

VMI Football

2006 MEDIA GUIDE

VMI Quick Facts

Location	Lexington, Va.
Founded	1839
Enrollment	1,300
Nickname	Keydets
Colors	Red (PMS 185), White and Yellow (PMS 116)
Affiliation	Big South Conference (NCAA Division I-AA)
Stadium	P. Wesley Foster, Jr. '56 Stadium/Alumni Memorial Field (10,000)
Superintendent	General J.H. Binford Peay, III (VMI '62)
Athletic Director	Donny White (VMI '65)

Coaching Staff

Head Coach	Jim Reid (Maine '73)
VMI Record	0-0/First Season
Career Record	84-82-3/16th Season
Assistant Coaches	Bob Bodine (Tulane '93); Offensive Line Ken Conaster (Cincinnati '62); Chief of Staff/Special Teams Brent Davis (Georgia '97); Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Reed Heim (Austin College '00); Inside Linebackers Richard McNutt (Ohio State '04); Defensive Backs Brock Pittman (East Tennessee State '04); Wide Receivers Vince Sinagra (Rhode Island '75); Defensive Coordinator/Def. Line Greg Shockley (Virginia Tech '99); Running Backs Paul Soltis (Youngstown State '90); Outside Linebackers
Strength & Conditioning Coach	Jimmy Whitten (Va. Tech '91)
Athletic Trainer	Lance Fujiwara (Oregon State '85)

Team Information

Lettermen Returning	27 (Off.-13, Def.-12, Spec.-2)
Lettermen Lost	24 (Off.-9, Def.-15, Spec.-0)
Starters Returning	11 (Off.-5, Def.-4, Spec.-2)
Starters Lost	13 (Off.-6, Def.-7, Spec.-0)
2005 Record	3-8 (2-2, T-3rd Big South)
Offensive System	Multiple
Defensive System	Multiple

Sports Information

Sports Information Director (Football Contact)	Wade Branner
Office Phone	(540) 464-7515
Fax	(540) 464-7583
Email	brannerwh@vmi.edu
Assistant Sports Information Director	Christian Hoffman
Assistant Sports Information Director	Joel Balthaser
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This guide has been prepared to assist the media in covering VMI football during the 2006 season. Football fans and friends of VMI may purchase copies of the guide from VMI Sports Information at the cost of \$7.00 each. VMI regrets it cannot supply complimentary copies to collectors.

Media Information

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE VISITING LEXINGTON...

WORKING MEDIA

Press passes and parking permits will be supplied to those media outlets regularly covering VMI football well in advance of the season. All others are requested to call the Sports Information Office far enough in advance so that passes can be mailed. Complimentary passes are available upon request.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photographers will be granted field privileges, but must limit their work outside the 25 yard restrictions and no closer than six feet from the sidelines. Those holding passes or complimentary tickets will not be permitted in the press box unless covering the game.

PRESS BOX

All press, radio, PA, and statistical crews are located on the fourth floor of VMI's football building. Entrance is through the middle door located across from the concession stand behind the stadium. An elevator will take you to the fourth floor. Television and film crews will work from the top of the press box level, and TV broadcast talent will be located at a designated booth on the fourth floor.

RADIO

Two radio booths are available. One is reserved for the "official" visiting station. Two telephone lines are already installed for the visiting network's broadcast, and a tradeout agreement is desirable. Additional lines should be ordered through Sprint at 540-463-2121.

GAME INFORMATION

All media in the press box will be provided updated statistics on both teams, easy to read flip cards with accurate numbers and current depth charts, a souvenir program, and an outstanding buffet lunch. The view of the Blue Ridge Mountains is breathtaking. Score updates of other games around the country are also provided.

AFTER THE GAME

A complete statistical game package will be available as soon as possible. The visiting team's locker room is located under the home team stands. Coach Reid's post-game press conference and individual player interviews will be on the third floor of the football building, one floor below the press box level. Coordinate all interview requests with VMI Sports Information.

KEYDET SCORE-LINE

To access, call 540-464-7205. Interviews with Jim Reid will also be posted when available.

IT'S VMI, PLEASE

When referring to our athletic teams, it is requested that members of the media refer to this institution as "VMI", or "Virginia Military Institute", not "Virginia Military" or the cryptic "Va. Military". Any help in using the correct moniker would be greatly appreciated.

KEYDET FOOTBALL ON THE WEB

Fans and media are encouraged to follow the team on the VMI athletic home page. Timely information on the football Keydets will be available to both media and fans alike. Included in the service will be schedules, rosters, stats and the latest notes on the team, as well as access to live radio game broadcasts. The VMI Keydets can be accessed on the world wide web at www.vmikeydets.com.

INTERVIEW POLICY

Media members are reminded that all interview requests with VMI players, coaches and staff MUST go through the VMI Sports Information Office first. Interviews are encouraged to be conducted Monday through Wednesday of game weeks.

