



VMI KEYDETS BASEBALL

POINTS OF PRIDE

- *With a 29-26 record last season, the Keydets posted back-to-back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in 52 years.*
- *By going 14-7 in the Big South Conference in 2008, VMI posted its best finish since joining the league, tying for second place in the regular season standings.*
- *The Keydets have defeated a ranked opponent in each of the past four years after knocking off #15 Coastal Carolina, 4-3, last season.*
- *VMI has had multiple players selected in the Major League Baseball Draft in each of the past three seasons.*
- *Eight different Keydets have been named All-Conference over the past four years.*
- *In 2007, VMI received its first-ever national rankings and defeated a pair of top ten opponents in #3 Virginia and #10 Auburn.*
- *With the opening of Gray-Minor Stadium in 2007, the Keydets boast one of the region's top collegiate baseball facilities.*



Table of Contents, Credits



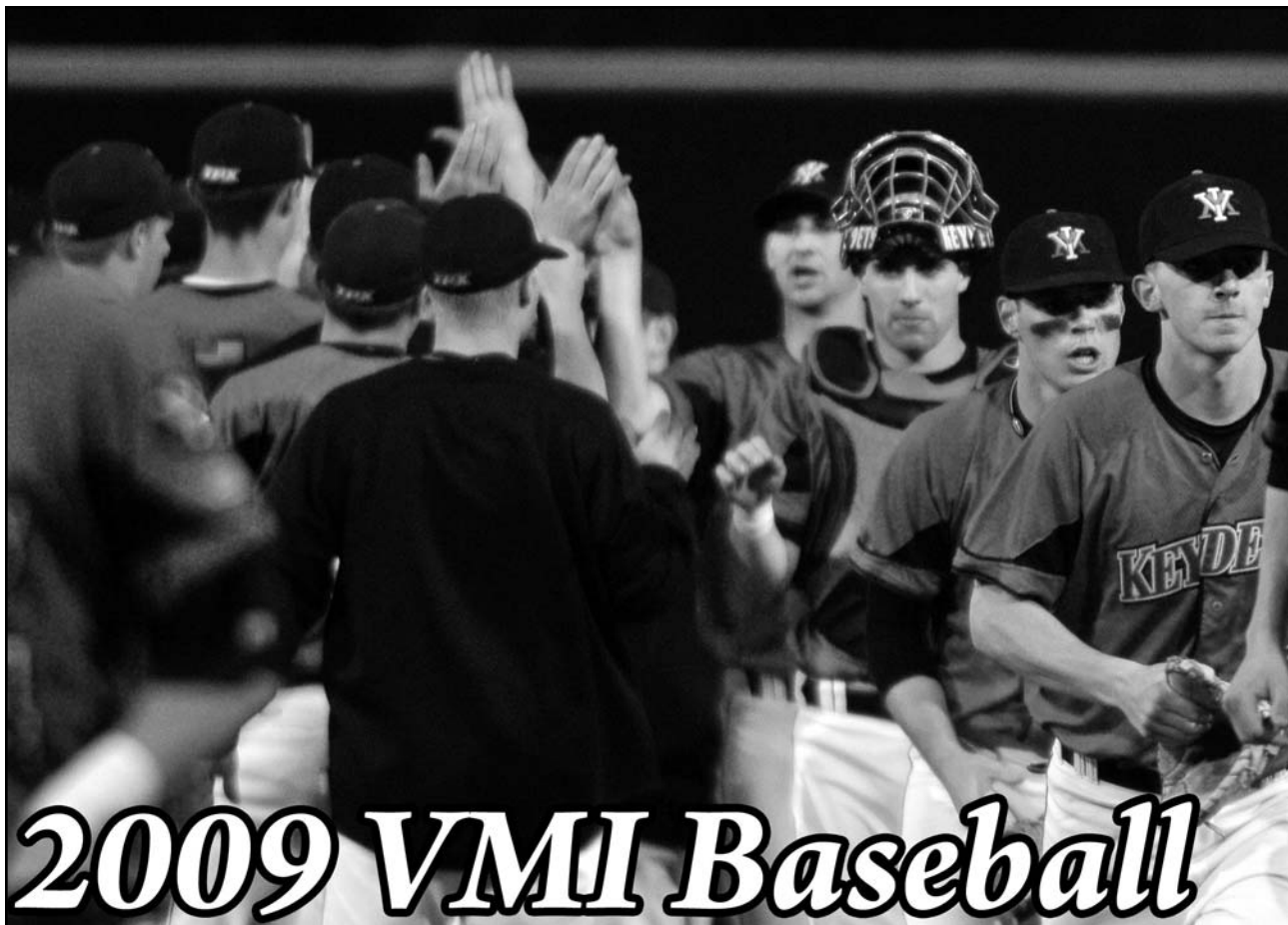
The 2008-09 VMI Baseball Media Guide is published by the VMI Athletic Media Relations Office. The publication has been prepared to assist the media in covering VMI Baseball during the 2009 season. Fans and friends of VMI may purchase copies of the guide from the VMI Athletic Media Relations Office at the cost of \$5.

