

DANNY COLVIN / *Name Game*

Means still talking the talk

There's good news from that northern neck of Virginia and it has nothing to do with the wonderful goodies you can get from the Chesapeake Bay. Though, come to think of it, that's not a bad reason for a visit to the Tidewater area.

No, we're talking about **Demetrius Means**, whose sports history began to seed back in early '70s West Brighton and has since sprouted into sports radio gigs.

This past Saturday, the 46-year-old award-winning broadcaster — he called 219 high school/college basketball games on his WRWI Kilmarnock hometown station before leaving in May — started off the inaugural "Demetrius Means Sports Show" on WNDJ-FM with a plum: an interview with Virginia Tech football coach **Frank Beamer**, fresh off the Hokies' appearance in the Orange Bowl.

"I'm forever grateful to the people — especially co-analyst **Carroll Ashburn** for eight years — at WKWI for giving me my start," said the proud father of two teenaged children **Demetrius II** and **De'Ane**. "I went away with great memories; they helped get me on the map."

Distances — whether crossing the scenic Rappahannock River to his new station in Topping, Va. or back to Staten Island where he'll be again in March to attend the wedding of his sister **Cherlye** — have never limited Means' personality or his dream.

Everybody remembers De-



Virginia sportscaster Demetrius Means is remembered as a starter on McKee's history-making basketball team in 1976-77.

metrius as the "grown-up" on **Mickey Burns'** 1976-77 McKee squad, which traveled to the city PSAL hoop final, the only Island squad to ever do so. Even then, Means was honing his skills. He had a loquacious boss and, as a 17-year-old, had a natural affinity to people and a way with words. He's hasn't changed.

"Different people throughout my life have been there for me," says the recently ordained elder. "You don't make it on your own. You learn from each person along the way; I've been blessed (we must include wife **Patricia**, who has put up with this lifelong obsession) many times over. I've taken what I can and put it to good use."

Apparently new owner/ge-

neral manager **Mitt Younts** heard the vibes from listeners, who asked where had the commentator/host gone?

Means had not quit his day job, as they say. Younts, who wanted a sports show on the weekend to complement his best-songs format during the week, put out the parameters to Demetrius. Obviously, the fire had not died.

"I've never done an all-sports show before, this is going to be a challenge," offered Means, who has a special relationship with CBS-TV's **James Brown** and a hook to future guest **Terry Bradshaw**.

"I still have the dream. I want to get out there again and see what happens. You never know."