

**Akron ▫ Boston University ▫ Charleston ▫ Colorado State ▫ Duquesne
Eastern Kentucky ▫ George Washington ▫ Green Bay ▫ Hofstra ▫ Indiana State ▫ IUPUI
Morehead State ▫ Oregon State ▫ Princeton ▫ Saint Louis ▫ Virginia Commonwealth**





GAME 15

SAINT LOUIS VS. VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH CBI CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES GAME 1 - MARCH 29, 2010 - 7 PM ET VERIZON WIRELESS ARENA - RICHMOND, VA.

PROBABLE LINEUPS

SAINT LOUIS	POS	VCU	POS
Kyle Cassidy	G	Bradford Burgess	G
Kwamain Mitchell	G	Ed Nixon	G
Christian Salecich	G	Joey Rodriguez	G
Cody Ellis	F	Larry Sanders	F
Willie Reed	F	Jamie Skeen	F

PLAYERS TO WATCH



KWAMAIN MITCHELL

So. • G • Saint Louis

Earned second-team All-Atlantic 10 Conference in 2009-10...leads the Billikens with a 16.3 ppg average while his 99 assists place him second on the team...Mitchell

seems to be his best at home, leading the Billikens to a 32-4 record at the new Chaifetz Arena when he is in the lineup...SLU is also 10-0 when he scores 20 or more points...Mitchell was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Rookie team last season...last season he set the Saint Louis freshman record with 113 assists and is the cornerstone of the school's rebuilding effort.



LARRY SANDERS

Jr. • F • Virginia Commonwealth

Named the Colonial Athletic Association's Defensive Player of the Year...he also earned a spot on the all-conference first-team...he is only the

second player in CAA history to earn back-to-back Defensive Player of the Year laurels...entered the CBI third in the conference and 24th in the nation in blocks...in less than three seasons, Sanders has moved up to fourth on the CAA's all-time blocked shots list...he leads the conference in rebounding with 9.2 rebounds per game...he grabbed double-digit rebounds 13 times this season.

SEMIFINAL RECAPS

VCU 88, Boston University 75 Verizon Wireless Arena • Richmond, Va.

In a game that saw 15 lead changes, Bradford Burgess scored 20 points and Joey Rodriguez had 19 points and five assists as VCU garnered an 88-75 win over Boston University. The Rams also received 18 points and eight rebounds from Larry Sanders and 10 points and seven rebounds from Ed Nixon. Jake O'Brien scored 20 points and pulled down eight rebounds to lead BU, while John Holland and Tyler Morris scored 16 points apiece.

Saint Louis 69, Princeton 59 Chaifetz Arena • St. Louis, Mo.

Willie Reed posted 20 points and 10 rebounds as Saint Louis earned a 69-59 win over Princeton. Kwamain Mitchell netted a game-high 21 points and handed out five assists and Brian Conklin tallied nine points off the bench for the Billikens. Princeton was paced by Kareem Maddox, who had 16 points, and Douglas Davis, who tallied 14 points.

SAINT LOUIS BILLIKENS

23-11 overall, 11-5 Atlantic 10 Conference (4th)

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	CL	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	G	MIN	PTS	REB	AST
3	Kwamain Mitchell	G	5-10	175	So.	Milwaukee, Wis. (Dominican)	33	32.9	16.3	3.0	3.0
10	Paul Eckerle	G	6-1	175	Jr.	Washington, Mo. (St. Francis Borgia)	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
12	Justin Jordan	G	5-9	170	Fr.	Fort Wayne, Ind. (Northside)	33	18.2	4.9	1.7	1.8
13	Femi John	G	6-2	205	R-Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. (McCluer North)	17	17.1	5.2	1.6	3.2
14	Brian Conklin	F	6-6	230	So.	North Eugene, Ore. (North Eugene)	34	21.1	6.2	3.6	0.6
15	Christian Salecich	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Gold Coast, Australia (Institute of Sport)	34	27.9	6.3	2.4	1.8
20	Darrin Young	G	5-10	165	Fr.	Kirkwood, Mo. (Kirkwood)	5	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
21	Jon Smith	F	6-5	190	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio (Grove City)	33	10.5	2.4	2.8	0.3
22	Jeff Reid	G	6-4	185	Fr.	Topeka, Kans. (Hayden)	5	4.6	0.4	0.2	0.0
23	Kyle Cassidy	G	6-3	200	So.	Tamara, Ill. (Pinckneyville)	34	32.4	6.2	3.2	3.1
24	Cody Ellis	F	6-8	240	Fr.	Perth, Australia (Institute of Sport)	20	28.5	10.9	5.1	1.3
32	Cory Remekun	F	6-7	205	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (Mesquite)	34	11.7	1.5	1.6	0.3
33	Willie Reed	F	6-9	220	So.	Kansas City, Mo. (Bishop Miege)	33	27.7	12.4	8.1	0.7

HEAD COACH - Rick Majerus (23rd season), 479-187 (.719)

