

# SPORTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022 | godanriver.com | SECTION B

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Falcons soar above the competition



GALILEO MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL, CONTRIBUTED

Galileo Falcons soar above the competition Wednesday at the 2022 Greater Danville Metro XC Championship at Anglers Park in Danville.

### Galileo teams win big at last meet of the regular season

**CAROLINE HYLTON**  
Special to the Register & Been

On a chilly, winter-like Wednesday, the Galileo Falcons were able to soar above the competition at the 2022 Greater Danville Metro XC Championship at Anglers Park in Danville.

Pressures were high since it was the last regular season meet, but the Falcons were able to deliver.

The annual championship hosted 70 varsity girls, 88 varsity

boys and 48 middle school runners from schools across the area.

In the varsity boys 5K race, senior standout Alex Gomez won with a time of 16:51, closely followed by fellow seniors Jackson Herndon (17:15), second, and Jalyln Jones (17:59), third.

This group of senior powerhouses are hoping to lead the Galileo Falcons to victory in the 2022 VHSL class 1A state final in November.

After the initial wave of Galileo red, sophomore Clay Hamilton from Appomattox County placed fourth followed by Michael Foley of Bassett.

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## NFL

# Heinicke is ready to seize the reins

### Washington backup excited to lead team against the Packers

**MICHAEL PHILLIPS**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The most famous quarterback in Sunday's Commanders-Packers game is Aaron Rodgers.

Taylor Heinicke, though, at least merits name recognition. That's according to rookie Jahan Dotson, who said he was aware of Heinicke's most famous play before he was drafted to the Commanders.

"I'd heard, of, you know, 'the Heinicke,'" he said, mimicking the quarterback's dive for the pylon in a 2020 playoff game against the Buccaneers.

"But I really didn't know Taylor that much. Getting to know him, he's a great guy. I always say he's the coolest quarterback in the room, with the most swag."

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PAIGE DINGLER, THE (LYNCHBURG) NEWS & ADVANCE

Liberty celebrates a touchdown against BYU during Saturday's game in Lynchburg.

# Liberty earns strong 41-14 victory led by Hunter and Bennett

**DAMIEN SORDELETT**  
The (Lynchburg) News & Advance

Dae Dae Hunter has said repeatedly he despises one defender bringing him down. The Liberty running back would rather have a host of defenders corral him than one single player taking him to the ground.

BYU found that out the hard way on a play that embodied how Saturday's action unfolded.

Hunter slipped through an attempted ankle tackle around the line of scrimmage. He high stepped through another diving attempt at midfield. The end

zone was in sight, and so was a dominating triumph in the biggest home game in Flames history.

Hunter's 80-yard touchdown run highlighted his 210-yard performance, Johnathan Bennett surgically picked apart the BYU secondary in his most

complete performance, and Liberty thrilled the Williams Stadium record crowd of 24,012 — many of whom rushed the field at the game's conclusion — with a 41-14 thrashing of the visiting Cougars.

Please see FLAMES, Page B4

## NASCAR CUP SERIES

# Playoffs ramp up without Wallace

### 23XI driver will miss race for suspension; Byron wins the pole

**TIM REYNOLDS**  
The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Bubba Wallace is missing Sunday's NASCAR race, and that's evidently not his only sanction after losing his cool in Las Vegas last weekend.

Denny Hamlin — who, along with Michael Jordan, co-owns the 23XI racing team that Wallace drives for — said Saturday that the team has dealt with matters in a way that goes "above and beyond" the penalties handed down by NASCAR.

Hamlin didn't say what that means, choosing to keep those matters in-house.

"He understands where I stand, where the team stands,

the values that we want to present on the racetrack, and he just didn't represent it that well last week," Hamlin said. "But, you know, in the grand scheme of things, we're very happy with his progress. And he knows he's still got some stuff to work on when he gets out of the race car."

It's not just Wallace in the spotlight right now.

Please see NASCAR, Page B5



DARYL GRAHAM, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

William Byron puts on his helmet during NASCAR qualifying at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Saturday in Homestead, Florida.



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## SOCCER

# US falls from World Cup in round of 16



NATACHA PISARENKO, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. players react at the end of the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between the Netherlands and the United States at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Saturday.

### Strong 3-1 victory puts the Netherlands into quarterfinal matchup

RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

AL RAYYAN, Qatar — Memphis Depay and Daley Blind scored in the first half and Denzel Dumfries added a late goal as the Netherlands eliminated the United States from the World Cup with a 3-1 victory Saturday that advanced the Dutch to the quarterfinals.

Second-half substitute Haji Wright cut the U.S. deficit to 2-1 in the 76th minute when Christian Pulisic's cross hit his trailing foot and popped over goalkeeper Andries Noppert and into the

net. But Dumfries, who assisted on the first two goals, scored on a volley in the 81st.

"When you play a team with so much quality like that and you give them three, four chances, they're going to put three or four away," United States captain Tyler Adams said. "We can show that we can hang with some of the best teams in the world, some of the best players in world, and that's a lot of progress for U.S. soccer. We're moving in the right direction, for sure, but we need to keep pushing, because we're not there yet. But we're close."

