

2007-08 VMI Swimming & Diving



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Quick Facts

General Information

SchoolVirginia Military Institute
 CityLexington, Va.
 Founded1839
 Enrollment1,300
 NicknameKeydets
 ColorsRed, White & Yellow
 Home PoolCocke Hall Pool
 AffiliationNCAA Division I
 ConferenceCoastal Collegiate Swimming Association (CCSA)
 SuperintendentGen. J.H. Binford Peay, III (VMI '62)
 Athletic DirectorDonny White (VMI '65)

Swimming & Diving Team Information

Head CoachBill Nicholson (SUNY New Paltz '95)
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 Men's 2007 NEC Finish1st of 4
 Women's 2007 NEC Finish13th of 14
 Men's Letterwinners Returning/Lost12/6
 Men's Newcomers12
 Women's Letterwinners Returning/Lost1/4
 Women's Newcomers4

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Table of Contents

Quick Facts, Credits	1
Head Coach Bill Nicholson	2
Rosters	3
Meet The Keydets	4-12
2007-08 Top Times	13-14
School Records	15
A Proud Tradition	16
Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association	17
This Is VMI	18-19
Vision 2039	20
Superintendent Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III	21
Athletic Director Donny White	22
VMI Swimming & Diving Support Staff	23
2007 NEC Championship Recap	24

Credits

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Head Coach Bill Nicholson



Head Coach Bill Nicholson

- SUNY New Paltz '95
- Sixth Season

As head coach Bill Nicholson continues in his sixth season at the Virginia Military Institute, he looks to usher in a new era for the VMI Swimming & Diving program. After winning back-to-back men's championships in the Northeast Conference (NEC) the past two years, Nicholson has led the Keydets into Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association (CCSA) this season.

However the success the men's program has experienced is just part of the story of Nicholson's recent work. In 2005-06, VMI added women's swimming and diving as a varsity sport, and that season, Nicholson led the team to its first showing in the NEC Championship. In 2006-07, VMI finished ahead of Florida A&M at the NEC Championship, marking the first time the program had defeated an opponent.

In his time at the Institute, Nicholson has seen his Keydets claim 12 individual/team relay conference championships, including seven at the 2006 NEC Championships. Also in 2006, Nicholson saw Brenden Geoghagen claim Most Outstanding Diver honors, after the senior claimed both the one-meter and three-meter events.

However, his team's work in the pool only tells half the story. For the past six consecutive semesters, his men's team has received recognition as part of the College Swimming Coaches Association of America National Honor Roll. Teams must post a cumulative 2.80 GPA to qualify for the honor.

In addition to his team's academic excellence, Nicholson coached Tom Petykowski '05, who was VMI's valedictorian and an All-Conference diver in 2005 and was named First Team Academic All-American by ESPN The Magazine. Petykowski was one of 15 honorees nationwide that were chosen to the At-Large team that consisted of NCAA Division I playing members in gymnastics, golf, rifle, tennis, ice hockey, volleyball, fencing, lacrosse, swimming & diving, skiing and wrestling. He still stands as one of six Keydets to ever earn National First Team honors, and is the first to do so in a sport other than football or basketball.

Nicholson (34) took over the VMI swimming and diving program on August 5, 2002. Previously, he spent the 2001-02 season coaching the USS Condors Swim Club in Pleasantville, N.Y., where he coached both the boys and girls programs.

Nicholson spent the previous three years (1998-2001) as the men's and women's head swimming coach at Plattsburgh (N.Y.) State University. In his time at Plattsburgh, his teams broke 15 school records. The programs featured just 12 athletes when Nicholson took over, a number that grew to 35 by the time he departed. He improved the Cardinals men's team's performance at the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) from a ninth place finish (16 points) in his first season to a sixth place finish (330 points) in his final season.

From 1995 to 1998, Nicholson served as the assistant coach for his alma mater, SUNY New Paltz. He worked with the breaststroke and individual medley swimmers primarily during his stint. He helped three swimmers qualify for the Division III NCAA Championships and the men's team's finished in the top four of the SUNYAC each year.

As a collegiate swimmer, Nicholson qualified for the Division III NCAA Championships three times and captured eight school records. He won the SUNYAC title in the 400-yard medley relay in his junior year and was named the team's most valuable swimmer as a senior. In addition, Nicholson won the Coaches Award for Hardest Worker three years and won the team's Scholar-Athlete Award each of the four seasons he competed. Nicholson graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 1995.

A native of Horseheads, N.Y., Nicholson swam four years at Horseheads High School and graduated in 1991.



2007-08 Men's Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>High School</u>
Andrew Baity	Sophomore	Forest, Va.	Jefferson Forest
Charlie Barnett	Sophomore	Roanoke, Va.	Lord Botetourt
Chris Beyer	Senior	Reston, Va.	Flint Hill
Peter Blades	Senior	Almond, N.Y.	Alfred-Almond
Kevin Bocanegra	Freshman	Smithfield, Va.	Smithfield
Daniel Bogert	Junior	Tempe, Ariz.	Corena del Sol
Peter Borchelt	Senior	Evans, Ga.	Evans
Alex Brush	Junior	Mount Pleasant, S.C.	Wando
Preston Craft	Freshman	Richmond, Va.	Mills Godwin
Paul DeValk	Sophomore	Richmond, Va.	Mills Godwin
Tristan Euritt	Sophomore	Waterloo, Iowa	West
Justin Ferrell	Sophomore	Glen Allen, Va.	Deep Run
Jake Jackson	Junior	Norfolk, Va.	Lake Taylor
Josh Jeffcoat	Freshman	Virginia Beach, Va.	Gateway Christian
Andrew Jeter	Freshman	Bristol, W. Va.	Liberty
Joe Kang	Freshman	Valencia, Calif.	Valencia
Hank Lee	Senior	Arlington, Va.	Hargrave Military
Scott McFather	Freshman	Smithfield, Va.	Smithfield
Corey Morgan	Sophomore	Roanoke, Va.	Hidden Valley
Andrew Morse	Junior	Chesapeake, Va.	Indian River
Will Rowcliffe	Sophomore	Falls Church, Va.	J.E.B. Stuart
Cam Rushton	Freshman	Springfield, Va.	West Springfield
Stephen Russell	Junior	Chesapeake, Va.	Hickory
Chuck Snyder	Junior	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Thomas Jefferson
Trevor Stanco	Junior	Garden City, N.Y.	Garden City
Walter Stull	Senior	Westminster, Md.	South Carroll
Jeff Turner	Sophomore	Arlington, Va.	Yorktown
Jason Webb	Senior	Bowie, Md.	DeMatha

Team Captains: Chris Beyer, Peter Blades, Peter Borchelt, Jason Webb

2007-08 Women's Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>High School</u>
Briana Allard	Freshman	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson Secondary
Alexa Bernas	Senior	Mechanicsville, Va.	Mechanicsville
Chelsea Nugent	Freshman	Glendale, Calif.	Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy
Stephanie Ortiz	Junior	Stafford, Va.	Brooke Point
Ateala Tuff	Junior	Newnan, Ga.	East Coweta

Team Captain: Ateala Tuff

