

## Spiders relish CBI opportunities to keep ball rolling

**BY JOHN O'CONNOR Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted: Saturday, March 23, 2013 12:00 am**

Luke Piotrowski went through a pre-practice drill that ended with a series of creative dunks on Friday. The entertainment value wasn't lost on his University of Richmond teammates, laughing along the baseline.

At the same time, guard Jonathan Benjamin repeatedly, and unsuccessfully, tried to score inside on 6-foot-8 Terry Allen in a smile-filled, one-on-one challenge.

If the Spiders are tired of each other and dreading preparation for a second College Basketball Invitational game, it didn't show at UR's Weinstein Center, where the team practices while the Robins Center arena undergoes a \$15-million facelift.

"We're embracing each and every day that we still can come together as a team and be in the gym with each other," said forward Derrick Williams.

After ending Bryant's season with a 76-71 win on Wednesday in Smithfield, R.I., the Spiders (19-14) play at Wright State (22-12) on Monday in the CBI quarterfinals. While Richmond's CBI involvement is a career extender for three seniors, and a developmental mechanism for four freshmen in the 10-man rotation, "it's also big for us juniors and sophomores," said junior point guard Cedrick Lindsay (12.2 ppg), who has averaged 18.8 points in his past six games.

"It's all about where we want to go, and we know we want to get there and be in the NCAA tournament next year. So we know this is a big step."

If there is an Atlantic 10 Conference team to which Wright State can be compared, it's defensive-minded Saint Louis. Wright State, of the Horizon League, allows an average of 58 points, and scores an average of 62. Seven opponents were held to fewer than 50 points.

"A tough, physical, containment-type defense," UR coach Chris Mooney said of the Raiders.

The Spiders may have a more potent Darien Brothers in Dayton, Ohio, after five stitches in his shooting hand were removed on Thursday. Brothers, a 6-3 senior who leads UR with a 14.3-point scoring average, missed 11 of 16 shots from the field and six of eight from 3-point distance in the two games he played with stitches between his ring and pinky fingers.

Brothers hasn't used the injury as an excuse, but of the removal of the stitches, Mooney said, "I'm sure it helps."