



## 2006 Season Preview

While the Keydets lost a few key players from last season, they boast a very experienced and talented team prepared to make a run at the MAAC Championship in 2006. VMI will be led by a strong senior class featuring nine top players across the board, and solid group of upperclassman to provide depth to this year's team. In all, the team returns 31 letterwinners from last year, and brought in an extremely talented crop of 12 freshman to round out the roster.

The VMI offense returns as arguably the best in the MAAC, welcoming back five of the team's top seven scorers from last season. The Keydets finished last season ranked in the top three of almost every major offensive category, and after a solid fall season, look set to pace the team in 2006. Aside from the offense, the Keydets have veteran leadership at all the key positions throughout the field, including very good depth in the midfield and defensive lines, and look to have a starting ten filled with nine juniors and seniors.

The Keydets, an associate member of the MAAC Conference for lacrosse, finished last year with a mark of 7-7 and 4-4 in conference play, but feel they have the talent to make the MAAC tournament for the first time since joining the league back in 2003.

"For the first time in many years, we have a team that relies heavily on veterans and battle-tested players," said head coach Doug Bartlett, who enters his 21st season as head coach of the Keydets. "We have players with a lot of experience, and our team will go as far as they take us."

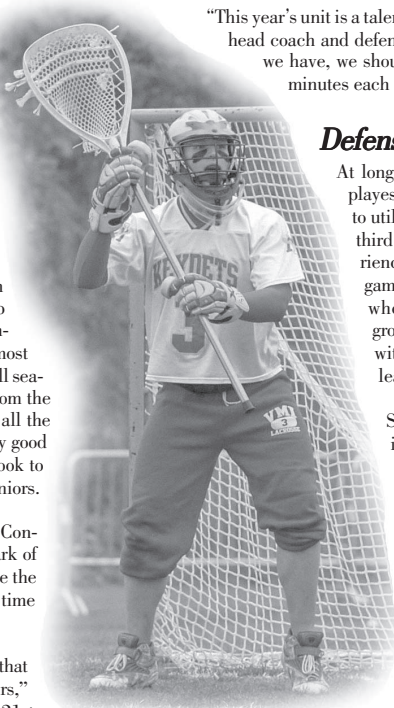
### Defense:

Size, tremendous speed and experience will make the Keydet's defense one of the best in the league this season. The Keydets have one of the deepest units in recent years, and all of their backline players possess ideal size for the position, and their athleticism makes them special.

Senior **Lee Cook, III** is the veteran leader of the defense, and also a captain on this year's team. Cook started all 14 games last season for the Keydets, and possesses good size as well as speed at his position. Cook is also a great on-ball defender. **Alex Litz** was also a staple on the backline last season for VMI, starting 12 games and playing in all 14. Litz, a junior, is one of the most athletic players on the team, and covers the field extremely well for a defender. Junior **Curtis Jaques** rounds out the starting back line for the Keydets this season. Jaques has played in 25 of his 26 games in a Keydet uniform, and is a very rangy defender who pressures the ball well.

The second line of defense is also extremely versatile and experienced. **Pat Zanolotti** and **Ryan Benson** have really stepped up their play from last season. Zanolotti brings a great deal of intensity to the lineup while Benson is an extremely strong position defender. **Chris DarConte** and **Brett Whitsitt** are two players that have hit the weight room hard, and have increased their strength tremendously since last season.

Other players providing depth on the defensive line will include **Andrew Calvo**, **Will Carlton**, **Robert Hawley, Jr.** and **Kip Joerdens**.



"This year's unit is a talented one with a lot of size and depth," said associate head coach and defensive coordinator Mic Grant. "With the group that we have, we should be able to play good team defense for 60-plus minutes each game."

### Defensive Middies:

At long-stick middle, the Keydets have two experienced players who give the coaching staff a few different options to utilize. Junior **Charles Barnes** will be a starter for the third season with the long pole, and is yet another experienced player on the team. Barnes has played in all 26 games the past two seasons, making 15 starts. Barnes, who was fifth on the team last season with 38 groundballs, is aggressive on the ball and is very good with his checks. He is also one of the best in the league in scooping up groundballs.

Sophomore **Matt Turner** should get some quality playing time this season at LSM as well. Turner, a sophomore, has made great strides from his rookie season, and his speed is one of his greatest assets.

**Matt Hill** and **Andy Milford** are the teams top defensive middies this season. Both upperclassmen, Hill and Milford have good experience to help their game this season, and their work ethic should also help improve the game of the up-and-coming defensive middies **John Regan** and **Jason LaCerdea**, who figure to see some time at the position.

