



***Meet The
Keydets***

To say that there is a buzz around the VMI Baseball program would be an understatement. After posting the program's first winning season in 41 years, while also breaking the school record for wins in a season for the third time in four years, the Keydets enter the 2007 campaign looking to continue the upward trend the program has seen of late.

The 2006 season saw the team post 30 wins for the first time in school history, while also scoring some historic triumphs. The team kicked off the season in style, by scoring its first-ever series win against an SEC opponent by taking two of three at Auburn last February. Then to close out the season, the Keydets won their final two games while hosting #16 Winthrop, marking the first series win against a ranked opponent in program history.

And as the product on the field has undoubtedly improved over the recent years, the facilities off the field have been dynamically upgraded this offseason. Gray-Minor Stadium will allow fans to enjoy VMI baseball from the comfort of a state-of-the-art facility, as the 1,400-seat stadium will boast new dugouts, fencing and covered batting cages, a restrooms and concessions plaza, a new press box, as well as the ability to host the program's first night games, scheduled for April. The schedule calls for the first game to be played there on Feb. 16, when Bucknell comes to town for a three-game tilt with the Keydets.

It will be a talented and hungry VMI team that will look to ring in the stadium's inaugural season, as 14 letterwinners return and will be joined by another outstanding freshman class. A six-man senior class will lead the way, as they look to become the third-straight graduating class to leave as the winningest bunch in VMI history.



Trey Barham

innings and seven wins all rank among the top single-season performances by a Keydet hurler. A left-hander that saw time in the Cape Cod League this summer, Barham will be expected to again contend for All-Conference honors, as earned Second-Team accolades a year ago.

Bowman and Smink give head coach Marlin Ikenberry a righty-lefty combination that he can enjoy in the starting rotation for the next three seasons. Bowman went 4-2 in seven starts a year ago, while Smink garnered Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American recognition after going 7-4 with two saves in 73.2 innings last season. This season, Smink will be expected to focus more on a starting role after making ten starts and 11 relief appearances last season.

"I was very impressed with Trey, Michael and Travis this fall," said Ikenberry. "I feel like we can compete against anybody with those three guys leading the way."

Other options for the Keydets in their starting rotation will include sophomores John Phelps, who pitched brilliantly at times last season, and Kevin Crum, who was utilized primarily in a relief role a year ago, and freshman Chris Duty, who led Monacan HS to a Virginia AAA State Championship last season.

Starting Pitching

The Keydets return 10 pitchers from last year's staff that posted the second-lowest ERA in team history. Leading the charge are three weekend starters that combined for 33 of the team's 55 starts a year ago. That trio includes junior Trey Barham, and sophomores Michael Bowman and Travis Smink, who also combined for 18 of the team's 30 wins.

Barham enjoyed one of the finest mound campaigns in school history as a sophomore, as his 98 strikeouts, 94.1

"We're very excited about our options in the starting rotation," said Ikenberry. "We feel like we have a lot of different looks to throw at teams, and that's a great luxury to have. John Phelps has shown tremendous progress and looks like he could help us as a long reliever, a weekday starter, and even a weekend starter when we need it. Kevin Crum is a strong, three-pitch guy that is not going to back down at game time, and Chris Duty was by far our most impressive freshman this fall. He is very resilient and will log many innings as a freshman."

Relief Pitching

The relief corps returns each of its top options from last season, as the expectation is to continue the development of roles that was so successful in the latter half of the 2006 campaign.

Seniors Ian Casher, Corey Bachman and Jacoby Fields will once again provide the foundation for the team's late innings options. Late last season, freshman Chris Henderson found a home at the back end of the game, and will most likely begin the season as the squad's top option as a closer.



Chris Henderson

"Corey and Ian give us two guys with experience that I see as our main setup options," said Ikenberry. "Of course, Jacoby has proven what he can do at the back end, picking up four saves last year. But Chris is who we'll be looking at to close for us. He has a live arm, he makes plus pitches, and late in the game, we feel like he's the best guy we have to get 3-6 outs to finish a ballgame."

Another strong recruiting class has bolstered pitching coach Ryan Mau's options among relievers, as Josh McPherson and Jason Tate, along with Chris Duty, will join senior John Goode, Daniel Wood and possibly Matt Edwards to give Mau a number of different looks late in games.

