ACC) their first ACC Coastal Division title. It's a historic victory that came in dramatic fashion.

"The stage was not too big for them," head coach Bronco Mendenhall said. "The moment was not too big for them. What was at stake was not too big for them. They believed that they were capable and prepared to perform in this setting, and they did."

After jumping out to an early lead, Virginia struggled offensively and allowed Virginia Tech to take second-half leads multiple times. The Cavaliers kept fighting, however, and they eventually made enough plays to win the biggest game of Mendenhall's Virginia tenure.

"It just seemed like yesterday where fans were rushing the field when we won six games to go to our first bowl game," Mendenhall said. "That was just three years ago. Seems like that's a long time ago now."

The game started as perfectly as Virginia could've hoped. Perkins converted a pair

See **CUP**, Page B3



Virginia quarterback Bryce Perkins easily runs in for a first quarter touchdown during the game against Virginia Tech on Friday in Charlottesville.

Virginia defense delivers with two late takeaways

BY JOHN SHIFFLETT

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The final minutes of Friday's Commonwealth Cup between Virginia and Virginia Tech presented a dilemma that keeps plenty of defensive coordinators up at night.

What is the best way to defend an opposing offense late in the game when you have a narrow lead?

Following Brian Delaney's 48-yard field goal, Virginia led Virginia Tech 33-30 with 1:23 to go. In that situation, some defensive coordinators would play it safe. They would lighten the pass rush and drop more players into coverage in hopes of limiting chunk plays and keeping the opponent out of the end zone.

Not Nick Howell.

The Virginia defensive coordinator dialed up the pressure on the Virginia Tech quarterback Hendon Hooker late, hoping to take the Virginia Tech quarterback out of his rhythm and thwart the Hokies' comeback hopes.

The plan worked to perfection.

The Cavaliers sacked Hooker on consecutive plays to bring up 3rd and 21 from the Virginia Tech 7-yard line. Then on third down, Virginia defensive lineman Mandy Alonso tackled Hooker in the end zone and forced a fumble, which was recovered by fellow lineman Eli Hanback, who dived on the loose ball for a touchdown and a 39-30 Virginia lead.

Game. Set. Match.

See **DEFENSE**, Page B4

"The stage was not too big for them. The moment was not too big for them. What was at stake was not too big for them. They believed that they were capable and prepared to perform in this setting and they did."

— Bronco Mendenhall, Virginia football coach

BREAKING DOWN THE CAVS

Game Balls

BY BENNETT CONLIN



OFFENSE

» Bryce Perkins, QB

Early in the game, Perkins made plays with his legs, rushing for a pair of long touchdowns. He accumulated 137 rushing yards on his first five carries. As the game progressed, Perkins used his arm to move the ball down the field, finishing with 311 passing yards and a touchdown.



DEFENSE

» Noah Taylor, LB

The linebacker made a few disruptive plays in the backfield, and he intercepted Virginia Tech QB Hendon Hooker on a Hail Mary at the end of the first half. Taylor made the defensive play of the game when he intercepted Hooker with just under five minutes left in the game. The sophomore finished the game with six tackles, a sack and two interceptions.



SPECIAL TEAMS

» Brian Delaney, K

Delaney missed an extra point early in the game, but delivered a 48-yard field goal in the final two minutes to give UVA a 33-30 lead. It was an incredibly clutch kick from Delaney.

VIRGINIA 39, NO. 23 VIRGINIA TECH 30

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| Virginia Tech | 3 | 3 | 21 | 3 | — | 30 |
| Virginia | 13 | 0 | 7 | 19 | — | 39 |

First Quarter

UVA—Perkins 39 run (kick failed), 12:14

VT—FG B.Johnson 21, 3:26

UVA—Perkins 67 run (Delaney kick), 2:32

Second Quarter

VT—FG B.Johnson 26, 2:06

Third Quarter

VT—Hooker 34 run (B.Johnson kick), 12:52

VT—McCleave 1 run (B.Johnson kick), 4:42

UVA—Kemp 25 pass from Perkins (Delaney kick), 2:24

VT—Turner 61 pass from Hooker (B.Johnson kick), :48

Fourth Quarter

UVA—Taulapapa 2 run (Delaney kick), 13:30

VT—FG B.Johnson 47, 10:58

UVA—FG Delaney 25, 7:35

UVA—FG Delaney 48, 1:23

UVA—Hanback 0 fumble return, 1:01

A—52,619.