For additional information, the media may contact the VMI Athletic Media Relations Office, 116 Smith Hall, Lexington, VA 24450. The office may also be reached via telephone at (540) 464-7253, or via fax at (540) 464-7583.

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GENERAL

Name of School Virginia Military Institute (VMI)
 City/Zip Lexington, Va. 24450
 Founded 1839
 Enrollment 1,400
 Nickname/Mascot Keydets/Moe (Kangaroo)
 School Colors Red, Yellow & White
 Home Field Gray-Minor Stadium
 Affiliation NCAA Division I
 Conference Big South
 Superintendent Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III '62
 Athletic Director Donny White '65
 Athletic Department Phone 540-464-7251
 Ticket Department Phone 540-464-7266

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Marlin Ikenberry (VMI '95)
 Record at VMI 143-132 (Sixth Season)
 Overall Record 143-132 (Sixth Season)
 Office Phone 540-464-7609
 Office Fax 540-464-7790
 Assistant Coaches Ryan Mau (Coll. of Charleston '01)
 Barry Shelton (West Virginia State '97)
 Volunteer Assistant James Conrad (Lafayette '07)
 Athletic Trainer Kelly McMullen (Ithaca '08)
 Strength & Conditioning Jimmy Whitten (Virginia Tech '90)

STADIUM INFORMATION

Home Field Gray-Minor Stadium
 Capacity 1,400
 Field Dimensions LF-330, CF-395; RF-335
 Alleys LC-365, RC-385
 Surface Natural Grass

TEAM INFORMATION

2008 Overall Record 29-26 (14-7 Big South)
 Home 21-14 (8-4 Big South)
 Away 8-10 (6-3 Big South)
 Neutral 0-2
 Postseason Big South Tournament
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost 13/8
 Position Starters Returning/Lost 7/4
 Pitchers Returning/Lost 9/4
 Newcomers 14

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 Radio Broadcasts on the Web www.vmikeydets.com

Follow the Keydets On The Web!



The online home of VMI baseball can be found at www.VMIKeydets.com. Along with pre-game and post-game stories, fans can also enjoy live audio and video broadcasts of selected games, features, photos, game notes and e-mail alerts.

This Is Keydet Baseball



This Is

Keydet Baseball

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Building for success



The first thing that pops into people's minds when they think of Virginia Military Institute may be that former San Diego Chargers head coach Bobby Ross or actors Dabney Coleman and Fred Willard graduated from there. Some may just think they are a military institute. What does not immediately

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Making Keydet History



VMI Athletics

1 2 >

When you think of baseball powerhouses, Virginia Military Institute wouldn't be the first name that comes to mind. But a lot has changed in the four seasons that coach Marlin Ikenberry has been in Lexington. Ikenberry became the fastest coach in school history to reach 50 wins, and the Keydets haven't stopped there with wins over Virginia and Old Dominion, writes CSTV.com's Doug Kroll.

