

# 3 Chris Brooks



- OUTFIELDER
- JUNIOR
- 5-10 ■ 180 lbs.
- SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.VA / JEFFERSON
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**2003:** Saw time as a late inning defensive replacement in the outfield.  
**2002:** Played in 48 games, including 45 starts...Was third on the team in put outs with 107.  
**High School:** A three-sport letterman at Jefferson High School (Baseball, Football and Wrestling)...An honorable mention all-state selection in centerfield his senior season...Lettered two-years in football as a running back and linebacker and lettered one-year in wrestling in the 170 lbs. weight class.  
**Personal:** Son of Daniel and Nancy Brooks...Full name is Christopher Daniel Brooks....Majoring in economics and business.

**Brooks' Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2002	48/45	159	39	10	1	2	22	57	3	13	37	.245
2003	35/11	43	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	13	.070
<b>Totals</b>	<b>83/56</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>.207</b>

# 26 Chase Buchanan



- CATCHER
- RED SHIRT FRESHMAN
- 5-11 ■ 200 lbs.
- TAZEWELL, VA. / TAZEWELL
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Expected to add depth to the catching position.**  
**2003:** Spent the entire season redshirted.  
**High School:** Second team All-Southwest district as a catcher his senior year...Hit .300 senior year on district title winning team...All-South West District as a designated hitter his junior year...Played for legendary coach Lou Perry at Tazewell High School.  
**Personal:** Son of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Buchanan....Full name is Chase Robert Buchanan....Majoring in economics and business.

# 5 Matt Cage



- CATCHER
- SENIOR
- 5-9 ■ 195 lbs.
- RICHMOND, VA. / ATLEE
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Will add senior leadership at the catching position and in the designated hitter role...Very effective against left-handed pitching.**  
**2003:** Started three games and doubled for his only hit of the season.  
**2002:** Played in 23 games, starting in 13 ... Led the team in on base percentage (.424) and slugging percentage (.458) .  
**2001:** Saw limited action in 11 games ... Recorded first career hit against Richmond (Feb. 20).  
**High School:** Played at Atlee High School in Richmond, Va. where he batted .377 with two home runs and 15 RBI in his senior season ... Also lettered two years in golf and one year in indoor track.  
**Personal:** Son of Gary and Cheryl Cage...Full name is Jason Matthew Cage....Majoring in civil engineering .

**Cage's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2001	11/0	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6	.091
2002	23/13	48	8	14	2	0	2	7	22	0	8	13	.292
2003	10/3	15	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	6	.067
<b>Totals</b>	<b>44/16</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>.216</b>

# 32 Tristen Covington



- PITCHER
- SOPHOMORE
- 6-0 ■ 175 lbs.
- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. / SALEM
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Potential setup man out of the bullpen...Showed much improved velocity during fall practice.**  
**2003 Summer:** Played for the Silver Spring Thunder Bolts in the Clark Griffith League.  
**2003:** Made Made 14 appearances in relief .  
**High School:** Lettered four years in baseball ... Named second team All-Beach his sophomore and junior seasons.  
**Personal:** Son of James and Marilyn Covington ... Full name is James Tristen Covington ... Majoring in mechanical engineering.

**Covington's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2003	14/0	0	0	0	0	23.1	36	25	19	12	15	7.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>14/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7.33</b>

# 36 Robert Crumpler



- INFILDER / PITCHER
- FRESHMAN
- 6-3 ■ 170 lbs.
- SUFFOLK, VA. / NANSEMOND SUFFOLK
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**High School:** Hit .350 with 3 home runs and 20 RBI's and went 4-2 on the mound his senior year...Played for Doug Parks at Nansemond Suffolk Academy.

**Personal:** Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Crumpler... Full name John Robert Crumpler III... Majoring in history.

# 34 Jeff DeMara



- PITCHER
- JUNIOR
- 5-9 ■ 170 lbs.
- CHESAPEAKE, VA. / GREAT BRIDGE
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*Will reprise his role as team closer this year.*

**2003 Summer:** Pitched for the Petersburg Generals of the Coastal Plains League.

**2003:** Led the team ERA for the second straight year (3.66)...Also lead the team in saves (six) and appearances (22).

**2002:** Appeared in 20 games for the Keydets ... Led the team in ERA (4.70).

**High School:** Posted an 8-2 record and 1.87 ERA and was named first team all-district for the season ... In 57- 2/3 innings of work, he struck out 62 batters ... He also pitched for the Gold Medal winning East team in the 2000 Commonwealth Games ... Played for former ODU All-American Wiley Lee at Great Bridge

**Personal:** Son of Robert and Susan DeMara ... Full name is Jeffrey Raymond DeMara ... Majoring in economics and business.