INTERNET BROADCASTS

All VMI football game radio broadcasts can be heard on the internet at www.vmikeydets.com. Listeners can go to the athletic home page and click on the link provided for audio streaming. For more information or assistance, contact the Sports Information Office at 540-464-7253.



Wade Branner
Sports Information Director
Asst. AD/Media Relations
Coverage: Football, Basketball, Rifle, Radio Network



Christian Hoffman
Assistant Sports Information Director
Coverage: Baseball, Wrestling, Women's Soccer, Swimming & Diving, Cross Country



Joel Balthaser
Assistant Sports Information Director
Coverage: Lacrosse, Men's Soccer, Indoor Track & Field, Outdoor Track & Field

KEY PRE-SEASON DATES...

July 27-28	Big South Media Days - Charlotte, N.C.
August 6	Team reports
August 7	Photo and Media Day
August 7	Practice begins
August 26	Final scrimmage
August 29	Classes begin

HOW TO REACH

VMI SPORTS INFORMATION...

Office Phone: (540) 464-7253
Office FAX: (540) 464-7583
Press Box Phone: (540) 463-6725
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E-Mail: HoffmanJC@vmi.edu
Assistant SID: Joel Balthaser
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Cell Phone: (215) 932-2995
E-Mail: BalthaserJD@vmi.edu

Mailing Address (USPS or Overnight service):

Virginia Military Institute
Sports Information Office
116 Smith Hall
Lexington, VA 24450

DIRECTIONS TO ALUMNI MEMORIAL FIELD...

Most of our annual visitors know how to get to the Keydet home field, but for those who have never visited the charming city of Lexington, take note:

From the East, North, or South: Follow I-81 to Exit 188 B toward Lexington (U.S. 60 west). Follow U.S. 60 west to Nelson Street into town. Turn right at the intersection of Nelson and Main Streets. Follow Main Street .5 mile to the stadium on the right.

From the West: Follow I-64 East to Exit 55 (U.S. 11) and head south (right turn) toward Lexington. Follow U.S. 11 toward Lexington for .5 mile. Stay to the right across the Maury River Bridge and follow U.S. 11 Business for .3 mile. The stadium will be on your left.

Covering The Keydets

DAILY NEWSPAPERS

Roanoke Times

201 W. Campbell Ave., Roanoke, VA 24010
Phone 540-981-3221.
Toll free 1-800-346-1234
Sports Editor: Jeff Gilbert
Direct releases to Doug Doughty, Mark Berman and Katrina Waugh
e-mail: mark.berman@roanoke.com or katrina.waugh@roanoke.com
Fax: 540-981-3392

Richmond Times-Dispatch

300 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
Phone 804-649-6554
In state toll free 1-800-488-1885
Out of state toll free 1-800-588-9884
Sports Editor: Jack Berninger
Direct releases to John Packett (beat writer) and John O'Connor
e-mail: jpackett@timesdispatch.com and joconnor@timesdispatch.com
Fax: 804-775-8085

Lynchburg News & Advance

P.O. Box 10129, Lynchburg, VA 24506
Phone 434-385-5554
Sports Editor: Steve Trosky
Direct releases to Chris Lang
e-mail: clang@newsadvance.com
Fax: 434-385-5538

Newport News Daily Press

7505 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23607
Phone: 757-247-4630
Sports Editor: Doug Roberson
Direct releases to Dave Fairbank
e-mail: dfairbank@dailypress.com
Fax: 757-247-9420

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

150 West Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23510
Phone: 757-446-2366
In state toll free: 1-800-446-2012
Sports Editor: Chic Ribel
Direct releases to Ed Miller and Tom White
e-mail: sports@pilotonline.com
Fax: 757-533-9004

Charlottesville Daily Progress

P.O. Box 9030, Charlottesville, VA 11906
Phone 434-978-7246
Sports Editor: Jerry Ratcliffe
e-mail: ajoyner@dailyprogress.com
Fax: 434-975-7104

Staunton News Leader

P. O. Box 59, Staunton, VA 24401
Phone 540-885-7281 x8
Sports Editor: Hubert Grim
e-mail: sports@newsleader.com
Fax: 540-885-1904

Waynesboro News Virginian

544 W. Main St., Waynesboro, VA 22980
Phone: 540-932-3557
Sports Editor: Jim Sacco
e-mail: jsacco@newsvirginian.com
Fax: 540-942-4542

Petersburg Progress Index

15 Franklin St., Petersburg, VA 23804
Phone 804-732-3456 x251
Sports Editor: John Medeiros
e-mail: pi5151@yahoo.com
Fax: 804-732-8417

Harrisonburg Daily News-Record

P.O. Box 193, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone 540-574-6284
Sports Editor: Chris Simmons
e-mail: csimmons@dnronline.com
Fax: 540-433-9112

TELEVISION

WHSV-TV 3 (ABC)

