



Hello Statesmen!

I hope the year is off to a great start and that you are settling in nicely to your Spring semester. Don't worry, Spring Break is almost here! Statesmen athletics has been going strong since January 2<sup>nd</sup> and now heading into one of our busiest times of year. Currently 7 of our 14 sports are in season and competing. Some sports are coming to the end of the regular season and preparing for a post-season run, while others are just getting started and off to their best season yet.

### **Men's and Women's Indoor Track**

Seven athletes from our Men's and Women's Indoor Track team are competing in the NJCAA Indoor Track National Championships today and tomorrow down in Gainesville, FL. We wish them the best of luck as they compete with some of the best athletes in the country. Being able to make it Nationals is an amazing accomplishment, and we are excited to see how they finish.

### **Women's Basketball**

Women's Basketball will host the first round of the Region 10 playoffs on Monday, March 8 at 6pm. They currently are tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place in the conference. Their opponent is still to be determined based on the final week of the regular season results. We wish them the best of luck as they compete to defend their title as Region 10 Champions.

### **Men's Basketball**

The men's basketball team has three regular season games left and are currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the conference. Their Region 10 Tournament will begin March 18<sup>th</sup>. The battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place in the regular season is tight and within reach for the Statesmen to improve their playoff seeding over the next week. We are excited to see them finish the season on a strong note going into the playoffs.

## **Baseball**

Baseball has started off the season 10-2 and 5-1 in the conference. This is their best start to a season since the baseball program began at RBC in 2022. This past weekend they earned their first three game sweep of a conference opponent as a program. As the weather is showing signs of getting warmer, please plan to come out and support your baseball team sometime this season!

## **Beach Volleyball**

Beach volleyball battled through the cold and rainy weather last week defeating three conference teams in three days. They are off to a 6-0 start to the season and looking to continue their dominance after a Region 10 Championship and 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at the National Championship last year.

## **Softball**

Softball has started off the season playing some of the toughest competition in the region. Their currently stand at 1-4 in the conference with expectations to bounce back this weekend against Fayetteville Tech.

## **Future of Athletics**

We are excited to be in the midst of a fast-growing period for Statesmen Athletics where we have expanded from 6 sports to 14 in a matter of two years. Now we turn the page on a new era of Statesmen Athletics as we conclude a robust Strategic Planning process to guide us over the next three years. Our core values will continue to be built on accountability, integrity, and success. As we focus on the values of Statesmen Athletics we will prioritize the student athlete experience, competing for Conference and National championships, and developing resources to increase sustainability. The strategic planning process, which has included feedback from stakeholders across campus, is almost complete. We are excited to embark on this new era for Statesmen Athletics as it promises to show continued growth and an even higher level of success for Richard Bland College sports.

## **E-Sports**

In Fall of 2024 we are excited that the first ever Esports program at Richard Bland College will begin. This program will compete within the national governing body of NJCAA Esports and Region 10. The Esports arena will be housed in the new Academic Innovation Center with a spectator lounge next to the arena. We are expecting to welcome 15-20 new student-athletes to RBC that will compete for region and conference championships next Fall.

## **New Staff**

We are excited to welcome three new staff members to RBC Athletics.

Kaylyn Hill, Head Athletic Trainer, joined the staff back in January and comes to us from Randolph-Macon College. She has worked as an athletic trainer with different colleges and clinics since graduating from Longwood in 2012. She received her Master's of Science in Kinesiology from Georgia Southern in 2016.

Nate Dudzic, Athletic Trainer, comes to us from VCU Health. Prior to Richard Bland College he worked with Virginia Union University from August 2021 to December 2023. He graduated from Clarion University and then went on receive his Master's Degree from East Stroudsburg University in 2021.

Kayla Tierney, Head Women's Soccer Coach, is joining us from Randolph-Macon College (RMC) after serving three seasons as an Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator. While at RMC she also served as the Assistant Director of Club Operations a Travel Coach for the Richmond Strikers organization.

The rest of the semester promises to be a successful one for RBC Athletics. We hope to see you at one of our future home athletic events and want to encourage you to keep up the good work as you dive into the second half of the semester. As always, thank you for your continued support of Richard Bland College Athletics.

Scott Newton  
Director of Student Life and Athletics