Runners-up in 1974, 1978 and 2010, the Oranje extended their unbeaten streak to 19 games and face Argentina or Australia on Friday.

It was a disappointing end

for a rebuilt U.S. team hoping to advance past the round of 16 for the first time since 2002. Using the second-youngest squad in the tournament, the Americans achieved the bare minimum to consider the World Cup a success, beating Iran in their group-stage finale to reach the knockout round.

But just like in 2010 against Ghana and 2014 against Belgium, the United States was eliminated in the round of 16. The Americans are winless in 12 games against European opponents at the World Cup since 2002, losing six, and are 1-7 during the tournament's knockout rounds.

"I think we made some progress," United States coach Gregg

Please see **WORLD CUP**, Page B6

## COMMENTARY

# Freeze's new job highlights hiring gap

### Collegiate coaching system is lacking for minority coaches

Hugh Freeze returns to the Southeastern Conference with enough baggage to fill a jumbo jet.

He turned his last SEC job into "Freeze Gone Wild," using a university-issued cell phone to call an escort service while presiding over enough scandalous behavior to land Ole Miss on NCAA probation.

Even now, as Freeze takes over at Auburn, there are questions about him bullying a Liberty student on social media when she called out his most recent employer.



PAUL NEWBERRY

But Freeze had one big edge when the Tigers came looking for a new head football coach.

He's white. As we jump aboard another carousel of coaching fires and hires, an all-too-familiar pattern remains firmly intact at the highest level of college football.

Black coaches — with the exception, it seems, of Deion Sanders — need not apply.

Chances are, they're not even going to get a call back.

The past few days have demonstrated just how much the lack of opportunity for minority coaches is ingrained in a system that keeps talking about

Please see **NEWBERRY**, Page B4

## ACC BASKETBALL | UVA



MIKE KROPP, THE (CHARLOTTESVILLE) DAILY PROGRESS

Virginia's Kadin Shedrick (21) and Florida State's Cam'ron Fletcher fight for the ball during Saturday's game in Charlottesville.

# Clark, Cavaliers hold out

### Virginia fights off FSU with dominant second-half performance led by senior point guard

MIKE BARBER  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

CHARLOTTESVILLE — A year ago, Florida State spoiled Kihel Clark's senior day, stunning Virginia on a Matthew Cleveland 3-point heave at the buzzer.

This time around, Clark — who opted to come back and use his final year of eligibility — came out on top.

Clark scored 18 points as No. 3 UVA continued its trend of dominating second-half play on its way to a 62-57 win over FSU on Saturday afternoon at John Paul Jones Arena. Clark's two free

throws with 14.6 seconds to play helped sealed the win.

After struggling to get clean looks at the basket in the first half, Virginia spread the floor and let Clark and others just attack the rim.

"They make it really hard when you're on offense, the defense they play with their length, they switch everything," said Clark. "Sometimes an offense isn't going to work and you just have to spread them out and try to make a play. We were trying to be aggressive." The Cavaliers trailed by a point

at halftime, but outscored the Seminoles by six in the second half to improve to 7-0, equaling their best start to a season since 2019-20. They have won their ACC opener for the last 15 years.

Senior forward Jayden Gardner scored 10 points and had seven rebounds. Virginia also got 9 points from senior guard Armaan Franklin and 7 each from senior forward Ben Vander Plas and junior guard Reece Beekman.

But it was Clark, who improved to 3-4 in his career against Florida State, who had the biggest impact. He scored 13 of his 18

points in the second half.

"For a little guy, his strength is his IQ," said FSU coach Leonard Hamilton. "We can talk about his dribbling skills and hitting his free throws and big shots, but he makes great decisions. He doesn't really get rattled that much. He's like a coach on the floor, and he impacts every game he plays in because of his high basketball IQ."

Guard Darin Green Jr. led the Seminoles with 17 points, and Cleveland scored 11. FSU trailed

Please see **CAVALIERS**, Page B2

## ACC BASKETBALL | VT

# Hokies seek a win over UNC

### Virginia Tech aims to capitalize on faltering 18-ranked Tar Heels

MARK BERMAN  
The Roanoke Times

With the 18th-ranked North Carolina men's basketball team heading to Blacksburg for a Sunday showdown, Virginia Tech coach Mike Young has been busy eyeing game film.

But he has not limited himself to UNC's recent games. He also eyed the video of the Hokies' 72-59 ACC semifinal win over the

Tar Heels last March.

"I just watched it, to see what we did offensively, see how we guarded defensively," Young said Friday in a phone interview. "The tempo was to our liking. ... It's even hard to fathom, limiting North Carolina ... to 59 points."

The keys to winning Sunday will be the same keys behind Tech's win in March, said Young. "It's the same scout any time you play them," he said. "Your ball handling has to be very good. Your shot selection has to be very good, which leads to the defensive end — your transition defense and getting your

defense set. And then you've got to rebound. They will always be a very good rebounding team and this team is no different. ... If you botch one of the four, you're in for a tough night.

"We didn't turn it over [in the semifinal]. Shot selection was good. We made shots. Consequently, we kept them out of transition. And we rebounded well."