50 N. Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone 540-433-9191 x108
Sports Director: Joe Downs
e-mail: jdowns@whsv.com
Fax: 540-433-2700

WDBJ-TV 7 (CBS)

2807 Hershberger Rd., Roanoke, VA 24017
Phone: 540-985-3623, 3624, 3637
Sports Director: Mike Stevens
Also direct releases Travis Wells and Grant Kittleson
e-mail: mstevens@wdbj7.com, twells@wdbj7.com, gkittleson@wdbj7.com
Fax: 540-343-7269

WLSL-TV 10 (NBC)

P.O. Box 10, Roanoke, VA 24009
Phone: 540-855-3531
Sports Director: John Appicello
e-mail: jappicello@wsls.com
Fax: 540-343-7269

WSET-TV 13 (ABC)

P.O. Box 10, Lynchburg, VA 24506
Phone: 434-528-1313 x137
Sports Director: Dennis Carter
e-mail: dcarter@wset.com
Also direct releases to John Organ
Fax: 434-847-8800

WTVR-TV 6 (CBS)

3301 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230
Phone 804-254-3645
Sports Director: Lane Casadonte
e-mail: lcasadonte@wtvr.com
Fax: 804-254-3697

WWBT-TV 12 (NBC)

P.O. Box 12, Richmond, VA 23218
Phone 804-230-2614
Sports Director: Ben Hamlin
e-mail: bhamlin@nbcl2.com
Fax: 804-230-2789

WRIC-TV 8 (ABC)

Arboretum Place, Richmond, VA 23236
Phone: 804-330-8829
Fax: 804-861-9452
Sports Director: Chip Tarkenton
e-mail: ctarkenton@wric.com

OTHER MEDIA OUTLETS

Associated Press, Virginia Office

Suite 1250, 600 E. Main St., Richmond, VA 23219
Phone 804-643-6646
Sports Director: Hank Kurz
e-mail: hkurz@ap.org
In state toll free 1-800-552-9935
Fax: 804-643-6223

Lexington News-Gazette (Weekly)

20 W. Nelson St., Lexington, VA 24450
Phone: 540-463-3113
Sports Editor: Chris Floyd
e-mail: chris.floyd@thenews-gazette.com
Fax: 540-464-6397

WREL Radio - AM 1450 / FM 96.7

P.O. Drawer 902, Lexington, VA 24450
Phone 540-463-2161
Sports Director: Jim Bresnahan
e-mail: news@wrel.com
Fax: 540-463-9524

Virginia News Network

3245 Basie Rd., Richmond, VA 23228
Phone: 804-474-0155
Sports Director: Gary Hess
e-mail: garyhess@clearchannel.com
Fax: 804-474-0167

WFIR Radio - AM 960

3934 Electric Rd., Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone 540-345-1511
Sports Director: Bob Clark
Fax: 540-342-2270

WLNI Radio - FM 105.9/ 106.3

5066 S. Amherst Hwy.
Madison Heights, VA 24572 Suite 110
Phone: 434-846-8255
Sports Director: Rich Roth
e-mail: sportsline@wlni.com
Fax: 434-847-5709

The Rockbridge Weekly

31 W. Washington St., Lexington, VA 24450
Phone: 540-464-6600
Fax: 540-464-6603

Keydets On The Air



2006 VMI Radio Network Crew: Wade Branner (middle), Calvin Murray (right), Randy Atkins (left).

RADIO

Keydet football returns to the airwaves this fall with a five-station network spanning the state of Virginia.

The network flagship station for Keydet football will originate from WWZW (96.7) FM, which has recently upgraded its signal to a strong 25,000 watts that can be heard on both sides of the Blue Ridge, including the city of Lynchburg. Affiliates for the 2005 season include WLEE (990) AM in Richmond, WRIS (1410) AM Roanoke, and WRJR 1010 in Hampton Roads.

Wade Branner, "The Voice of the Keydets" since 1987, will produce the network and provide play-by-play for the 2006 season. Providing color commentary once again for selected games will be Cal Murray, VMI Class of '83 and a former punter for the Keydets from 1980 through 1982. Also returning to the network is the irreplaceable "Handy" Randy Atkins (VMI '79), who enters his 31st season crunching the numbers as broadcast team statistician.

"Keydet First Call," the pregame show of the network, will air 15 minutes before kickoff each Saturday. The network will originate from WREL 96.7 FM in Lexington under the direction of Steve Williams.

2006 VMI Football Radio Network

WWZW	96.7 FM	Lexington
WLEE	990 AM	Richmond
WWZW	96.7 FM	Lynchburg
WRIS	1410 AM	Roanoke
WRJR	1010 AM	Hampton Roads

TELEVISION

The Keydets are scheduled to make their ESPN debut this year, as VMI's contest at Army on Oct. 7 is slated to be carried on one of the ESPN family of networks, which include ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN Classic and ESPNU. Updated information of this and other telecasts will be posted on www.vmikeydets.com.

