

# OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY MASCOT

## WHY MONARCHS?

Many people have wondered how the Old Dominion University athletic teams came to be officially known as the Monarchs.

For many years, the athletic teams of the Norfolk Division of the College of William & Mary (as Old Dominion was formerly called) were known as the Braves. This was a derivation of the William & Mary nickname of Indians. As Old Dominion achieved its own four-year status and saw its enrollment surpass that of its Williamsburg neighbor, it was no longer suitable or acceptable to have its teams called the Braves.

The name Monarchs evokes much of the early history of the Commonwealth of Virginia and of Old Dominion's mother institution, the College of William and Mary. The nickname "Old Dominion" was first coined to the Virginia colony by King Charles II after Virginia's loyalty to the crown during the English Civil War. Furthermore, William III and Mary II, whose patronage helped found the College of William and Mary in Virginia in 1693, ruled England at the invitation of Parliament as "joint monarchs."

The Monarch used by Old Dominion is a royal crown on a lion's head, representing an historic past and a strong future. Old Dominion adopted its current family of logos in April 2002.