| | VT | UVA |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| First downs | 25 | 14 |
| Rushes-yards | 45-172 | 25-181 |
| Passing | 311 | 311 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 18-30-2 | 20-33-1 |
| Return Yards | 126 | 40 |
| Punts-Avg. | 4-41.0 | 6-29.66 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 2-2 | 0-0 |
| Penalties-Yards | 8-141 | 7-62 |
| Time of Possession | 33:39 | 26:21 |

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Virginia Tech, McCleave 16-86, Hooker 21-44, Turner 3-25, K.King 3-11, Keene 2-6. Virginia, Perkins 19-164, Taulapapa 6-17.

PASSING—Virginia Tech, Hooker 18-30-2-311. Virginia, Perkins 20-33-1-311.

RECEIVING—Virginia Tech, Turner 7-134, Hazelton 7-118, T.Robinson 3-45, Keene 1-14. Virginia, J.Reed 5-66, Dubois 4-139, Jana 4-56, Kemp 3-32, Cowley 3-9, Kelly 1-9.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

NOTEBOOK



ANDREW SHURTLEFF/THE DAILY PROGRESS

Virginia place kicker Brian Delaney (center) kicks a field goal during the game Friday at Scott Stadium. Virginia defeated Virginia Tech 39-30 to win the Commonwealth Cup.

Delaney delivers crucial kick

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Brian Delaney spent his Thanksgiving night watching highlights of New Orleans Saints kicker Wil Lutz hitting a 58-yard game-winning field goal on Monday Night Football to beat the Houston Texans, 30-28. Lutz celebrated as soon as the ball left his foot.

Delaney said he watched the kick probably 20-30 times. He visualized making a game-winner ahead of his team's crucial game against Virginia Tech.

Early in the game against the Hokies, Delaney made an error. The kicker tugged an extra point wide left after Virginia's opening touchdown. As the game remained tight throughout, there was a chance the missed kick could come back to hurt the Cavaliers.

Luckily for Delaney, he received a chance at redemption.

With the score knotted at 30 and the game down to its final 90 seconds, Delaney stepped up to kick with video of Lutz dancing through his subconscious.

Delaney delivered in the biggest moment of his career, nailing the 48-yard field goal to give UVA a 33-30 lead. The Cavaliers (9-3, 6-2 ACC) ultimately won, 39-30.

"As soon as it came off, I just had that feeling," Delaney said. "It was good to see."

Second-half surge

Hendon Hooker and Virginia Tech's offense struggled in the first half, only scoring six points and failing to convert in the red zone. There were no such

woes in the second half, as Virginia Tech's offense started the third quarter on fire.

The Hokies scored touchdowns on three of their first four second-half possessions, accumulating an impressive 224 yards on 20 plays. All three of the touchdown drives went at least 70 yards and took fewer than five minutes.

Virginia Tech scored 21 third-quarter points, but the Hokies only added three in the final 15 minutes.

The two teams combined to score 50 points in the second half after scoring just 19 points in the first 30 minutes. It was an electric second half at Scott Stadium as Virginia made enough plays to secure the victory.

"The second half was just a game of adjustments," Virginia head coach Bronco Mendenhall said. "Tech made some really nice adjustments, and we adjusted as well and that just went back and forth all the way to the very end as an in-state rivalry, division championship game should."

VT shutout streak

After shutting out its previous two opponents, Virginia Tech allowed UVA to pile up 75 rushing yards on its first drive. The drive, which was led by 70 rushing yards from Bryce Perkins, ended with a Perkins touchdown run from 39 yards out.

The Hokies didn't allow a single point against Georgia Tech or Pittsburgh, but it took the Cavaliers just two minutes and 46 seconds to find the end zone against Bud Foster's defense.

Foster's unit rallied, however, forcing six consecutive punts, including five consecutive three-and-outs, before

Virginia answered with a touchdown drive of its own to tie the game at 20 late in the third quarter.