THE INTERNET

All VMI football radio broadcasts can be heard on the internet at www.vmikeydets.com. Streaming services are provided by inter-tainment.com of Richmond, Va.

3WZ 96.7 FM TO SERVE AS FLAGSHIP STATION FOR RADIO NETWORK

The WWZW-FM 96.7 signal will serve as the flagship station for 2006.

"3WZ" 96.7 FM, which now boasts a 25,000-watt FM signal that reaches both sides of the Blue Ridge, including the city of Lynchburg, will assure Keydet football fans in both the Shenandoah Valley and central Virginia of clear reception of VMI football games for the coming seasons.

The popular pre-home game tailgate show sponsored by the Keydet Club last season is slated to return this fall. Airtime is one hour before kickoff.



VMI's football game at Army will be carried nationally on one of the ESPN family of networks.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

•6

**Wesley Foster
Stadium**

•8

Vision 2039

•10

**Weight Training/
Academic Support**

F O S T E R

B e c o m i n g



VMI's football stadium and Clarkson-McKenna Hall, which houses the football operations, underwent nearly \$15 million dollars of improvements during the past off-season. With an expanded locker room, a new weight room and Sprinturf practice field, VMI football cadet-athletes will have superb training facilities in the years to come.



STADIUM

Reality!



Fans and players alike will enjoy a refurbished stadium that includes new entranceways, concourses, concessions, and restrooms. A new scoreboard will also be fully operational during the 2006 season.



Vision 2039

VMI develops leaders – leaders for industry, leaders for government, leaders for the military, leaders for all walks of life. It has been remarkably successful in this endeavor. The four years of a cadetship have a proven record of transforming young people with promise into leaders ready to serve their fellow citizens and country during times of crisis while also pursuing successful careers.

The Institute is committed to ensuring that long tradition of leadership and service continues well beyond the Institute's bicentennial in 2039. That determination is the driving motivation and force behind Vision 2039, a plan to ensure VMI remains a state and national treasure in the 21st century.

Vision 2039's master plan aims at improving the academic, military, and athletic programs and the infrastructure of the Institute to enhance cadet leadership development and the environment in which it takes place. The Institute's time tested, hands on environment develops leaders by combining education, experience and training. Vision 2039 advances and enhances that environment.

From Vision 2039 spring many initiatives and specific plans – from architects' drawings for new buildings, to refinements in the academic curriculum, to increased technology, to a Post on display that resonates with history and a Corps of proud, disciplined and civil cadets. In the end, it will have positioned VMI in today's world to continue to fulfill its mission into the future.

But there is much more to that environment than courses, training programs, and physical facilities. For leadership is more than a skill. It has moral and ethical dimensions. It is a question of character. The character of the individual cadet is directly influenced by the prevailing culture of the Institute, and Vision 2039 addresses this important aspect of VMI. The way cadets – men and women – live together and work together while at VMI lays the foundation for the way they will live and work throughout their lives. The culture of VMI develops in cadets the highest standards of honor, respect, civility, self-discipline, and professionalism.



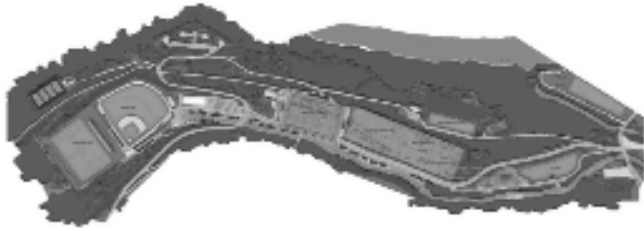
A new Leadership and Ethics Center will provide facilities for major conferences, Post functions, and a concentration on leadership programs synchronized across four years of a cadetship. Construction will begin in the Fall of 2006 and take 2 years.



Modern facilities at the Gray-Minor Stadium anchor expansion of athletic facilities in the North Post area. Construction will be complete in December 2006 in time for the 2007 baseball season.

Drawings are artist's renderings only and may not resemble completed projects.

Vision 2039



Improved and new athletic and leadership facilities will transform the North Post area into a leadership development valley. The North Post improvements will provide an all-weather soccer-lacrosse stadium, multi-purpose fields for expanded club sports, tennis courts, and new ROTC Challenge and confidence courses. Walking trails and transportation networks round out this project.



This concept shows a solution to the need for more Barracks rooms to accommodate a slightly larger Corps of 1,500 cadets and to ease the overcrowding in the current Old and New Barracks. Lejeune Hall cadet activities will be accommodated in the Barracks addition. Construction of 3rd Barracks commenced July 2006 and will take 2 years to complete. Modernization of Old and New Barracks will be June 2008-2010 to complete the project.