"John Goode showed a lot of progress this fall in coming back from his surgery last season," said Ikenberry. "Duty, Phelps and Crum all might see some long innings when the situation calls for it, but we're excited to get Josh McPherson, Daniel Wood and Jason Tate some innings too. Wood and Tate will be our left-on-left specialists, and McPherson had a solid fall in showing he can pitch at this level. The loss of Matt Edwards (elbow surgery this summer) was disappointing, but he has shown great progress since the procedure. He looks really good throwing the baseball and had a fantastic summer before the surgery. We'd love to get him back sometime around April, but we won't push it."

Catching

Sophomore Michael Roberts returns as the top option behind the plate after starting 44 contests in his first collegiate campaign. A dangerous weapon both offensively and defensively, Roberts will be slated to see major innings this season. But he will be pushed for playing time by a group of freshmen in Ryan Litz, Robert Lamas and Jay Lichter.



Michael Roberts

"Mike proved to be the leading candidate out of the fall, with Litz, Lamas and Lichter being a close 2nd option," said Ikenberry. "I feel very confident in the depth of our catching staff this year. Mike has proven he can shut down the running game and does a great job handling our pitching staff. Litz brings power to the lineup from the right-hand side and does a very nice job of receiving and blocking. Lamas gives us more of a defensive presence, and is very aggressive and has a great capability of throwing out runners. Lichter has shown potential, and gives us yet another option behind the plate."

Infield

The team returns three of its four everyday starters in the infield from last year's squad, and have a fourth returnee who made 40 starts as well. Seniors Robert Crumpler (first base) and Chad Rice (shortstop) will team with junior Shane Geisslinger (second base) to form an experienced and talented trio in the infield, while sophomore A.J. Yoder is expected to take over the third base chores this season.

In Crumpler, the Keydets boast one of the top all-around hitters in the Big South Conference. In addition to driving in 84 runs and hitting .320 over the past two seasons, Crumpler has also hit 25 doubles and 16 home runs while manning first base in all but five contests. Meanwhile, Crumpler also enters the season with the highest career fielding percentage in VMI history, as he made only four errors in 495 chances a year ago.

Rice enjoyed a dramatic improvement at the plate last season after moving to the top of the lineup early on. Rice hit .294 and scored 56 runs in 53 games, starting all but the final two contests of the season after suffering a foot injury on the season's final weekend. He once again will provide solid defense and a steady bat atop the lineup and is expected to be the team's everyday shortstop.



A.J. Yoder

Along with providing fine defense, Geisslinger returns for his third season starting at second base as the team's top threat on the basepaths. Geisslinger was successful in 17 of his 21 attempts a year ago, including a 5-for-5 performance against Richmond on April 12. Though he struggled at the plate last season, Geisslinger didn't let that affect his defense, where he again posted a fielding percentage above .970. Getting more offensive production from Geisslinger would be a boon for this year's squad.

A year after splitting 40 starts at four different positions, Yoder is expected to find a home at the hot corner in 2007. A high school shortstop, Yoder made starts at shortstop, third base, second base and designated hitter last season, as his bat was too valuable to leave on the bench. As a freshman, Yoder hit .282 with 21 RBI, but that production only tells part of the story, as he also ranked as the eighth toughest player to strike out in the entire country, a startling accomplishment for a freshman playing four positions.

"We're very excited about our situation in the infield," said Ikenberry. "We have Crumpler locking down first base, Chad playing every day at shortstop and Shane, as long as he's healthy, proving he can be our everyday second baseman. A.J. showed he can play three different infield positions and evolved into a great on-base guy for us, and has gotten bigger and stronger in the offseason."

But as excited as the coaching staff is to return so much talent and experience in the infield, maybe more exciting is the addition to significant depth which the team did not have last season. Freshman options include Adam Carpenter and Justin Hess in the middle infield and Jordan Ballard and Tanner Biagini at the cor-

ner infield positions.

"I was very impressed with our freshman class of infielders this fall," said Ikenberry. "These guys all showed that they can step up and deliver if the situation presents itself. The focus for young players will be to concentrate on defense first, and they have shown that they can do that."

Outfield

Coming into the 2007 season, the team's biggest question mark will come in the outfield. Two outfield slots are open heading into the season, while senior Jacoby Fields will return for a fourth year starting in left field. A number of candidates will battle for time at centerfield and rightfield, and will probably see time at both positions throughout the season.



