

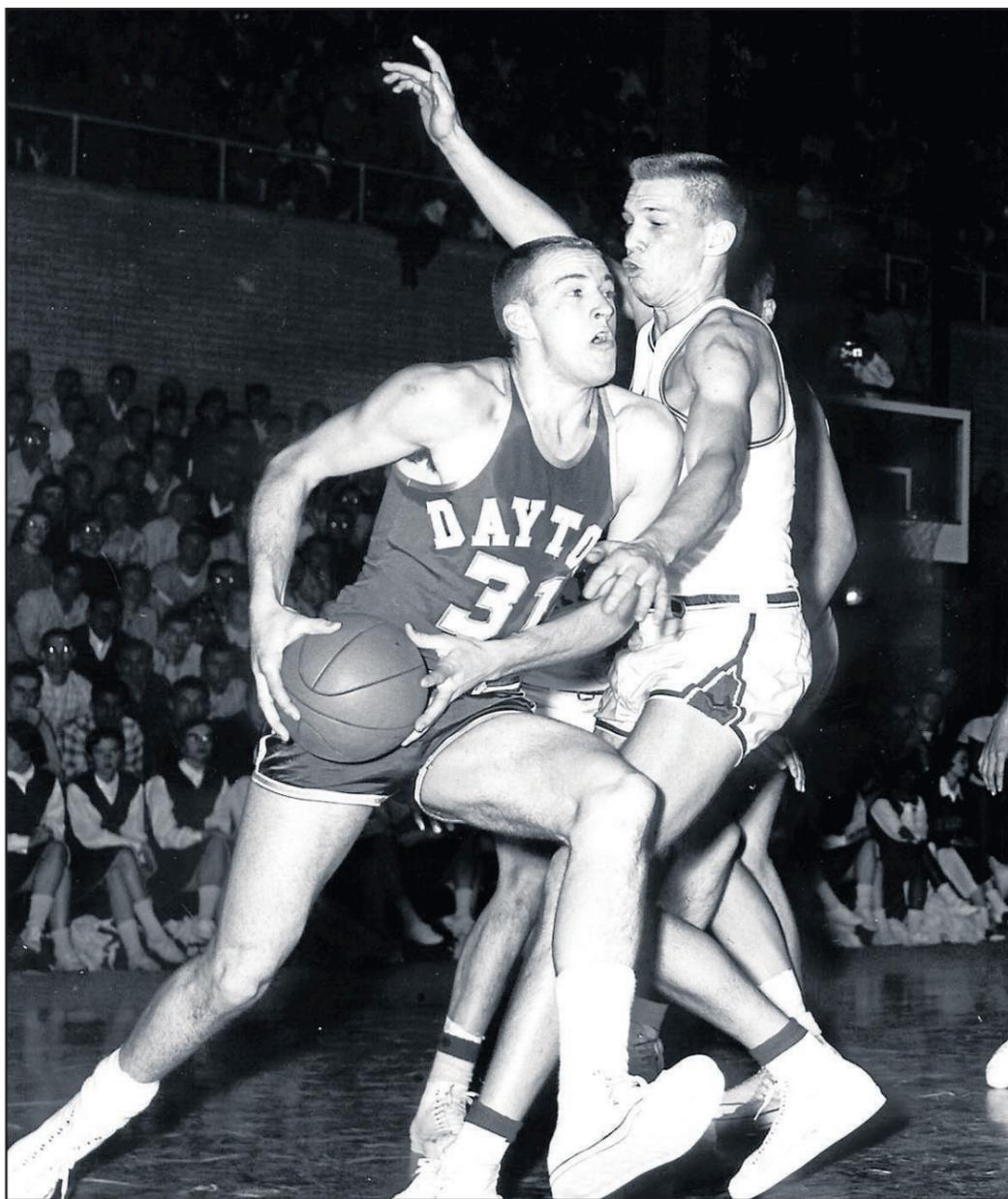


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UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ATHLETICS

Jim Palmer played collegiately at the University of Dayton, where he is enshrined in the institution's athletic hall of fame.

KEOKEE KID

Jim Palmer played college and pro, but never a single game in high school

As the six or so freshmen arrived on campus at the University of Dayton shortly before basketball practice began in the fall of 1953, there was a country boy among the group who wasn't from a hoops hotbed.

Keokee, Virginia?



Tim Hayes
History with Hayes

Of course, the rest of the guys had never heard of Jim Palmer's old stomping grounds.

"We gave him a little ribbing," said Carmen Riazzi, a newcomer himself

from Pennsylvania. "I remember somebody saying where you're from, we can't even find it on the map."

Before it was all said and done, however, Palmer and his pals mapped out a course of unparalleled success for the Dayton Flyers.

Palmer twice played in the finals of the National Invitational Tournament, was a relentless rebounder and carved out a career so accomplished it even-

JIM PALMER'S NBA DEBUT

Oct. 22, 1958

Minneapolis, Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS LAKERS 99,
CINCINNATI ROYALS 79

CINCINNATI (79) – Pientek 17, Parr 14, Twyman 12, Dees 9, Palmer 8, Hatton 8, Marshall 7, Bockhorn 2, Green 2, Staverman 0, Embry 0.

MINNEAPOLIS (88) – Baylor 25, Krebs 16, Fleming 15, Foust 10, Garmaker 9, Hamilton 6, Ellis 6, Mikkelsen 5, Leonard 5, Hundley 2.

Cincinnati 15 18 20 26-79
Minneapolis 32 17 27 22-99

tually earned him a spot in the University of Dayton Athletic Hall of Fame.

He also remains the only man to attend a public high school in far Southwest Virginia and eventually play a regular-season game in the National Basketball Association, appearing in 196 contests over the course of three seasons with the Cincinnati Royals and New York Knicks.

Keep in mind that he attended Keokee High School.

However, he never played a single game of hoops for the Keokee Mountaineers.

