



# VMI KEYDETS

## 2007 MEN'S SOCCER MEDIA GUIDE

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name of School .....Virginia Military Institute  
 City/Zip .....Lexington, Va. 24450  
 Founded .....1839  
 Enrollment .....1,300  
 Nickname .....Keydets  
 Mascot .....Kangaroo  
 School Colors .....Red, White, and Yellow  
 Affiliation .....NCAA Division I  
 Conference .....Big South Conference  
 Superintendent .....Gen. Binford Peay III (VMI '62)  
 Athletic Director .....Donny White (VMI '65)  
 Athletic Dept. Phone .....(540) 464-7251  
 Ticket Office Phone .....(540) 464-7266

### MEN'S SOCCER HISTORY:

First Season .....1972  
 Most Wins/Season .....2004 (10-9-1)  
 All-Conference Players .....30

### COACHING STAFF:

Head Coach .....Ben Freakley  
 Alma Mater/Year .....Georgia Southern '00  
 Record at school (yrs.) .....2-15-1 (1 yr.)  
 Career record (yrs.) .....13-34-3 (3 yrs.)  
 Phone .....(540) 464-7611  
 Email .....bfreakleybc@vmi.edu

Assistant Coach .....Henry Ellis  
 Alma Mater/Year .....The Citadel '99  
 Phone .....(540) 464-7610  
 Email .....ellishj@vmi.edu

Address .....VMI Men's Soccer  
 245 Cameron Hall  
 Lexington, Va. 24450

### TEAM INFORMATION:

Letterwinners returning .....13  
 Letterwinners lost .....7  
 Starters returning .....6  
 Starters lost .....5  
 Newcomers .....10

2006 Overall record .....2-15-1  
 2006 Conf. record/finish .....0-7-0/8th of 8  
 2006 Big South Champ .....Lost 2-0 vs. Winthrop  
 (First Round)

Stadium .....Patchin Field  
 Capacity .....1,000  
 Surface .....Bermuda Grass

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### 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" or V.M.I. Any help in using the correct moniker would be greatly appreciated.*



### SPORTS INFORMATION:

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### MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS:

The 2007 Virginia Military Institute Men's Soccer guide is a publication of the VMI Sports Information Office, and was compiled and written for the benefit of all interested in learning detailed information regarding the Institute, coaches, staff, and student-athletes of the Keydet soccer program. Written & Edited by Joel Balthaser. Layout & Cover Design by Joel Balthaser. Special assistance by Wade Branner, Sports Information Director and Christian Hoffman, Assistant Sports Information Director. Photography: Chuck Steenburgh, VMI Communications office, WG Sports Photos & Joel Balthaser. Printing by Collinsville Printing in Martinsville, Va.





# 2007 VMI KEYDETS SOCCER

## SOCCER MEDIA INFORMATION

### KEYDETS ON-LINE:

World Wide Web users can access the VMI Athletics web site through their web browser at [www.vmikeydets.com](http://www.vmikeydets.com). The site contains updated statistics, results, and roster information, as well as updated info on every Keydet athletic team.

### INTERVIEWS:

All interviews with VMI student-athletes must be coordinated through the VMI Sports Information Office. Since cadets do not have telephones in their rooms, interviews are usually done in the Sports Information Office. Please call ahead so we can arrange a convenient time for both you and the student-athlete.

### GAME RESULTS:

A brief story and game statistics will be available from VMI Sports Information approximately 90 minutes after the completion of all home matches

(excluding neutral site contests). Updated cumulative statistics are usually available within 2-3 hours upon completion of any game.

### LIVE STATS:

Live stats and play-by-play updates are available for all VMI home matches and for select away games. To view live stats, please visit [www.vmikeydets.com](http://www.vmikeydets.com).

### VIDEO STREAMING:

New for the 2007 season, the VMI Sports Information office will video stream a select number of VMI men's home soccer matches live from Patchin Field. All games will be streamed live through the Big South "Edge" via [www.bigsouthsports.com](http://www.bigsouthsports.com). Fee for individual matches is just \$4.95, however, different subscription levels are available for purchase.

### DIRECTIONS TO VMI:

VMI is located in historic Lexington, Virginia which is situated at the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley. Interstate 81 passes within just a few miles of Lexington.

#### When you travel north on I-81, exit at 188-B.

Take exit 188-B (60 West) and proceed to Lexington (a couple of miles). Turn right on Main St (which is one way north at this point). Immediately move into the left lane. After 2 blocks you will be forced to turn left onto Jefferson St (one way south). Immediately move into the right lane and then turn right onto Letcher Avenue. Proceed on Letcher until you enter VMI.

#### When you travel south on I-81, exit at 195.

Take exit 195 and turn right at the end of the exit ramp (11 South). Proceed south on 11 to Lexington (about 5 miles). Follow the signs to downtown Lexington (11 business . . . Main Street). Main Street will split and become Jefferson Street (one way south). Immediately turn right onto Letcher Avenue. Proceed on Letcher until you enter VMI.



