

# Danville Braves on chopping block?



FILE PHOTO

**Danville Braves players ready to take part in infield practice in June at Dan Daniel Memorial Park.**

## Proposed MiLB restructuring threatens team; 2020 season still on, but future is uncertain

By Parker Cotton  
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The Danville Braves are among a number of Minor League Baseball teams facing an uncertain future.

The New York Times reported in late November that Major League Baseball has proposed a drastic restructuring of its Class AA, Class A, short-season and rookie levels following the 2020 season — moves that would strip the Braves and 41 other minor-league clubs of their

Major League affiliations.

MLB has argued that sweeping changes are needed to improve conditions and increase efficiency across the higher levels of Minor League Baseball (MiLB).

The Danville Braves are an Advance Rookie Affiliate of MLB's Atlanta Braves. The Florida Fire Frogs, Atlanta's Advanced Class A Affiliate, are also facing the threat of elimination, according to the NYT report. A representative of the Danville Braves said the team

would not comment on the matter.

The current Professional Baseball Agreement extends through Sept. 15, 2020, meaning the upcoming season will go on as scheduled, said Jeff Lantz, the senior director of communications at Minor League Baseball. But the future beyond that still is murky.

"It's our goal to continue on with professional baseball as we know it with 160 minor-league teams," Lantz said. "Potentially [the talks] could go into next winter. We obviously prefer that it doesn't because it's not good for anybody's



# HOKIE HIGH



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia Tech's Wabissa Bede celebrates making a 3-point shot against Duke during the first half Tuesday night.

## Third straight victory for Virginia Tech over Duke at Cassell

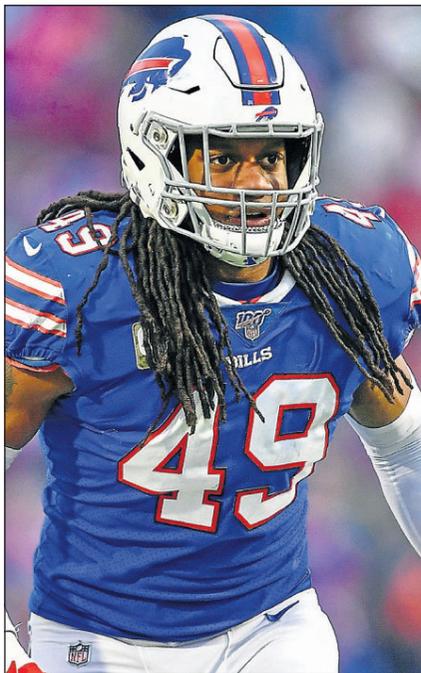
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG — Ty Outlaw hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 88 seconds left and No. 20 Virginia Tech beat No. 3 Duke 77-72 on Tuesday night while Blue Devils

star freshman Zion Williamson sat out his second straight game with a sprained right knee.

Kerry Blackshear Jr. had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and Ahmed Hill scored 17 points for Virginia Tech (22-6, 11-5 ACC),

which beat Duke at Cassell Coliseum for the third straight game. The Blue Devils (24-4, 12-3) had been the only team in the country yet to lose on the road this



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTOS

Ferrell and Felicia Edmunds can't lose nor can they be prouder when the Pittsburgh Steelers host the Buffalo Bills on Sunday night. It's a game that will feature all three of the Edmunds' sons— the Steelers' Terrell (34) and Trey Edmunds (33) and the Bills' Tremain — facing off against each other.

# Edmunds' sibling rivalry goes prime time

First trio of brothers to appear in same NFL game since the Rooneys in 1927

By John Wawrow  
The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.

Felicia Edmunds would rouse her three preteen boys from bed hours before school — and even on vacation — to put them through a rigorous daily workout of long runs and suicide sprints.

If Trey, Terrell and Tremain Edmunds aspired to one day play in the NFL, Felicia's phys-ed teacher instincts kicked in by knowing they weren't going to get there by sleeping in or lying around all summer.

"Once they made the decision

that this is what they wanted to do, then I said, 'OK, it's time to go to work because you can't achieve it by just saying it,'" she said by phone Wednesday. "You have to want it. And you have to put the time in."

Edmunds, a one-time college track star and wife of former NFL tight end Ferrell Edmunds, laughed at the memory, because in no way did she anticipate how things would unfold.

Not only are all three sons playing in the NFL, they'll all be on the field Sunday when the Buffalo Bills (9-4)



**BILLS (9-4) AT STEELERS (8-5)**

NFL, Week 15

8:20 p.m. Sunday; **TV:** NBC

travel to face the Pittsburgh Steelers (8-5) in a prime-time showdown of AFC playoff contenders.

The Steelers feature two of the Edmunds, with Terrell a second-year starting safety and Trey a backup running back and special teams contributor. The Bills' defense is anchored by second-year middle linebacker Tremain Edmunds.

Per the Elias Sports Bureau, the Edmunds will become the first trio of brothers to appear in the same NFL game since Joe, Cobb and Bill Rooney all played for the Duluth Eskimos in 1927.

"It is iconic. It's spectacular. It's amazing. It's a blissful event," Felicia Edmunds said.

"I'm going to root for both teams,"

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*"I'm going to root for both teams. This will be the first time for me that no matter what call the refs make, it will not be a wrong call in my book."*

— Felicia "Cookie" Edmunds, on Sunday's game