

SPORTS2

Quote of the day

“I’m going on my 10th year in the league. I obviously would love to play with a great, great, great quarterback. I think Kirk Cousins is a great quarterback; he’s done crazy things the past couple of years as far as statistics.”
— Redskins wide receiver **DeSean Jackson**, on his teammate

Stat of the day

1: Time in Florida Panthers franchise history in which they won every game of a trip of five or more games. With their 2-1 win Monday over the St. Louis Blues, the Panthers swept their five-game trip — it was the 31st time in franchise history they played five or more consecutive games on the road.

COLLEGES ROUNDUP

Tech blanks Marshall to reach 4-0

Virginia rallies past VMI to remain unbeaten

From staff reports

BLACKSBURG — Starting pitcher Connor Coward struck out five in six scoreless innings, and Virginia Tech shut out Marshall 7-0 at English Field on Tuesday. The win gave the Hokies their first 4-0 start since 2013.

After a scoreless first inning, Tech scored five runs in the second, four with two outs. Sam Fragale delivered an RBI double to cap the surge.

Fragale made it 5-0 with a sacrifice fly in the fourth. Coward (1-0) allowed three hits and walked one.

Virginia 9, VMI 7: The Cavaliers totaled seven runs in the seventh and

eighth innings, escaping a four-run hole to beat the visiting Keydets and remain undefeated at 4-0.

Noah Murdock, a freshman from Colonial Heights, earned his first career victory, pitching one inning and allowing one run. Coach Brian O’Connor earned his 600th career victory.

MEN’S LACROSSE

UR pulls out win

EMMITSBURG, Md. — With the score knotted at 5 through three quarters, Richmond put together a five-goal fourth quarter to defeat Mount St. Mary’s 10-7.

The Spiders needed just seven shots in the final quarter to find the net five times. Ryan Lee tossed in the final two goals and finished with a team-high

three.

Dan Ginestro added a goal and two assists for the Spiders, and Teddy Hatfield had two goals and an assist. Goalkeeper Benny Pugh made eight saves, including three in the fourth quarter.

Virginia 20, Siena 13: The Cavaliers blitzed ahead with eight first-quarter goals, and the No. 6 Cavaliers downed the visiting Saints in the first meeting of the teams to improve to 3-0.

Zed Williams collected four goals to lead Virginia scorers. Michael Kraus and Joe French added three goals apiece. Williams, Kraus and French each scored twice in the first quarter.

Kraus added a team-high three assists, and goalkeeper Will Railey had 13 saves.

TENNIS

U.Va. captures ITA Indoor crown

CHARLOTTESVILLE — Top-ranked Virginia (9-0) prevailed in a four-day, four-match battle in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Men’s Team Indoor Championship at the Boyd Tinsley Courts at the Boar’s Head Sports Club on Sunday.

The Cavaliers downed Utah State, No. 7 UCLA and No. 5 North Carolina, all by 4-0 shutouts, in the first three rounds to reach Sunday’s final. They captured the title by downing No. 3 Ohio State 4-1.

Senior J.C. Aragon clinched the title for the Cavaliers with a victory at No. 4 singles. He dropped his first set, 6-4, to No. 47 to Herkko Pollanen, but

won the second 6-3 and took the third 7-6 (4).

SOCCER

Hampden-Sydney names DiNuzzo coach

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY — Hampden-Sydney College interim athletics director Davis Yake announced the hiring of Tommy DiNuzzo as the college’s new head coach.

Coach DiNuzzo spent the past four seasons as coach of the University of Maine at Farmington.

DiNuzzo took over a Maine Farmington team that won just two games, and he tripled that win total in his third year while also reaching the conference semifinals for the first time since 2011.

