

COACHING & SUPPORT STAFF



**VMI KEYDETS BASEBALL**

2009 SEASON MEDIA GUIDE



# Head Coach Marlin Ikenberry

VMI '95 ♦ Sixth Season ♦ 143-132 Career Record

## Winningest Coach In Program History

Over the past five seasons, the VMI baseball program has enjoyed unprecedented success. Winning games against top-ten teams, receiving national rankings and being regarded as one of the top programs in the state and in the region are now attributes of a program built under head coach Marlin Ikenberry.

Ikenberry enters his sixth season at the helm of the program as the winningest coach in the history of VMI baseball. The 2008 season saw the Keydets post their third-consecutive winning campaign, a feat not accomplished in the past 52 years of the program, while VMI also defeated a ranked team for the fourth-straight season. Also during the year, the Keydets went 14-7 in the Big South, the first winning league mark since VMI joined the conference in 2003.

In 2007, Ikenberry guided his squad to a 34-21 record, marking the third-straight season the team had broken the school record for wins, while also knocking off a pair of top-ten teams for the first time in program history. As a result, VMI baseball earned its first-ever national ranking, being tabbed 30th in the country by Collegiate Baseball in back-to-back weeks while also receiving votes in the Writers' Poll.

Marlin Ikenberry was named head coach on July 22, 2003, being promoted to the top spot in the program after former head coach Tom Slater departed VMI in the summer of 2003 to accept a coaching position at the University of Florida.

As Slater's top assistant and recruiting coordinator for three years, Ikenberry played a key role in the resurgence of the VMI baseball program that set a school record for victories in 2003 at 24-28. That same year, the Keydets posted a 16-14 mark in the Southern Conference, securing their first winning conference mark since 1969.

Since taking over the program, Ikenberry has continued that success, improving the team's win total each of the past three seasons. After winning 23 games in his first year and 27 contests in his second season, historical ground was broken in 2006, when the Keydets won 30 games for the first time in program history while also marking the first time in 41 years that the program posted a winning record.

Hailed as one of the state's top recruiters, Ikenberry has signed several players that have enjoyed great success in Lexington. He is responsible for the signing of two Louisville Slugger Freshman All-Americans, a Southern Conference Freshman of the Year, five Big South First-Team All-Conference selections and a 2003 All-SoCon Tournament player.

Ikenberry, 35, served as VMI's recruiting coordinator and pitching and catching coach in 2003 and was vital in the staff's remarkable improvement that season. Working closely with the Keydet pitchers and catchers, Ikenberry helped guide the pitching staff to an improvement of nearly two runs in team earned run average from the previous season.

"We're very excited to have Marlin Ikenberry as our head baseball coach," VMI athletic director and former Keydets head baseball coach Donny White said upon Ikenberry's hiring. "He has all the ingredients to be a great head coach. His recruiting work has made a difference in the program and has certainly been instrumental to our success. He has the leadership and abilities to build on the program's recent performance and reach the goal of a conference championship."

A 1995 graduate of VMI, Ikenberry played for the Keydets and was recruited by VMI Hall of Famer Chris Finwood, now head coach at Western Kentucky. Ikenberry returned to his alma mater in the summer of 2000 after spending three years at the College of William and Mary as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. While in Williamsburg, Ikenberry earned a reputation as one of the state's top recruiters and landed two high school All-Americans and freshman All-Americans.

In 2000, the Tribe of William and Mary finished with a school record 32 wins and placed third in the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament. The team also set a school record for best fielding percentage at .967. The next season, William and Mary won the CAA Championship and earned a berth in the NCAA Regional Tournament. During his time in Williamsburg, Ikenberry coached future Major Leaguer Brendan Harris and recruited future Major Leaguer Chris Ray and current professional player Chris Shaver.

During his coaching career, Ikenberry has helped guide 26 players onto professional careers in baseball. In recent years, Ikenberry was instrumental in the development of pitchers Trey Barham, Michael Bowman, Corey Bachman, Duke Acors, Jeremy Harper, Phil Hendrix and J.J. Hollenbeck as well as catchers Andy Barden and Mike Roberts and infielders Matt Smith, Chad Rice and Kelly Sweppenhiser.

