



Julie Davis

The woman who was selected two years ago to lead the VMI women's soccer program into the future was Julie Davis. On July 1, 2002, VMI Athletic Director Donny White announced the hiring of Davis as VMI's first varsity head women's soccer coach.

Now that she has gotten her feet wet with a season as head coach of the Keydet club squad in 2002 and varsity squad in 2003, Davis is more than ready to lead her squad into its first year of Big South competition.

In 2003, Davis led a group of 14 women (leaving little room for substitutions) to a four-win season in its first year of varsity competition. Not only was the group short in numbers, but it was also short on experience, with only one athlete that had previous NCAA Division I experience. Furthermore, 10 of the 13 players were freshmen that were not only new to collegiate soccer, but new to VMI. Davis orchestrated a successful campaign for the team that saw the Keydets compete deep into nearly every game. The team broke new ground at VMI and set a foundation for the teams to come, starting in 2004.

Davis, a 30-year-old native of Flower Mound, Texas, came to VMI after serving three years as assistant coach at the University of Arkansas. She coordinated Lady Razorback soccer recruiting, compliance and camps, and also assisted influentially with the teaching and training aspects of the game.

While in Fayetteville, Ark., Davis also devoted energies to promoting and developing youth soccer in Arkansas. She served as Region III staff age group coach for the Girls Olympic Development Program and was also head coach of the U13 Girls Comets Soccer Club that captured the 2001 State Cup Championship. Davis also served as state head coach for the Arkansas Olympic Development Program that evaluated, selected, and trained players to represent Arkansas in the ODP. She was selected the 2001 Female Classic Coach of the Year by the Arkansas State Soccer Association.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to be the first varsity head coach for the women's soccer program at VMI," said Davis. "I'm looking forward to the positive development that it will bring to women at the Institute and the challenge that I will face in recruiting quality women to play soccer at VMI."

Davis served as an assistant coach at Miami University during the 1997 and 1998 seasons and worked in all phases of the program, including recruiting, travel, equipment and scheduling. She also served as assistant tournament director for the Mid-American Conference Men's Championship and as a Region II staff age group coach for the girls Olympic Development Program.

A 1997 graduate of Wright State University with a B.A. in Psychology, Davis holds a United States Soccer Federation "B" License and has recently earned an Advanced National Diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Athletic Association. Davis was recently added to the coaching staff of the Western District of the Virginia Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program.

In the summer of 2003, Davis served as head coach of a U-17/19 team in Europe for the United Soccer Academy. She led the team to a 7-4-3 record as the squad traveled through Sweden, Denmark and England. This past summer, Davis returned to the Academy, where she guided the U 17/19 team to a fourth place finish in the Dana Cup in Denmark and quarterfinal round of the Gothia Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The Julie Davis File

2002-Present - Head coach at Virginia Military Institute; Lexington, Va.

1999-2001 - Assistant coach at University of Arkansas; Fayetteville, Ark.

1997-98 - Assistant coach at Miami University; Oxford, Ohio.

1994-97 - Played for Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. Graduated with a B.A. in Psychology.



A s s i s t a n t C o a c h

Summer Covington

Summer Covington became the newest member of the VMI women's soccer coaching staff in December, 2003 when Julie Davis hired her to be her top assistant.

As the assistant coach, Covington is responsible for coordinating travel arrangements and assisting in recruiting, field training, administrative duties and all other aspects of coaching the program. Covington comes to VMI from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she coached for two seasons. As an assistant coach in 2003, she was responsible for travel plans, assisting in recruiting efforts, and many other daily operations of the team. Additionally, she served as an assistant coach at Thomas Jefferson H.S. in Richmond.

Covington spent the 2002 campaign as a graduate assistant for co-head coaches Denise-Schilte Brown and Chris Brown while completing her master's degree requirements in Sports Leadership from the VCU SportsCenter. In addition to her on-field and administrative duties, Covington also helped organize and conduct VCU's Commonwealth Soccer Academy youth camp.

A graduate of the University of the South (Sewanee), Covington earned a bachelor's degree in English in 2000 and played four seasons on the Tigers' women's soccer team. The Durham, N.C. native holds a USSF "C" license and coached two years with the Triangle Football Club in the Durham-Chapel Hill area before coming to VCU. Covington has also worked with the AC Alliance club team in Richmond as well as the A-League's Richmond Kickers.

"Summer will be an outstanding addition to our staff," said Davis. "She is an ambitious young woman and will bring fresh ideas to the table. What she has learned at VCU will definitely help us at VMI."



S u p p o r t S t a f f

Tom Jones



Athletic Trainer

Tom Jones, ATC, begins his second year at the Institute after 32 years of service across town at Washington and Lee. He is also beginning his second year working with the VMI women's soccer team. Tom works with the Keydet track & field program in the winter and spring. During his time at Washington and Lee, Jones has established himself as one of the top individuals in his profession. Jones earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Hampden-Sydney College in 1960. He then graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in 1966 with a license in physical therapy and received a master's degree in sports medicine from the University of Virginia in 1968. He is a member of the Virginia and American Physical Therapy Association, the Virginia and National Athletic Trainers Association and the American College of Sports Medicine.



Claudia Pirkle

Academic Advisor

Claudia Pirkle enters her third academic school year as the athletic academic advisor at VMI.

In 2002, Pirkle assumed the position vacated by Don Jamison, who served as the academic advisor for seven years. However, Pirkle is not new to the Institute. She arrived at VMI in 1993 and served as a chemistry tutor to athletes under the NCAA Academic Enhancement Program.

She was also named VMI's Senior Women's Administrator for the athletic department in 2003.

In 1996, she became an adjunct chemistry instructor and taught freshman chemistry and lab sections for three years. During this time, Pirkle won the Corps of Cadets Distinguished Teaching Award in 1998 and 1999 for the Science Division.

From 1999 through 2001, Pirkle held the position of Assistant Director of Admissions at VMI. Her responsibilities in Admissions included the recruitment of female cadets, oversight of the web based on-line application and the admissions presence on the VMI web site.

Pirkle graduated cum laude with a degree in Chemistry from North Georgia College in 1980. Four years later, she received her Master's Degree in Secondary School Education and Supervision from Clemson University.

She is married to Dr. Kip Pirkle, a Professor of Management at Washington and Lee University. She has two children, Brian, 22, a senior at Washington and Lee, and Amanda, 17, a junior at Rockbridge County High School.

Keeping up with....

Shannon Clancy

Shannon Clancy, who served as assistant coach during VMI's first varsity season, is currently serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, where she is working as a communications and information officer. Concurrently she is working on her graduation from Officer Training School (OTS). Shannon will transfer to Camp Pendleton in San Diego this summer.