This Is Keydet Baseball

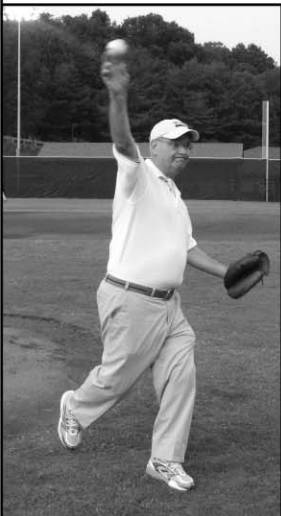


UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 5:08

AT BAT	BALL	STRIKE	OUT	H/E
0	0	0	0	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	RUNS	HITS	ERR	
UFL	0 2 2 0 2 0 0 0 1	7	10	0
FLORIDA	0 1 0 1 2 0 0 0 0	4	9	3

McKETHAN STADIUM - PERRY FIELD

SEC



VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

MPH	BALL	STRIKE	OUT	H/E
	0	0	1	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	RUNS	HITS	ERR	
JMU	2	3	0	
VMI	2	2	0	

6:20





Gray-Minor Stadium The Home of VMI Baseball

Patchin Field Year-By-Year Records (Present Location)

1988..... 8-5	1999..... 14-10
1989..... 10-6	2000..... 8-15
1990..... 7-8	2001..... 8-15
1991..... 1-14-1	2002..... 8-17
1992..... 6-15	2003..... 15-5
1993..... 15-13	2004..... 18-12
1994..... 15-6	2005..... 19-8
1995..... 11-12	2006..... 24-8
1996..... 12-9	2007..... 23-7
1997..... 8-17	2008..... 21-14
1998..... 9-15	

About Gray-Minor Stadium/ Patchin Field

Dedicated.....	April 5, 1988
Surface.....	Natural Grass
Capacity.....	1,400
Chair-Back Seats.....	726
Dimensions	
Left Field.....	330 ft.
Left-Center.....	365 ft.
Center Field.....	395 ft.
Right-Center.....	385 ft.
Right Field.....	335 ft.
Fence Height.....	15 ft.

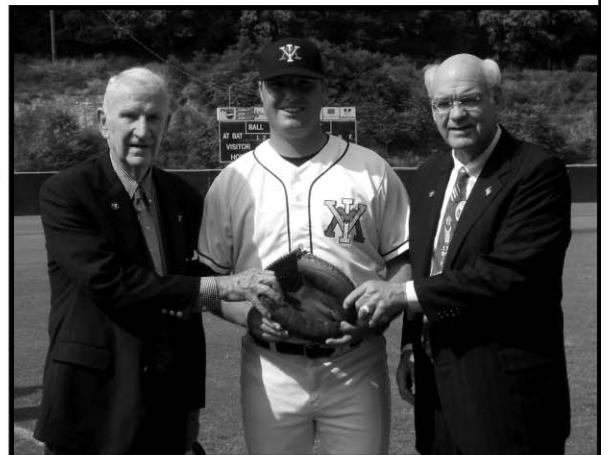
With the opening of Gray-Minor Stadium in February 2007, VMI Baseball enjoys one of the best collegiate baseball facilities in the region. With seating for over 1,400 fans, covered batting cages, a state-of-the-art scoreboard with videoboard and a first-class press box, Gray-Minor Stadium lives up to the legacies of two of the most successful VMI Baseball alums to ever wear the Red, Yellow and White.

Gray-Minor Stadium, named after Senator Elmon T. Gray '46 and Gil Minor '63, became the home of the VMI Baseball program in 2007, and the Keydets did their best to celebrate the new era, going 23-7 at home with several historic wins, including a 5-2 win over #3 Virginia.

In addition to features like 700 chair-back seats, rebuilt dugouts, professional scout and handicapped seating behind home plate, a concessions stand and large restrooms, Gray-Minor Stadium also gives the Keydets an opportunity to host the program's first night games. Once again, VMI made the most of this new feature, going 7-2 in 2007 under the Lexington lights.

The construction of the stadium came just five years after a complete renovation of the playing surface itself, as both the infield and outfield surfaces were revamped. Also as a part of the Gray-Minor construction, the field received yet another upgrade, as new fencing was installed, raising the fence height to 15 feet around the entire outfield.