"I had a uniform in high school, but I didn't play," Palmer told Marc Katz of the Dayton Daily News in 1988. "I was small and there were only 13 kids in our senior class."

Palmer left Lee County as a teenager and headed to Dayton, Ohio, to find some work. He landed a job at Delco, helping make shock absorbers and in the evenings participated on the plant's basketball team.

Palmer was spotted by Dayton coach Tom Blackburn during an industrial league game and was offered the final scholarship the Flyers had available for the 1953-54 season.

"[Blackburn] had successfully recruited a few other players from industrial teams in the Dayton area a couple of years before Jim came to UD," said former Dayton star Bill Uhl Sr.

A growth spurt didn't hurt Palmer either.

He stood 6-foot-2 the year before he entered Dayton the

See **HISTORY**, Page C4

ETSU Football

Bucs' Sanders is just trying to keep busy

BY BRIAN WOODSON
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

How has Randy Sanders adjusted to life without football?

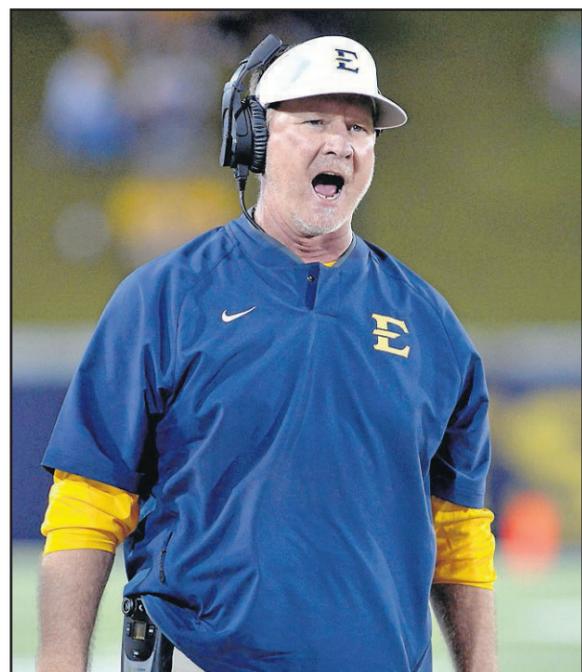
"I think I have really cleaned my boat 15 times even though I am not getting much chance to get it dirty," said Sanders, entering his third season as head football coach at East Tennessee State. "I have been probably driving my wife and daughter crazy."

"There is one good thing about being in quarantine, my wife has been cooking a lot and we have been eating pretty well around this house. My wife can cook. You can look at me and tell that I don't go hungry very

often."

Sanders expected to be quite busy last week with the beginning of spring practice, with the Buccaneers anxious to rebound from last year's 3-9 campaign, which included six losses by seven points or less. "If there was ever a team that I have been around that needed spring practice, this was it," Sanders said. "We have so many freshmen and sophomores, so many unproven guys that needed to show what they can do, but as coaches we need to see what they can do. These 15

See **SANDERS**, Page C5



DAVID CRIGGER | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

ETSU football coach Randy Sanders is in an unusual situation these days, as he's spending a lot of time at home with his family.

Auto Racing

Roger Penske not slowing down

The Associated Press

Roger Penske, at 83 and considered high risk for the coronavirus as a 2017 kidney transplant recipient, still makes the daily three-minute commute to his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, office.

He works 12 or more hours a day from his conference room at Penske Corp., which has a skeleton crew practicing social distancing. Penske has 60,000 employees across the world in an organization in constant flux because of the COVID-19 crisis.

That would be enough for the leader of any corporation, but this pandemic is marring his debut as owner of Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the IndyCar Series. His cloak-and-dagger purchase was done in six weeks last year, the sale completed in January, and the most important thing to Penske since taking over was gearing up for his first chance to host "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

See **PENSKE**, Page C3



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History

From Page C1

legend goes.

Palmer loomed at 6-foot-8 and weighed 224 pounds by the time he left.

The novice became noticeable.

"He was raw and started off slow, but boy, did he develop really rapidly," Riazzi said. "He had some tough people to compete against and he won his way into a starting position. He worked hard and earned every bit of it."

He soon had the nicknames "Keokee Kangaroo" and "Vaulting Virginian" by flying high for the Flyers.

"I remember Jim as a spirited teammate," Uhl Sr. said. "Never a selfish player with very good jumping and rebounding ability."

He was a winner too and helped Dayton compile a 69-17 record during his three varsity seasons.

The team was featured in the March 19, 1956 edition of Sports Illustrated under the headline "High And Handsome" as the Flyers featured five players standing 6-foot-6 or taller. A photo used in the story was an action shot of Uhl (7-foot), Palmer (6-8) and Jim Paxson Sr. (6-6).

Palmer's junior season included a win over Adolph Rupp's Kentucky Wildcats in Lexington, a 21-point performance in a loss to Louisville in the finals of the NIT and averages of 11 points and 10.4 rebounds per game. The Flyers finished third in the final Associated Press poll, the same spot the school's 2019-20

squad finished in the same poll.

In his final collegiate season, Palmer averaged 10.2 points and 12.5 rebounds per game and was selected to play in the East-West All-Star Game in Madison Square Garden, a showcase for the nation's top 20 seniors.

That resume impressed the St. Louis Hawks, who took Palmer in the second round (12th overall) of the 1957 NBA Draft, but he spurned the league to play for the Peoria Cats, who competed in both the National Industrial Basketball League and Amateur Athletic Union League that winter.

He was an All-Star for the team and was part of a squad that toured the Soviet Union playing exhibition games in the spring. That group of standouts also played some contests during the World's Fair in Belgium.

Palmer did make his way to the NBA for the 1958-59 season as the Hawks traded his draft rights (along with Wayne Embury, Darrell Floyd, Gerry Calvert and Ken Sidle) to the Cincinnati Royals for Clyde Lovellette.