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# BEN FREAKLEY

*Head Coach • Second Season • Georgia Southern (2000)*



Ben Freakley enters his second season as head coach of the VMI men's soccer team. Freakley was named the new head coach of the VMI men's soccer team on February 21, 2006, joining the VMI staff after spending the past two seasons as head coach at Erskine College (SC).

ing experience came at his alma mater, Georgia Southern University, where he spent two seasons as the assistant men's soccer coach.

Freakley is a 2000 graduate of Georgia Southern University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Relations and was a member of the men's soccer team. Freakley also has a Master's degree in Sports Management, which he received from

Georgia Southern in May 2003.

Freakley currently lives in Lexington, Va. with his wife Melissa, who was a standout player at Georgia Southern.

His father, Lieutenant General Ben Freakley, serves as the Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), stationed in Ft. Monroe Va. He is currently the commander of the U.S. military's Combined Joint Task Force 76, which is leading security operations in Afghanistan.

His impact with the VMI soccer program is already being felt after bringing in one of the largest and most talented recruiting classes after his first full recruiting season.

**"I was impressed with the work he did at Erskine, and I was impressed with his passion for the game of soccer. I feel that he will be an excellent leader and coach for our team."**

*-VMI Athletic Director Donny White*

In 2005, Freakley (pronounced FRAKE-lee) led the Division II Erskine Flying Fleet to a 9-7-1 record. In just his first season with the program, Freakley guided the Flying Fleet into the Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference (CVAC) post-season tournament for the first time in his players' careers.

Making the shift from Division II to Division I is something that was a rather smooth transition for the second-year coach. Freakley is a veteran of Division I soccer after a solid playing career at Georgia Southern University, and a pair of coaching stints at Division I schools.

Freakley currently works for the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America (NSCAA) as an instructor and State Technical Coordinator in Virginia and is also a Region 1 Olympic Development Program staff member and coach. Furthermore, he recently served on the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA) state staff as a head coach for several ODP state teams.

He holds several coaching licenses, including a USSF "A" License from the United States Soccer Federation as well as a Premier National Diploma from the NSCAA. For the NSCAA, he also served as the State Technical Director in South Carolina.

Prior to his position at Erskine, Freakley was an assistant coach at College of Charleston. His primary responsibilities with the Cougars included fundraising, assisting with the teams' recruiting efforts, and monitoring academic progress of his players. His first coach-



## The Freakley File

-VMI	Head Men's Soccer Coach (2006-present)
-Region 1 ODP	Program Staff/coach (2006-present)
-Erskine College	Head Men's Soccer Coach (2004-06)
-NSCAA	Staff/Instructor (2006-present)
-NSCAA	State Technical Dir. (2005-06)
-South Carolina YSA (SCYSA)	ODP State Staff/Head Coach (2003-06)
-College of Charleston	Assistant Men's Soccer Coach (2003-04)
-Georgia Southern University	Assistant Men's Soccer Coach (2001-03)
-Ben Freakley School of Soccer	Owner/Operator/Dir. (2005-present)

### Licenses:

USSF A License, NSCAA Premier Diploma (Distinguished Pass Honors)





# HENRY ELLIS

*Assistant Coach • Second Season • The Citadel (1999)*



Henry Ellis begins his second season as Assistant Coach for the Keydets, after joining head coach Ben Freakley's staff in March 2006.

Ellis was instrumental in securing one of the Keydets largest and most talented recruiting classes in 2007, including a highly touted goalie that will compete immediately for the starting goalkeeper spot.

Ellis came to the Institute after serving a two-year stint at Tennessee Tech, a division one program where he served

as the assistant coach for the Golden Eagle women's soccer program. At TTU, Ellis used his goalkeeping experience in collegiate and professional soccer to teach the young keepers the skills of the position. Ellis was also integral in bringing in a New Zealand national team defender, who was recently nominated for the Women's Player of the Year award in her native country.

While at Tech, Ellis was also an instructor for the Golden Eagle Soccer Camp, a weeklong summer camp for girls and boys and taught young goalkeepers in the nearby communities through clinics held on Tech's campus.

Prior to his position at TTU, Ellis worked at the College of Charleston as an assistant coach and goalkeeper coach for the Cougars. His efforts were highly recognized as well, as he helped lead the team to a school-best third place finish in the Southern Conference. Furthermore, the team's goalkeepers posted a season record for season shutouts with ten.

Ellis was also an assistant coach at Division III Albright College in Reading, Penn., and served as an assistant coach at his alma mater, The Citadel, for two seasons. He was an instructor for The Citadel Soccer Academy in Charleston, S.C., helped organized training session and coaching plans for the Elite Goalkeeper Academy, and oversaw the operations of the Micro Soccer Academy.

And while Ellis brings to VMI an extensive coaching career, his experience as a player at the collegiate and professional level is equally impressive.

Ellis played for four years at The Citadel, where he was team captain for his senior season. In 1999, he graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology.

