

KEYDET BASEBALL POINTS OF PRIDE

- Ψ With a 34-21 record last season, the Keydets broke the school record for wins for the third straight season
- Ψ In March 2007, the Keydets earned their first-ever national ranking, as Collegiate Baseball tabbed the Keydets 30th for back-to-back weeks
- Ψ During a three-week span in early 2007, the Keydets knocked off #3 Virginia and #10 Auburn, the program's first-ever wins over top ten opponents
- Ψ VMI opened Gray-Minor Stadium last season, going 23-7 at one of the region's finest collegiate baseball facilities
- Ψ The Keydets opened their 2007 season by winning a series at an SEC opponent for the second straight year
- Ψ VMI has had multiple players selected in the Major League Baseball Draft three times over the past five seasons
- Ψ Six different Keydets have been named All-Conference over the past three years



Table of Contents, Credits



The 2007-08 VMI Baseball Media Guide is published by the VMI Sports Information Office. The publication has been prepared to assist the media in covering VMI Baseball during the 2008 season. Fans and friends of VMI may purchase copies of the guide from the VMI Sports Information Office at the cost of \$5.

For additional information, the media may contact the Sports Information Office, 116 Smith Hall, Lexington, VA 24450. The office may also be reached via telephone at (540) 464-7253, or via fax at (540) 464-7583.

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2008 Keydet Baseball

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GENERAL

Name of SchoolVirginia Military Institute (VMI)
 City/ZipLexington, Va. 24450
 Founded1839
 Enrollment1,300
 Nickname/MascotKeydets/Moe (Kangaroo)
 School ColorsRed, Yellow & White
 Home FieldGray-Minor Stadium
 AffiliationNCAA Division I
 ConferenceBig South
 SuperintendentGen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62
 Athletic DirectorDonny White '65
 Athletic Department Phone540-464-7251
 Ticket Department Phone540-464-7266

COACHING STAFF

Head CoachMarlin Ikenberry (VMI '95)
 Record at VMI114-106 (Fifth Season)
 Overall Record114-106 (Fifth Season)
 Office Phone540-464-7609
 Office Fax540-464-7790
 Assistant CoachesRyan Mau (Coll. of Charleston '00)
Barry Shelton (West Virginia State '97)
 Volunteer AssistantReggie Reynolds (Liberty '98)
 Athletic TrainerJuliet Huang (Alabama '07)
 Strength & ConditioningJimmy Whitten (Virginia Tech '90)

STADIUM INFORMATION

Home FieldGray-Minor Stadium
 Capacity1,400
 Field DimensionsLF-330, CF-395; RF-335
 AlleysLC-365, RC-385
 SurfaceNatural Grass

TEAM INFORMATION

2006-07 Overall Record34-21 (10-11 Big South)
 Home23-7 (5-4 Big South)
 Away11-12 (5-7 Big South)
 Neutral0-2
 PostseasonBig South Tournament
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost15/9
 Position Starters Returning/Lost7/4
 Pitchers Returning/Lost7/4
 Newcomers15

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The All-New VMIKeydets.com Coming This Spring



For the most complete and up-to-date information on VMI Athletics, visit the newly revamped VMIKeydets.com!
 With the launch of the new website this spring, hosted by JumpTV, fans will be able to follow along with all of their favorite teams using several new features, including 'RooTube, which will give fans access to live and on-demand video of VMI in action.
 In addition to new live stats and audiostreaming features, fans will be able to bid on auction items, buy photos, sign up for email alerts and purchase ringtones and wallpapers, while still having access to all of the up-to-the-minute news on VMI's 16 varsity sports.

This Is Keydet Baseball



This Is

Keydet Baseball



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Building for success



The first thing that pops into people's minds when they think of Virginia Military Institute may be that former San Diego Chargers head coach Bobby Ross or actors Dabney Coleman and Fred Willard graduated from there. Some may just think they are a military institute. What does not immediately

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Making Keydet History



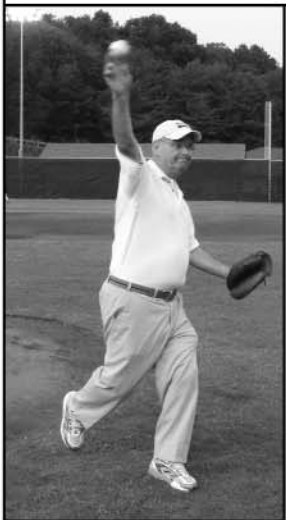
VMI Athletics

1 2 >

When you think of baseball powerhouses, Virginia Military Institute wouldn't be the first name that comes to mind. But a lot has changed in the four seasons that coach Marlin Ikenberry has been in Lexington. Ikenberry became the fastest coach in school history to reach 50 wins, and the Keydets haven't stopped there with wins over Virginia and Old Dominion, writes CSTV.com's Doug Kroll.