**DeMara's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2002	20/0	0	0	2	0	30.2	34	21	16	4	30	4.70
2003	22/0	0	3	1	6	32.0	36	17	13	7	19	3.66
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4.17</b>

# 6 Elliott Erbe



- OUTFIELD
- JUNIOR
- 5-11 ■ 195 lbs.
- PORTSMOUTH, VA. / WESTERN BRANCH
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS LEFT

*This season will be his third straight as a starter. Most likely will be the everyday rightfielder.*

**2003:** Tied for first on the team in HR's (7), tied for fourth in RBI's (26) and fifth in batting average (.302).

**2002:** Only player on the roster to appear in all 51 games, starting in 50 ... Led the team in RBI (29), in total bases (70) and tied for the lead in extra base hits (18) .

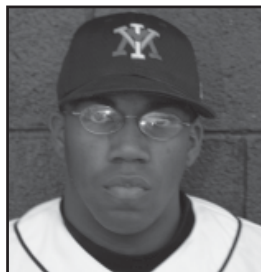
**High School:** Was a participant in the 2000 Team One Regional Showcase and 2000 East Coast Professional Showcase ... Played at Western Branch High School that was Regional Champions in 2001.

**Personal:** Son of Allan and Kay Erbe ... Full name is Elliott Raydon Erbe ... His father, Allan, played football at Appalachian State and is also an associate scout for the Chicago Cubs ... Majoring in psychology.

**Erbe's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2002	50/51	172	21	44	13	2	3	29	70	2	15	53	.256
2003	48/39	129	22	39	6	2	7	26	70	4	18	29	.302
<b>Totals</b>	<b>98/90</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>.276</b>

# 21 Jacoby Fields



- INFILDER / OUTFIELDER
- FRESHMAN
- 6-1 ■ 180 lbs.
- PRINCE GEORGE, VA. / PRINCE GEORGE
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*A solid lefthanded hitter... A strong defensive utility infielder... Will see time at many positions.*

**High School:** First team all-district three straight years...Player of the year in the Central District...Played on the Central Team in the Commonwealth games.

**Personal:** Son of Alexander and Eva Fields...Full name is Jacoby Lamar Fields...Majoring in computer science.

# 1 B.T. Good



- INFIELDER
- SOPHOMORE
- 5-10 ■ 175 lbs.
- VIENNA, VA. / JAMES MADISON
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**A quick and athletic utility infielder...Will see time at second base and shortstop.**

**2003 Summer:** Played on the Vienna Mustangs of the Clark Griffith League.

**High School:** Lettered four years in baseball for the 2002 Virginia state champions ... Earned first team all-district honors and second team all-region honors in 2000, 2001 and 2002 ... Lettered three years in football, earning first team all-region and first team all-district accolades.

**Personal:** Son of Terry and Robin Good ... Full name is Braxton Taylor Good ... Majoring in business and economics.

**Good's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2003	18/9	38	7	6	2	0	0	2	8	3	3	12	.158
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18/9</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>.158</b>

# 2 Jonathan Hadra



- INFIELD
- SENIOR
- 6-1 ■ 170 lbs.
- RICHMOND, VA. / ATLEE
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Will split time between the outfield and first base.**

**2003:** Played in eight games and started two.

**2002:** Played in 30 games, starting in 14.

**2001:** Saw action in 22 games, starting eight times at second base ... Had a three- RBI performance against Bucknell (Feb. 18) ... Made first career start versus Air Force (Feb. 10).

**High School:** Named 2000 first team all-metro by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* while hitting .465 with one homer and 12 RBI ... A teammate of fellow Keydet Matt Cage at Atlee High School ... Also lettered in basketball where he was a first team all-region selection.