Palmer officially made his NBA debut on Oct. 22, 1958 in Cincinnati's 99-79 loss to the Minneapolis Lakers, scoring eight points.

The same two teams played again three nights later in Cincinnati (not far from his college home) and Palmer impressed his coach with the way he defended a star by the name of Elgin Baylor.

"Elgin got 15 points, but Palmer kept him off the boards," Royals coach Bobby Wanzer told the Cincinnati Enquirer. "Jim was also hitting the offensive boards well. He has the makings of a

real good pro player. First, however, he's going to have to learn a few more offensive moves we've been working on."

On Dec. 29, 1958, Palmer showcased those moves as he pumped in a career-high 27 points against the St. Louis Hawks, the team which had drafted him a year earlier.

Only two future Hall of Famers – Cincinnati's Jack Twyman (32 points) and Bob Pettit of St. Louis (35 points) – scored more than Palmer in that contest.

"He could really run the court," said Johnny McCarthy, a teammate of Palmer's with the Royals. "He was very agile for a forward. ... He was a lot better pro player than people gave him credit for."

The Royals eventually sold Palmer's contract to the New York Knicks on Dec. 4, 1959. He had played so many games before at Madison Square Garden during his college days, he likely felt comfortable from the start in familiar surroundings.

"He was pretty fast for his size," said Tom Marshall, who was the player/coach of the Royals for a stretch during Palmer's time with the club. "He helped us a lot."

On Feb. 25, 1960, Palmer matched his career-high with 27 points to go along with 12 rebounds and five assists against the Philadelphia Warriors. The only problem for the Knicks was that Wilt Chamberlain went for 39 points and 22 rebounds as Philly posted a 131-121 victory.

Palmer's final NBA statistics in three seasons: 8.1 points, 5.3 rebounds, a field-goal percentage of 41.3.

He bounced around the fledgling American Basketball

League for a bit with the San Francisco Saints, Pittsburgh Rens and Los Angeles Jets before retiring from the pro game in 1962.

Palmer later became a success in the business world.

He died on Sept. 16, 2013 at the age of 80, nine years after earning enshrinement in Dayton's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Jim Palmer's rise to prominence was improbable.

A kid from Keokee with no basketball pedigree to speak of became a college star, a top-15 pick in the NBA Draft and played the game all over the world.

Madison Square Garden. Behind the Iron Curtain. Boston Garden against Bill Russell, Bob Cousy, Tom Heinsohn, et al.

Battling Wilt Chamberlain on the boards in Philadelphia.

Yeah, Palmer was all over the map.

"I have nothing but praise for him," Riazzi said. "He had ability, talent and he was a great teammate."

Now, for a look at high school baseball moments which occurred this week in history:

March 29, 1983

A grand slam from Mike Watson highlighted Tennessee High's 6-5 win over Unicoi County. ... Tim Briscoe tossed a two-hit shutout as Abingdon recorded a 2-0 victory over Richlands. Todd Yates and Mitch Halsey drove in the runs for the Falcons off the Blue Tornado's Jeff Johnson, who pitched a three-hitter for his own. ... Kelly Kincaid homered and Barry Powers struck out 15 in Castlewood's 6-4 triumph over Honaker.

March 30, 1992

Tim Stanford and Bobby Keen combined to twirl a one-hit shutout as Richlands collected a 6-0 win over Carroll County. Mark Oliver hit a two-run single and Brannon Breeding homered for the Blue Tornado. ... Mark Sheets spun a two-hitter in Chilhowie's 12-1 beatdown of Holston. Eric Sheets, Jeff Robinson, Greg Joines and Alex Boyd each had two hits for the Warriors. ... Billy Blackwell struck out 16 in pitching a four-hitter to highlight Patrick Henry's 3-2 win over Northwood. Blackwell also homered.

March 29, 2002

Bryan Rasnake, Nehemiah Draper and Dustin Grizzle each had three RBIs as John Battle notched a 14-4 win over Chilhowie. ... Coeburn crushed J.I. Burton, 13-1, as Richard Boone and Josh Bond each had three hits. ... Todd Cross tossed a two-hit shutout in Virginia High's 10-0 blanking of Tazewell. C.J. Lee and Jeremy Wright each had two hits for the Bearcats.

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Ducks sign first-round pick Zegras

The Associated Press

Trevor Zegras is in hockey limbo like everyone else, but he is hoping that signing with the Anaheim Ducks on Friday will serve as motivation until he can get back on the ice.

"The past week has been pretty

much sitting and waiting," Zegras said during a conference call after inking a three-year deal. "It is almost bittersweet because there is nothing I can do right now, but it will keep me excited for quite some time."

Zegras was the ninth overall pick

in last year's NHL draft. He said during the Ducks' developmental camp last summer that he intended to play college hockey for one season before signing a professional contract.

The center had 11 goals and 25 assists in 33 games as a freshman at

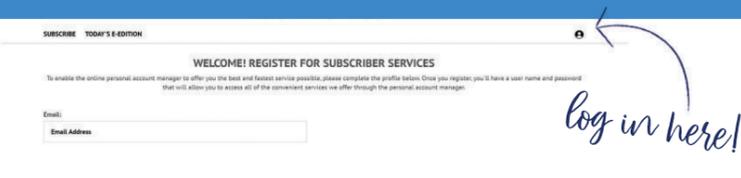
Boston University. He was tied for second among NCAA freshmen in assists and tied for third in points (36) and points per game (1.09).

Zegras has versatility as a center or wing. He said the main thing he worked on this past season was improving his speed.