This Is Keydet Baseball



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA											5:08	
AT BAT	BALL	STRIKE	OUT	H/E								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	RUNS	HITS	ERR
UW	0	22	0	20	0	0	1			7	10	0
FLORIDA	0	10	12	0	0	0	0			4	9	3

McKETHAN STADIUM - PERRY FIELD

SEC





Gray-Minor Stadium The Home of VMI Baseball

Patchin Field Year-By-Year Records (Present Location)

1988..... 8-5	1998..... 9-15
1989..... 10-6	1999..... 14-10
1990..... 7-8	2000..... 8-15
1991..... 1-14-1	2001..... 8-15
1992..... 6-15	2002..... 8-17
1993..... 15-13	2003..... 15-5
1994..... 15-6	2004..... 18-12
1995..... 11-12	2005..... 19-8
1996..... 12-9	2006..... 24-8
1997..... 8-17	2007..... 23-7

About Gray-Minor Stadium/ Patchin Field

Dedicated.....	April 5, 1988
Surface.....	Natural Grass
Capacity.....	1,400
Chair-Back Seats.....	726
Dimensions	
Left Field.....	330 ft.
Left-Center.....	365 ft.
Center Field.....	395 ft.
Right-Center.....	385 ft.
Right Field.....	335 ft.
Fence Height.....	15 ft.

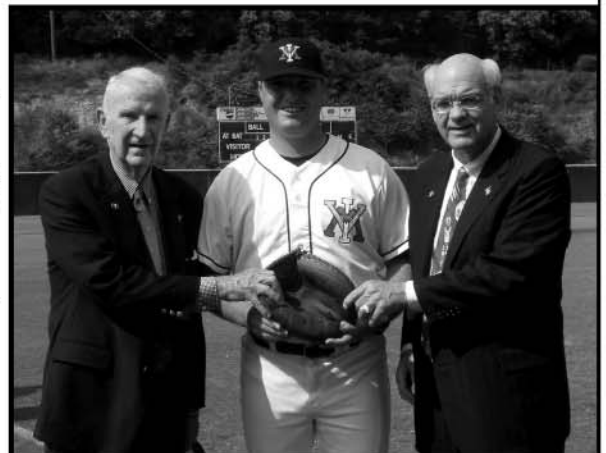
With the opening of Gray-Minor Stadium in February 2007, VMI Baseball enjoys one of the best collegiate baseball facilities in the Southeast. With seating for over 1,400 fans, covered batting cages, a state-of-the-art scoreboard with videoboard and a first-class press box, Gray-Minor Stadium lives up to the legacies of two of the most successful VMI Baseball alums to ever wear the Red, Yellow and White.

Gray-Minor Stadium, named after Senator Elmon T. Gray '46 and Gil Minor '63, became the home of the VMI Baseball program last season, and the Keydets did their best to celebrate the new era, going 23-7 at home with several historic wins, including a 5-2 win over #3 Virginia.

In addition to features like 700 chair-back seats, rebuilt dugouts, professional scout and handicapped seating behind home plate, a concessions stand and large restrooms, Gray-Minor Stadium also gives the Keydets an opportunity to host the program's first night games. Once again, VMI made the most of this new feature, going 7-2 in 2007 under the Lexington lights.

The construction of the stadium came just five years after a complete renovation of the playing surface itself, as both the infield and outfield surfaces were revamped. Also as a part of the Gray-Minor construction, the field received yet another upgrade, as new fencing was installed, raising the fence height to 15 feet around the entire outfield.