As a cadet, Ikenberry was a four-year starting catcher for the Keydets. While playing, he developed a reputation for his excellent defensive skills and his handling of the pitching staff. He also caught for former VMI and major league pitcher Ryan Glynn.

He played on VMI's 1993 squad that advanced to the Southern Conference Championship game and ranked third in the nation in defense. In 1994, he helped the Keydets in setting a then school record for wins along with a third place finish in the Southern Conference Tournament.

A native of Richmond, Va., Ikenberry has two brothers who both attended VMI. Twin brother Merlin Ikenberry was a teammate as a pitcher and designated hitter while his oldest brother Steve Ikenberry is an alum of the class of 1980. Ikenberry is a graduate of Douglas Freeman High School. He married the former Shannon Marshall in August, 2000.



**Marlin Ikenberry has led the Keydets to winning records each of the past three seasons.**

## Winningest Keydet Baseball Coaches

### By Wins

1. Marlin Ikenberry (2004-Pres.)	143
2. Scott Gines (1995-2000)	104
3. Donny White (1974, 1982-87)	91
4. Charlie McGinnis (1961-65)	55
5. Chris Finwood (1992-94)	52

### By Winning Percentage (Min. 50 Games)

1. Charlie McGinnis (1961-65)	.544
2. Marlin Ikenberry (2004-Pres.)	.520
3. Jack Null (1956-58)	.400
4. Donny White (1974, 1982-87)	.377
5. Scott Gines (1995-2000)	.361



Marlin and Shannon Ikenberry



## The Ikenberry File

### Education

- Douglas Freeman High School (1991)
- Virginia Military Institute (1995-B.S.)

### Coaching Experience

- Assistant Coach, William & Mary (1998-2000)
- Assistant Coach, Virginia Military Institute (2000-03)
- Head Coach, Virginia Military Institute (2003-Present)

### Personal

- Born: February 23, 1973 in Richmond, Va.
- Wife: Shannon, married August 12, 2000

### Year-By-Year Record

1992	VMI	11-39	Starting Catcher
1993	VMI	20-29#	Starting Catcher
1994	VMI	21-29*	Starting Catcher
1995	VMI	19-28	Starting Catcher
1998	W&M	24-28	Assistant Coach
1999	W&M	29-24	Assistant Coach
2000	W&M	32-25*	Assistant Coach
2001	VMI	15-32	Assistant Coach
2002	VMI	10-41	Assistant Coach
2003	VMI	25-27*	Assistant Coach
2004	<b>VMI</b>	<b>23-32</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>
2005	<b>VMI</b>	<b>27-28*</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>
2006	<b>VMI</b>	<b>30-25*</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>
2007	<b>VMI</b>	<b>34-21*</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>
2008	<b>VMI</b>	<b>29-26</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>
		<b>143-132</b>	<b>Head Coaching Career</b>

### Record

- \*- Broke School Record for Wins
- #- Tied School Record for Wins

### Ikenberry Facts

● Has been a part of five of the last six teams to break the VMI season wins mark. In 1995, was a senior starting catcher on the team that won 21 games; was an assistant on the 2003 team that achieved 24 wins; and was the head coach of the 2005 27-win team, the 2006 30-win squad and last season's 34-win campaign. He was also an assistant on the 2000 William & Mary team that achieved a school-record 32 victories.

● Needed less than four seasons to become the winningest coach in program history, winning his 105th game on April 13, 2007, a 13-0 win over Coppin State. It also marked the 200th game of his head coaching career.

● Has coached VMI to several landmark victories, including a pair of wins against top-ten opponents in 2007, knocking off #3 Virginia and #10 Auburn. Ikenberry has also led VMI to series wins against both Florida and Auburn, the program's first-ever series victories versus SEC opponents. The Keydets' 3-2 victory over #21 Coastal Carolina on March 26, 2005 was the team's first against a ranked opponent in over a decade.

● Was mentioned in the NCAA News in 1993 when he and twin brother Merlin formed the battery for the Keydets vs. Duke, while the Blue Devils also had a battery of twins in the lineup at the same time.