Proposed field house, aquatic center and parking center. The Field House and Aquatic Center share a common lobby and support facilities. The Field House will include an indoor track and spectator seating. The Aquatic Center will include a 50 meter indoor pool, diving well and spectator seating. A parking garage will be located under the Field House.



The traditional appearance of Crozet Hall will be retained in an expanded and modernized mess hall that accommodates 1,500 cadets at a single seating and features an expanded kitchen and an air conditioned dining area. It will be completed by Fall 2006.



Expanding Gilbourne Hall to incorporate the historic Post Stables alleviates overcrowded office and classroom space for the nation's best ROTC programs and supports efforts to increase the number of cadets commissioning as officers in the Armed Forces. Construction commences Fall 2006.



Sky Farm, a 73-acre property adjacent to McKethan Park, brings to 240 acres the area available for cadet ROTC training, a new outdoor rifle range, and other Institute activities. The farmhouse, when renovated, will provide VMI and reunion classes a retreat and meeting place to complement the current outdoor pavilion.



Maintenance operations will be relocated to a new facility at an off-Post site, freeing space in the old Building and Grounds facility for classrooms and offices for ROTC programs, a modern indoor rifle range, and quarter-master operations. This VMI Physical Plant will find construction completed Fall 2006.

Drawings are artist's renderings only and may not resemble completed projects.

Academic Support & Player Development

The NCAA Academic Advising Office:

The mission of the Office of Athletic Academic Advising is to ensure that VMI cadet athletes experience a balanced program in which they excel athletically and academically. They provide academic support to all NCAA athletes in a variety of functions. The office, located in Carroll Hall, assists athletes with the identification of individual career goals and selection of an academic major, and also maintains the tutoring program. The Athletic Academic Advising staff mentors the cadet-athlete throughout their cadetship, and devotes all resources to continued progress toward degree completion and successful employment upon graduation.

The Athletic Academic Advising Office is currently headed by Stephen Ross and Sherry Baucom. Ross has taught in the VMI Economics department and was the VMI head soccer coach from 1989 to 2005, while Baucom is also VMI's Senior Woman Administrator.

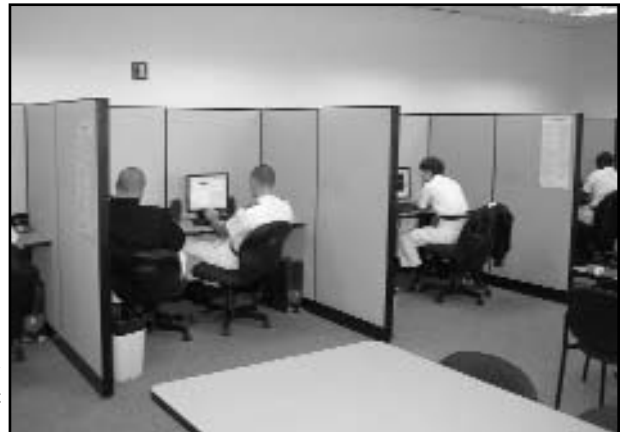
The goals of the Athletic Academic Advising Office are to provide:

- academic support for all NCAA athletes
- mentoring, counseling and advising
- oversight and review of grades
- a liaison between the cadet and the athletic director, team coaches, and departmental faculty advisors
- assistance in the recruitment of quality athletes

Player Development:

Strength and conditioning is a key component to the success of the football program, and VMI prides itself on providing the cadet-athlete with the tools to improve oneself physically.

This fall, a new 3,400 square-foot facility will open on the ground floor of the newly expanded Clarkson-McKenna Hall, which houses VMI football operations. The facility will feature the latest in strength and conditioning equipment, and will provide Keydet football players a state-of-the-art facility conveniently located near the locker room and practice fields.



The Charles S. Luck '20 Memorial Weight Room located in Cocks Hall. A new football weight training facility will open in Clarkson-McKenna Hall this fall.





LOOKING AT 2006

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2006

Season Preview

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Letterman

Returning/Lost

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Pre-Camp

Two Deep

•16

Players to

Watch in '06

Charting A New Course

The Keydets will play in a refurbished stadium under new head coach Jim Reid in 2006

The sounds of jackhammers, bulldozers and drills filled the stands of VMI's football stadium in the spring and summer as the new Foster Stadium took shape. Come fall, Keydet football fans are planning to replace those sounds with cheers.

Excitement from the ground up is swelling with the VMI football program as the 2006 season will feature a refurbished stadium, a new coaching staff, and many new faces on the roster.

New head coach **Jim Reid** took the reins of the program in December, 2005 and inherits a squad that returns just nine starters on both sides of the ball.

That hasn't dampened the spirits of the energetic Reid and his new staff which have impressed upon the players in the VMI program to draw on those qualities that the Institute instills on individual development.

"What we like to be as a football program, and I believe, as VMI, is an environment where we take that small segment of dedicated men and women and develop them to their fullest, to their maximum potential," Reid said. "We got better as a football team, strength-wise and conditioning-wise this spring; the Institute allowed us to make everybody better and the environment helped us to do that. Our players could see the results and it is absolutely exciting."