Jacoby Fields

Jacoby Fields enjoyed a breakout campaign at the plate last season, when he hit .327 and drove in 36 runs while starting all 55 contests. A fixture in the middle of the team's lineup during his career, Fields once again will be counted on to get on base and drive in runs in his final season on post, while again helping out as an option as a relief pitcher.

"Jacoby gives us a guy that can change the game every time he comes to the plate," said Ikenberry. "He is probably our biggest impact player. He can do a lot of things; he's the guy that you want at the plate with the game on the line. He has the experience that our young guys will look to at game time."

Three candidates have emerged to take over the right & centerfield job, and most likely all three will see time according to matchups. Junior Will Smith, sophomore Eddie Van Es and freshman David Lottman will contend for time, and will each bring something to the competitions. Smith has the most experience among the three, while Van Es' combination of speed and athleticism lends itself well to playing in center. Lottman brings the most speed to the competition, and could be utilized as a pinch-runner this season as well.

"With Will, Eddie and David, we like our options in centerfield," said Ikenberry. "We have a lot of depth and a lot of left-handed bats in the outfield. Will and Eddie have shown already they can contribute offensively, and David can add a weapon to our attack with his speed. We'll most likely have a revolving outfield depending on who we're facing from game-to-game."

Other options in the outfield include junior Thane Smith, who returns to the team after missing last season, redshirt freshman Brian Sandridge who enjoyed a fantastic summer season and freshmen T.J. Prioletti, Kyle Rucker, each of whom showed skills that could help the team this season in fall practice.

Designated Hitter

Junior Thane Smith returns after missing the 2006 season after taking a medical redshirt season, and will most likely be penciled in as the team's designated hitter. Two seasons ago, Smith hit .316 while stealing 14 bases and driving in 23 runs, and could be a dangerous weapon in the Keydet lineup this season.

Sophomore Thomas Hayden had an impressive fall campaign, showing the ability to make major adjustments over the fall and winter in preparation for the 2007 campaign. He could see time at DH while also providing depth at first base. Other possible options could come in Matt Edwards or any number of the previously discussed players providing depth at one of the other positions.