● Starting catcher on the 1993 VMI team that made the Southern Conference Championship game before falling to Western Carolina.

● Threw out over 50% of opposing basestealers during his four seasons at VMI.

# Assistant Coach Ryan Mau

Fourth Season ♦ College of Charleston '01

**R**yan Mau begins his fourth season at VMI following a successful three-year run in Lexington. A season ago, Mau was responsible for a nationally-ranked pitching staff that led the Big South in ERA while developing a pair of Major League Baseball draftees. Those were only the latest accomplishments for Mau since joining the Keydet staff, during which VMI has posted its three best ERA stats in over 30 years while twice setting the school record for wins.

Mau, who also serves as the program's recruiting coordinator, has been instrumental in the success of several Keydet hurlers that have received numerous accolades. The 2007 season alone saw Trey Barham, Michael Bowman and Kevin Crum named to the Roger Clemens Award Watch List, given annually to the nation's top pitcher, while Crum was also listed on the Watch Lists for both the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Award Dick Howser Award, the first times that Keydets were named to any such lists. He has mentored three All-Conference pitchers and a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American.

The Lake Mary, Fla. native has a proven track record of developing hurlers into pro prospects. Just last year, a pair of Keydet pitchers were drafted, as Michael Bowman was taken in the ninth round by the Milwaukee Brewers, while Trey Barham was selected in the 25th round by the Oakland Athletics. A year previous, Corey Bachman was drafted by the Chicago Cubs, while Mau coached a pair of players that were selected in the top 12 rounds of the draft at Charleston Southern University.

Before coming to the Institute, Mau spent two seasons at Marist College, helping the Red Foxes to the 2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Regular Season and Tournament Championships. Marist then participated in the Baton Rouge Regional, where they fell to LSU and Northwestern State, despite holding leads late in each contest. While at Marist, Mau coached both the MAAC Pitcher of the Year and Relief Pitcher of the Year in 2005.

Prior to his two-year stint in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Mau spent one season at Big South foe Charleston Southern, where he lowered the staff ERA by two runs from the previous season and had a pitcher named Big South Player of the Year. Mau also coached the South Carolina Diamond Devils AAU team for two seasons, compiling a 34-17-2 mark and 370 strikeouts while working with 19 future collegiate pitchers, 15 of whom went on to play in Division I.

A standout pitcher for the College of Charleston from 1998-2001, Mau still ranks among the Cougars' best in career victories, games started, ERA, strikeouts and innings pitched. He also established the Cougars' single-season mark for winning percentage (.1000) while posting a 1.79 ERA, the second-lowest single-season total in school history. Following his collegiate career, he signed as a free agent with the Florida Marlins and pitched for two seasons in the Marlins organization. He also split another season with the Kenosha Mammoths and the Southeastern Cloverleafs.



Ryan, Leslie, Grace and Gabriel Mau

Mau is a 2001 graduate of the College of Charleston with a degree in communication, as well as an alum of Lake Mary High School. He married the former Leslie Burnett in October 2003, while their daughter, Grace, was born in April 2005 and their son, Gabriel, was born in February 2009.

**Ikenberry on Mau-** "Ryan has done an outstanding job with our pitching staff. He has instilled a mentality in our guys to develop, compete and improve everyday. Meanwhile, he has continued to thrive as our recruiting coordinator, bringing in quality players to strengthen our program."

# Assistant Coach Barry Shelton

Third Season ♦ West Virginia State '97

**B**arry Shelton enters his third season at the Institute in 2008, serving as the team's hitting coach while also handling third-base coaching duties for the Keydets.

Over his first two seasons with VMI, the Keydet bats have established new school records, earned numerous accolades and have seen a pair of players go on to the professional ranks.

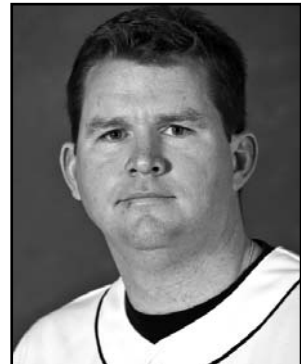
In 2008, the Keydets established a new school record for both hits and total bases in a season, while the 2007 squad tied the standard for doubles in a season. In each of Shelton's two seasons on post, the Keydets have boasted First Team All-Big South hitters, while also producing MLB draft picks.