From the day he met with his players for the first time, Reid has impressed upon them to "Embrace the Process", a slogan which was displayed on T-shirts, locker and meeting room walls, and playbooks throughout the recent spring practice.

"At VMI, you find out quickly there will be discomfort sometimes," Reid said. "You have two dramatic choices to react. If you complain about it, it brings our whole demeanor down. Instead, you need to say, 'okay, this is it.' This is what makes us special. So I believe if you embrace the process, you can be successful at VMI and beyond."

In 2006, VMI returns 27 lettermen and nine starters plus two accomplished kicking specialists. Twelve letterman and five starters come back on the offensive unit, while 13 lettermen and four starters return on defense.

The Keydets may be youthful on the overall roster, but a veteran is expected to be the triggerman at the quarterback position. Fifth-year senior **Jonathan Wilson** (Natural Bridge, Va.) is a past All-Big South performer (second-team, 2003) and



Quarterback Jonathan Wilson threw for over 200 yards in four different games last season.

who serve as co-captain of the 2006 squad. Wilson is a proven college quarterback and ranks third all-time on the VMI list with over 4,300 career yards passing and produced four 200-yard games last year. Wilson enters the season off a strong spring practice where Reid noted the senior "really stepped it up. He can throw the football, has good decision-making ability, and is strong and able to make plays."

Finding a backup for Wilson at quarterback was a decision process that involved the entire spring practice. The Keydets entered spring with three quarterbacks; Wilson, sophomore **Terrel Allen** (Wilmington, N.C.), and red-shirt freshman **Joey Robinson** (Gaithersburg, Md.). Allen was moved to outside linebacker on a trial basis and landed a new home on the depth chart, while Robinson showed promise at quarterback with several big plays in spring scrimmages and also worked out at tailback and defensive back. Regardless of position, it's likely that Robinson will be on the field in some capacity due to his extraordinary athletic ability.

Carrying the ball will likely fall on the shoulders of senior **Sean Mizzer** (Prince Frederick, Md.) and junior **Nat Jackson** (Fredericksburg, Va.), but several other backs could step forward as the season progresses. Mizzer, the third all-time leading rusher in school history with 2,711 yards, was sidelined most of last season with a knee injury and was held out of spring ball to recuperate. A

healthy Mizzer in 2006 will be a big compliment to Jackson, who is the leading returning ground gainer from a year ago (622 yards) and handled the majority of repetitions in spring practice. Others who could see running duty are **Derrick Leland** (Prince George, Va.), **Andy Viola** (Broadway, Va.), **Derek Smith** (Pembroke Pines, Fla.) and **Andrew Gore** (Pulaski, Va.), who worked out at tight end as well. "The running backs will be an interesting position group," said Reid. "A lot of guys are eager to play and we hope to have a lot of different people carrying the ball."

The offensive line features three returning starters, but with just four lettermen in the group, young players will be counted on for depth. Anchoring the line is junior **Adam Reel** (Lexington, Va.), a two-year letterman and returning starter who will move to center after starting at right guard last season. "Adam took over the center position as a leader should," said Reid. "He took control of the huddle and really did a good job at the center position." Junior **Robert Brown** (Mesquite, Tex.) and sophomore **Jeff Marcey** (Gainesville, Va.) are the other returning starters with Brown moving to guard after working mostly at tackle the past two seasons, and Marcey working out of the left tackle spot, where he showed excellent athletic ability in spring drills. The remaining two starting spots should be filled by sophomore **Rusty Webb** (Bumpass, Va.), who solidified himself with a

great winter conditioning effort. Red-shirt freshman **Dan vonSchuch** (Richmond, Va.) entered the two-deep picture at mid-season last year and continued to progress in spring practice at right tackle and should see some playing time along with red-shirt freshman **Frank Ellis** (Reva, Va.). Sophomore **Chris Duane** (Richmond, Va.), who was injured on the first day of spring drills, worked hard to get back into the two-deep picture and could see action at center. Others who will add depth and could see playing time are junior **Justin Chetney** (Hampton, Va.) at tackle, red-shirt freshman guard **Wes Lokey** (Harrisonburg, Va.) and sophomore guard **Gerard Payne** (Bedford, Va.). "The O-line should be a plus for us. We have several quality players who have worked hard and are ready to contribute," said Reid.

The tight end position saw some transition in spring ball as senior **Tommy Lloyd** (Fishersville, Va.) was moved to defensive end, giving sophomore **Travis Ludden** (Fredericksburg, Va.) a bigger role at tight end where he continues to exhibit terrific hands and excellent blocking ability in addition to handling long snapper duties. Lloyd will see some action at tight end as well. Perhaps one of the best stories of spring practice was the play of former VMI basketball player and junior **Chi Chi Ezekwe** (Vicksburg, Miss.), who turned in some big plays in spring scrimmages and could be counted on for duty at tight end or wideout.