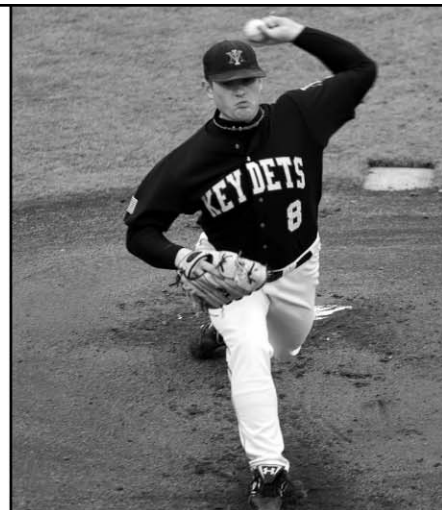
Gray-Minor Stadium completes an upgrade of the program's facilities that began in August of 2003, when construction on Paulette Hall, formerly the Patchin Field Locker Room Complex commenced. The project entailed the expansion of the existing locker rooms along with the addition of one locker room for visiting teams and a trainers room. Along with the improvements and additional square footage, the locker rooms were fitted with audio and visual equipment. The funding for the project, estimated at \$1.1 million, was donated by Bill Paulette '69, Minor '63, Senator Gray '46, and the Keydet Club. Paulette Hall was constructed by Paulette's general contracting company, KBS, and was dedicated along with Gray-Minor Stadium on Mar. 27, 2007.



A trio of former VMI catchers, as Senator Elmon Gray '46 (left) and Gil Minor '63 (right) pose with VMI head coach Marlin Ikenberry '95.



Bill Paulette '69 throws the ceremonial first pitch to Gil Minor '63 behind the plate as Senator Elmon Gray '46 bats at the Dedication Game for Gray-Minor Stadium on March 27, 2007. The Keydets defeat VCU 5-3 in front of 1,046 fans.



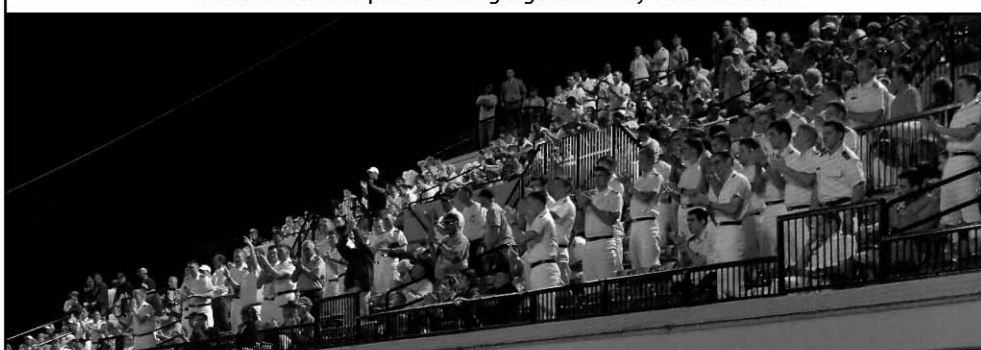
Trey Barham delivers the first pitch ever thrown at Gray-Minor Stadium, as the Keydets take down Bucknell 10-2 on Feb. 20, 2007

Gray-Minor Stadium Firsts

Game:VMI vs. Bucknell, 2/20/07
Game Result: VMI 10, Bucknell 2
Pitch:Trey Barham (VMI) , 2/20/07
 at 3:07 p.m. (Ball High)
Batter:Dane Grandizio (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Strikeout:..... Austin Turban (Bucknell) , 2/20/07
by Trey Barham (VMI)
Baserunner:... Robert Crumpler (VMI), HBP, 2/20/07
Hit:..... A.J. Yoder (VMI), 2/20/07
Single: Jason Buursma (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Double: A.J. Yoder (VMI), 2B, 2/20/07
Triple: Adam Tussey (Rider), 3/3/07
Home Run:Thane Smith (VMI) , 3/20/07
Walk:Chris Pieper (Bucknell), 2/20/07
by Trey Barham (VMI)
Stolen Base:..... Brian Sandridge (VMI), 2/20/07
Run Scored: Jason Buursma (Bucknell), 2/20/07
RBI:Dustin Kapson (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Error:.....Dustin Kapson (Bucknell), 2/20/07
Shutout:VMI 21, Maryland-East. Shore 0, 3/10/07
Weekend Sweep:.....VMI against Rider, 3/2-4/07
VMI Win over Ranked Opponent:
VMI 5, #3 Virginia 2, 4/3/07
Big South Game Result:
VMI 6, High Point 3, 4/6/07
Big South Series Result:
VMI 2 of 3 games vs. High Point, 4/6-7/07



Members of the corps take in a night game at Gray-Minor Stadium.



A packed Gray-Minor Stadium crowd cheers on the Keydets as they defeat #3 Virginia 5-2, the highest-ranked opponent that VMI had ever defeated on the diamond.