Shelton joined the Keydet coaching staff following a three-year stint at Ferrum College. In his years in Rocky Mount, Shelton helped lead the Panthers to a USA South Conference regular season title in 2004 and a tournament championship in 2005.

The Roanoke, Va. native played his high school ball at Patrick Henry High School before attending West Virginia State. At WVVSU, Shelton earned All-American and Regional Player of the Year honors as a third baseman. He was selected in the 21st round of the MLB Draft by the Chicago White Sox, and played professionally for four seasons.

Shelton began his coaching career at his alma mater, serving as an assistant coach at WVVSU for four seasons. During his tenure, the Yellow Jackets won three West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) championships, while the 1999 team placed 3rd at the NCAA Division II World Series. He then moved to Hartwick (N.Y.) College, directing the program as head coach for three seasons before moving to Ferrum in the summer of 2003.

**Ikenberry on Shelton-** "Having Barry around for a third season has added to the continuity of our program and our hitters. He has done a great job of developing our hitters, and we're looking forward to seeing the success we can achieve in his third year."



# Volunteer Assistant James Conrad

First Season ♦ Lafayette '07

**J**ames Conrad, a 2007 graduate of Lafayette, is in his first season with the VMI baseball program as the volunteer assistant coach.

Conrad brings a distinguished playing background to the Keydets, as he was a three-time All-Patriot League performer and was named the conference's Scholar Athlete of the Year as a senior. Also in his senior season, Conrad ranked third in the nation with 49 stolen bases while leading the Leopards to a League Championship and a berth in the Charlottesville Regional, where the center fielder was named to the All-Regional Team.

A Columbia, Md. native, Conrad played for the Traverse City (Mich.) Beach Bums of the Frontier League after his playing days at Lafayette. He worked as an assistant coach with his alma mater, Atholton High School, last season, while also teaching the game at the Baseball Factory. In the past, he has also served an internship with Baseball Info Solutions, a statistical company run by Bill James.

**Ikenberry on Conrad-** "I am very excited to have James become a part of our coaching staff," said Ikenberry. "He had an outstanding career for Lafayette and played for a great coach in Joe Kinney. James will work with our outfielders and base runners, and I think that he will bring a lot to our program."



## Athletic Trainer Kelly McMullen

First Season ♦ Ithaca '08

**K**elly McMullen is in her first season at VMI, having worked primarily with the women's soccer and baseball programs. McMullen is working at VMI while concurrently working toward a Masters of Education in Athletic Training from the University of Virginia.

A 2008 graduate of Ithaca with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science/Athletic Training, McMullen also earned minors in health and nutrition promotion during her time at the upstate New York institution.

In college, McMullen worked as a student athletic trainer for numerous athletic teams at both Ithaca College and Cornell University. Her experiences include working with both varsity and sprint football teams, in addition to field hockey, wrestling, baseball, women's lacrosse, track & field, tennis and squash.

She is a native of Williamsville, N.Y.



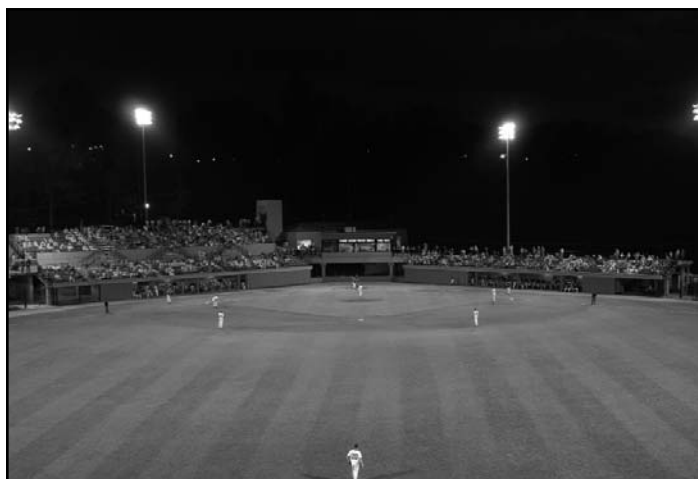
### The VMI Baseball Endowment Fund

**T**hanks to the foresight of interested alumni and friends, VMI Baseball benefits from a permanent endowment fund now valued in excess of \$1.3 million. This Fund annually provides income in support of the baseball program, everything from salaries to equipment.