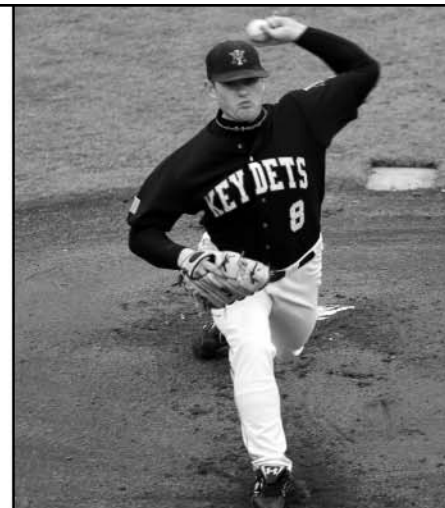
Gray-Minor Stadium completes an upgrade of the program's facilities that began in August of 2003, when construction on Paulette Hall, formerly the Patchin Field Locker Room Complex commenced. The project entailed the expansion of the existing locker rooms along with the addition of one locker room for visiting teams and a trainers room. Along with the improvements and additional square footage, the locker rooms were fitted with audio and visual equipment. The funding for the project, estimated at \$1.1 million, was donated by Bill Paulette '69, Minor '63, Senator Gray '46, and the Keydet Club. Paulette Hall was constructed by Paulette's general contracting company, KBS, and was dedicated along with Gray-Minor Stadium on Mar. 27, 2007.



A trio of former VMI catchers, as Senator Elmon Gray '46 (left) and Gil Minor '63 (right) pose with VMI head coach Marlin Ikenberry '95.



Bill Paulette '69 throws the ceremonial first pitch to Gil Minor '63 behind the plate as Senator Elmon Gray '46 bats at the Dedication Game for Gray-Minor Stadium on March 27, 2007. The Keydets defeat VCU 5-3 in front of 1,046 fans.



Trey Barham delivers the first pitch ever thrown at Gray-Minor Stadium, as the Keydets take down Bucknell 10-2 on Feb. 20, 2007

Gray-Minor Stadium Firsts

Game:VMI vs. Bucknell, 2/20/07
Game Result: VMI 10, Bucknell 2
Pitch:Trey Barham (VMI) , 2/20/07
 at 3:07 p.m. (Ball High)
Batter: Dane Grandizio (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Strikeout:..... Austin Turban (Bucknell) , 2/20/07
by Trey Barham (VMI)
Baserunner:... Robert Crumpler (VMI), HBP, 2/20/07
Hit:..... A.J. Yoder (VMI), 2/20/07
Single: Jason Buursma (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Double: A.J. Yoder (VMI), 2B, 2/20/07
Triple: Adam Tussey (Rider), 3/3/07
Home Run:Thane Smith (VMI) , 3/20/07
Walk:Chris Pieper (Bucknell), 2/20/07
by Trey Barham (VMI)
Stolen Base:..... Brian Sandridge (VMI), 2/20/07
Run Scored: Jason Buursma (Bucknell), 2/20/07
RB:Dustin Kapson (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Error:.....Dustin Kapson (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Shutout: ...VMI 21, Maryland-East. Shore 0, 3/10/07
Weekend Sweep:.....VMI against Rider, 3/2-4/07
VMI Win over Ranked Opponent:
VMI 5, #3 Virginia 2, 4/3/07
Big South Game Result:
VMI 6, High Point 3, 4/6/07
Big South Series Result:
VMI 2 of 3 games vs. High Point, 4/6-7/07



Members of the corps take in one of nine night games the Keydets played at Gray-Minor Stadium in 2007.



A packed Gray-Minor Stadium crowd cheers on the Keydets as they defeat #3 Virginia 5-2, the highest-ranked opponent that VMI had ever defeated on the diamond.



An afternoon at Gray-Minor Stadium.



The facility's covered and lighted batting cages lie just beyond the rightfield wall.

Coaching Alums

Did you know that VMI boasts four alums as current Division I head baseball coaches? In fact, the 1993 team included each of the four, as Chris Finwood '88 served as the head coach, Tom Slater '90 served as an assistant, and both Chris Chernisky '93 & Marlin Ikenberry '95 played on the team.

Chris Finwood '88



Chris Finwood '88 is currently in his third season at the helm of the Western Kentucky baseball program. A 2003 inductee into the VMI Sports Hall of Fame, Finwood was voted All-Southern Conference three times in his standout career, while his .399 batting average in 1988 is still the fifth-best mark in school history. As the Keydets' head coach from 1992-94, Finwood won 52 games while his eighth-seeded 1993 team advanced to the SoCon Tournament Finals before falling to second-seeded Western Carolina (shown above with trophy). He also recruited Marlin Ikenberry prior to the 1991 season.