An afternoon at Gray-Minor Stadium.



The facility's covered and lighted batting cages lie just beyond the rightfield wall.

Coaching Alums

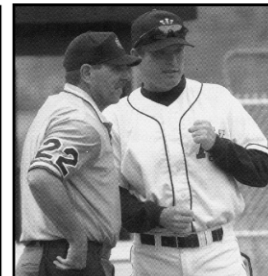
VMI boasts several alums in the coaching ranks, both at the Division I and professional levels. Chris Finwood '88 and Marlin Ikenberry '95 are head coaches in Division I, while Tom Slater '90 is in his first season with the New York Yankees organization. Jonathan Hadra '04 also is in his first season as an assistant with the Bradley Braves.

Chris Finwood '88



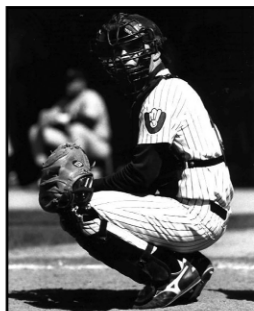
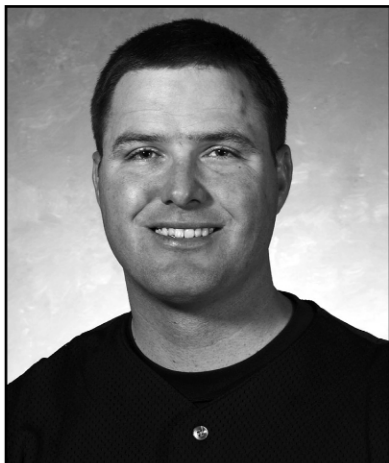
Chris Finwood '88 is currently in his fourth season at the helm of the Western Kentucky baseball program, leading the Hilltoppers to an NCAA Regional berth last season. A 2003 inductee into the VMI Sports Hall of Fame, Finwood was voted All-Southern Conference three times in his standout career, while his .399 batting average in 1988 is still the fifth-best mark in school history. As the Keydets' head coach from 1992-94, Finwood won 52 games while his eighth-seeded 1993 team advanced to the SoCon Tournament Finals before falling to second-seeded Western Carolina (shown above with trophy).

Tom Slater '90



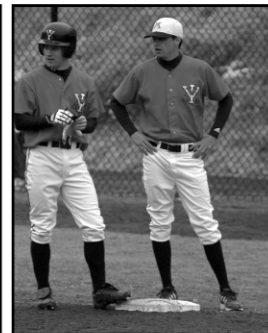
Tom Slater '90 enters his first season with the New York Yankees as the Extended Spring Training Coordinator and manager of the Gulf Coast League Yankees. Slater had previously served four years as the head coach at Auburn. As VMI's head coach from 2001-03 (shown above), Slater won 50 games and led the team to a 16-14 mark in the Southern Conference in 2003, earning him Coach of the Year honors by posting the program's first winning season in the League in 14 seasons.

Marlin Ikenberry '95



Marlin Ikenberry '95 enters his sixth season as head coach of the Keydets with an 143-132 overall mark, as he now has the most wins of any coach in VMI history. Overall, Ikenberry has been a part of five of the last six teams to establish a new wins record at VMI, doing so as a player (1994-shown above), assistant coach (2003), and three times as a head coach (2005, 2006, 2007). His 2007 team earned the program's first-ever national ranking, while beating a pair of top-ten opponents.