The VMI Baseball Endowment Fund was created as part of a five-year campaign for baseball initiated in 1991. Leadership for this special effort came from the following VMI alumni: Gil Minor '63 (Campaign Chair and former All-Southern Conference catcher), Senator Elmon T. Gray '46 (Honorary Chairman and former VMI catcher), Steve Phelps '66, Thomas G. Slater Jr. '66, former VMI head coaches Donny White '65 (All-American and 1982 Southern Conference Coach-of-the-Year) and Paul Maini '66 (1988 Southern Conference Coach-of-the-Year), and former Keydet players John L. Morgan '55, William A. Paulette '69, and W. Ruben Terry '67.

In addition to this operational support, several scholarships have been endowed to assist the program: the R. H. Spessard 1915 Baseball Scholarship, the Class of 1942 Baseball Scholarship, the Class of 1950B Claude H. "Red" Patton Baseball Scholarship, the Kenneth F. Johnson 1962 Baseball Scholarship and the James R. Breckinridge 1967 Memorial Baseball Scholarship.

Private support plays a crucial role in maintaining and improving baseball at VMI. Those interested in "joining the team" should contact the VMI Keydet Club at (800) 444-1839.



## Baseball SID Christian Hoffman

Fifth Season ♦ Lee '03

**C**hristian Hoffman, currently in his fifth year at VMI, was recently promoted to Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations.

Since joining the VMI staff, Hoffman has served as the media contact for many Keydet sports, including baseball, men's and women's soccer, lacrosse, wrestling, cross country, swimming and diving, along with assisting in the promotion of football and basketball.

In addition, Hoffman is in his third season of providing play-by-play coverage of Keydet baseball road games.

The West Point, Va. native came to VMI after spending one year at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. While at Mercer, Hoffman worked toward his MBA while serving as the media contact for several of the Bears' sports, including baseball, women's basketball, women's soccer and cross country teams.

Over the past few years, he has worked Official Stats for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Men's Basketball Championships held in Orlando, Fla., as the statistician for the WBA's Macon Blaze, and served as the tournament SID for the Atlantic Sun Men's Soccer Championship and for MatJam 2006. He has also worked on ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball broadcasts in Atlanta and Philadelphia and as a scorer at the 2004 Roosevelt World Basketball Challenge.

Hoffman graduated from Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn. in 2003 with a B.S. in Mathematics and minors in Religion and Business. He worked in the Flames' Sports Information office for a year and a half, working primarily with baseball and men's basketball.

He is engaged to Miss Toni Mansfield of Springville, N.Y., and the couple currently resides in Lexington.



## Strength Coach Jimmy Whitten

Fifth Season ♦ Virginia Tech '90

**J**immy Whitten is in his fifth year as VMI Associate Head Strength and Conditioning Coach, where he has made a positive impact on the program.

Whitten came from East Carolina University in August 2004, where he was Director of Strength and Conditioning.

While at ECU, Whitten implemented the strength and conditioning programs for Pirate Football and Men's Basketball for three years.

He also headed up the strength programs for the Pirate Men's Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Men's Track, Men's and Women's Soccer, and Swimming teams.

Prior to his ECU tenure, Whitten was head strength and conditioning coach for UNC Charlotte from July, 1999, to February, 2001. He was also assistant strength and conditioning coach at his alma mater, Virginia Tech, for two years after serving as a graduate assistant in the program for two years.

He was a defensive end standout for the Hokies and was named the team's Co-MVP as well as most valuable defensive lineman in 1990. He also held the Captain's Award for Hokie Football in 1990.

