

2004-05 Keydet Outlook

After finishing third in the Southern Conference one year ago, the 2004-05 VMI Wrestling team will look to an experienced set of upperclassmen to set the tone for the upcoming season.

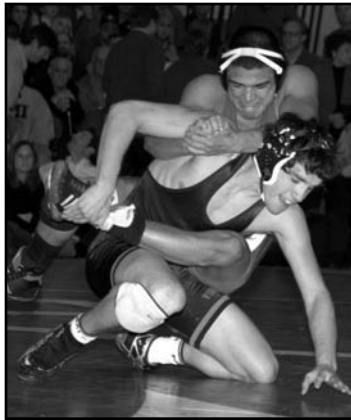
"We're excited about the upcoming season," says VMI head coach John Trudgeon. "We have a great group of guys coming back, and some freshman that we will be counting on to come through for us this year."

The strength of this year's squad will be in the middle, as the Keydets will return key contributors and have added solid depth at the 141, 149 and 157 pound weight classes.

Heading the group is sophomore Sam Alvarenga, who last year won the Southern Conference's 149-pound weight class on his way to an NCAA appearance as a freshman. Junior Chris Hardy, who placed second in last year's Southern Conference Championships, will again be expected to hold down the 157-pound weight class, while sophomore David Metzler will look to improve on a solid freshman campaign at 141.

"We're very happy with where we're at in the middle," stated Trudgeon. "Not only do we like the guys at the top of each weight class, but we have some quality guys that are going to push them every day in the practice room."

Some of those in the mix behind Alvarenga, Hardy and Metzler will be sophomore Jay Carter (141), freshmen Tim Neal (133/141), Olen Johnson (141), Tommy Cunningham (149/157) and senior P.J. Neumann (157).



Sam Alvarenga

The Keydets' deepest weight class may come at 165 this season, as sophomore John Lowery returns at the top. However, don't count out a pair of hungry freshmen in Adam Sellwood and Dustin McCabe that could wrestle their way into a starting position later in the season.

Youth is the key word when talking about the Keydets' lightweights this season. Four freshman will battle to replace senior Juan Sanchez, who graduated last year after starting for four years at 125 pounds.

Tony Martinez appears to have taken the early lead at 125, however, Lam Ly has been working hard while recovering from an offseason injury, and could be a factor by second semester. Jeremy Adams is also in the mix at 125.

Another freshman is looking like a starter at 133 pounds, as Tyler Anthony appears to be the leading candidate to replace Micah Amrozowicz. Anthony will continue to be pushed by junior Jochen Granja.

The Keydets' thinnest classes come at the top weights, where a couple of newcomers will be counted on heavily. Freshman Bryan Wells is expected to start at 174, while sophomore team captain Corry Murray represents the Keydets' lone competitor at 184 pounds.

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"Corry is going to be a big key for us this year," said Trudgeon. "We just have no depth at a couple of weights, so getting production out of the guys we have is going to become very important."

Freshman Bryan Evans (197) is another grappler who will be counted on to produce out of the gates.

"Bryan has all the physical tools," said Trudgeon. "He just needs to develop and refine his techniques and he could be a very good wrestler here at VMI."

At heavyweight, a pair of juniors in Scott Buhman and Brian Yannetti will be pushed by freshman Erik Olson for a starting slot.

The Keydets will again face a tough test in the Southern Conference, as they were picked fourth of the six teams in the preseason coaches' poll.

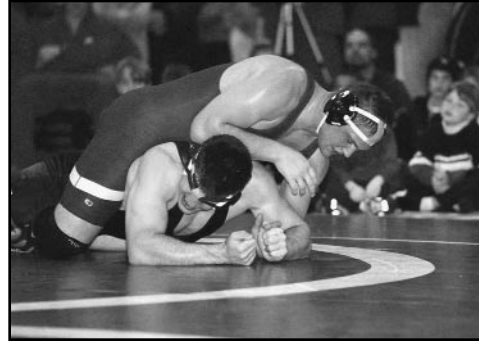
"Every team in our conference has improved," stated Trudgeon. "Chattanooga always has a solid team, as does The Citadel, and Appalachian State and Davidson should definitely be better. UNC Greensboro is red-shirting a couple of guys this year, but certainly will have enough left to field a quality team."

VMI's non-conference schedule should be a challenging one again, as the Keydets will return to the Las Vegas Invitational, the Southern Scuffle and the Midlands events, as well as the Keystone Classic, hosted by Penn at the historic Palestra in Philadelphia. The Keydets will also get the chance to defend their state championship at the Virginia State Championships in early January. And of course, the "Rumble on the River" meet in Richmond against Virginia looms on January 6 as well.