Baseball, lacrosse summaries, Page C5

TODAY’S EVENTS

COLLEGE BASEBALL
♦ Randolph-Macon at Christopher Newport, 2 p.m.
♦ Longwood at Richmond, 2:30
♦ Southern Virginia at Roanoke, 3
♦ Marymount at Hampden-Sydney, 3
♦ Southern Virginia at Roanoke, 3
♦ Norfolk State at North Carolina A&T, 4
♦ Washington and Lee at LaGrange, 5

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
♦ Saint Louis at VCU, 7 p.m.
♦ Vance-Granville at Richard Bland, 7
♦ Wofford at VMI, 7

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
♦ George Washington at Richmond, 7 p.m.
♦ CIAA tournament glance, Page C5

HIGH SCHOOLS
Boys basketball
♦ Playoff schedule, Page C5
Girls basketball
♦ Playoff schedule, Page C5
Indoor track and field
♦ 1A/2A state championships at Roanoke College, 6 p.m.

TODAY’S TV

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
♦ 7 p.m. — Saint Louis at VCU, WRLH-DT2
♦ 7 — DePaul at Georgetown, CBSSN
♦ 7 — Pittsburgh at Wake Forest, CSN+
♦ 7 — Duke at Syracuse, ESPN
♦ 7 — TCU at Kansas, ESPN2
♦ 7 — Xavier at Seton Hall, FS1
♦ 7 — Central Florida at Temple, ESPN
♦ 9 — Connecticut at Houston, CBSSN
♦ 9 — Louisville at N. Carolina, ESPN
♦ 9 — Oregon vs. California, ESPN2
♦ 9 — Butler at Villanova, FS1
♦ 9 — Providence at Creighton, MASN2
♦ 9 — Oklahoma State at Kansas State, ESPN
♦ 11 — Fresno State at San Diego State, CBSSN
♦ 11 — Oregon State at Stanford, ESPN

GOLF
♦ 12:30 a.m. (Thursdays) — LPGA Tour: LPGA Thailand, Golf Channel
NHL
♦ 8 p.m. — Washington at Philadelphia, NBCSN
SOCCER
♦ 11:50 a.m. — Europa League: Manchester United at Saint-Etienne, FS1
♦ 2:30 p.m. — Champions League: Leicester City at Sevilla, FS1
TENNIS
♦ 12:30 p.m. — ATP: Delray Beach Open and Rio Open, Tennis Channel

TODAY’S RADIO

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
♦ 6:30 p.m. — Duke at Syracuse, WXGI (950)
♦ 7 — Saint Louis at VCU, WRNL (910); WRXL-HD2 (98.5)
♦ 9:30 — Louisville at North Carolina, WXGI (950)

TALK SHOWS
♦ 6 a.m. — Wes McElroy, WRNL (910)
♦ 6 — Mike and Mike, WXGI (950)
♦ 8 — SportsPhone with Big Al, WXGI (950)
♦ 9 — Dan Patrick, WRNL (910)
♦ 10 — Dan Le Batard, WXGI (950)
♦ Noon — Rich Eisen, WRNL (910)
♦ 1 p.m. — The Russillo Show, WXGI (950)
♦ 3 — The Sports Huddle with Bob Black, WXGI (950)
♦ 3 — Colin Cowherd, WRNL (910)
♦ 4 — Hardly Workin’ with Greg Burton, WXGI (950)
♦ 5:30 — Brian Marcolini, WRNL (910)
♦ 6 — Bormani Jones, WXGI (950)
♦ 6 — Steve Gorman, WRNL (910)
♦ 11 — Pit Reporters, WRNL (910)
♦ Midnight — Jason Smith, WRNL (910)
♦ 2 — SportsCenter All Night, WXGI (950)
♦ 2 — Ben Maller, WRNL (910)

Subject to change

WEEKLY IN THE T-D

Fridays: Tee Clarkson’s Outdoors column. Fishing Report.
Sundays: The Sunday Punch page, looking at the best and worst of the past week, as well the viewpoints of sports editor Mike Szvetitz and WRNL (910) sports radio host Wes McElroy.

Rams

From Page C1

“Darius talks about the process you go through and just preparing for every game like you’re going to win. You just think about winning and go out there and attack. It just shows we’ve stuck to the process.