After an adjustment by Foster and company, Virginia answered back. The Cavaliers caught fire late, scoring 26 second-half points. Seven came from the defense, but the offense delivered consistently late.

Moving the ball

Virginia Tech held its previous three opponents to an average of 58.7 rushing yards per game. Perkins' second touchdown run of the first quarter went for 67 yards.

Perkins and the Cavaliers moved the ball effectively on scrambles and designed quarterback runs early in the game. He amassed 137 yards and two touchdowns on his first five carries, but the redshirt senior quarterback finished the game with 164 yards and two TDs on 19 carries. His rushing production slowed, but his passing production soared in the final 20 minutes.

Virginia struggled to move the football in the middle of the game, but the Cavaliers rallied in their final few drives. Perkins connected with Hasise Dubois on multiple occasions, and the Cavaliers outlasted the Hokies.

Perkins starred for Virginia, throwing for 311 yards and a touchdown in addition to his crucial runs. He did all of this after dealing with tonsillitis earlier in the week. He was hospitalized overnight following the Liberty game and forced to miss Monday's practice. Despite the illness, Perkins said there was no chance he would've missed the game.

"As long as I could walk, I was gonna play," Perkins said.

Defense

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"The situation of the game really changed. We just could not dial in when they were going to run and when they were going to throw, so we were guessing the entire second half," Virginia head coach Bronco Mendenhall said of the decision to ramp up the pressure on the Hokies' late drive. "The situation Tech was placed in at the end, we knew they were going to throw, and that allowed us to actually make the right calls vs. what they were going to do."

Hanback's touchdown capped a strong fourth quarter for Virginia's defense, which limited the Hokies to three points and forced two turnovers in the game's final 15 minutes.

Linebacker Noah Taylor snagged the first of those two turnovers when he intercepted a Hooker pass on 3rd and 20 with 4:47 to go in the game. The Cavaliers converted Taylor's turnover into Delaney's go-ahead field goal.



ANDREW SHURTLEFF/THE DAILY PROGRESS

Virginia linebacker Noah Taylor celebrates after intercepting the ball during the game Friday in Charlottesville.

"I was a flat defender and they ran a low flat and a sail route over the top," Taylor said of the play. "I saw the quarterback look me off

and try to throw to the flat and I knew he was about to go over top." Hooker did go over the top and

Taylor was there to grab his second interception of the game and kill the Hokies' momentum. Prior to Taylor's pick, Virginia Tech had scored on three consecutive drives (two touchdowns and a field goal). Virginia Tech did not score again after Taylor's interception.

"They did a good job of mixing up looks," Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente said. "They can create pressure. They did a good job taking the ball away."

The Hokies found plenty of success offensively on Friday, finishing with 483 yards of total offense and 30 points. But in the game's crucial moments, the Cavaliers' aggressive approach created crucial turnovers that led to way to the team's first victory in the Commonwealth Cup since 2003.

"Coach Howell is an awesome coach and he just turned this defense around," Hanback said. "We kind of faltered a little bit there at the end, but then we made critical stops. Coach Howell is not passive, he's going to go for it and we love that."

"We attacked, we hunted and it paid off."

THE CAVS PREPARE

Up next

» vs. Clemson

With Friday's victory, Virginia advanced to the ACC Championship Game for the first time in program history. The Cavaliers will face defending national champion Clemson in the title game in Charlotte next Saturday. The Tigers are 11-0 heading into today's matchup with rival South Carolina. Clemson has won the past four ACC championships. The game will kick off next Saturday at 7:30 p.m. on ABC at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte.

The streak is finished

The Virginia football team defeated Virginia Tech on Friday, beating the Hokies for the first time since 2003.



ABOVE
Virginia players take the field before the game against Virginia Tech Friday in Charlottesville. Virginia defeated Virginia Tech 39-30 to win the Commonwealth Cup.

TOP RIGHT
Virginia wide receiver Hasise Dubois (left) hauls in a catch next to Virginia Tech defensive back Armani Chatman during the game Friday.

TOP LEFT
Virginia fans take selfies on the field after the game.

LEFT
Virginia linebackers Jordan Mack (left) and Reed Kellam (center) and Virginia defensive back Tenyeh Dixon (right) celebrate a stop.

Photos by Andrew Shurtleff
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