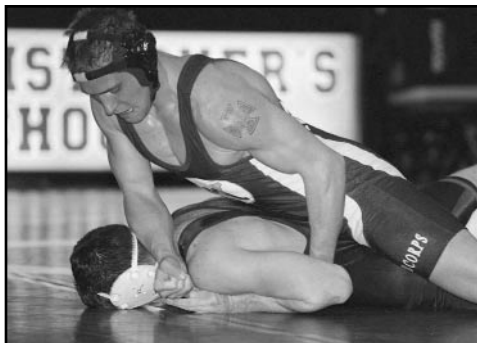
"I really like the schedule that we've been able to put together this year," said Trudgeon. "We have the chance to go to some great events early in the year, and will face some quality teams at both the Virginia State Championships and the All-Academy Championships. We

have dual meets against a lot of local teams, and the atmosphere is always great for the 'Rumble on the River' against Virginia."

With a solid young nucleus returning and a group of talented freshmen added to the mix, the 2004-05 version of the VMI Wrestling team could be one destined for big things. And after a 7-7 record and a third place finish in the Southern Conference last season, you can bet that this year's Keydets will be hungry for much more.



Scott Buhman



Corry Murray

2004-05 Keydet Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Weight Class</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>Hometown/Previous School</u>	<u>HS Coach</u>
Jeremy Adams	125	Fr.	Manassas, Va./Osborn Park	Mike Wilbourn
Sam Alvarenga	149	So.	Springfield, Va./Thomas Edison	Chris Summitt
Tyler Anthony	133	Fr.	Canton, Ohio/Glen Oak	Tom Milkovich
Scott Buhman	285	Jr.	Portage, Ind./Portage	Ed Pendoski
John Burton	157	So.	Arlington, Va./Yorktown	Scott Brooks
Jay Carter	141	So.	Martinsville, Va./Martinsville	Chad Ratliff
Vince Cole	141	Fr.	Richmond, Va./L.C. Bird	Tony Yonta
Tommy Cunningham	149	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio/Groveport-Madison	Gary Mossor
Bryan Evans	197	Fr.	Manassas, Va./Forest Park	Richard Hillary
Jochen Granja	133	Jr.	Lorton, Va./Hayfield	Roy Hill
Chris Hardy	157	Jr.	Chesapeake, Va./Western Branch	Brian Dugan
Jesse Hills	149	Jr.	Terre Haute, Ind./South Vigo	Steve Joseph
Olen Johnson	141	Fr.	Cary, N.C./Cary	Jerry Winterton
Aaron Kerkhof	174	So.	Muncie, Ind./Delta	Eric Kerkhof
John Lowery	165	So.	Louisville, Ohio/Walsh Jesuit	Bill Barger
Lam Ly	125	Fr.	Woodbridge, Va./C.D. Hylton	P.J. Pcsolinski
Tony Martinez	125	Fr.	Fort Belvoir, Va./Mount Vernon	Todd Reynolds
Mike Maternick	165	Fr.	Fairfax Station, Va./Hayfield	Roy Hill
Dustin McCabe	165	Fr.	Gloucester, Va./Gloucester	Joe Boone
David Metzler	141	So.	Dayton, Va./Turner-Ashby	John Fincham
Corry Murray	184	So.	Tully, N.Y./Tully	Nick Zupan
Tim Neal	133	Fr.	Cary, N.C./Green Hope	Chip Bunn
P.J. Neumann	157	Sr.	Chesapeake, Va./Great Bridge	Steve Martin
Erik Olson	285	Fr.	Springfield, Va./Hayfield	Roy Hill
Stephen Partin	157	So.	Colonial Heights, Va./Thomas Dale	Ray Ward
Jeff Sale	174	Jr.	Alexandria, Va./Edison	Scott Matheny
Patrick Schrafft	197	Fr.	Chesterfield, Va./Matoaca	Randy Zaremba
Adam Sellwood	165	Fr.	Tully, N.Y./Tully	Nick Zupan
Chris Smith	157	So.	Rocky Mount, Va./Franklin Co.	Kris Kahila
Robert Taylor	141	Fr.	Newport News, Va./Menchville	Chris Wiatt
Bryan Wells	174	Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va./Tallwood	Jim Lambert
Brian Yannetti	285	Jr.	Chesapeake, Va./Great Bridge	Steve Martin

Head Coach: John Trudgeon (William & Mary '75); 20th season

Assistant Coach: Aaron Bruce (Liberty '95); 11th season

Roster Breakdown

By Class

Rats (Freshmen)- 16
 3rd Classmen (Sophs.)- 9
 2nd Classmen (Juniors)- 6
 1st Classmen (Seniors)- 1

By State

Virginia- 22
 Ohio- 3
 Indiana- 3
 North Carolina- 2
 New York- 2

Pronunciation

Buhman- BOO-man
 Jochen- YO-hahn
 Granja- GRAN-jah
 Ly- LEE
 Schrafft- SHRAFT