### Goalie:

Senior goalie **Dan Frank** returns to the cage this season as the clear number one goalie. Last season, Frank alternated playing time, playing in nine games with six starts, and posted a 9.09 GAA and a .536 save percentage. Frank recorded a career-high 75 saves in 2005, and looks to excel heading into the season knowing he's one of the veteran leaders on the team.

"Dan Frank had a tremendous fall season for us," said Bartlett. "He has really stepped up his intensity, and looks ready to be one of the leaders on this team. He has waited his turn, and now is seizing the opportunity to take this team to the next level."

Backing up Frank will be three talented freshman recruits: **Josh Blechman**, **John Collier** and **Ian Williams**. All three join the squad after stellar senior campaigns at their respective high schools, and look to battle for the number two goalie position this season.

"All three guys are really battling hard for the backup goalie position," added Bartlett. "Regardless, they all have great careers ahead of them in the years to come at VMI."

### Faceoff:

The Keydets boasted the second best faceoff percentage in the MAAC last season, winning an impressive 189 of 332 tries for .569%. Although the loss of Vinny Pierotti, the nation's 9th ranked faceoff man in 2005, is tough to swallow, the Keydets have another solid faceoff man in **Tony Cavalero**, a player they have been able to count on for four years. Cavalero, a senior, is one of VMI's four captains this season, and has played



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in every game in his stellar three-year career in a Keydet uniform. Last season in faceoff attempts, Cavalero won 97 of 117 tries for .548%.

### Midfield:

The Keydet first line of middies is a very talented group, led by potential All-Conference selection **David Trimble**. Trimble is an all-around top player, and continues to get better as his role increases. Last season, Trimble scored 11 goals and dished out 12 assists, and also added a game-winning goal and five man-up scores.

**Cavalero** is also on the first line, and is a constant worker and a physical presence in the middle of the field. He ranked fifth on the team last season in goals with 12, and added three assists for 15 points. Cavalero also ranks 15th all-time in school history with 149 groundballs.

The final starter in the midfield is junior **Steve Long**. Long has patiently waited his turn to be in the starting rotation, and after a great fall season will get his chance. Long has been a solid player for the Keydets in his two seasons, playing in 19 games and registering 5 goals.

"We are very excited with this line," said Bartlett. "It will be tough to figure out who will be covered by the LSM, but it doesn't matter. These guys can excel in any role."

The second line of middies is a unit that can come in and you won't see too much of a drop off. Senior **Joe Picariello** comes back after a season ending injury in 2005, and boasts one of the hardest shots in the league. Picariello is also one of the captains on this year's team, and has been a vocal leader ever since he came to VMI. **David Jacobs** and **Matt Harrison** complete the second line for the Keydets, and are two exceptional athletes and good playmakers.

**Clay Tharrington** also returns to the Keydet lineup this season after an injury kept him off the field last year, and along with **Regan** and **Greg Schwartz**, provide the Keydets with an excellent third line in the midfield. Reagan has made a big impression on the coaching staff with tremendous play in the fall season and practice, and they feel the sophomore should also get some quality time in at defensive middle.

### Attack:

This is an extremely talented combination up front for the Keydets this season, led by two seniors and a sophomore. Senior **Robert Trimble** is coming off one of the better seasons in school history, as he netted 19 goals and registered a team-high 21 assists, moving him into ninth all-time in that category at VMI. Trimble has quick feet and phenomenal moves with the ball, and coaches are expecting big things from him this season.

Fellow senior **Will Collier** is the perfect compliment for Trimble, providing a solid inside game for the Keydet attack. Collier is strong with the

ball and a tremendous force inside and around the net. Last season, Collier finished second on the team with 24 goals, and slid into 16th place on the all-time goal list at VMI with 51.

Rounding out the starting rotation on the front line is last season's co-freshman of the year **Kevin Hill**. Hill moves up to his natural position, after spending last season in the midfield. Hill had a breakout season in his freshman campaign, recording 11 goals and 17 assists last year, and also netted two game-winning goals. Hill is a very smart and athletic player, and completes one of the best front lines in the league.

Three freshman will provide some depth at the position, including **Brandon Rabon**, **Pat Barnes**, and **MacKenzie Mallet**. All three had solid fall seasons and should see some playing time this year in the second line.

"We have several extremely talented players up front this year," said Bartlett. "They have all proven themselves, and we are counting on them for a big season to help lead us this year."