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH - Porter Moser

ASSISTANT COACHES - Chris Harriman, Alex Jensen

ABOUT SAINT LOUIS - Under the direction of head coach Rick Majerus, SLU is the youngest team in the country, with no seniors or juniors on the active roster...SLU is 23-11, matching the most wins since a 23-8 campaign in 1994-95...Kwamain Mitchell leads the Billikens with his 16.3 ppg average and 47 steals...for his efforts he was named to the A-10 all-conference second-team...sophomore Willie Reed nets 12.4 ppg and leads the Bills with an 8.1 rpg average and 70 blocks in garnering honorable mention all-conference acclaim...freshman Cody Ellis, who averages 10.9 points and 5.1 rebounds a game, was named to the all-rookie team...SLU allows only 59.7 ppg and opponents are shooting just 39.8% from the field and 28.2% from three-point range on the year.

HOW THEY GOT HERE - Saint Louis jumped out to an 11-1 lead and led from wire-to-wire in posting a 63-54 win over Indiana State in its opener. The Billikens then went into double overtime before emerging with a 68-62 win over Green Bay in the Quarterfinal Round. They then defeated Princeton, 69-59, in the Semifinal Round. SLU is yielding just 58.3 ppg in its three CBI games.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH RAMS

25-9 overall, 11-7 Colonial Athletic Association (5th)

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	CL	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)	G	MIN	PTS	REB	AST
1	Larry Sanders	F	6-11	235	Jr.	Fort Pierce, Fla. (Port St. Lucie)	33	27.1	14.5	9.2	1.0
2	Issiah Grayson	G	5-11	160	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Findlay Prep)	12	3.5	0.8	0.3	0.3
4	Terrance Saintil	F	6-8	240	So.	North Miami, Fla. (Monsignor Pace)	24	7.8	2.5	2.0	0.3
10	Darius Theus	G	6-3	195	Fr.	Portsmouth, Va. (I.C. Norcom)	33	11.8	2.6	0.9	1.1
11	Kirill Pishchalnikov	F	6-8	265	Sr.	Maykop, Russia (MGGTK AGU)	32	8.9	2.4	2.7	0.2
12	Joey Rodriguez	G	5-10	175	Jr.	Oviedo, Fla. (Lake Howell)	34	32.9	12.7	2.7	5.9
20	Bradford Burgess	G	6-5	215	So.	Midlothian, Va. (Benedictine)	34	28.5	10.7	5.1	1.2
21	Jamie Skeen	F	6-9	245	Jr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Wake Forest)	26	20.0	7.9	4.5	0.9
30	Troy Daniels	G	6-4	195	Fr.	Roanoke, Va. (William Fleming)	24	6.0	2.2	0.5	0.2
32	Brandon Rozzell	G	6-2	185	Jr.	Richmond, Va. (Highland Springs)	34	22.4	8.4	2.2	1.2
34	David Hinton	F	6-8	230	R-Fr.	Winston-Salem, N.C. (RJ Reynolds)	8	3.3	0.3	0.8	0.1
42	T.J. Gwynn	F	6-4	205	R-Sr.	Burlington, N.C. (Cummings)	33	15.6	5.0	3.1	1.0
50	Ed Nixon	G	6-4	200	Jr.	St. Petersburg, Fla. (Lakewood)	34	22.4	8.4	2.5	1.7

HEAD COACH - Shaka Smart (first season), 25-9 (.735)

ASSISTANT COACHES - Will Wade, Mike Rhoades, Mike Jones

ABOUT VCU - The Rams are 25-9 led by the CAA's Defensive Player of the Year and first-team all-conference selection Larry Sanders...the junior tops VCU with 14.5 ppg and 9.2 rpg averages...he also leads the Rams with 84 blocked shots...Sanders is joined on the all-conference team by classmate Joey Rodriguez, who garnered second-team laurels...Rodriguez is second to Sanders with his 12.7 ppg average while his 200 assists and 65 steals top the list...soph Bradford Burgess tallies 10.7 ppg and is second to Sanders at 5.1 rebounds per outing...under first-year head coach Shaka Smart, the Rams have recorded their third straight 20-win season.

HOW THEY GOT HERE - VCU withstood a late GW rally in a 79-73 Opening Round win. The Rams then beat Charleston, 93-86, in the Quarterfinal Round. In the Semifinal Round, VCU earned an 88-75 decision over Boston University...VCU is netting 86.7 ppg while yielding 78.0 ppg in the CBI.

FOLLOW THE CBI ONLINE

VISIT CBI2010.COM FOR COMPLETE SCORES, STATS & HIGHLIGHTS OF ALL GAMES THROUGHOUT THE EVENT

ABOUT THE CBI

The College Basketball Invitational (CBI) provides a meaningful opportunity for teams that deserve a postseason experience. Sixteen teams compete in this three-year-old postseason event, hosted at on-campus arenas throughout the country.

