



LOOKING AHEAD

Away Games:

Fri November 13
 @ Georgia State 5:30pm
Sun November 15
 @ UNC Wilmington 1pm
CAA Tournament TBA



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TWO DOWN, TWO TO GO

Virginia Commonwealth University stretched its winning streak to seven and moved into first place for the first time this season with a pair of crucial victories over the weekend. The Rams staved off a comeback attempt by James Madison on Friday night and rallied to defeat George Mason in a five-set thriller Saturday to improve to 10-2 in conference play and 22-8 overall.

On the offensive side, junior **Marief Frey** recorded 25 kills and 28 digs in the

two matches, while freshman **Michala Kvapilova** had 23 kills and senior **Lenka Melicharkova** dished out 90 assists - a 10 assists per set average. **Marisa Low** led the way on defense with an impressive 43 digs, and senior **Ivana Rich** and junior **Kelsie Clegg** combined for 17 blocks on the weekend.



Although they started hot against JMU, the Rams failed to close out the Dukes in the third set. However, the Black and Gold rallied to win in the fourth. In a pivotal and hard-fought match with George Mason,

VCU started with a 25-17 win in the opening set, but dropped the second and third to fall behind, 2-1. The Rams were far from out, however, and took the next two sets behind **Kvapilova**, who had eight kills and hit .750 in the final two frames.

VCU currently has 22 wins this season, its most in 16 years. The Rams have never won the CAA regular season, but can clinch their first, as well as the right to host the conference tournament, with wins over Georgia State Nov. 13 and UNC Wilmington Nov. 15.



Ivana Rich

but more than anything I was happy to be able to do it in front of my family and teammates. That's the best part."

Rich looks to continue her fantastic play as the VCU closes out the regular season this weekend.

RICH SETS VCU BLOCK RECORD

Heading into last weekend, senior **Ivana Rich** needed two blocks to overtake Jonnie Stone as VCU's all-time leader in that category. In Friday night's victory over JMU, she had eight. Rich broke the mark early in the first set, and when it was announced during a subsequent timeout, the crowd at the Verizon Wireless Arena gave the VCU senior a rousing applause. She now has 357 career blocks.

In addition to her nine blocks in two matches, Rich added 20 kills and a .384 hitting percentage for the weekend as the Rams continued their recent dominance of the CAA. Rich is currently averaging 2.17 kills and .78 blocks per set.

"I was really excited and proud when [the record] was announced," Rich said. "I was pleased with the fact that I had the ability to achieve something like this,