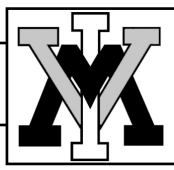


A Note From



Coach Trudgeon

Our wrestling program has enjoyed its share of success in the past, due in part to the tremendous support of the Corps of Cadets, our faculty and staff and our very own local wrestling fans. The coaching staff and wrestlers have made and will continue to make a point of cultivating a healthy relationship with the Corps while wholeheartedly endeavoring to expand our fan base in the community. Six years ago, former assistant coach (Aaron) Bruce and I started a youth wrestling program which has allowed our own wrestlers an opportunity to lend their expertise to local 5-12 year-olds stepping on the mat for the first time. These young pups and their moms and dads have come out in support of our wrestlers in ever increasing numbers at our home duals. Needless to say, a healthy VMI Wrestling—Lexington community relationship has blossomed.



Thanks to our Athletic Director, Donny White, the wrestling program at VMI is on very firm ground. Five years ago, our practice room was improved with the addition of brand new Resilite mats, and we have been able to travel to several of the top Invitationals in the country, showcasing our program on a national stage.

Our 2007-08 schedule contains several challenging tournaments in November and December and five dual meets at home against Gardner-Webb, Delaware State and Liberty, as well as against SoCon foes Davidson and Chattanooga. We will also travel to West Point, N.Y. for the All-Academy Championships, and once again head down to the Southern Scuffle in Greensboro for one of the premier events in the region. Needless to say, our squad will be tested early and often. The team would not want it any other way. We will stand ready!

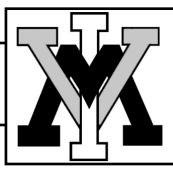
We hope you are as excited as we are about the upcoming wrestling season. If you are, we hope you will take the time to attend one of our five home matches during the 2007-08 season. Duals in the Coker Hall "Thunderdome" have consistently been standing-room only events in front of highly-partisan, enthusiastic crowds. We believe that college wrestling is without a doubt, the most intense, exhilarating seven minutes in sport (x 10 of course). If you are super excited, you might ask, "How else could I help VMI Wrestling?" We would like you to consider making a contribution to the VMI Wrestling Trustees account. Your tax deductible contribution to help Keydet Wrestling can be made by contacting the Keydet Club at 1-800-444-1839. If you have contributed to this fund in the past, we thank you. You have helped us to attract and develop top notch student-athletes who have high aspirations both on the mat and in the classroom.

FYI, we have worked and will continue to work hard internally to raise funds to supplement our budget thereby enabling us to compete in several national caliber tournaments during the competitive season. We have been selling game programs at home football games. We'll host a high school wrestling clinic/scrimmage in late November and sell season and individual tickets at all home wrestling events. In addition, our Seventh Annual Friends of VMI Wrestling Golf Outing held in October was a resounding success. Rest assured, we are committed to doing whatever it takes to be the best that we can be individually and collectively.

Thanks for your support. We hope to see you in the stands!

With warm regards,

John Trudgeon



The Thunderdome

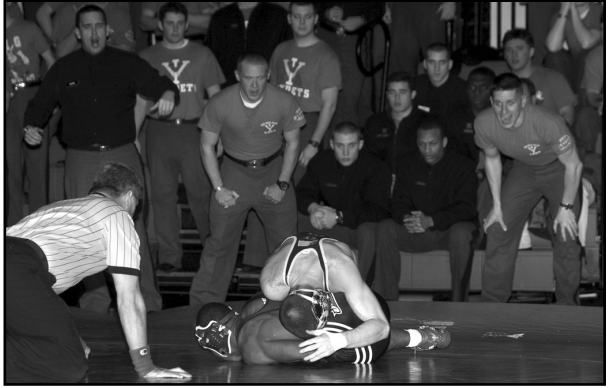
The home of VMI wrestling has been Cocke Hall since its construction in 1926. Since then, the old gym has been witness to 81 years of incredible memories in VMI wrestling.

In the winter of 1992, former assistant baseball coach Kenny Creehan dubbed Cocke Hall the "Thunderdome" in his public address duties and the name has stuck ever since.

The atmosphere at Cocke Hall for home dual meets is unrivaled anywhere on the east coast. The Corps of Cadets provide one of the most spirited and zealous home crowds, as they cheer on the Keydet wrestlers. Banners overhead trumpet the accomplishments of past VMI matmen, including 12 Southern Conference championships, and two All-Americans.

In recent years, crowds have come out in record numbers to support the Keydets, including a record attendance of 1,285 that crammed Cocke Hall to see VMI take down The Citadel in February of 2002. To accommodate the ever-growing popularity of VMI wrestling, the program brought in six new sets of bleachers (four with 11 rows and two with six rows) that were installed five seasons ago. The bleachers have greatly enlarged the Thunderdome's seating capacity, with still plenty of room for individual seats and cadets to hang off the overhang.

The wrestling team moved into locker room facilities in Cocke Hall in 1997, giving the Keydet wrestling program a permanent home close to their practice and weight training facilities, as well as being only one floor below their arena for home dual matches. The Keydets play host to five dual matches this season at the Thunderdome, including matchups versus Gardner-Webb, Delaware State and Liberty, as well as SoCon foes Davidson and Chattanooga.



The Thunderdome and the Corps of Cadets gives VMI one of the best wrestling atmospheres in the country.

