



INSIDE:
Liberty looks to redeem
itself against Campbell
tonight in the
Vines Center
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Cook won't make trip; Simpson may be late arrival

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

Virginia coach Al Groh wasn't shedding any new light on why cornerback Chris Cook and tailback Mikell Simpson were not in Jacksonville practicing with their teammates for Tuesday's Gator Bowl,



but Simpson could be a late arrival. On his Thursday teleconference, Groh did say the matter would likely be resolved sometime in the next few days.

"I've been advised by our administration that in accordance with priva-

cy law specifications to just leave it at the fact that these two players are not currently with the team," Groh said. "The final resolution of this situation will probably be in the next day or so."

The loss of Cook, a Heritage graduate, would seem to be the biggest blow going up against Texas Tech, which owns the nation's No. 1 pass-

ing offense.

Though he missed three games with a knee injury suffered at Middle Tennessee, Cook is UVA's most experienced cornerback. He had 39 tackles, six pass breakups, an interception and a fumble return for a touchdown this season, his second as a starter.

Sophomore Vic Hall and freshman

Ras-I Dowling will start at corner if Cook remains unavailable. But the Red Raiders employ four-wide receivers sets almost exclusively, meaning a definite increase in playing time for redshirt freshmen Mike Parker, who played on the Cavaliers' nickel and dime defenses this year, making 25 tackles.

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WASHINGTON REDSKINS | The reemergence of Clinton Portis



AP photo

Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis has carried the ball 300 times this season, tied with Arizona's Edgerrin James for most in the NFC.

Breaking away

The Associated Press

Portis having a comeback season for Washington

ASHBURN — Here's an unusual stat line for a running back: Clinton Portis threw a touchdown pass and was sacked in the same game. The touchdown pass, to Antwaan Randle El in the second quarter of the Washington Redskins' win over Minnesota, was the third of his career.



In fact, every time Portis has completed a pass in the NFL, the receiver has scored.

The sack? That was the first of his career. It came in the third quarter, when the Redskins went to the trick play archives yet again.

Please see PORTIS, Page D3

William Campbell's Timmy Wright (right) guards against Castlewood's Ryan Meade (24) during Thursday's Christmas Tournament game in Altavista.

Photo by Sandi Shelton

Generals, Colonels advance in tourney

By Chris Humphreys
chumphreys@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5558

ALTAVISTA — William Campbell's Teron Watson and Chris Waller perfectly executed a two-man game at the top of the key to set up the Generals' game-winning shot with 2.1 seconds left to play against Castlewood in Altavista's Christmas Tournament on Thursday. Please see ALTAVISTA, Page D2



Altavista Christmas Tournament

College Basketball Hokies look to forget Wake

Media General News Service

Inside their hotel across from Madison Square Garden, Virginia Tech's men's basketball players and coaches spent 24 minutes Thursday afternoon reviewing film of Sunday's game at Wake Forest — just as they do after every game. Coach Seth Greenberg talked about what the Hokies did well and what they struggled with — just as he does after every game.

He wasn't about to change habits just because Tech lost Sunday in such extraordinary fashion. Please see TECH, Page D4



Virginia Tech vs. Hofstra
Tonight, 6:30
at Madison Square Garden

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

College Basketball

Roy Williams' No. 1 North Carolina team remains undefeated with a win over Nevada in Chapel Hill
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Today's TOP TV games

Champs Sports Bowl
Boston Col. vs. Mich. St.
5 p.m., ESPN
MBB: Campbell @ Liberty
7 p.m., MASN



New York and Boston television stations are upset with the NFL
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