Whitten earned a Bachelor of Science in Education at Virginia Tech in 1991 and earned a Masters of Arts in Counseling Education at Virginia Tech in 1996.

Whitten is a member of the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association and National Strength and Conditioning Association.

A native of Danville, Va., Whitten and his wife, Eileen, have two children - daughter Mandolin (5), and son Luke (4).



# VMI Keydet Club



## 2,600 MEMBERS

### FY09 GOALS

## \$2,150,000

### Scholarship Grant-In-Aid

## + \$1,400,000

### Athletic Operations Expenses

## = \$3,550,000

### In TOTAL Athletics Support

THE NATION'S OLDEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED  
ATHLETIC FOUNDATION  
SUPPORTING VMI ATHLETICS SINCE 1934



Bill Stephens '73  
President-Board of Governors



Greg Cavallaro '84  
Chief Executive Officer



Donnie Ross '74  
Vice President



Doug Bartlett  
Vice President



Sue Wood  
Asst. Vice President



Jackie Clark  
Officer Manager & Executive Asst.

### Board of Governors

Charles Plageman '90, 1st Vice President	Steve Craddock '70	Bland Massie '77
"Buzz" Birzenicks '64, 2nd Vice President	Mike Eden '82	Johnathan Mayo '95
Joey Keyes '82, Secretary/Treasurer	Hunter Elliott '85	Gary Morgan '81
Jerry Acuff '71	Lois Ford	Tom Mortenson
Bernard Bossard '56	Walter Galanty '72	John Munno '84
Charlie Branch '95	Andre Gibson '78	Bill O'Connor '70
David Bruce '94	Chal Glenn '80	Darrell Rickmond '73
Ron Bryan '55	Tom Greenspon '85	Jeff Roseme '82
Art Bushey '69	Don Heslep '56	Scott Saunders '97
Jim Chalkley '73	Richard Hewitt '83	Kelly Sullivan '01
Barry Coceano '84	Tom Jones '69	Helen Talbott
	Mike Kemp '90	Cameron Thompson '74
	Bruce Kitchen '81	T. J. Wilson '74
	John Krovic '77	Kimo Wong '75

*Contributing to the Spirit and development of a successful Division I athletic program that benefits the whole of VMI.*

# VMI KEYDET CLUB

*Committed to full compliance with NCAA rules and regulations.*

# Attention VMI Baseball Fans!

The VMI Keydet Club Invites You to

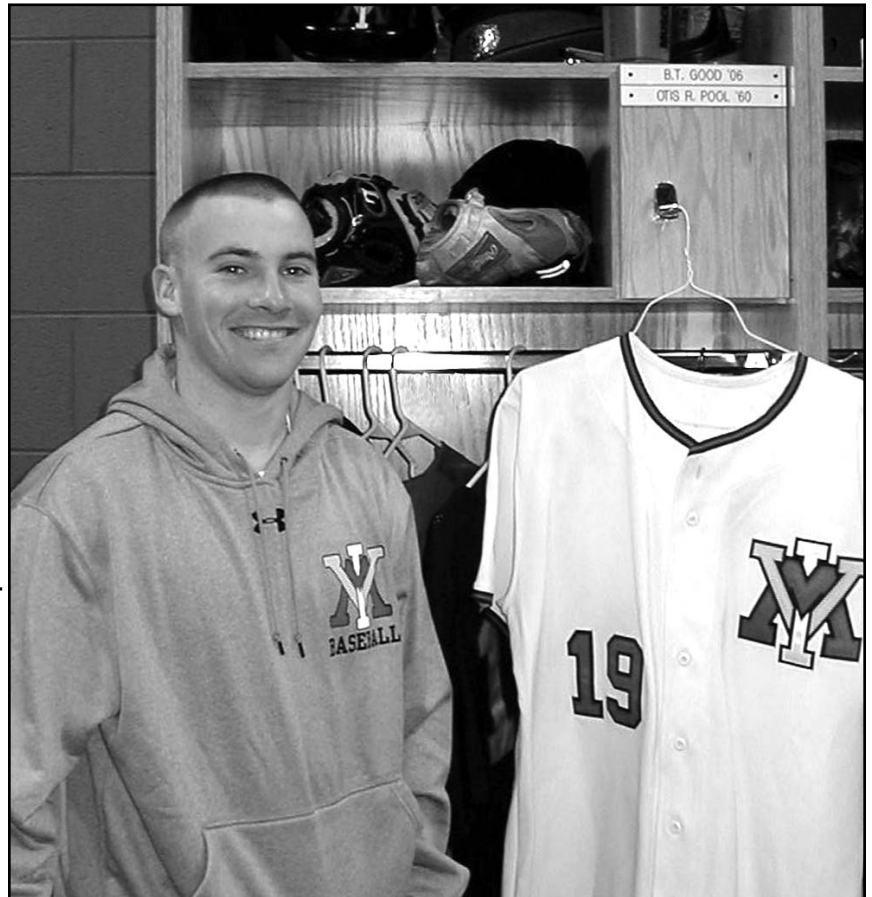
## PUT YOUR NAME ON A BASEBALL LOCKER!