Tom Slater '90



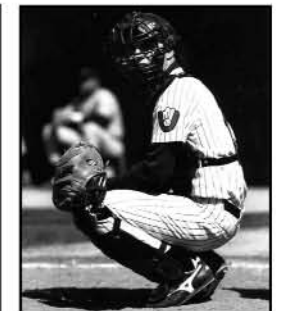
Tom Slater '90 enters his fourth season as the head coach at Auburn, where he has compiled an 87-85 record. In his first season on the Plains, Slater's team went 34-26 and advanced to the Finals of the Tallahassee Regional, where they fell to #10 Florida State. As VMI's head coach from 2001-03 (shown above), Slater won 50 games and led the team to a 16-14 mark in the Southern Conference in 2003, earning him Coach of the Year honors by posting the program's first winning season in the League in 14 seasons.

Chris Chernisky '93



Chris Chernisky '93 took over the head coaching duties at Niagara prior to the 2004-05 season. Since that time, Chernisky has led the Purple Eagles to a pair of postseason appearances. In his first season at NU, Chernisky led the fourth-seeded Purple Eagles to the Finals of the MAAC Tournament before falling 5-4 to top-seeded Marist. Previously, Chernisky served as an assistant at Appalachian State for four seasons after a five-year stint at VMI as an assistant under former Keydet skipper Scott Gines.

Marlin Ikenberry '95



Marlin Ikenberry '95 enters his fifth season as head coach of the Keydets with an 114-106 overall mark, as he now has the most wins of any coach in VMI history. Overall, Ikenberry has been a part of five of the last six teams to establish a new wins record at VMI, doing so as a player (1994-shown above), assistant coach (2003), and three times as a head coach (2005, 2006, 2007). Last year's 34-21 team also earned the program's first-ever national ranking, while beating a pair of top-ten opponents.

Opposing Stadiums

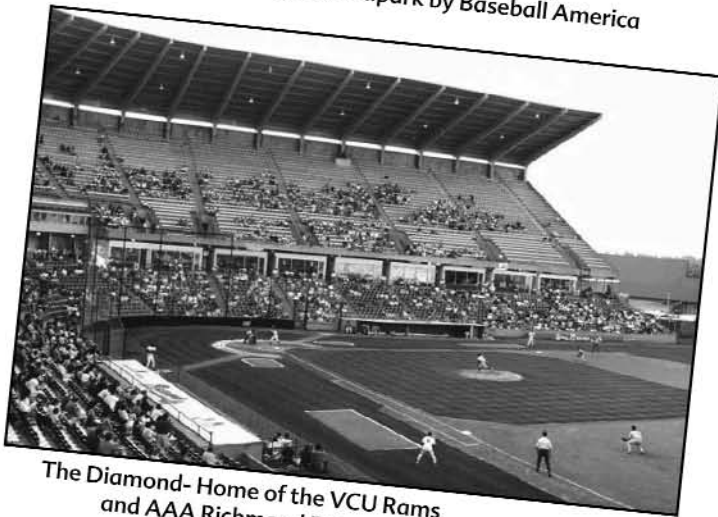
Over the past three seasons, the Keydets have traveled to several of the top collegiate baseball facilities in the nation, including Auburn University's Plainsman Park, voted the nation's No. 1 college baseball facility by Baseball America, and Florida State University's Dick Howser Stadium, home to nine consecutive NCAA Regionals. This season, the team will once again visit Plainsman Park, while making its annual trip to The Diamond, home of the VCU Rams and the AAA Richmond Braves. Next season, the Keydets are slated to play the opening series at North Carolina's new Boshamer Stadium.