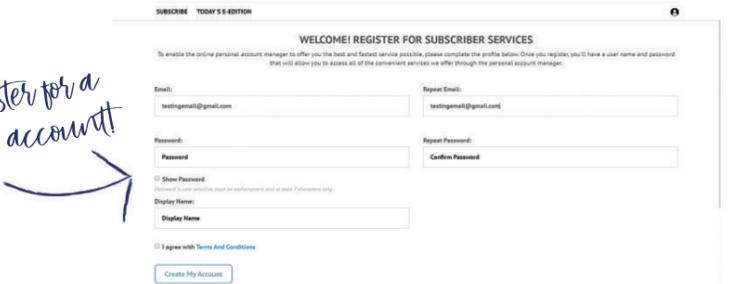
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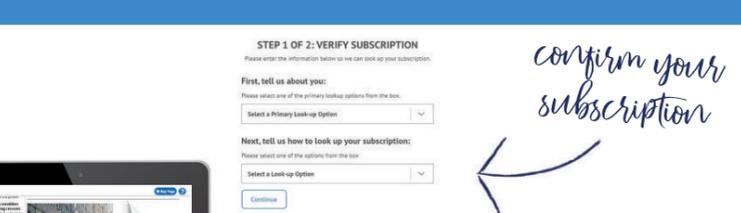
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Virtual green flag set to fall at BMS

Fox Sports to televise today's iRacing event at 1 p.m.

BY ALLEN GREGORY
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

The stage is set at virtual Bristol Motor Speedway.

Today's 150-lap Food City Show-down eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series event will feature national television coverage, pre-race concerts, celebrity grand marshals, and an appearance by all-time BMS winner Darrell Waltrip.

"It's going to be surreal to see some of NASCAR's biggest names compete on a virtual version of The Last Great Colosseum," said BMS

INSIDE

» Mike Joy will be on the call. C7

executive vice president and general manager Jerry Caldwell in prepared statement.

Before the 1 p.m. green flag on Fox Sports, there will even be two 50-lap heat races to set the field for the main event.

While Kyle Busch is usually the favorite at BMS, the top picks for today include a corps of youngsters who developed their racing tech-

niques and instincts on iRacing rigs instead of short tracks.

That group of young guns includes Timmy Hill, a 27-year-old Maryland native who became an instant media sensation after winning last week's event at virtual Texas Motor Speedway.

"The amount of folks that have reached out to me has been tremendous," Hill said. "We don't get the recognition on a normal basis."

In a sport where multi-car teams

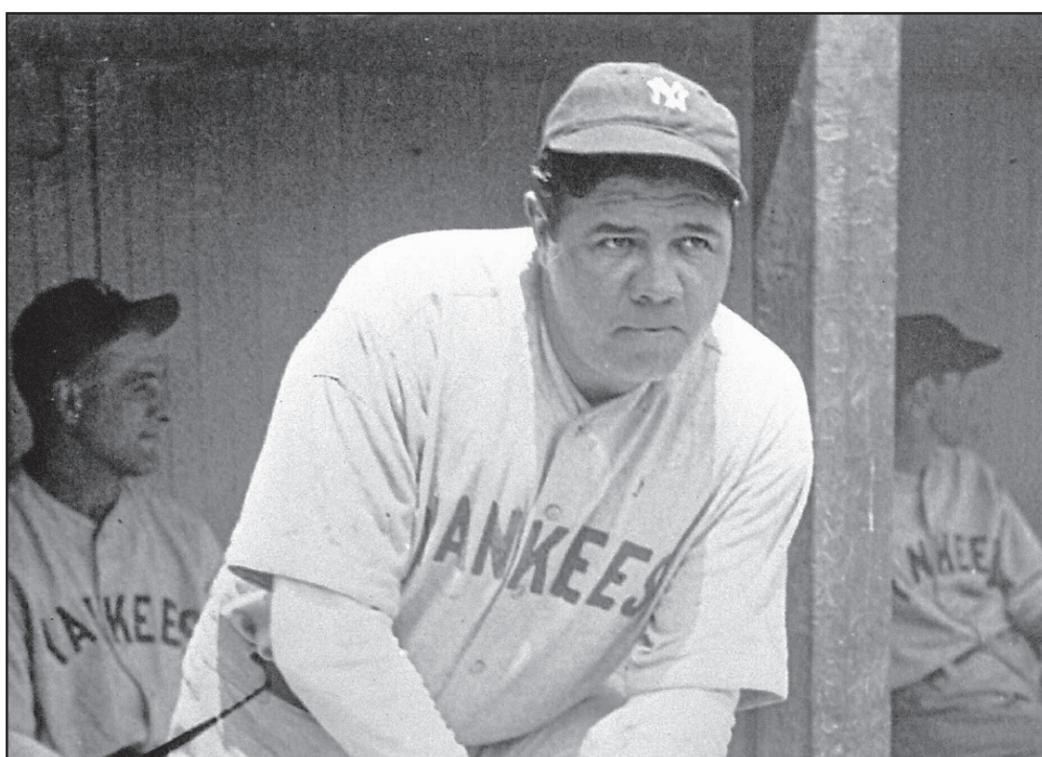


THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Timmy Hill won last week's iRacing event at Texas Motor Speedway.

See **BMS**, Page C7

BASEBALL



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees, pictured in 1929, was the center of attention when he came to Bristol in 1922 to play in an exhibition game against the Brooklyn Robins.

THE 'BABE' IN BRISTOL

Ruth and the New York Yankees played Brooklyn in an exhibition game in 1922

It was a few minutes past noon on April 5, 1922 when the brakes screeched and hissed on train No. 26 as the locomotive arrived from Memphis, Tennessee, and came to a halt in front of the Bristol station.

Zack Wheat, Burleigh Grimes, Dutch Ruether and the rest of the Brooklyn Robins (also referred to as the Superbas, Dodgers and Nationals by newspapermen of the time) disembarked and stepped on the platform.

The New York Yankees did the same as Wally Pipp, Bob Meusel, Waite Hoyt and manager Miller Huggins were among those breathing in that fresh Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Virginia air on an overcast spring day.

Yet, the crowd that had gathered at the station and those who were already lined up to purchase tickets at Tenneva Field were mainly there to see just one man.