The CBI is a single-elimination tournament up until the Championship Series, with all games played at campus sites. The Championship Series is a best-of-three series.

The event features eight first-round games, four quarterfinal round games, a semifinal round, and then the Championship Series.

The goal of the brackets is to create a competitive balance within each bracket and to minimize missed class time. The final process takes place after the NCAA Tournament field is announced.

The 16-team field consists of teams not selected for the NCAA Tournament. Teams are invited based upon performance during their conference and non-conference schedules, as well as how well the team is playing at the end of the regular season.

The College Basketball Invitational is produced by The Gazelle Group in Princeton, N.J. The Gazelle Group is a sports marketing firm specializing in event production and management, client representation, and sponsorship consulting. For more information, visit gazellegroup.com.

2010 CBI TOURNAMENT NOTES

Third Annual CBI – The Championship Series of the third annual College Basketball Invitational tips off at Virginia Commonwealth on March 29 and continues at Saint Louis on March 31 and April 2 should a third game be necessary. In each of the first two CBIs, the Championship Series went the full three games.

The Next Step – Three members of the 2010 CBI field – Oregon State, Charleston, and Green Bay – participated in last year's CBI. There are now seven programs that have been to multiple CBI events. Of the four which played in 2008 and 2009 – Houston, Nevada, Richmond, and UTEP – Houston, Richmond, and UTEP made the 2010 NCAA Tournament. Houston, which advanced to the 2008 CBI semifinals before losing its Opening Round game in 2009, used its CBI experience to catapult itself into the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1992. Richmond, which went to the 2009 CBI semis, reached the NAAs for the first time since 2004. UTEP, the 2009 CBI runner-up, earned its first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2005.

Home Rule...Not This Year – Home teams posted a 23-11 record in the first two College Basketball Invitationals. In 2008, home teams were 13-4, including 3-0 in the Championship Series. In 2009, home teams were 10-7 with Oregon State winning the CBI title on UTEP's home floor. However, this year home teams are only 8-6 on their floors.

Extra Sessions – Prior to the Quarterfinal Round, only two games in the brief history of the CBI went into overtime. The first was in last year's Quarterfinal Round when Oregon State and Vermont needed five more minutes to decide their game, which the Beavers won, 71-70, on March 23, 2009. Then two nights later, Oregon State needed extra time to beat Stanford, 65-62,

in the Semifinal Round. In this year's Quarterfinal Round on March 22, three of the four games went into extra sessions, with two of those going into double overtime. Saint Louis beat Green Bay (68-62) and Princeton downed IUPUI (74-68) in 50 minutes while Boston University needed 45 minutes to take out Morehead State (91-89).

Manning Up – If you want defense, you have come to the right place. The 2010 CBI features no less than five players who were named their league's Defensive Player of the Year. Charleston's Jeremy Simmons (co-Defensive Player) (Southern), Duquesne's Damian Saunders (Atlantic 10), Morehead State's Kenneth Faried (Ohio Valley), Oregon State's Seth Tarver (Pac-10), and VCU's Larry Sanders (CAA) all garnered the award.

In addition to being named Defensive Player of the Year, Faried was named the Ohio Valley Conference's Player of the Year. Hofstra's Charles Jenkins entered the CBI as the Player of the Year in the Colonial Athletic Association. Alex Young of IUPUI was the Sixth Man of the Year in the Summit League.

In all, 25 players in this year's CBI earned all-conference honors, including 11 first-team selections.

Win, Baby, Win – Nine teams in this year's CBI field entered the CBI with at least 20 wins during the 2009-10 season, seven of which won their Opening Round games. Akron and IUPUI led the way with 24 victories apiece. (IUPUI is now at 25.) They are joined by VCU (25), Morehead State (24), Saint Louis (23), Charleston (22), Green Bay (22), Princeton (22), and Eastern Kentucky (20). Its 96-78 win at Oregon State was Boston University's 20th. The Terriers ended the season with 21 wins.

2010 CBI TOURNAMENT BRACKET



WHERE TO WATCH THE CBI

Up to eleven games will be televised live nationally on HDNet (schedule at right).

Don't have HDNet? Call your cable or satellite provider and demand HDNet today.

www.hd.net/subscribe

HDNet TELEVISION SCHEDULE

(all times Eastern)

March 16
VCU vs. George Washington – 7 p.m.
Indiana State vs. Saint Louis – 9 p.m.

March 17
Duquesne vs. Princeton – 7 p.m.
Colorado State vs. Morehead State – 9 p.m.

March 22
Charleston vs. VCU – 7 p.m.
Green Bay vs. Saint Louis – 9 p.m.

March 24
Boston University vs. VCU – 7 p.m.
Princeton vs. Saint Louis – 9 p.m.

March 29
Saint Louis vs. VCU (Game 1) – 7 p.m.

March 31
VCU vs. Saint Louis (Game 2) – 8 p.m.
April 2 (if necessary)
VCU vs. Saint Louis (Game 3) – 8 p.m.