At the professional level, Ellis has served stints with D.C. United of Major League Soccer (MLS), followed by a tour with the Charleston Battery of the USL A-League. While with the Battery, Ellis had the opportunity to play along side Eric Wynalda, who holds the current scoring record with 34 goals for the U.S. National Team and is enshrined in the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

**"Henry is dedicated, hard working and a true soccer professional. I definitely enjoy working with him because of his different and extensive background at many levels in the game."**

*-Head Coach Ben Freakley*

Other professional highlights include battling the Glasgow Rangers Football Club of the Premier Division, and going toe-to-toe with Hristo

Stoitchkov, arguably the most prolific Bulgarian soccer player of all time. Ellis was also a member of the Reading Rage of the USL D3 League, and of the 2003 USL Pro Select League national championship Wilmington Hammerhead team.

Ellis, a Charleston, S.C. native, holds his National Diploma from the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America (NSCAA). He and his wife, Leah, were married in the summer of 2006 and currently reside in Lexington.

## The Ellis File

- VMI	Assistant Men's Soccer Coach Director/Staff
- Virginia Tech GK Academy	
- Virginia State ODP	Staff Member
- Tennessee Tech	Asst. Women's Soccer Coach
- Golden Eagle Soccer Camp	Co-Director
- College of Charleston	Assistant Soccer Coach
- Albright College University	Assistant Soccer Coach
- The Citadel	Assistant Soccer Coach
- Citadel Soccer Academy	Co-Director

### Playing Career:

- D.C. United (MLS), Charleston Battery (USL A-League), Reading Rage (D3 League), Wilmington Hammerhead (USL Pro Select)

### Licenses:

- NSCAA Advanced National Diploma





## SOCCER SUPPORT STAFF:



### TONY CONWAY

*Volunteer Assistant Coach - VMI '01*

Conway played four seasons with the Keydets from 1997-2000, playing primarily as a center back. During that time, he played in 50 games making 37 starts, while also recording six career assists.

A native of Reading, England, Conway has been working with the local K-12 School Division since 2001. He first served as a teacher with the school system, and is currently a member of the Department of Technology where he is the Data Manager, overseeing the operations of the departments database systems.

Conway was born in Glasgow, Scotland, however, grew up in England. He attended The Erleigh School and spent several years with Crystal Palace FC before moving to Reading FC's youth team.

After graduating from VMI in 2001 with a degree in English, Conway started coaching the local High School team in Lexington, for which he credits his career path of teaching. Conway still visits the UK on a frequent basis, mainly to visit his family in Scotland, and to see friends in England.

Tony and his wife, Amanda, were married in 2002 and currently live in Lexington.



### JOEL BALTHASER

*Assistant Sports Information Director - Dayton '02*

Balthaser begins his third season with the Keydets. At VMI, Balthaser has served as the media contact for several Keydet sports, including men's soccer, men's and women's track and field, and lacrosse. Balthaser's duties also include assisting in the promotion of football and basketball and assisting with in-game operations and post-game interviews.

Balthaser received his B.S. degree in Sport Management from the University of Dayton with minors in journalism and general business in 2002. While at Dayton, Balthaser worked for three years with the Miami Valley Golf Association as media relations coordinator, and interned with the Illinois Junior Golf Association in Chicago as communications manager.

Prior to coming to VMI, Balthaser spent three years as the National Director of Media Relations for Pop Warner football, in charge of website maintenance, publications and all related media initiatives. He was the primary media contact for three Pop Warner Super Bowls, and planned and coordinated three national scholar banquets for the company.

At Pop Warner, Balthaser also published an image series book entitled "Images of America: Pop Warner" for the company in the spring of 2004.

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STAFF:



**Duggar Baucom**  
*Head Basketball Coach*



**Sherry Baucom**  
*SWA/Academic Advisor*



**Col. Tom Baur**  
*Faculy Chair of Athletics*



**Bart Bellairs**  
*Sr. Associate A.D.*



**Mike Bozeman**  
*Dir. of Track &Field/CC*



**Wade Branner**  
*Sports Information Dir.*



**Judy Cash**  
*Athletic Dept. Secretary*



**Jimmy Coale**  
*Head Strength Coach*



**Lance Fujiwara**  
*Dir. of Sports Medicine*



**Christian Hoffman**  
*Assistant SID*



**John Hoffman**  
*Asst. Athletic Trainer*



**Col. Eric Hutchings**  
*Chief of Staff*



**Elizabeth Igo**  
*Ticketing & Compliance*



**Marlin Ikenberry**  
*Head Baseball Coach*



**Micaela Kelso**  
*Asst. Athletic Trainer*



**Jimmy Mason**  
*Equipment Manager*



**Betsey Nicely**  
*Athletic Dept. Secretary*



**Bill Nicholson**  
*Head Swimming Coach*



**Stephen Ross**  
*Academic Advisor*



**Phil Sabatini**  
*Strength Training*



**Jeff Shirk**  
*Head Lacrosse Coach*



**Paul Spangler**  
*Cross Country Coach*



**Jim Thorpe**  
*Head Rifle Coach*



**John Trudgeon**  
*Head Wrestling Coach*



**Cliff Wade**  
*Assistant Athletic Director*



**Andrew Westhouse**  
*Assistant Athletic Dir.*



**Jimmy Whitten**  
*Assoc. Strength Coach*



**Bryan Williams**  
*Women's Soccer Coach*