“It shows the winning culture we have here at VCU. We’re going to win games, no matter the coach, the players.”

T.J. Gwynn, the only senior from coach Anthony Grant’s first class in 2006-07, was part of 103 wins. Successive classes have continued the streak under Shaka Smart and Will Wade and through two conferences, the Colonial Athletic Association and the A-10.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES	
Men’s basketball senior classes that have won at least 100 games at VCU:	
Class	Wins
2012-13	111
2013-14	110
2014-15	108
2011-12	108
2015-16	104
2010-11	103
2009-10	103
Source: VCU sports information	

“It’s a winning tradition,” Wade said. “It’s the culture of the program. We’ve had good players. We’ve won over two conferences now. The CAA was an extremely good conference, and we stepped up in weight class in the Atlantic 10, and those guys have continued to

SAINT LOUIS AT VCU	
When: 7 p.m.	Where: Siegel Center (cap. 7,637)
TV: WRLH-DT2	Radio: WRNL (910), WRXL-HD2 (98.5)
Records: Saint Louis 9-18, 4-10 Atlantic 10; VCU 22-5, 12-2	
Notable: VCU guard JeQuan Lewis has averaged 25.7 points in his past three games. He’s 15 of 28 on 3-point attempts in that span. ... Freshman Malik Crowfield is shooting 37.5 percent behind the arc. Forty eight of his 55 shots have been 3-pointers. ... The Rams are shooting 47.5 percent overall and 71.6 percent at the free throw line. ... Saint Louis has seven players who have launched at least 41 3-point attempts and five who are shooting 34.6 percent or higher behind the arc. ... Guards Davell Roby (11.7 points) and Jermaine Bishop (11.6) lead the Billikens in scoring. ... Saint Louis averages 61.7 points, but scored just 40 in last week’s loss to Fordham. ... The Billikens have beaten George Mason twice this season.	

win. Let’s hope it’s a standard, and we keep that standard going.”

Alie-Cox and Lewis said there hasn’t been much discussion among the players about winning 100 or more games. They only think about it when it’s brought up.

“We don’t really keep count,” Lewis said.

“We wanted to make this season one to remember and go out as one of the best teams. I feel like we’ve had that same goal every year we’ve been here. We’ve tried to do better and better each

year. With it being our last year, we just want it to be our best.”

Note: Wade said freshman wing De’Riante Jenkins experienced “a little bit of pain” in his foot after going through some drills in practice on Monday and won’t play against Saint Louis or at Rhode Island on Saturday.

“We’ll see about the following week,” Wade said. “We’ve just got to see how it goes.”

Jenkins has missed the past 13 games after breaking the fifth metatarsal (outside part) in his left foot and having a screw inserted. He participated in practice drills for the first time on Monday.

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Fuente

From Page C1

averaging 41.6 points per game, the Horned Frogs went 11-2 with Casey Paschall taking his place. They put up 40.8 points a game.

“Had some good guys coming along,” Fuente said. “Ended up being pretty efficient offensively.”

Last season, behind quarterback Jerod Evans, wide receivers Bucky Hodges and Isaiah Ford and running back Sam Rogers, Virginia Tech went 10-4, setting school records with 490 points and 5,821 total yards, among other marks.

Those players, along with senior right guard

Augie Conte and senior right tackle Jonathan McLaughlin, are all gone as Fuente prepares to start his second spring as the Hokies’ coach March 21.

“We try in everything to evaluate what we did and see if we need to change it,” Fuente said. “I think every situation is different, each school.

“There’s just different factors at play. It’s been my experience, just in general terms, that the second go-around is usually a little smoother, in terms of people knowing what to expect.

“When you don’t know what to expect, it creates anxiety. Sometimes that affects your performance. I think our kids know what’s

expected of them on a daily basis and have done a good job of it so far.”

And Fuente — who was the coach at Memphis before taking the Tech job — noted, it’s not just the players that have an easier go of it the second time around.

