



INSIDE:
Jimmie Johnson says he did all he could do to win in Talladega.
Page D2

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE Basketball Media Day, Concord, N.C.

Three new Big South men's coaches have one favor to ask: GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE

By Chris Lang
clang@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5529

CONCORD, N.C. — Initially, Randy Peele winces at the line of questioning, like he knows it's coming.

Does this feel like a second chance? Peele acknowledges the fairness of the query. After Gregg Marshall left for Wichita State in the spring, Winthrop tabbed the veteran assistant as Marshall's replacement.

For the first time in eight years, Peele was a head coach again.

He led UNC Greensboro, then a Big South member, to the school's first NCAA tournament appearance in 1996. But he and UNC parted ways in 1999 when Peele's next three teams all finished below .500, and Peele was left to wonder if he'd get another shot at being a head coach.

He spent four years as an assistant at Virginia Tech and four more as Marshall's top assistant at Winthrop. When Marshall left, Peele was the natural fit for the position.

Please see **COACHES**, Page D4



Ritchie McKay

Liberty
Head coach at
Portland State 1996-'98,
Colorado State '98-2000,
Oregon State '00-'02,
New Mexico '02-'07

Preseason rankings

Men		
Rk	Team (first-place)	Points
1.	High Point (15)	216
2.	Winthrop (14)	214
3.	VMI	147
4.	Coastal Carolina	134
5.	UNC Asheville	119
6.	Liberty	108
7.	Charleston Southern	63
8.	Radford	43

Women		
Rk	Team (first-place)	Points
1.	Radford (16)	162
2.	Liberty (9)	156
3.	UNC Asheville	113
4.	High Point	81
5.	Winthrop	80
6.	Coastal Carolina	77
7.	Charleston Southern	31

► Liberty forward Megan Frazee is picked as the Big South Preseason Player of the Year for the second straight season
Notes, D4



Cliff Ellis
Coastal Carolina
► Head coach at S. Alabama 1975-'84, Clemson '84-'94, Auburn '94-2003

Randy Peele
Winthrop
► UNC Greensboro head coach 1995-'99



File photo

More from media day

► Check out more news from Chris Lang at The News & Advance Sports Blog. Go to www.newsadvance.com and click on **Sports**.

Virginia Football Peerman remains uncertain

Groh not ruling out leading rusher for Saturday's game

By Andy Bitter
abitter@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5535

CHARLOTTESVILLE — Al Groh may not have ruled Virginia tailback Cedric Peerman out for this week's game against Connecticut, but he sure sounded Tuesday like he was preparing to be without the team's leading rusher.

"I think that's the only prudent thing to do," Groh said.

Peerman, who has rushed for 585 yards and five touchdowns this year, underwent tests Monday night to determine the severity of the right foot injury that left him in a walking boot and on crutches by the end of Saturday's game at Middle Tennessee.



Peerman



► Cavs Kicker Chris Gould takes advantage of a missed TO

As expected, Groh was vague about the details of the injury, only confirming that Peerman hurt his right foot and not his ankle.

Peerman will be re-evaluated later in the week, when coaches will determine if he can play. To be clear, Groh hasn't ruled the former William Campbell star out.

Please see **UVA**, Page D3

Tech Football New version of Mr. Consistency

Jud Dunlevy's accurate foot kicks doubters to the side

By Nathan Warters
nwarters@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5540

BLACKSBURG — Jud Dunlevy committed the cardinal sin of kicking. He let the tiniest bit of doubt creep in.

After missing a make-able field goal in a preseason scrimmage, his mind started wandering. "I've got to make this," he thought when he lined up for his next kick.

Those are the kinds of thoughts that set kickers up for failure. They're supposed to line up, visualize the ball going through the uprights and make it happen.



Dunlevy

Dunlevy has had no trouble doing that this season, but there was a time in the preseason when he wasn't so sure he was up to the challenge of being an every-day kicker.



► The block-in-the-back penalty is forgiven by Eddie Royal

Tech Notes, D3

"Towards the end, those last couple of scrimmages, I was kind of doubting myself," said Dunlevy, who missed six kicks in the final two scrimmages. "I knew I had the ability, and I knew I worked hard to get the (starting) spot. Things have worked out for me so far."

Dunlevy re-claimed his confidence with his first field goal of the season, a 25-yarder in the first quarter of the opener against East Carolina, and he hasn't missed a kick yet.

Please see **TECH**, Page D3

NFL

Falcons now moving in for Vick's bonus money

Arbitrator rules team can recoup nearly \$20 million



AP photo

Michael Vick may have to pay the Falcons almost \$20 million from his contract bonus.

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Michael Vick has taken another hit — and this one could cost him nearly \$20 million.

Already facing prison time, the disgraced quarterback lost the first round in his financial battle with the Atlanta Falcons when an arbitrator ruled Tuesday that Vick should repay much of the bonus money he got while secretly bankrolling a gruesome dogfighting ring.

The case is far from over. The players' union said it will appeal the ruling by Stephen B. Burbank, a University of Pennsylvania law professor and special master who oversaw last week's arbitration hearing in Philadelphia.

The Falcons argued that Vick, who pleaded guilty to federal charges for his role in the long-running operation, knew he was in violation of the contract when he signed a 10-year, \$130 million deal in December 2004.

The team said he used proceeds from the contract to fund his illicit activities and sought the repayment of \$19,970,000 in bonuses he was paid over the last three years.

Any money the Falcons recover from Vick would be credited to its future salary cap, a huge step in recovering from the loss of the team's franchise player. Atlanta (1-4) is off to a dismal start with Joey Harrington at quarterback.

"We are certainly pleased with

today's ruling," the Falcons said in a statement. "It is the first step in a process that our club has undertaken in an attempt to recoup significant salary cap space that will allow us to continue to build our football team today and in future years."

In a highly technical, nine-page ruling, Burbank said the Falcons were entitled to \$3.75 million of the \$7.5 million bonus that Vick was paid after signing the deal in 2004, \$13.5 million of the \$22.5 million in roster, reporting and playing bonuses he was paid in 2005 and 2006, and \$2.72 million of the \$7 million roster, reporting and playing bonus that he received this year.

Burbank took a different tact than

Please see **VICK**, Page D3

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

Major League Baseball

Lynchburg mountain biker captures a novice title.
Page D6



Joe Torre's future with the Yankees is still in doubt.
Page D4



INSIDE:
Check out the Dr. John A. Stephenson youth run results
Page D5



Today's TOP TV games



CFB: Navy @ Pitt
8 p.m., ESPN
Hockey: Rangers @ Islanders
7 p.m., VS