Tim Hayes
History with Hayes

A 27-year-old outfielder for the Yankees by the name of George Herman "Babe" Ruth, who had slugged 59 home runs the season before, was already an icon and Bristolians wanted to catch a glimpse of the Great Bambino.

The Bristol Herald Courier had summed it up in that day's edition, writing "Babe Ruth, who is perhaps more widely known than any sporting personality who has ever basked in the limelight of the public gaze, will be the principal attraction."

A crowd of more than 5,000 showed up at Tenneva Field (which was located on what is now Commonwealth Avenue where Strongwell Corporation sits) to see the Babe swing the bat.

These were the days when

Major League Baseball squads played exhibition games in various cities as they traveled north to open the season. The Yankees had held their spring training camp in New Orleans.

Ruth pounded some home runs during batting practice, but didn't go deep once the game started at 3 p.m.

The largest crowd reaction came when he crushed one offering that sailed over the right-field fence in the fifth inning, but it curved foul.

In the first inning, the Babe struck out against Leon "Caddy" Cadore.

In his next at-bat, he popped out to third baseman Jimmy Johnston.

In the seventh inning, Ruth smacked a double and eventually scored when Frank "Home Run" Baker (in what was his final big-league season in a Hall of Fame career) lived up to his moniker by smashing a ball that

See **HISTORY**, Page C5

Pro Baseball

Appy season appears to be in question

BY BRIAN WOODSON
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

It is business as usual with just over two months before the Appalachian League season is scheduled to begin.

The question that must be answered is whether there will be a season to prepare for.

"Pretty much right now most everyone is continuing their normal things they would be doing in anticipating a normal season to start," Bristol Pirates President and General Manager Mahlon Luttrell said. "Field preparations, some folks are still trying to sell tickets and signage, but quite honestly that is pretty tough because of the all the unknowns currently. Also, if you are trying to use any type of contractors right now, a lot of that has slowed down."

New bleachers were slated to be constructed behind home plate and along the first base line at DeVault Stadium. A new retaining wall and pads have been installed, but Luttrell said the manufacturer had run into issues getting the seats built and delivered.

That was followed by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's orders to stop non-essential work due to the coronavirus until June 15. That is four days before the newest edition of the Bristol Pirates are scheduled to arrive.



Luttrell

"If the major leagues don't look to start until sometime in late May or June or July, then obviously all

that is going to get pushed [back]" Luttrell said.

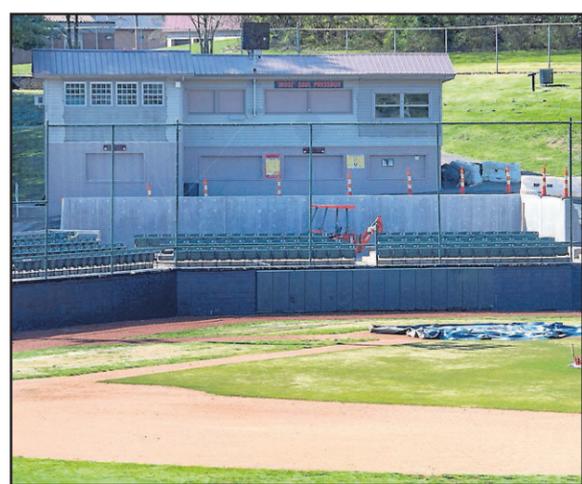
With baseball now on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chances of playing a season in 2020 could be getting less likely by the day.

"There are a lot of indicators and you read a lot of reports, it looks very bleak quite honestly," Luttrell said. "We are still hoping that we have some sort of season."

Bristol is slated to open the 2020 season on June 22 at Pulaski, with the home opener scheduled for June 27 against the Greeneville Reds. Of course, nothing can happen at any level of professional baseball until the major leagues make a decision, and that isn't likely soon. The MLB draft, which is slated for June 10-12, provides many of the league's players, but it is in doubt as well.

"They have got to be the first domino to drop to get everything back in place. Once that first domino starts ticking then it will trickle down to where we are impacted either positively or negatively,"

See **APPY**, Page C8



DAVID CRIGGER | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Work has been halted at DeVault Stadium on the new bleachers and it's unclear at this point whether there will even be baseball in 2020.

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High School Basketball in Tennessee

Protocols being followed as season nears

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a huge challenge as teams prepare for the 2020-21 season

BY BRIAN WOODSON
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Kristi Walling had already professed to being adverse to germs. Imagine her feelings coaching a basketball team in the midst of a pandemic where the disease is spread through contact with others. "This has definitely been an interesting year," said Walling, in her fourth year as head coach of the Sullivan Central girls basketball team.

"I think my kids think I am crazy sometimes because I am already like a germophobe when it comes to stuff like this. During flu season I am always sanitizing the basketballs and stuff like crazy and taking Lysol to the locker rooms."

That activity has continued. In the case of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, not only is it imperative to wear masks and keep a safe distance from others, but the old adage

"cleanliness is next to godliness" really rings true.