“It’s everyone,” Fuente said. “From the coaches knowing what to do, how to do it, what we expect it to look like, to the players doing things the way we like it. It’s probably the same in any business. The first time around, it’s incumbent on the person in charge to do as good a job as you can to paint the picture of what it should look like and everybody else mold it to fit that. It’s just, in general, easier

when the expectations are already set.”

Holding the team to those expectations is often the task of veteran leaders, and Tech had to replace a strong group of senior leaders from last year’s club, with defensive end Ken Ekanem and safety Chuck Clarke both gone in addition to the offensive stars.

On Tuesday night, Fuente planned to meet with a leadership council he selected for the team. It’s a practice, he said, that also dates to his time at TCU.

“I wanted it to be a little different when we did it at Memphis, so it’s changed over the years,” Fuente said. “But I believe in that. I want it to be something

to set these guys apart and recognize them for the way they go about their business.”

Fuente said, unlike last season when the council was all seniors, he’s added upperclassmen to help groom the program’s future leaders, jokingly calling them, “junior members.”

“I do think it’s part of our job to facilitate leadership,” Fuente said. “It’s obviously easier for some people than it is for others. Sam Rogers was a natural leader. But I do think we can cultivate that, develop that, just like we develop our biceps, triceps. I do think we can bring that along.”

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Baseball

From Page C1

opened some eyes with a 3-0 victory over the Seminoles in Game 1.

Florida State dominated the next two games 12-3 and 11-3 by piling up 25 hits and taking advantage of 16 walks and three errors.

“You walk in and you win Game 1 of a series, you want to win that series, no matter who you’re playing,” Stiffler said. “We put ourselves in a good position to do that, and we just didn’t take advantage.

“We are certainly a better team than going out and losing by the number of runs we lost by the last two days.”

The Rams won an NCAA regional in 2015, have won at least 37 games in each of the past three seasons and have beaten ranked teams, so Stiffler expected his team to give Florida State a battle.

Thompson was the winning pitcher as a freshman when VCU beat Dallas Baptist 3-1 to take the NCAA regional. Now a



2015, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball coach Shawn Stiffler of VCU says he saw what he expected in the season opener at Florida State. His pitchers were dominant in a 3-0 victory, but the pitching in the second and third games of the series left a lot to be desired. The Rams lost 12-3 and 11-3.

junior, the right-hander allowed a single to FSU’s No. 2 hitter, Jackson Lueck, in the first inning. The Seminoles didn’t get another hit.

Thompson pitched five in-

nings, with three walks and six strikeouts. Jamer struck out two in three innings, and Donko picked up the save with a perfect inning.

Freshman shortstop Paul Witt

was 3 for 3 with an RBI. He finished the series 4 for 8 with two RBIs.

“Game 1 was closer to how I expected to play, not so much because we beat them, but our starting pitching was good, which was something we thought was going to be the strength of our program,” said Stiffler, whose team plays a three-game series at Charleston Southern this weekend.

“I told the team ... that I had seen some practices that if they put together a full body of work, we’d win while we were down there. Other people didn’t expect us to do that. That’s fine. If you saw us on Saturday and Sunday, you’d say the same thing.

“As happy as I was about the win Friday night, I was more disappointed about the way we played on Saturday and Sunday, mostly on the mound.”

Game 2 starter Michael Dailey and four relievers yielded 12 hits and nine walks. Game 3 starter Brooks Vial and three relievers gave up 13 hits and seven walks.

“We went into a very hostile environment and took care of

“You win Game 1 of a series, you want to win that series, no matter who you’re playing.”

Baseball coach Shawn Stiffler, on VCU’s season-opening weekend against Florida State

business on Day One,” Stiffler said. “I was very proud of that. The next two days, they adjusted and we did not. We pitched pretty timid from there. They stopped swinging so much, and we were just not able to handle that.

“The biggest thing for me is to be able to look at our guys and say, ‘Hey look, now we’re seeing if we do X, Y and Z, we can accomplish everything we want to accomplish. At the same time, if we don’t do that ... we’ll go out and get beat by (anybody).”

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