### The Schedule:

The Keydets will play a very demanding 13-game schedule this season, one that features four opponents nationally ranked in the 2005 Face-Off Yearbook and Inside Lacrosse Division I Preseason polls.

The Keydets will play just six games at home this season at Patchin Field, with visits from Hartford, Robert Morris, Canisius, Marist, St. Joseph's and Wagner. VMI has a tough road schedule this season playing three nationally ranked opponents, including opening up their road games against 3rd-ranked Virginia, coming off of their 2005 Final Four appearance. Following the Virginia game, the Keydets travel to Louisville, Ky. to face a very competitive Bellarmine program. The Keydets face other ranked opponents when they travel to Providence and Manhattan, while Siena, Mount St. Mary's and local foe Washington & Lee round out the road schedule. The Washington & Lee game marks the 19th Annual Lee-Jackson Classic.

### Final Thought:

It's been a long time since head coach Doug Bartlett and staff had had such a deep and experienced team heading into a season. Six starting spots will be occupied by Keydet seniors, with the other four filled by three juniors and one sophomore. The offense returns as the highest scoring unit in the league, the midfield rotation is as deep as it's ever been, while the defense is loaded with size and speed and is capped off with a veteran goalkeeper. Bartlett expects big things from this year's team, but also knows that it's up to the veterans to step up and lead take the program to the next level. They've come so close in years past, and it's now time for the team to go out and win it.



## Roster Information

### Numerical Roster:

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous School
1	John Collier	G	5-10	175	Fr.	Centreville, Va./Woodberry Forest
2	Steve Long	M	6-1	190	Jr.	Drexel Hill, Pa./Cardinal O'Hara
3	Dan Frank	G	6-1	190	Sr.	Bel Air, Md./C. Milton Wright
4	David Jacobs	M	5-10	175	So.	Plainview, N.Y./Plainview JFK
5	Kevin Hill	A	6-0	170	So.	Rockville Centre, N.Y./South Side
6	Andy Milford	M	5-8	165	Jr.	Germantown, Md./Seneca Valley
7	Andrew Calvo	D	6-0	170	So.	Rockville Centre, N.Y./South Side
8	MacKenzie Mallet	A	5-7	152	Fr.	New Brunswick, Canada/Leo Hayes HS
9	Alex Litz	D	6-2	215	Jr.	Centerville, Va./Westfield
10	Joe Picariello	M	6-0	200	Sr.	Sandwich, Mass./Sandwich
12	Ian Williams	G	5-7	172	Fr.	Watertown, N.Y./Immaculate Heart
13	Jason Hubble	A	6-3	180	So.	Wescoville, Pa./Emmaus
14	Pat Barnes	A	5-8	165	Fr.	Westminster, Md./Westminster HS
15	Tony Cavalero	M	5-10	180	Sr.	Annandale, Va./Annandale
16	Brandon Rabon	A	5-6	175	Fr.	Wilmington, N.C./New Hanover HS
17	Josh Blechman	G	5-8	140	Fr.	Setauket, N.Y./Ward Mellville
18	Matt Harrison	M	6-0	190	So.	Great Mills, Md./St. Mary's Ryken
19	Alex Friedland	M	6-1	170	Fr.	Maplewood N.J./Columbia High School
20	Brett Whatsitt	D	5-11	185	So.	McLean, Va./Langley
21	Robert Trimble	A	5-11	170	Sr.	Oak Hill, Va./Oakton
22	David Trimble	M	5-11	175	Sr.	Oak Hill, Va./Oakton
23	John Regan, Jr.	M	5-11	180	So.	Mt. Airy, Md./Glengel
24	Brian Peeler	M	5-10	160	So.	Springfield, Va./Robert E. Lee
25	Jason LaCerde	D	5-7	150	Jr.	Mahopac, N.Y./Mahopac
26	Eric Harley	M	6-2	170	Jr.	Alexandria, Va./Thomas Edison
27	Will Collier	A	6-0	205	Sr.	Centreville, Va./Woodberry Forest
28	Will Carlton	D	5-11	180	Fr.	Winston-Salem, N.C./RJ Reynolds HS
29	Ryan Benson	D	6-2	210	Jr.	Centreville, Va./Centreville
30	Charles Barnes	LSM	5-11	197	Jr.	Newton Square, Pa./Marple Newtown
31	Curtis Jaques	D	6-3	195	Jr.	Flemington, N.J./Hunterdon Central
33	Kip Joerdens	D	6-0	184	Fr.	Ellicott City Md./Centennial High School
34	Lee Cook, III	D	6-3	200	Sr.	Centreville, Md./St. Mary's
35	Patrick Zanelotti	D	6-1	200	So.	Chantilly, Va./Paul VI
36	Rob DiDomencio	M	5-7	160	Jr.	Clark, N.J./Chatham
37	Remington Adams	M	5-9	165	Fr.	Barrington, N.H./Dover HS
38	Matt Turner	LSM	5-10	170	So.	Franklin, Tenn./Centennial
39	Matt Hill	M	5-7	160	Sr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn./Webb School
40	Patrick Maloney	G	5-9	180	So.	Silver Spring Md./James Hubert Blake HS
41	Clay Tharrington	LSM	5-10	180	Sr.	Ashland, Va./The Steward School
43	Riley Wirth	M	5-10	180	Fr.	Chesapeake, Va./Bishop Sullivan Catholic
44	Greg Schwartz	M	6-0	190	Jr.	Fredricksburg, Va./Woodberry Forest
45	Robert Hawley, Jr.	D	5-10	165	So.	Fulton, N.Y./G.Ray Bodley/Cayuga CC
48	Chris DarConte	D	6-3	190	So.	Merrick, N.Y./Holy Trinity