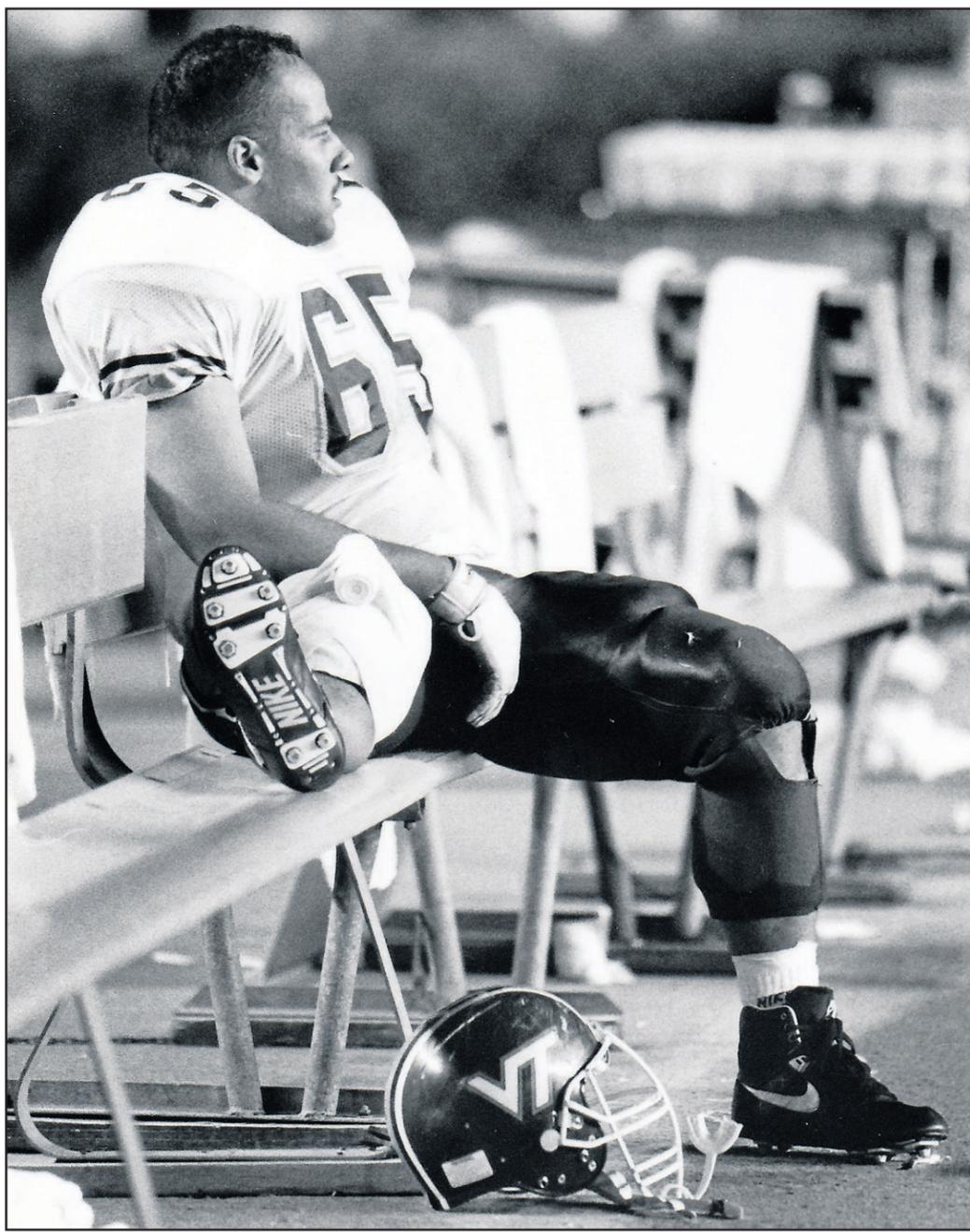
"It is kind of taking it up a notch this year," she said. "We have to make sure we use bleach water on stuff before and after practices. Our kids have masks coming in and when we are out on the sidelines during practice, we have to take temperature checks, asking them COVID

See **PROTOCOLS**, Page C10



DAVID CRIGGER | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Sullivan Central girls basketball coach Kristi Walling is doing everything she can to make sure her team stays safe through the COVID-19 pandemic.



VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

Todd Meade played for Virginia Tech from 1987-91 after his high school career at Powell Valley.

A BIG SECRET

A football star at Powell Valley and Virginia Tech, Todd Meade now serves as a Secret Service agent

Paving the way for his own running backs and making life miserable for ball carriers on opposing teams, Todd Meade was a two-way terror on the line at Powell Valley High School.

He was a member of Frank Beamer's first recruiting class at Virginia Tech and was a letterwinner for the Hokies from 1989-1991 as he played alongside future NFL first-round draft pick Eugene Chung on the offensive line and gave quarterback Will Furrer enough time to find open receivers.

His post-football life has included protection of a different sort.

As a special agent with the



Tim Hayes
History with Hayes

United States Secret Service, he was assigned to the Vice President's division for five years in Washington, D.C., when Joe Biden was second in command to President Barack Obama.

From state champ to Division I starter to Secret Service agent, the big man from Big Stone Gap has achieved big things.

"I want to thank my family and the people of Big Stone Gap for always supporting and

See **HISTORY**, Page C3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Todd Meade is on the job at a Donald Trump rally.

College Football

Miami rallies over Hokies for 25-24 win

The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — After coming precariously close to not being able to play Virginia Tech because of COVID-19 issues, No. 9 Miami came away with one of its gutsiest victories of the season.

D'Eriq King threw for 255 yards and a touchdown and ran for a score, rallying the Hurricanes to a 25-24 victory over Virginia Tech on Saturday.

Miami announced it had 13 players unavailable before the game, including three starters and several offensive linemen. There were 15 games called off this week across major college football because of

INSIDE

» Virginia defeats Louisville. **C4**

COVID-19, the most of any week both by number and percentage of the schedule.

Miami-Virginia Tech was nearly No. 16.

"We were on the brink," Miami coach Manny Diaz said. "The players' attitude was the most telling. They wanted to play. We were right on the brink at some position groups as to whether we could function as a team."

"We brought the team,

See **HOKIES**, Page C4



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia Tech quarterback Hendon Hooker is tackled by Miami's Sam Brooks Jr. (right) and Jaelan Phillips.

The Masters



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Setting Sun

The final group of Cameron Smith (left), Justin Thomas and Abraham Ancer walk off the 18th green at sunset during the third round of the Masters on Saturday in Augusta, Georgia. See the Masters on Page C6.

History

From Page C1

praying for me," Meade said. "I honestly believe the lessons I learned playing football have enabled me to be successful as a special agent in the Secret Service. I truly enjoy my career choice and am so appreciative of my experience at Powell Valley High School."