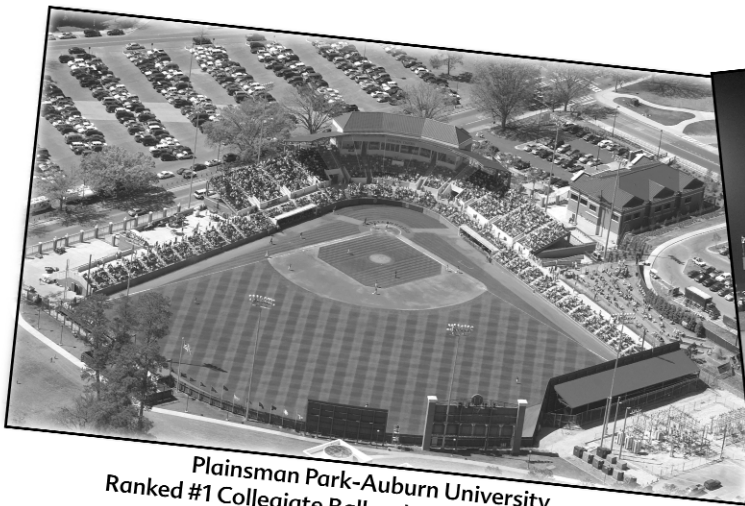
Jonathan Hadra '04



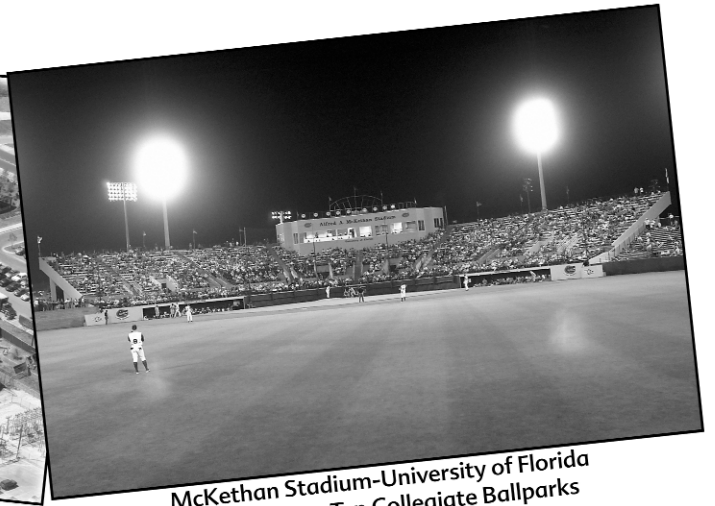
Jonathan Hadra '04 is in his first season as an assistant at Bradley. Hadra spent the last three seasons on Chris Finwood's staff at Western Kentucky, helping the Hilltoppers to an NCAA Regional berth in 2008. Hadra got his coaching start at VMI, where he served as an assistant under Marlin Ikenberry in 2005. (shown above) He was a four-year letterwinner as an infielder, serving as a team captain his senior season.

Opposing Stadiums

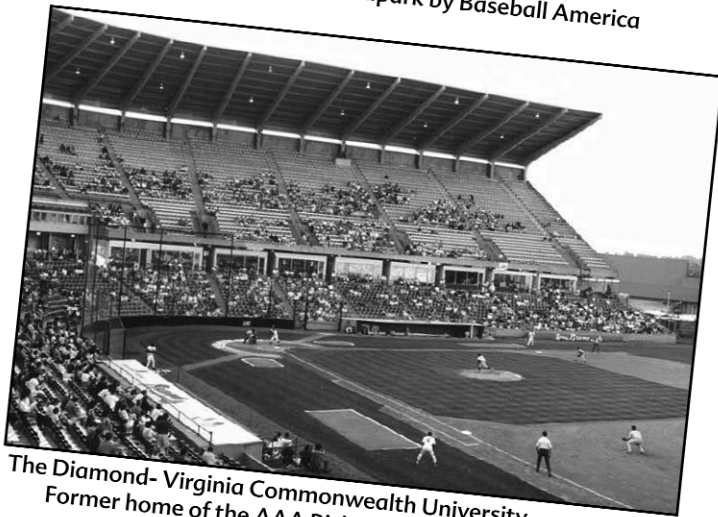
Over the past four seasons, the Keydets have traveled to several of the top collegiate baseball facilities in the nation, including Auburn University's Plainsman Park, voted the nation's No. 1 college baseball facility by Baseball America, and Florida State University's Dick Howser Stadium, home to nine consecutive NCAA Regionals. This season, the team opens the year at North Carolina's revamped facility, Bryson Field at Boshamer Stadium, while once again making its annual trip to The Diamond, home of the VCU Rams.



