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## **VCU Takes Game 1 of the CBI Championship Series, 68-56** **Series shifts to St. Louis for Game 2 and, if necessary, Game 3**

**PRINCETON, N.J.** – Joey Rodriguez scored 14 straight points for Virginia Commonwealth to increase a three-point lead to a 13-point lead as VCU earned a 68-56 win over Saint Louis in the first game of the College Basketball Invitational Championship Series at the Verizon Wireless Arena at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

Rodriguez ended the night with a game-high 22 points to go along with six assists. In a span of 2:04, Rodriguez outscored Saint Louis 14-4 to give VCU a 55-42 lead with 12:11 remaining in the game. Larry Sanders netted 20 points and had 12 rebounds and four blocked shots. The Rams (26-9) converted 16 Billiken turnovers into 25 points en route to their 18th home win in 19 games.

Saint Louis (23-12) received 11 points from Willie Reed and 10 points apiece from Kwamain Mitchell and Cody Ellis.

The second game of the best-of-three Championship Series will take place on Wednesday at 8:00pm (ET) at Saint Louis' Chaifetz Arena. The game will be televised live on HDNet with Rich Cellini and Craig Ehlo calling the action. Should a third game be necessary, it will be held in St. Louis on Friday, April 2.

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