Meade's early life was marked by tragedy, but he persevered. His mother died from injuries sustained in an Oct. 1977 car crash when Todd was just 9-years-old and his grandparents – Charlie and Anna Meade – raised him. Undaunted, Todd Meade grew into a huge kid with a huge heart.

"He always had a smile on his face," said Powell Valley teammate Bobby Bloomer. "He had one of the best attitudes around. He was a super nice guy; a great teammate with an excellent work ethic."

He started on both sides of the line during Powell Valley's run to the 1985 VHSL Group A state championship.

After a loss to Pound in the second game of the season, Powell Valley ripped off 11 straight wins. A thrilling 28-27 win over Lunenburg Central in the title game gave the Vikings the second state championship in program history.

"Man, the 1985 season was great," Meade said. "Great memories. Coach [Phil] Robbins pushed us hard that season and told us we had the talent to go a long way. We had a misstep at Pound that year and oh boy, Coach Robbins was not very happy with us at halftime, or after the game. Let me just say that speech he gave after that game and the game itself helped us later in the season. When we were down to the wire in the state championship game, that earlier game against Pound I believe helped us stay focused for the game."

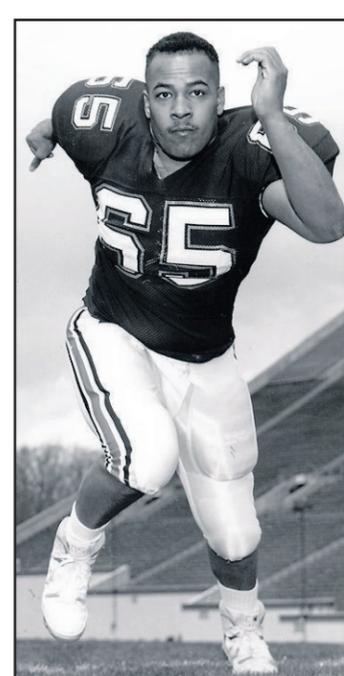
Quarterback Dennis Blagg, 1,000-yard rusher Roger Bishop and future James Madison University standout Eupton Jackson all operated behind an offensive line featuring Meade, Shawn Hayden, Shane Jessee, Mike Snodgrass, Jamey Richardson and Bloomer at tight end. "Eupton Jackson and Dennis Blagg – studs right there," Meade said. "Everyone was talented across the board, but I believe without those two guys we would have not made it that far. Coach Robbins and his assistants kept us focused and pushed us hard in practice and the games. I really appreciate it now."

By the time he was a senior, Meade stood 6-foot-3 and weighed 244 pounds and was garnering attention from college programs. While Powell Valley failed to repeat as state champions – getting stunned by Garden in the 1986 Region D playoffs – Meade became one of the few players to ever make the Associated Press All-Group A first team on both offense and defense.



Todd Meade, along with his wife Samantha, daughter Brittany and son Allan, joins then Vice President Joe Biden and wife Jill at a 2009 Christmas party.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Todd Meade dreamed as a kid playing for the Virginia Tech Hokies.

VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

He was a gentle giant and a humble hero.

"Never heard him say a bad word toward anyone," Jessee said. "I always knew he would do his job."

Kentucky and East Tennessee State were among the schools in the mix for Meade, but the first-year head coach at Virginia Tech from Carroll County, Virginia, named Frank Beamer left an impression on the Southwest Virginia standout. Former Patrick Henry High School star Mark Webb was actually Meade's host when he made his official visit to Blacksburg.

"I grew up a Hokie fan and remember as a kid wanting to play for Virginia Tech one day," Meade said. "Coach Beamer was upfront and honest about his vision at Virginia Tech and I loved it and wanted to be a part of the program."

Like every player who goes from a small high school to the top level of college football, Meade had some eye-opening moments.

"It was a big adjustment for me," Meade said. "I can remember my first day of practice as an offensive guard. I am watching the upperclassmen practice and thinking, 'I am supposed to block that linebacker that was moving at 100 miles per hour to the line of scrimmage? I don't know about that.' You learn how to get from point A to point B very fast and you better get strong quick."

Meade's biggest challenge at Virginia Tech was overcoming injuries as he tore the ACL in both his knees over the course of four years.

He hurt his shoulder in 1987, suffered a knee injury in '88, underwent season-ending surgery on his left knee two games in the 1989 season and then missed several games during his senior season when he hurt his right knee against South Carolina.

Meade stayed healthy in 1990 and in 167 snaps as a back-up at right guard to Glenn Watts, did not allow a sack or miss a blocking assignment. He started at right guard as a senior and was among the most popular players on the team.

"Todd was one of the greatest guys ever to be around," said Eric Smith, an Abingdon High School graduate who played with Meade at Tech. "He played tough with a low center of gravity and was a teammate that everyone respected."

After graduating from Tech, Meade worked at a waste management firm in Hopewell, Virginia, for a while and then was a bank teller at Dominion Credit Union. That was followed by a stint as a state trooper in Petersburg, Virginia.

He then applied for a job with the Secret Service and landed a job with the elite government organization. How does it compare to playing football?

"At times, a career in law enforcement can be challenging and yet, rewarding," Meade said. "Just like football, practices

can be challenging, but when you play well and win a game or championship, that is the reward and the practice is worth it. Being a former athlete really helped me get through the law enforcement academies and endure the tough training. The Secret Service affords you the opportunity to build strong bonds with your co-workers, just like your teammates. You have to depend on them, because you may find yourself needing them in a life-threatening situation."

Meade has had several duties within the organization.

"As a special agent with the Secret Service we have a dual mission – investigations and protection," Meade said. "Our investigative mission involves counterfeit currency investigations, financial crimes that include bank fraud, wire fraud, false identification documents, access device fraud, computer and telecommunications fraud and money laundering."

