

OH, BROTHER

Brandon and Cam Binkowski wreak havoc for Battlefield

» BY KIPP HANLEY
For InsideNoVa

There may be some doubt as to who's the best athlete in the Binkowski family.

But there is no question that Battlefield High School brothers Brandon and Cam Binkowski are wreaking havoc on the football field this year. At 6-foot-3, Brandon is a sneaky fast wide receiver who uses his size and strength to outmuscle defensive backs for receptions. The Villanova signee has caught 14 passes for 246 yards and four touchdowns this season.

"He's tough," Battlefield coach Greg Hatfield said of his senior playmaker. "He's going to outfight you for the ball. He's going to block you hard, and he's going to play hard."

Cam is a year younger and a few inches shorter than Brandon but is a bulldozer of a defensive end. An All-Region 6B selection with 12 sacks last year, Cam's disruptive pass rushing skills have made him a Division 1 prospect and helped the Bobcats (6-0) hold foes to only 34 points in six games this season.

Hatfield compares Cam to former Battlefield star defensive lineman and current Syracuse freshman Ty Gordon.

"He's dynamic and tough," Hatfield said of Cam. "You think of dynamic, you think offense, but Cam is a dynamic defensive player."

While Brandon and Cam are making headlines now, they aren't the only Binkowskis who boast the athletic gene. Their father, Eric, was a talented high school basketball and football player in Pittsburgh. Brandon and Cam's older



BROTHERS » PAGE 19

THIS WEEK'S HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCT. 13

- » Gar-Field (2-4) at Forest Park (4-3), 7 p.m.
- » Battlefield (6-0) at Gainesville (5-1), 7 p.m.
- » Colgan (2-4) at Hylton (3-3), 7 p.m.
- » Manassas Park (0-6) at Meridian (2-4), 7 p.m.
- » Osbourn (1-5) at Patriot (4-2), 7 p.m.
- » Unity Reed (0-6) at Freedom-South Riding (2-5), 7 p.m.
- » Freedom-Woodbridge (5-0) at Woodbridge (2-4), 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 14

- » Saint John Paul the Great Catholic (1-5) at Bishop Ireton (4-2), noon
- » Quantico (0-6) at Christchurch (4-0), 2 p.m.

Brandon (left) and Cameron Binkowski were both named to the all-Cedar Run District football team in 2022. Brandon was a second-team pick and Cameron a first-team pick.

DOUG STROUD | FOR INSIDENOVA

It's in the Bag

R.Riveter provides jobs for military spouses

» BY CAMERON DELEAN
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Two women are changing the employment landscape for military spouses across the country, one handbag at a time.

R.Riveter was founded by Cameron Cruse and Lisa Bradley in 2011 and provides military spouses with income producing handmade bags from home. Each piece of every bag is made by a military spouse from duty posts all over the country, including Marine Corps Base Quantico, before being sent to the company's North Carolina and Florida facilities for final assembly. Every part of the bag is also stamped with an identifier that shows where it was made.

The idea for the company was born when Cruse and Bradley wondered why it was difficult for them to find meaningful employment. They both were highly educated but were turned down by one employer after another. Cruse said businesses are hesitant to hire military spouses because their lifestyle requires frequent relocations.

"Our identity is not just tied up in our career...but there's something very lonely and isolating about when you have to pick up and move your entire personal network

and rebuild that," said Cruse, who now lives in Texas.

After bonding over their shared experiences, the two decided to create something to help people like them. They bought a commercial sewing machine and a small supply of leather and canvas, and their dream started to become a reality – and the demand grew along with the team.

"We started the company first to provide some kind of opportunity for military spouses," Cruse said. "Military spouses aren't looking for charity, they're mainly looking for opportunity."



CAMERON CRUSE

Bradley and Cruse pitched their brand on the "Shark Tank" reality TV show in 2016 and made a deal with Mark Cuban. The company grew rapidly thereafter. It now has 35 employees at its production facilities and 42 additional remote employees across the country.

The two continue to aspire toward building a sense of connection and fulfillment for their employees while producing a product that reflects their company's values.

"Bags are a power accessory," Cruse said. "It's a thing that she's going to take with her from the car ride to the boardroom and everywhere in between...it's the thing that



A sample bag made by R.Riveter.

BAG » PAGE 11



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FROM BETS TO JETS

Trio of landmark projects may be coming to area



Bettors played historical horse-race machines during opening day at Rosie's Gaming Emporium in Dumfries in January 2021.

JAMES JARVIS | INSIDENOVA

Rosie's Gaming sets sights on Manassas Park

Voters would decide via fall referendum

» BY JARED FORETEK
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Rosie's Gaming Emporium is looking to make a push into Manassas Park.

Churchill Downs Inc., the operator of Rosie's, announced June 23 it is collecting signatures to initiate a voter referendum on whether the company could open a casino-like gambling operation in the Manassas Park Shopping Center on Centreville Road.

The company runs six "gaming empo-

GAMING » PAGE 6



A rendering of a possible expansion at Manassas Regional Airport that could include commercial flights. PROVIDED

Commercial flights out of Manassas?

City leaders roused by new proposal

» BY JARED FORETEK
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Commercial passenger flights could soon be taking off from Manassas.

The Manassas City Council is considering a proposal from airport management company Avports that would bring commercial flights to the city's general aviation airport within the next two years.

On Monday, representatives from the Dulles Airport-based company laid out their proposal to an eager City Council: The company would enter a 40-year lease for the airport's terminal and build a 35,000-square-foot addition, enough capacity for as many as 30 commercial passenger flights per day.

AIRPORT » PAGE 7



Sanders Lane, a four-mile road that runs between Sudley and Braddock roads near Gainesville, is located just north of Pageland Lane.

ROGER SNYDER | FOR INSIDENOVA

Is another Digital Gateway in the works?

Gainesville-area neighbors weighing possible land sale

» BY BEN PETERS
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Residents of rural Sanders Lane in western Prince William County are moving forward with an effort to assemble and sell their properties to a data center developer.

The effort is similar to what transpired on nearby Pageland Lane that led to the proposed and controversial PW Digital Gateway data center project.

An email obtained by InsideNoVa from the Catharpin Committee, a communi-

SANDERS LANE » PAGE 6

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