

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

# SPORTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022 | dailyprogress.com | SECTION B

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## UVA SHOOTING

# 'Incredible young men'



### Chandler kept his commitment to UVA

**GREG MADIA**  
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Devin Chandler had every reason to back off of or bolt from his then-recent pledge to Virginia.

There was still enough time to change his mind, too, especially considering the circumstance.

"I knew I had other options, but this was still a great opportunity," Chandler, one of three members of the UVA football team killed in Sunday night's shooting on Grounds, said after a training camp practice this past August.

The Wisconsin transfer had committed in December to join the Cavaliers on the heels of a visit from former coach Bronco Mendenhall.

What Chandler said he never anticipated was Mendenhall's decision to step down from his post a few days later.

"Coach Mendenhall actually came up to Wisconsin and met me in my apartment," Chandler said, "and three or four days later, he was gone from his job."

"It was a real curveball."

But it wasn't enough for Chandler, who nearly decided to attend UVA out of William Amos Hough High School in North Carolina, to opt against UVA again.

He badly wanted to be a member of the Hoos this time around, and had developed a relationship so tight with Cavaliers assistant coach Marques Hagans that he didn't want to disappoint Hagans.

"Coach Hagans had called me that same day [that Mendenhall left] and he told me to trust him," Chandler said, "and that he'd explain the whole situation and everything that was going on

Please see **CHANDLER**, Page B3

### Davis was a star on the field, quieter off it

**MIKE BARBER**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Lavel Davis Jr. specialized in big plays.

When he broke onto the college football scene as a freshman in 2020, he ranked second in the nation by averaging 25.8 yards per catch. The 6-foot-7 South Carolina native was a big, flashy star in the making.

Off the field, Davis was quieter, far more understated than his on-field persona.

"After our first day of class this semester he made a point to come up and shake my hand and told me I should call him Vel," tweeted one of his UVA professors, Jack Hamilton. "One thing that struck me about Vel was how much his classmates liked him and vice versa. In my experience star athletes often tend to hang out with other athletes (understandable, given the time commitment) but Vel seemed to go out of his way to make friends with non-athletes."

Davis was one of three UVA football players shot and killed Sunday night aboard a charter bus after returning to Grounds from a class trip to Washington, D.C.

Davis' teammates, fellow wide receiver Devin Chandler and linebacker D'Sean Perry, died at the scene, their bodies found aboard the charter bus by university police. Davis was transported to the university medical center before dying.

Two other players — their identities have not been released — were injured, with one in critical condition.

"Saddening, saddening news this morning," tweeted Davis' cousin, Newberry College assistant football

Please see **DAVIS**, Page B3

### LB/DE Perry was an exemplary teammate

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He was a do-it-all defender for the Cavaliers.

Wherever Virginia's coaching staff needed D'Sean Perry to play is where he'd take the field.

That's the kind of teammate Perry was.

D'Sean Perry, a linebacker and defensive end, was one of the victims killed in Sunday night's shooting at UVA, his father Sean Perry confirmed to The Daily Progress on Monday morning.

D'Sean Perry was 22.

He played in this past Saturday's game for the Cavaliers, tallying a pair of tackles in their loss to Pittsburgh.

"I'm just trying to help the team win," Perry said earlier this fall about his ever-evolving role for UVA.

In the days leading up to the Cavaliers' September game against Old Dominion, Perry was asked by his coaches to move from linebacker to defensive end due to a few absences on the defensive line.

Perry adjusted admirably, and always with a smile, for the Cavaliers. He racked up four tackles and a tackle for loss in the game, and he always played on special teams, too.

Those around him appreciated the fourth-year junior's commitment to the team.

"What a great job he did starting on Tuesday [before the Old Dominion game] of picking up that [defensive end] spot," UVA defensive coordinator John Rudzinski said that week.

Perry is survived by his father, Sean, and his mother, Happy Perry.

The shooting occurred around

Please see **PERRY**, Page B3

## Virginia program deals with 'heartache'

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The void is one Virginia's football program will never be able to fill.

Sunday's shooting on Grounds that resulted in the tragic deaths of Cavaliers wide receivers Lavel Davis Jr. and Devin Chandler as well as linebacker and defensive end D'Sean Perry has left the Hoos empty.

"I cannot find the words to express the devastation and heartache that our team is feeling today," first-year UVA coach Tony Elliott said in a statement late Monday afternoon.



Elliott

"These were incredible young men with huge aspirations and extremely bright futures," Elliott said.

Perry, a fourth-year junior, played multiple positions on defense and could bounce between one and the other on short notice. Davis, the 6-foot-7 outstanding pass-catcher, had worked back from last season's injury to contribute this year and scored touchdowns against Richmond and Syracuse this fall. Chandler was in his first season with the team after transferring from Wisconsin.