Support Cadet-Athlete Scholarships and Baseball Operations with a gift of \$1,000, split evenly between the Scholarship Fund and the Athletic Operations-Baseball Fund.

With your gift, you will have your name\* permanently placed on a locker in the Baseball Locker Room at Patchin Field.

Gifts can be made in cash, by credit card or with a stock transfer.

Contact Doug Bartlett at the VMI Keydet Club for more information—  
1-800-444-1839 or [dbartlett@vmiaa.org](mailto:dbartlett@vmiaa.org)



*\*Limited to 20 character spaces, including blank spaces and your class year with accompanying apostrophe.*

(Name plates can also be installed in other sport locker rooms for a gift of \$1,000. Call the Keydet Club for more information.)

# Go Big Red!



*The VMI Keydet Club, Inc. is committed to full compliance with NCAA rules.*

# The Diamond Club

*President:*  
Paul Maini '66

*Head Coach:*  
Marlin Ikenberry '95



c/o VMI Keydet Club  
PO Box 932  
Lexington VA 24450  
1-800-444-1839  
www.vmikeydetclub.com  
email: keydetclub.com

February 9, 2009

Dear Keydet Baseball Fans:

The resurgence of the VMI Baseball program in recent years has been truly incredible. In the last five years, the team has compiled a record of 143-132, including impressive wins over Auburn, Florida, Virginia, Virginia Tech, and many other perennial baseball powers! Furthermore, 12 former Keydet players from these teams have been signed by Major League teams.

The program has come a long way. Under the leadership of head coach Marlin Ikenberry '95 and his assistants, the team is poised to compete for a championship and post-season tournament play every year. Certainly, the major ingredient in a good team is good players. However, the tremendous support of Institute leaders, alumni, families and fans has played a vital role in our recent success. The generosity and commitment of two baseball alumni gave VMI Gray-Minor Stadium—the best college facility in the state that shows in a tangible way the level of success VMI strives to achieve. Many other members of our baseball family have also contributed to help move the program forward.

Now, in partnership with the Keydet Club, Coach Ikenberry has decided to formalize fan support by organizing a baseball booster club, to be called The Diamond Club. This letter is your invitation to become a charter member of The Diamond Club and participate in an organized effort to maximize and focus support for the program.

Membership includes pre-game and post-game notes and coaches' comments. As a Charter Member, you will also receive a game ticket and free admission to one of three games and post-game cook-outs -- see membership application. [Please note that your membership will not include season or individual game tickets unless otherwise specified; you will need to order your tickets from the VMI Ticket Office.]

Charter memberships are available this year through June 30, 2009, at \$50.00\* per person. Become a charter member, and your yearly membership dues will never increase—even when the cost for future members does! (\*Does not count for Keydet Club membership; no tax receipt will be issued—check with your accountant as to the tax status of your membership fee.)

Join The Diamond Club today by completing the enclosed Membership Form—don't forget to select your free game ticket! See you at the stadium to root for the Keydets!

Yours In The Spirit of VMI,

Paul B. Maini '66  
President