2007 Roster

| No. | Name | Pos. | B/T | HT | WT | CL | Hometown/Previous School |
|-----|-------------------|--------|-----|------|-----|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | David Lottman | OF | L/L | 5-9 | 160 | FR | Virginia Beach, Va./Kellam |
| 2 | Shane Geisslinger | INF | R/R | 5-8 | 160 | JR | Midlothian, Va./Clover Hill |
| 3 | TJ Prioletti | OF | L/R | 5-9 | 175 | FR | Fairfax, Va./Fairfax |
| 4 | Chad Rice | INF | R/R | 5-11 | 170 | SR | Grindstone, Pa./Brownsville |
| 5 | Robert Lamas | C | R/R | 5-10 | 170 | FR | Annandale, Va./Paul VI |
| 6 | Michael Roberts | C | R/R | 6-2 | 185 | SO | Prince George, Va./Prince George |
| 7 | Chris Henderson | RHP | R/R | 6-0 | 175 | SO | Fredericksburg, Va./Colonial Forge |
| 8 | Trey Barham | LHP | L/L | 6-0 | 215 | JR | Portsmouth, Va./Greenbrier Christian |
| 9 | Will Smith | OF | L/R | 6-0 | 190 | JR | Richmond, Va./Douglas Freeman |
| 10 | AJ Yoder | INF | L/R | 5-10 | 175 | SO | Belleville, Pa./Indian Valley |
| 11 | John Phelps | LHP | L/L | 6-0 | 210 | SO | Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek |
| 12 | Ian Casher | RHP | R/R | 5-11 | 175 | SR | Cresson, Pa./Penn Cambria |
| 13 | Daniel Wood | LHP | L/L | 6-3 | 180 | SO | Richmond, Va./Hermitage |
| 14 | Matt Edwards | RHP/DH | R/R | 5-11 | 180 | SO | Midlothian, Va./Midlothian |
| 16 | James Lichter | C | R/R | 5-10 | 170 | FR | Varina, Va./Varina |
| 17 | Michael Bowman | RHP | R/R | 6-3 | 195 | SO | Richmond, Va./Deep Run |
| 18 | Kyle Rucker | OF | R/R | 6-2 | 200 | FR | Louisa, Va./Louisa County |
| 20 | Thane Smith | OF | L/R | 6-1 | 190 | JR | Virginia Beach, Va./First Colonial |
| 21 | Jacoby Fields | OF/RHP | L/R | 6-1 | 190 | SR | Prince George, Va./Prince George |
| 22 | Chris Duty | RHP | R/R | 6-3 | 200 | FR | Richmond, Va./Monacan |
| 23 | Thomas Hayden | IB | R/R | 6-3 | 215 | SO | Bedford, Va./Staunton River |
| 24 | Tanner Biagini | INF | R/R | 6-2 | 200 | FR | Greenville, N.C./D.H. Conley |
| 25 | Ryan Litz | C | R/R | 6-0 | 195 | FR | Forest, Va./Jefferson Forest |
| 26 | Jordan Ballard | INF | R/R | 6-3 | 190 | FR | Troy, Va./Monticello |
| 27 | Josh McPherson | RHP | R/R | 6-4 | 195 | FR | Yorktown, Va./Tabb |
| 28 | Corey Bachman | RHP | R/R | 6-0 | 180 | SR | Dillsburg, Pa./Northern |
| 29 | John Goode, Jr | RHP | R/R | 6-3 | 205 | SR | Winchester, Va./James Wood |
| 30 | Adam Carpenter | INF | R/R | 6-1 | 175 | FR | Richmond, Va./Mills Godwin |
| 31 | Brian Sandridge | OF | R/R | 5-10 | 175 | SO | Raphine, Va./Rockbridge County |
| 32 | Eddie Van Es | IB/OF | L/L | 5-10 | 185 | SO | Hampton, Va./Kecoughtan |
| 33 | Kevin Crum | RHP | R/R | 6-2 | 180 | SO | Fairfax, Va./Bishop O'Connell |
| 34 | Justin Hess | INF | R/R | 5-11 | 165 | FR | Chesapeake, Va./Deep Creek |
| 35 | Travis Smink | LHP | L/L | 6-3 | 195 | SO | Dalmatia, Pa./Line Mountain |
| 36 | Robert Crumpler | IB | R/R | 6-3 | 220 | SR | Suffolk, Va./Nansemond-Suffolk |
| 40 | Jason Tate | LHP | L/L | 5-11 | 185 | FR | Herndon, Va./Herndon |
| 41 | Hunter Naff | OF | L/L | 6-0 | 170 | FR | Rocky Mount, Va./Franklin County |

Head Coach: #19 Marlin Ikenberry (VMI '95), Fourth season

Assistant Coaches:

#37 Ryan Mau (College of Charleston '00), Second season

#38 Barry Shelton (West Virginia State, '97), First season

#15 Matt McGuire (William & Mary '03), First season

Pronunciation Guide

Trey **BARHAM**- BARE-um

Tanner **BIAGINI**- be-ah-GEE-nee

JACOBY Fields- jah-CO-bee

Shane **GEISSLINGER**- GICE-ling-err

Marlin **IKENBERRY**- I-ken-berry

James **LICHTER**- LEASE-ter

Ryan **MAU**- MAO (As in Maui)

Alphabetical Roster

| | | |
|----|-------------------|---------|
| 28 | Corey Bachman | .RHP |
| 26 | Jordan Ballard | .INF |
| 8 | Trey Barham | .LHP |
| 24 | Tanner Biagini | .INF |
| 17 | Michael Bowman | .RHP |
| 30 | Adam Carpenter | .INF |
| 12 | Ian Casher | .RHP |
| 33 | Kevin Crum | .RHP |
| 36 | Robert Crumpler | .IB |
| 22 | Chris Duty | .RHP |
| 14 | Matt Edwards | .RHP/DH |
| 21 | Jacoby Fields | .OF/RHP |
| 2 | Shane Geisslinger | .INF |
| 29 | John Goode, Jr | .RHP |
| 23 | Thomas Hayden | .IB |
| 7 | Chris Henderson | .RHP |
| 34 | Justin Hess | .INF |
| 5 | Robert Lamas | .C |
| 16 | James Lichter | .C |
| 25 | Ryan Litz | .C |
| 1 | David Lottman | .OF |
| 27 | Josh McPherson | .RHP |
| 41 | Hunter Naff | .OF |
| 11 | John Phelps | .LHP |
| 3 | TJ Prioletti | .OF |
| 4 | Chad Rice | .INF |
| 6 | Michael Roberts | .C |
| 18 | Kyle Rucker | .OF |
| 31 | Brian Sandridge | .OF |
| 35 | Travis Smink | .LHP |
| 20 | Thane Smith | .OF |
| 9 | Will Smith | .OF |
| 40 | Jason Tate | .LHP |
| 32 | Eddie Van Es | .IB/OF |
| 13 | Daniel Wood | .LHP |
| 10 | AJ Yoder | .INF |