The receiving corps must replace all three senior starters from a year ago, and sophomore **Willie Bell** (Newport News, Va.) and senior **Chris Gilliland** (Naples, Fla.) are the most experienced wide receivers returning. Bell, who showed flashes of his exceptional athletic ability in limited action last year, is coming off a great spring practice and will be counted on for big



Senior tackle **Eric Hall** will anchor a veteran defensive line for the Keydets.

plays. Gilliland appears poised for a banner senior season after turning in a spring practice "just short of amazing" according to Reid. Both players will be backed up by sophomores **Ryan Mingus** (Athens, Ohio), who showed excellent bursts of speed in the spring, and **Rick Goodwin** (Richmond, Va.).

Defensively, the interior line saw several position switches during spring practice to take advantage of quickness and experience. Three-year letterman and returning starter **Charlie Liesfeld** (Richmond, Va.) was moved from end inside to tackle the last three days of spring practice and will likely start there. Veteran senior and pre-season All-Big South tackle **Eric Hall** (Marion, Va.) brings three years of starting experience to the defensive line along with senior tackle **Jack Herzog** (Bel Air, Md.). The trio of Hall, Herzog, and Liesfeld, combined with junior Tommy Lloyd who was moved from tight end to defensive end, gives the Keydets one of the most experienced D-line combinations in the Big South Conference. Rotating in for playing time will be junior tackle and two-year letterman **Vic Rosen** (Staunton, Va.), sophomore tackle **Robbie Appel** (Ashburn, Va.), and sophomore **Nick Wegener** (Abingdon, Va.), as well as red-shirt freshman end **Nick Mims** (Virginia Beach, Va.) who turned in two sacks and a pass break-up in the final spring scrimmage. Red-shirt freshman **James Robertson** (Fredericksburg, Va.) was moved from linebacker to defensive line late in spring practice and could add depth along with junior tackle **Mike Watson** (Springfield, Va.) who is working back from knee surgery, and red-shirt freshman tackle **Kyle Johnson** (Purcellville, Va.). "We have veteran performers on the defensive line, so that unit appears to be solid," said Reid.

The linebacker corps must replace both starters at the inside positions, but junior two-year letterman **Keashawn Artis** (Alexandria, Va.) is ready to move into the "Will" starting spot after having been an understudy the past two seasons. Red-shirt freshman **Patrick McKinney** (Big Stone Gap) came off an injury last fall and improved greatly in the spring and emerged as the likely starter at "Mike" linebacker. Sophomore **Jacob Rochester** (Dallas, Texas), an academically distinguished student (4.0 GPA/Econ. and Business) will rotate in at inside linebacker, and sophomore **Heath Tomlin** (Madison Heights, Va.) will provide depth.

The outside linebacker slot will feature two former offensive players in junior **Terrel Allen** (Wilmington, N.C.) and senior **Colby Hollingsworth** (Dallas, Texas). Allen was moved from quarterback to defense early in spring practice and responded well to the new environs, likely landing him a starting job. Hollingsworth, who lettered three years at running back, has had his past two seasons cut short by knee injuries and the move to defense could help his durability while continuing to utilize his quickness. Back-up help at outside linebacker could come from sophomore **Lucas Combs** (Grottoes, Va.).



Senior running back **Sean Mizzer** looks to rebound with a strong senior season in 2006.

In sizing up the defensive backfield which lost three starters from last season, Reid noted, "the idea is not to play too many freshman, but our depth will have to hold up for that to happen." The unit will be led by senior co-captain and First Class president **Jamaal Walton** (Va. Beach, Va.), who enters the season with three letters and 16 career starts. Walton, working at left cornerback, will be flanked by junior right cornerback **Marcus Brown** (Norfolk, Va.) who has lettered for two years and is eager to step into a starting role. Sophomore **Keith Taylor** (Mechanicsville, Va.) lettered as a freshman and is ready to roam the strong safety slot while red-shirt freshman **Joe Taylor** (Richmond, Va.) will have some big shoes to fill replacing All-Conference free safety **Robert Mason**, but made great progress in winter conditioning and made several "big hits" in spring scrimmages. **Joey Robinson** (Gaithersburg, Md.), previously mentioned at quarterback and running back, could also see action in the secondary after working some there late in spring practice. Sophomores **Dawson Boyer** (Richmond, Va.) and **Brad Harvey** (Roanoke, Va.) will provide depth in the secondary.

The kicking game should be solid with senior **Adam Peters** (Roanoke, Va.), a past all-conference performer, returning to handle the punting chores while **Barrett Way** (Richmond, Va.) assumes placekicking duties after two impressive years. Peters worked hard in spring practice refining his skills for a big senior finale, and possesses one of the strongest legs in the league. Way enters his junior campaign after leading the Big South Conference in field goal percentage having successfully converted 11 of 13 field goals, including a 51-yarder.