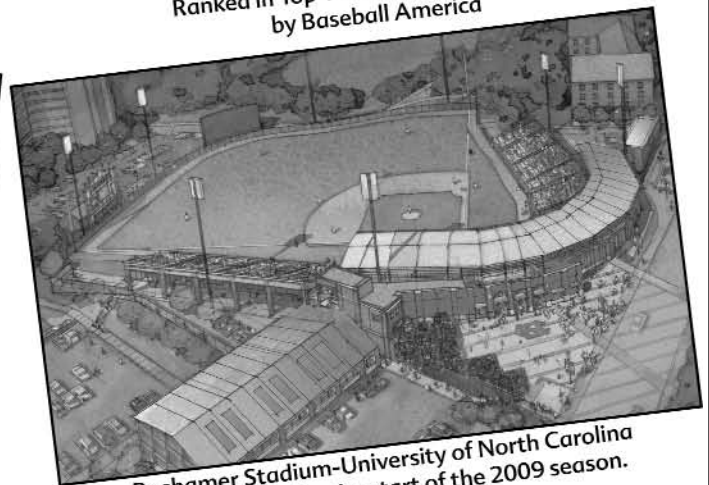
Plainsman Park-Auburn University
Ranked #1 Collegiate Ballpark by Baseball America



McKethan Stadium-University of Florida
Ranked in Top Ten Collegiate Ballparks
by Baseball America



The Diamond- Home of the VCU Rams
and AAA Richmond Braves



Boshamer Stadium-University of North Carolina
Slated to open for the start of the 2009 season.

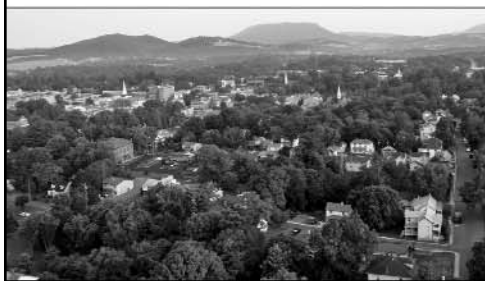


Dick Howser Stadium-Florida State University
Home of Nine Consecutive NCAA Regionals

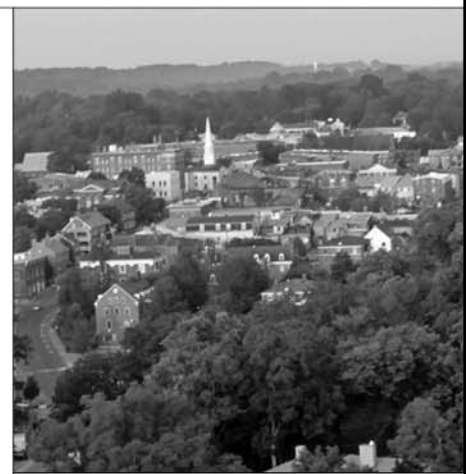
Lexington, Virginia & Rockbridge County



LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA



Rockbridge County and Lexington are located in the Shenandoah Valley in west central Virginia, approximately 45 miles north of Roanoke, 140 miles west of Richmond, and 190 miles southwest of Washington D.C. and is home to many state and national historic landmarks and today serves as the retail, service, governmental, and educational center for the area. It has served as home to the renowned military strategists Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee, along with inventor Cyrus McCormick and pioneer Sam Houston.

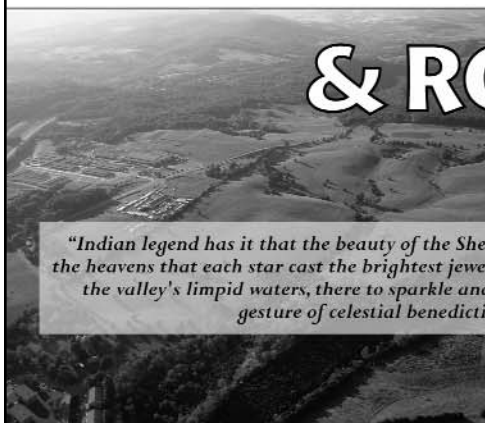


Rockbridge County is the home of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Natural Bridge, the Virginia Horse Center, Washington & Lee University, VMI and many more scenic, historic sites. The area offers many cultural, historical, recreational and shopping experiences for the most discriminating visitor, and the vibrant downtown area beckons you to visit our unique shops, galleries and restaurants.

There is an abundance of cultural and recreational opportunities available in Lexington including the Lee Chapel, Stonewall Jackson's home and the George C. Marshall Research Foundation. Lexington is also increasingly becoming known as a desirable retirement location, both for its historical significance, natural beauty, and exceptional quality of life.



& ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY



"Indian legend has it that the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley so awed the heavens that each star cast the brightest jewel from its own crown into the valley's limpid waters, there to sparkle and shine ever after in a gesture of celestial benediction."