Keydets By Class

Seniors (6)

Bachman, Casher, Crumpler, Fields, Goode, Rice

Juniors (4)

Barham, Geisslinger, T. Smith, W. Smith

Sophomores (12)

Bowman, Crum, Edwards, Hayden, Henderson, Phelps, Roberts, Sandridge, Smink, Van Es, Wood, Yoder

Freshmen (14)

Ballard, Biagini, Carpenter, Duty, Hess, Lamas, Lichter, Litz, Lottman, McPherson, Naff, Prioletti, Rucker, Tate



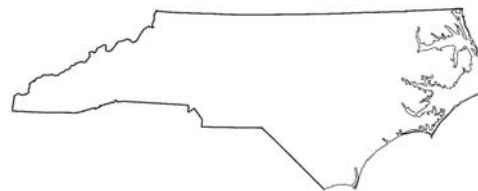
Virginia-30

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jordan Ballard | Chris Henderson | Michael Roberts |
| Trey Barham | Justin Hess | Kyle Rucker |
| Michael Bowman | Robert Lamas | Brian Sandridge |
| Adam Carpenter | James Lichter | Thane Smith |
| Kevin Crum | Ryan Litz | Will Smith |
| Robert Crumpler | David Lottman | Jason Tate |
| Chris Duty | Josh McPherson | Eddie Van Es |
| Matt Edwards | Hunter Naff | Daniel Wood |
| Jacoby Fields | John Phelps | |
| Shane Geisslinger | T.J. Prioletti | |
| John Goode, Jr. | | |
| Thomas Hayden | | |