Lettermen Returning, Lettermen Lost

LETTERMEN RETURNING

Lettermen Returning by position: 27

Starters Returning by Position: 12 (includes specialists)

OFFENSE (12 returning, 5 starters)

Receivers: Willie Bell, Chris Gilliland, Ryan Mingus

Tackles: ROBERT BROWN, JEFF MARCEY

Guards: Chip Chace

Center: ADAM REEL

Quarterback: JONATHAN WILSON

Running Backs: NAT JACKSON, Sean Mizzer, Andy Viola

Tight End: Travis Ludden

DEFENSE (13 returning, 4 starters)

Tackles: Robbie Appel, JACK HERZOG, CHARLIE LIESFELD, ERIC HALL

Ends: Tommy Lloyd*, Vic Rosen

Linebackers: Terrell Allen*, Keashawn Artis, Colby Hollingsworth, Jacob Rochester

Cornerbacks: Marcus Brown, JAMAAL WALTON, Keith Taylor

Strong Safety: none

Free Safety: none

** Lettered on Offense in 2005*

SPECIALISTS

Punter: ADAM PETERS

Placekicker: BARRETT WAY

Long Snapper: TRAVIS LUDDEN

LETTERMEN LOST

Lettermen Lost By Position: 25

Starters Lost: 13

OFFENSE (10 lost, 6 starters)

Receivers: ZOHN BURDEN, GARY PRICE, Kirk Monteleone

Tackles: JEREMY WARD

Guards: Brian Duncan

Center: MATT DOWLER

Quarterback: none

Running Backs: MIKE MALESKI, Bryan Royster, Drew Walton

Tight End: JOHN FOX

DEFENSE (15 lost, 7 starters)

Tackles: VICHEAL FOXX, Terrell Golden, Steel Nardozzi, Chris Perry

Ends: Sean Moore

Linebackers: Ryan Anderson, TODD BALDWIN, JUSTIN HUGGARD

Cornerbacks: TITUS GREEN, GRANT HARRIS, Matt McGonegle

Strong Safety: Kamau Hull

Free Safety: ROBERT MASON, Furnace Barnes

Bandit: MARCUS BARNES

SPECIALISTS

Punter: none

Placekicker: none

**** Starters listed in CAPS**

2006 Pre- Camp

Two Deep

OFFENSE (MULTIPLE)

WR **LT** **LG** **C** **RG** **RT** **TE** **WR**

#73 Marcey (So.) #71 R. Brown (Jr.) #60 Reel (So.) #61 Webb (So.) #64 vonSchuch (Fr.-R) #90 Ludden (So.)
 #9 Bell (So.) #65 Chetney (Jr.) #70 Lokey (Fr.-R) #76 Duane (So.) #56 Payne (So.) #79 Ellis (Fr.-R) #42 Ezekwe (Jr.) #1 Gilliland (Sr.)
 #18 Goodwin (So.) OR #55 Handler (Fr.-R) OR #82 Gore (Fr.-R) #6 Mingus (So.)

QB

#4 Wilson (Jr.)
 #16 Robinson (Fr.-R)

RB

#38 Mizzer (Sr.)
 #22 Jackson (So.)
 OR #25 Leland (Fr.-R)

FB

#44 Viola (So.)
 #33 Smith (Fr.-R)

K

#41 Way (So.)

DEFENSE (MULTIPLE)

DE

#88 Lloyd (Jr.)
 #83 Mims (Fr.-R)

DE

#97 Hall (Sr.)
 #59 Wegener (So.)
 OR #74 Johnson (Fr.-R)

NT

#95 Herzog (Sr.)
 #52 Rosen (So.)
 OR #63 Robertson (Fr.-R)

DT

#99 Liesfeld (Sr.)
 #75 Appel (So.)
 OR #98 Watson (Jr.)

CB

#5 J. Walton (Sr.)
 #39 Harvey (So.)

WLB

#8 Artis (Jr.)
 #45 Rochester (So.)

MLB

#17 McKinney (Fr.-R)
 #28 Tomlin (So.)

SLB

#2 Allen (So.)
 #34 Hollingsworth (Sr.)
 OR #27 Combs (So.)

CB

#3 M. Brown (Jr.)
 #16 Robinson (Fr.-R)

FS

#20 J. Taylor (So.)
 #36 Boyer (So.)

SS

#21 K. Taylor (So.)
 #36 Boyer (So.)

P

#12 Peters (Sr.)
 #40 Bradshaw (Fr.-R)

Players To Watch



Barrett Way led the Big South last season with an 84.6% field goal conversion percentage.



A two-year letterman, Keashawn Artis should play a big role at linebacker this season.



Punter Adam Peters is a past All-Conference performer and has solidified the punting game for the Keydets.