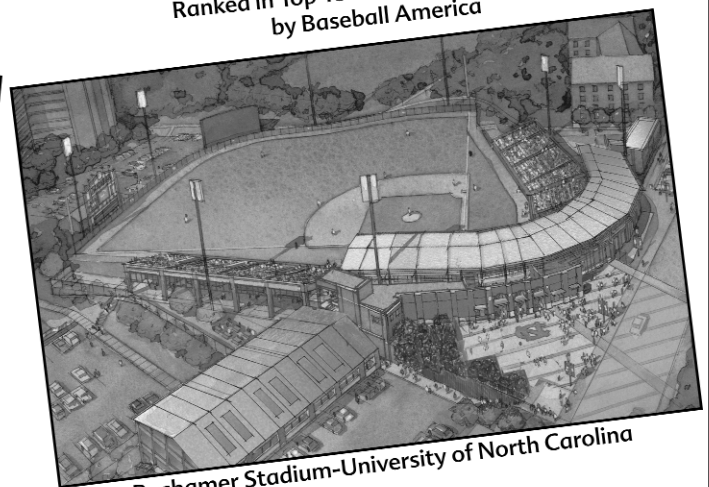
Plainsman Park-Auburn University
Ranked #1 Collegiate Ballpark by Baseball America



McKethan Stadium-University of Florida
Ranked in Top Ten Collegiate Ballparks
by Baseball America



The Diamond- Virginia Commonwealth University
Former home of the AAA Richmond Braves



Boshamer Stadium-University of North Carolina

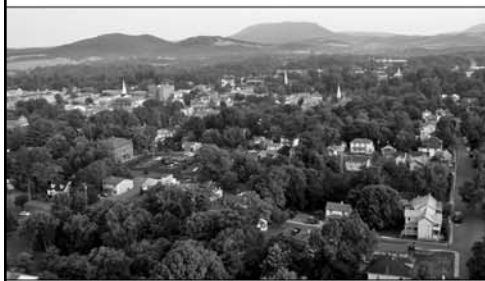


Dick Howser Stadium-Florida State University
Home of Nine Consecutive NCAA Regionals

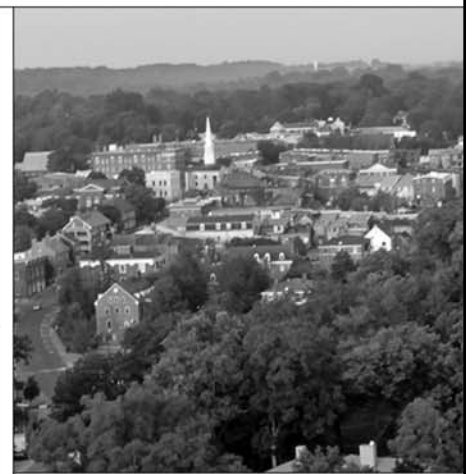
Lexington, Virginia & Rockbridge County



LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA



Rockbridge County and Lexington are located in the Shenandoah Valley in west central Virginia, approximately 45 miles north of Roanoke, 140 miles west of Richmond, and 190 miles southwest of Washington D.C. and is home to many state and national historic landmarks and today serves as the retail, service, governmental, and educational center for the area. It has served as home to the renowned military strategists Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee, along with inventor Cyrus McCormick and pioneer Sam Houston.

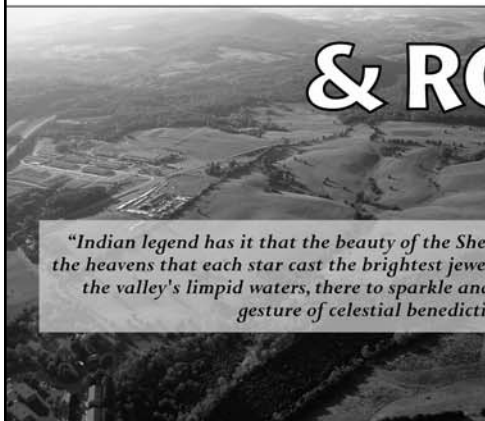


Rockbridge County is the home of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Natural Bridge, the Virginia Horse Center, Washington & Lee University, VMI and many more scenic, historic sites. The area offers many cultural, historical, recreational and shopping experiences for the most discriminating visitor, and the vibrant downtown area beckons you to visit our unique shops, galleries and restaurants.

There is an abundance of cultural and recreational opportunities available in Lexington including the Lee Chapel, Stonewall Jackson's home and the George C. Marshall Research Foundation. Lexington is also increasingly becoming known as a desirable retirement location, both for its historical significance, natural beauty, and exceptional quality of life.



& ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY



"Indian legend has it that the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley so awed the heavens that each star cast the brightest jewel from its own crown into the valley's limpid waters, there to sparkle and shine ever after in a gesture of celestial benediction."