**Head Coach:** ..... Doug Bartlett, 21st Season (SUNY Geneseo '70)

**Associate Head Coach:** ..... Mic Grant, 9th Season (Hampden-Sydney '92)

**Assistant Coach:** ..... Nat St. Laurent, 2nd Season (Keuka '04)

### Alphabetical Roster:

37	Remington	Adams	M
30	Charles	Barnes	LSM
14	Pat	Barnes	A
29	Ryan	Benson	D
17	Josh	Blechman	G
7	Andrew	Calvo	D
28	Will	Carlton	D
15	Tony	Cavalero	M
1	John	Collier	G
27	Will	Collier	A
34	Lee	Cook	D
48	Chris	DarConte	D
36	Rob	DiDomencio	M
3	Dan	Frank	G
19	Alex	Friedland	M
26	Eric	Harley	M
18	Matt	Harrison	M
45	Robert	Hawley, Jr.	D
5	Kevin	Hill	A
39	Matt	Hill	M
13	Jason	Hubble	A
4	David	Jacobs	M
31	Curtis	Jaques	D
33	Kip	Joerdens	D
25	Jason	LaCerde	D
9	Alex	Litz	D
2	Steve	Long	M
8	MacKenzie	Mallet	A
40	Patrick	Maloney	G
6	Andy	Milford	M
24	Brian	Peeler	M
10	Joe	Picariello	M
16	Brandon	Rabon	A
23	John	Regan, Jr.	M
44	Greg	Schwartz	M
41	Clay	Tharrington	LSM
22	David	Trimble	M
21	Robert	Trimble	A
38	Matt	Turner	LSM
20	Brett	Whatsitt	D
12	Ian	Williams	G
43	Riley	Wirth	M
35	Patrick	Zanelotti	D

### By Position:

#### Goalie - 5

*Blechman, J.Collier, Frank, Maloney, Williams*

#### Defender - 12

*Benson, Calvo, Carlton, Cook, III, DarConte, Hawley, Jr., Jaques, Joerdens, LaCerde, Litz, Whatsitt, Zanelotti*

#### LSM - 3

*C.Barnes, Tharrington, Turner*

#### Attack - 6

*P.Barnes, W.Collier, K.Hill, Mallett, Rabon, R.Trimble*

#### Middies - 17

*Adams, Cavalero, DiDomencia, Friedland, Harley, Harrison, M. Hill, Hubble, Jacobs, Long, Milford, Peeler, Picariello, Regan, Schwartz, D.Trimble, Wirth*

### Keydets By State:

Virginia (14), New York (3), Maryland (8), New Jersey (3), Pennsylvania (3), Tennessee (2), North Carolina (2), Mass. (1), New Hampshire (1), Canada (1)

### By Class (Rank):

Freshman (Rats) - **12**  
 Sophomore (3rd Classman) - **12**  
 Juniors (2nd Classman) - **10**  
 Seniors (1st Classman) - **9**

### Pronunciation Guide:

■ Mallet - (*Mail - Let*)  
 ■ Picariello - (*Pik - Uh - Rello*)  
 ■ Blechman - (*Bleck - Man*)  
 ■ DiDomencia - (*Dee - Doh - Men - Cia*)  
 ■ LaCerde - (*La - Sir - Da*)  
 ■ Friedland - (*Freed - Land*)  
 ■ DarConte - (*Dar - Cont - Ay*)  
 ■ Jaques - (*Jacks*)