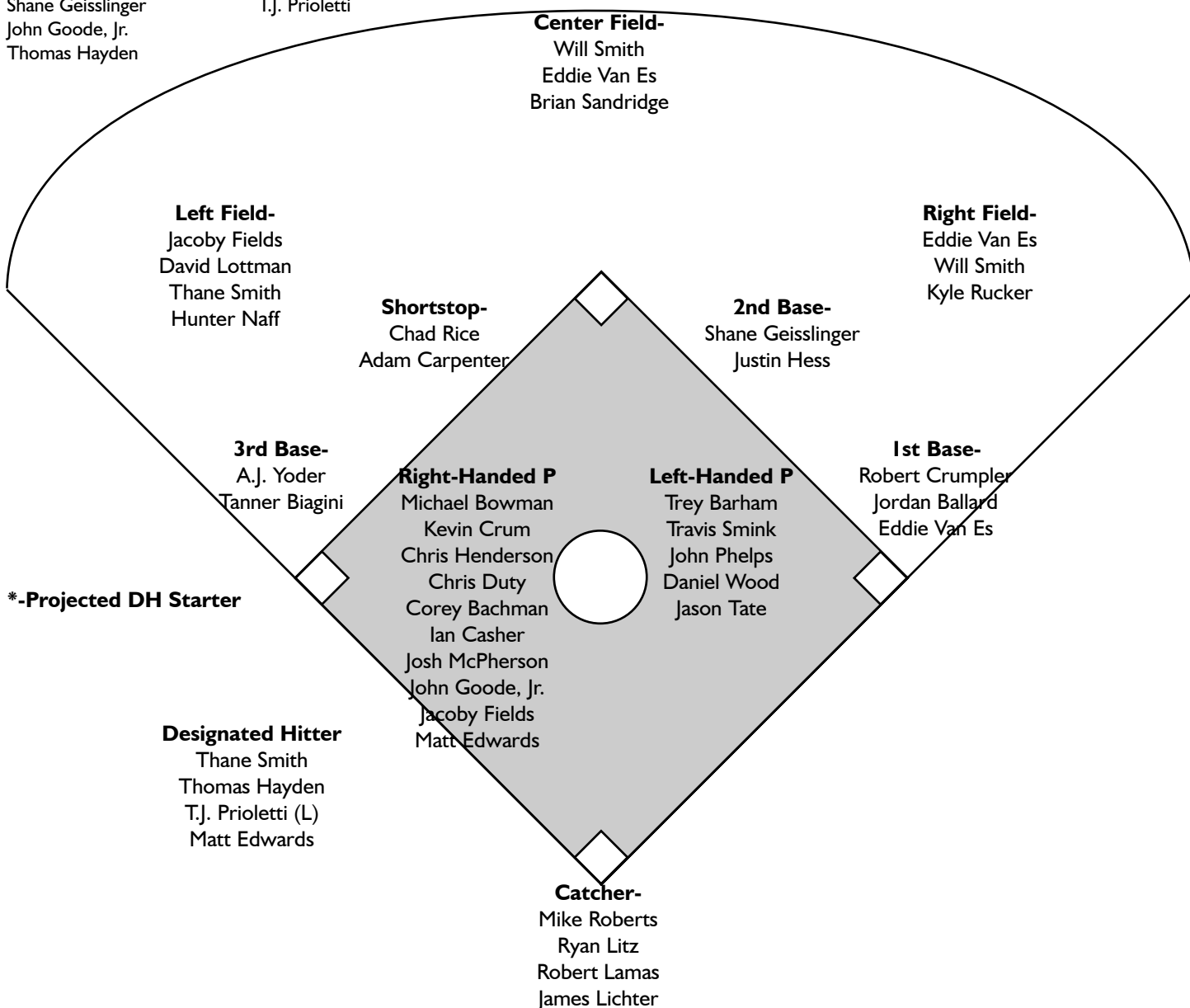
Pennsylvania-5

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Corey Bachman | Travis Smink |
| Ian Casher | A.J. Yoder |
| Chad Rice | |



North Carolina-1

Tanner Biagini



2007 Photo Roster



#1 David Lottman
Freshman, OF, L/L



#2 Shane Geisslinger
Junior, 2B, R/R



#3 T.J. Prioletti
Freshman, OF, L/R



#4 Chad Rice
Senior, SS, R/R



#5 Robert Lamas
Freshman, C, R/R



#6 Michael Roberts
Sophomore, C, R/R



#7 Chris Henderson
Sophomore, RHP



#8 Trey Barham
Junior, LHP



#9 Will Smith
Junior, OF, L/R



#10 A.J. Yoder
Sophomore, IF, L/R



#11 John Phelps
Sophomore, LHP



#12 Ian Casher
Senior, RHP



#13 Daniel Wood
Sophomore, LHP



#14 Matt Edwards
Soph., RHP/DH, R/R



#16 James Lichter
Freshman, C, R/R



#17 Michael Bowman
Sophomore, RHP



#18 Kyle Rucker
Freshman, OF, R/R



#20 Thane Smith
Junior, OF, L/R



#21 Jacoby Fields
Senior, OF/RHP, L/R



#22 Chris Duty
Freshman, RHP



#23 Thomas Hayden
Sophomore, IB, R/R



#24 Tanner Biagini
Freshman, 3B, R/R



#25 Ryan Litz
Freshman, C, R/R



#26 Jordan Ballard
Freshman, 3B, R/R



#27 Josh McPherson
Freshman, RHP



#28 Corey Bachman
Senior, RHP



#29 John Goode
Senior, RHP



#30 Adam Carpenter
Freshman, IF, R/R



#31 Brian Sandridge
Sophomore, OF, R/R



#32 Eddie Van Es
Sophomore, IB/OF, L/L



#33 Kevin Crum
Sophomore, RHP



#34 Justin Hess
Freshman, IF, R/R



#35 Travis Smink
Sophomore, LHP



#36 Robert Crumpler
Senior, IB, R/R



#40 Jason Tate
Freshman, LHP, L/L



#41 Hunter Naff
Freshman, OF, L/L



#19 Marlin Ikenberry
Head Coach



#37 Ryan Mau
Assistant Coach



#38 Barry Shelton
Assistant Coach



#15 Matt McGuire
Volunteer Assistant