"Our hearts ache for their families, their classmates and their friends," Elliott said. "These precious young men were called away too soon. We are all fortunate to have them be a part of our lives. They touched us, inspired us and worked incredibly hard as representatives of our program,

Please see **HEARTACHE**, Page B3

## Pry, others offer their support

**GREG MADIA**  
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Commonwealth Clash rivals Virginia and Virginia Tech are scheduled to meet in less than two weeks.

But none of that mattered on Monday in the aftermath of the late Sunday shooting that resulted in the death of UVA football players Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis Jr. and D'Sean Perry.

"On behalf of our entire Virginia Tech football family," Hokies coach Brent Pry tweeted, "we are praying, sending sympathy and support to Coach [Tony] Elliott, his staff, his team, their families and the entire UVA community. You have our love and support. We are with you."

The outpouring of empathy for the Cavaliers didn't stop there with the Hoos' chief rival.

College football is tight-knit, and there are coaches elsewhere who have worked with Elliott or members of his staff and feel his or their pain.

There are coaches, too, at other schools that tried to recruit



Pry

Please see **SUPPORT**, Page B3

ASSOCIATED PRES PHOTOS, LEE ENTERPRISES ILLUSTRATION

From left, University of Virginia student-athletes Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis Jr. and D'Sean Perry are pictured. The three Virginia football players were killed in a shooting on Sunday in Charlottesville while returning from a class trip to see a play.

# Virginia basketball: Takeaways from the Blue-White scrimmage cs

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

# PREP FOOTBALL

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## CENTRAL VIRGINIA WEEK 8 RESULTS

More coverage cs

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MIKE KROPF PHOTOS, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Louisa County's Savion Hiter stiff arms Western Albemarle's Tyler Spano during Friday's game in Mineral. See more photos at [DailyProgress.com](http://DailyProgress.com).

# HIT PARADE

Freshman finishes with four touchdowns in Louisa's home win over Western Albemarle

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MINERAL — It's been quite a week for Louisa County running back Savion Hiter.

On Thursday, the freshman standout picked up his first collegiate offer from the University of Maryland coach and Mike Locksley.

Hiter celebrated the accomplishment Friday night with a four-touchdown performance to lead the Lions to a 56-0 victory over Western Albemarle at Mark L. Fischer Field in Mineral.

"It felt great to get that first offer," Hiter said. "It felt like world was spinning around me."

The Jungle was indeed Hiter's oyster Friday night as he showcased his entire repertoire in the victory. Hiter racked up 120 rushing yards

and four touchdowns on just nine carries and caught four passes for 67 yards.

The freshman opened the scoring on the first drive with a seven-yard touchdown run to give Louisa County (8-0, 5-0 Jefferson District) the early lead.

Hiter followed that up with a nine-yard touchdown run later in the first quarter for his second score of the game to extend the lead to 14-0. On the Lions' third drive, Hiter displayed his breakaway speed as he raced 42 yards to paydirt for a 21-0 LCHS advantage.

"I always have to rely on [my offensive line] and follow my blockers," Hiter said. "I love my

Please see **LOUISA**, Page C7



**WATCH:** To see a video interview with Louisa's Savion Hiter and Elijah Brooks, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and tap the link. [NEWSVU](#)



Western Albemarle quarterback Nathan Simon throws the ball as he is tackled during Friday's game against Louisa County.

For more prep football coverage, visit [DAILYPROGRESS.COM/SPORTS/HIGHSCHOOL](http://DAILYPROGRESS.COM/SPORTS/HIGHSCHOOL)

## Albemarle blanks Charlottesville

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Homecoming games always have a special meaning for high school football players.

Albemarle's homecoming showdown with rival Charlottesville on Saturday afternoon had added meaning for Nasir Lindsay and Polo Hill, who were lining up against many of their former teammates for the first time.

Both players scored a rushing touchdown in the first quarter to help the Patriots roll to a 58-0 homecoming victory.

Hill rushed for 60 yards and a pair of touchdowns and hauled

in a 46-yard touchdown catch as Albemarle (5-1, 3-0 Jefferson District) extended its winning streak against Charlottesville to 11 straight games.

"Today's game was very intense, being that we had three guys that moved [from Charlottesville to Albemarle] and now we go here," Lindsay said. "We knew it was going to be a dog fight, but we love that situation. I love my guys. That's just how it is."

Albemarle's defense opened the scoring when an errant snap trickled to the back of the end zone. Hill beat Charlottesville quarterback Sethaun Nowell to

the ball, but the ball touched the end line and resulted in a safety.

It didn't take Hill long to get back in the end zone, though.

The senior running back broke off a 30-yard gain to get Albemarle into the red zone, then the Patriots hurried to the line and

Please see **ALBEMARLE**, Page C3



**WATCH:** To see a video interview with Albemarle's Nasir Lindsay and Tufan Khalilov, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and tap the link. [NEWSVU](#)

## Big second half lifts Hornets past Flucos

**ROBERT EDMONDS**  
 For the Daily Progress

PALMYRA — A dominant second half from Orange County on Friday night's contest at Fluvanna County allowed the Hornets to coast to a 42-7 victory.