UNC (5-3) returns center Armando Bacot (16.1 ppg and 11.1 rpg this year) and guards Caleb Love (19.1 ppg), RJ Davis (15.1



ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE MARCH

North Carolina's Armando Bacot (right) steps back from a drive while being guarded by Virginia Tech's Hunter Cattoor (left) and Justyn Mutts in the Hokies' ACC semifinal win in New York in March.

Please see **HOKIES**, Page B5



# SPORTS

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## HOCKEY

# Ovechkin reaches 802 goals, passes Howe

Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin poses with his children Sergei (left) and Ilya (right) and the pucks he scored goals 801 and 802 after Friday's game against the Winnipeg Jets in Washington.

NICK WASS, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



### Capitals star moves up, hits No. 2 in NHL career goal history

STEPHEN WHYNO  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin barely looked at the empty net when he shot the puck into it and set off a wild celebration with his teammates and among Washington Capitals fans.

With a no-look empty-net goal, Ovechkin made more history and moved another step closer to

breaking one of hockey's most hallowed records.

Ovechkin scored goals 801 and 802 Friday night to move into second place on the NHL career list. After beating Winnipeg Jets goaltender David Rittich in the first period to match Gordie Howe, Ovechkin almost reluctantly scored from just inside the blue line with a minute left to pass "Mr. Hockey."

Only Wayne Gretzky with 894 has scored more, and Ovechkin is now 93 goals from breaking a record that has long seemed unapproachable.

"Step by step, guys," Ovechkin said after posing with sons Sergei and Ilya and the milestone pucks. "Still a long way."

While it will take at least a couple more years to see if it's possible for Ovechkin to challenge Gretzky, moving past Howe warranted plenty of celebration. Fans chanted, "Ovi! Ovi! Ovi!" throughout Washington's 4-1 win, never louder than after he hit the empty net.

Teammates did the same in the locker room during a closed-door

Please see **OVECHKIN**, Page B2

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Fiancée says she was not strangled

Texas coach Beard's partner claims arrest was over an argument

JIM VERTUNO  
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The woman who called police to report a family violence assault by Texas basketball coach Chris Beard said Friday that Beard did not strangle her and she never wanted him arrested or prosecuted.

Beard was suspended indefinitely without pay after his Dec. 12 arrest on a felony charge of strangling his fiancée, Randi Trew, who lives with him.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press by her attorney, Randy Leavitt, Trew said she is "deeply saddened" by the incident and said Beard was acting in self-defense from her.

"Chris and I are deeply saddened that we have brought negative attention upon our family, friends, and the University of Texas, among others. As Chris' fiancée and biggest supporter, I apologize for the role I played in this unfortunate event. I realize that my frustration, when breaking his glasses, initiated a physical struggle between Chris and myself," Trew said in the statement.

"Chris did not strangle me,

Please see **BEARD**, Page B5

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



REGISTER & BEE FILE

Tunstall senior Nick Hammock bullies his way into the paint in the first half of the Trojans' matchup against the Bulldogs in the 2021 Harry Johnson Holiday Classic.

# Danville hoops return

### Harry Johnson Holiday Classic is back for a third year starting Tuesday

DAVIN WILSON  
Special to the Register & Bee

Over the past three decades, the holidays and high school basketball have become synonymous in Danville as a hoops tournament in some name or shape or form has been played in the city each year since 1983 with the exceptions of 2016, 2018 and 2020.

That tradition will resume Tuesday when Bonner and Mar-

tinsville Middle Schools square off to open the third annual Harry Johnson Holiday Classic.

The tournament, named after late legendary George Washington boys basketball coach and educator Harry Johnson — who coached the George Washington boys basketball team for 19 years and led GW to an undefeated season and state championship in 1996 — will run Tuesday through Thursday in the George

Washington High School gymnasium.

There will be two sessions each day. For the day sessions, the gym opens at noon on Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. Thursday.

Following the day sessions, the gym will be cleared for the evening sessions which will resume at 5 p.m. each evening.

All tickets are \$10 per person per session with tickets \$5 per

person per session for children aged 12 and under. Admission will be cash only.

### Two years running

For the second consecutive year, the tournament will feature boys middle school action with Bonner, Martinsville and Westwood competing in a round-robin tournament format.

Please see **CLASSIC**, Page B3

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# OSU's Stroud still defining his legacy

JACOB BENGE  
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — During C.J. Stroud's second trip to New York in as many years as a Heisman Trophy finalist, he noticed his picture on some of the billboards in Times Square and

took a moment to reflect. "I was talking to my mom and my cousins and my brother and my sister who came with me, and who would have thought? Honestly, like, I'm not even supposed to be here," Stroud said.

Stroud is 21-3 as Ohio State's

starting quarterback. He has collected back-to-back honors as the offensive player of the year in the Big Ten from The Associated Press (he shared it in 2021) and the junior is considered one of the top NFL prospects at his position.

But he's been on the losing end of both meetings against archrival Michigan and the Buckeyes did not reach the Big Ten title game in either season with him behind center, despite

Please see **STROUD**, Page B4



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ,  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heisman trophy finalist, Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud speaks during a news conference Dec. 10 in New York.



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