"Our protective mission involves the following – protection of the President and Vice President of the United States and their immediate families, major presidential and vice-presidential candidates, as well as their spouses, visiting foreign heads of state and their spouses, former presidents and their spouses. The Secret Service also is responsible for the security at events designated as National Special Security Events, or NSS-Es, by the Department of Homeland Security. Events listed as NSS-Es include the Democratic National Convention, the Republican National Convention, the Super Bowl, State of the Union, the inauguration. ... At times, both of missions require a lot of time away from family and friends."

Meade still follows the Hokies very closely and particularly keeps an eye on junior tight end James Mitchell, who also hails from Big Stone Gap.

Mitchell's father, Jim, was an assistant coach at Powell Val-

ley when Meade played for the Vikings. James Mitchell is a top NFL prospect at his position.

"I am so happy that he is playing for my Hokies and we are brothers in that aspect," Meade said. "I met James when he was in the eighth grade and he was wearing a Virginia Tech shirt. I knew then we had a chance. Of course, during his recruitment, I would contact him at times and make a pitch for the Hokies. That young man will be playing on Sundays. I think he will go high in the draft. ... James is, and always has been, very respectful since I have known him. He is level-headed and focused. He has a quiet confidence about him. He is just a decent human being with a great future ahead of him."

Meade made a future for himself after graduating from Powell Valley and Virginia Tech.

"The fact that he went on to become a Secret Service Agent didn't surprise me at all," Smith said. "I'd just hate to be on the receiving end of a beatdown from him."

Now, for a look at high school football moments which occurred this week in history:

Nov. 10, 1950

Tommy Bryant scored three touchdowns as Coeburn notched a 33-12 win over Norton. ... Dick Chambers and Jimmy Weddle each scored two touchdowns in Tennessee High's 25-6 victory over Virginia High. ... Appalachia stomped St. Charles, 61-12, as Bill Bentley rushed for two TDs and also threw a scoring strike to Bill Smith.

Nov. 13, 1970

Reggie Palmer scored two touchdowns as Chilhowie crushed Natural Bridge, 31-6, in the Region C championship game. ... Science Hill stopped Dobyns-Bennett, 14-6, as Steve Leonard and Joe Whitehead scored touchdowns.

Nov. 14, 1986

Matt Barker scored four touchdowns as Appalachia trounced Twin Springs, 32-14, in the Region D, Division 1 playoffs. ... Keith Johnson rushed for 224 yards and four touchdowns as Giles posted a 26-14 Region IV, Division 3 playoff win over Lebanon. Eric Buchanan and Brad Jones scored Lebanon's TDs. ... Jeff McCann's 87-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the second quarter highlighted Tazewell's 13-3 trouncing of Virginia High in the Region IV, Division 4 playoffs.

Nov. 10, 1995

Archie Arnold rushed for two touchdowns and also tossed TD passes to Christopher Moore and Chris Rakes in Rural Retreat's 26-15 win over John Battle. ... Haysi hammered Ervinton, 32-13, as Jason Compton threw four touchdown passes. ... Brandon Miller passed for 127 yards and rushed for 106 more in Honaker's 33-6 victory over Garden.

thayes@bristolnews.com | Twitter:@Hayes_BHCSports | (276) 645-2570

College Football Roundup

App State rallies to down Georgia State, 17-13

The Associated Press

BOONE, N.C. — Camerun Peoples scored on a 10-yard touchdown run with just under five minutes remaining as Appalachian State came from behind for a 17-13 win, foiling an upset bid by Georgia State in a bruising game on Saturday.

Peoples dragged safety Chris Moore with him over the goal line.

The Mountaineers (6-1, 4-0 Sun Belt Conference) lost quarterback Zac Thomas to injury when he was tackled while scrambling out of bounds during the game-winning drive. Jacob Huesman came off the sidelines, promptly hit Peoples with a screen pass for 12 yards and finished an 11-play, 77-yard drive for App State's first

lead of the game. Georgia State (3-4, 2-4) took the opening kick 75 yards in 13 plays and grabbed a 7-0 lead when Cornelious Brown IV tossed a 19-yard pass to Sam Pinckney.

Georgia State led 10-3 at halftime, outgaining the Mountaineers 211 yards to 89.

The scrappy comeback sets up next week's nationally televised clash between Appalachian State and undefeated No. 15 Coastal Carolina for first place in the Sun Belt's East Division.

Thomas was transported to the hospital for evaluation. He completed 16 of 22 passes for 146 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He moved into fifth place for App State in career passing yards.

North Carolina 59, Wake Forest 53

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Sam Howell threw for program records of 550 yards and six touchdowns, and scored the go-ahead rushing TD with 4:11 left to help North Carolina rally past Wake Forest.

Howell's 20-yard keeper capped a comeback from 21 down midway through the third quarter for the Tar Heels (6-2, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), tying the program record for biggest comeback in a win. That was part of a run of 35 unanswered points after falling behind 45-24, with Howell and the Tar Heels' offense rolling nearly all day at a record-setting pace.

Kentucky 38, Vanderbilt 35

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky quarterback Terry Wilson accounted for three touchdowns, Chris Rodriguez rushed for two scores including a 74-yarder before the Wildcats withstood Vanderbilt's late rally to win 38-35 Saturday and end a two-game losing streak.

Rested from a bye and with Wilson back from a one-game absence because of a wrist injury, the Wildcats (3-4, 3-4 Southeastern Conference) moved the ball at will against the Commodores (0-6, 0-6) with five TDs and a field goal on its first seven possessions. Wilson sandwiched a 32-yard score in the first half between

TD passes to tight ends Justin Rigg (15 yards) and Keaton Upshaw (21).

West Virginia 24, TCU 6

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Jarrett Doege threw two touchdown passes and ran for one score, Leddie Brown surpassed 100 rushing yards for the fifth time this season and West Virginia beat TCU 24-6.

Nebraska 30, Penn State 23

LINCOLN, Neb. — Luke McCaffrey had a hand in two touchdowns in his first start, Nebraska's defense made two huge late defensive stops and the Cornhuskers held on to beat Penn State for their first win.