The win put a damper on the Flucos' homecoming festivities and leaves Fluvanna winless at 0-7 on the season, while the Hornets improved to 5-1.

"We lost a little momentum the first half," said Orange County coach Jesse Lohr, whose

team led 14-7 at halftime. "Tip the hats to Fluvanna and what they are doing over there."

"I thought [the players] responded well," Lohr said. "Half-time wasn't very pleasant in there but it was just me telling them that I believe in those guys. We got to have great effort at all times and we can't just walk on the field and think anything is going to be given to you."

Elijah Coleman fielded the

Please see **HORNETS**, Page C7

# Men's tennis: Virginia reaches national championship match **B3**

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# SPORTS

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## GIRLS LACROSSE | VISAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

# TITLE TOWN



Poindexter's goal lifts Covenant to Division II crown

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GLEN ALLEN — Just before the second half of Saturday's VISAA Division II state girls lacrosse championship game began, Covenant junior captain Lina Touririne glanced over at the tournament director setting up the medals and championship trophies.

She then turned to her teammates before they took the field and said, "look at our trophy."

Delaney Poindexter made Touririne's statement a reality not long after, scoring the game-winning goal early into the second overtime to lift Covenant to an 8-7 win over Nansmond-Suffolk Academy and secure the program's first state championship since 2015.

JOHN HARVEY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

The Covenant girls lacrosse team celebrates after winning the VISAA Division II state championship on Saturday in Glen Allen.

Please see **COVENANT**, Page B2

## STAB cruises past Paul VI to win Division I championship

**JOHN HARVEY**  
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GLEN ALLEN — It had been more than a decade since St. Anne's-Belfield had celebrated a state championship in girls lacrosse.

The Saints ended that drought in impressive fashion Saturday morning as they rolled to an 11-6 victory over Paul VI to capture the program's first state championship since 2010 and its first title as a Division I program.

"This is what we wanted from Day 1, and we knew that we could do it," said STAB's Martha Oakey, who scored a pair of goals in the championship game. "Every one of us bought into it and we were ready for today. We could not have prepared more for it than we did and we're just so happy that we did it."



JOHN HARVEY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

Please see **STAB**, Page B2 The St. Anne's-Belfield girls lacrosse team celebrates after winning the VISAA Division I state championship on Saturday in Glen Allen.

## TRACK AND FIELD | VISAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Woodberry rolls to second straight state championship

Asare, Kovacs and Lora win multiple individual titles

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Woodberry Forest track and field team won its second straight VISAA Division I state championship in dominating fashion on Saturday at Sports Backers Stadium in Richmond.

The Tigers won eight individual events as they racked up 214.5 points. Fork Union Military Academy (74 points) was second, while Collegiate (53.5) was third.

Albert Asare had another memorable performance for Woodberry as he won state cham-

pionships in a pair of events. He captured gold in the 110-meter hurdles, finishing in 15.01 seconds, nearly a full second better than the second-place performer. He was even more dominant in the 300 hurdles (38.51), winning by nearly three seconds.

Asare wasn't the only Woodberry athlete to have a big day at the state meet.

Distance specialist Ferenc Kovacs, who won an individual state championship in cross country in the fall, added some more hardware to his collection with first-place finishes in the 800 (1:57.35) and the 1,600 (4:17.04). Kovacs nearly went 3-for-3 in the distance events, finishing second in the 3,200 (9:56.63).

The Tigers also shined in the field events.

Rodney Lora, who is garnering lots of interest from Division I college football programs, won state championships in the discus (154-6) and shot put (53-6.25), while teammates Jaden Ferguson and Edward Woltz both cleared 6 feet, 4 inches in the high jump to tie for first place. Two Woodberry athletes also tied for first in the pole vault after teammates Walt Bannerman and Sebastian Phillips both cleared 14 feet to share top honors.

The Julius brothers each won two individual state titles to lead the way for Fork Union.



COURTESY OF WOODBERRY FOREST

The Woodberry Forest track and field team won its second straight VISAA Division I championship on Saturday in Richmond.

Please see **WOODBERRY**, Page B2

## VIRGINIA FOOTBALL

2022

SCHEDULE

		AWAY	HOME		
I	VS	ODU	VS	S	VS
AT				AT	
<b>SEP 3</b>		<b>SEP 10</b>		<b>SEP 23</b>	<b>OCT 1</b>
					<b>OCT 8</b>
GT	VS	U	VS	Pitt	VS
AT				VS	VS
<b>OCT 20</b>		<b>OCT 29</b>		<b>NOV 5</b>	<b>NOV 12</b>
					<b>NOV 19</b>
					<b>NOV 26</b>

FOUNDATION
CONSTRUCTION
SHOWCASE
CHAMPIONSHIP