**Personal:** Son of Steve and Mary Hadra ... Full name is Jonathan Elman Hadra ... Majoring in economics and business.

**Hadra's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2001	22/8	34	3	6	1	0	0	4	7	0	2	13	.176
2002	30/14	57	7	14	1	0	0	7	15	1	4	19	.246
2003	8/2	9	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	4	.111
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60/24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>.210</b>

# 29 John Goode



- PITCHER
- FRESHMAN
- 6-3 ■ 215 lbs.
- WINCHESTER, VA. / JAMES WOOD
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Had a strong fall practice and could be used in late relief.**

**High School:** A three-sport athlete in baseball, football and basketball...Four-year letterman in baseball...All-district as a pitcher and first baseman...Threw a no-hitter his junior year...Played for Winchester Post 21 baseball...Three-year letterman in football...All-district as a tight end and defensive end.

**Personal:** Son of John Sr. and Debra Goode... Full name is John Thomas Goode Jr... Majoring in business and economics.

# 18 J.J. Hollenbeck



- PITCHER
- SOPHOMORE
- 5-10 ■ 205 lbs.
- VIENNA, VA. / JAMES MADISON
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Primarily a reliever last year. Will move into the starting rotation in '04.**

**2003:** Won one game and saved three in 18 appearances.

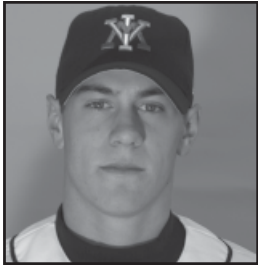
**High School:** 2002 Virginia Player of the year...All-district in 2000, 2001 and 2002...All-region in 2001 and 2002...All-state in 2002.

**Personal:** Son of Alan and Fran Hollenbeck...Full name is Jonathan Alan Hollenbeck...Majoring in economics and business.

**Hollenbeck's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2003	18/1	0	1	4	3	32.2	38	28	27	10	32	7.44
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18/1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7.44</b>

# 33 Zach Kennedy



- OUTFIELDER
- SENIOR
- 6-0 ■ 185 lbs.
- RICHMOND, VA. / FREEMAN
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Will split time between the outfield and designated hitter.**

**2003:** Missed virtually the entire season due to injury.

**2002:** Started 44 of 51 games in the outfield and at designated hitter...Was second on the team in doubles (13)...Was 7 for 7 in stolen base attempts.

**2001:** Started 42 games as a freshman (33 in centerfield, nine as a designated hitter)...Finished the year tied for second in home runs (3), third in RBI's (32) and third in doubles (14).

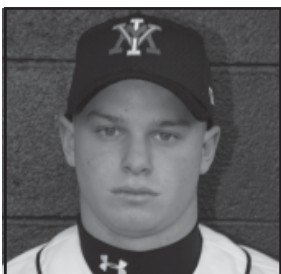
**High School:** Was a first team all-district and all-region selection in 1999 and was named to the all-academic first team for both 1999 and 2000...Also participated in the 1999 Commonwealth Games in Roanoke, Va.

**Personal:** Son of Jon and Carolyn Kennedy ... Majoring in economics and business.

**Kennedy's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2001	44/42	154	27	43	14	0	3	32	66	2	14	45	.279
2002	47/44	151	26	41	13	2	2	14	14	7	14	35	.272
2003	6/2	8	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	4	.375
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97/88</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>.278</b>

# 36 Josh Legg



- OUTFIELDER / PITCHER
- FRESHMAN
- 5-8 ■ 165 lbs.
- NEWPORT NEWS, VA. / HERITAGE
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**High School:** Was all-district as an outfielder and named team MVP his junior year after hitting .397...Spent most of his senior year injured after tearing the ACL in his left knee.

**Personal:** Son of Diane and Billy Legg...Full name is William Joshua Legg...Majoring in economics and business.

# 10 Matt Liffick



- PITCHER
- SENIOR
- 5-10 ■ 205 lbs.
- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. / KEMPSVILLE
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS LEFT

**Experienced lefthanded setup man.**

**2003:** Made six appearances in relief.

**2002:** Pitched in 12 games ... Recorded two scoreless innings against UNC Greensboro (March 30) .

**2001:** Appeared in 16 games, starting 12 times ...Finished tied for second on the team in wins (3).

**High School:** Posted a 7-3 record and 2.13 ERA in 2000 and was named first team all-district and first team all-region for the season ... In 55 innings of work, he struck out 53 batters while holding opponents bats to a .207 average.

**Personal:** Son of Walter and Vicki Liffick...Full name is Matthew Kent Liffick...Majoring in civil engineering.

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2001	16/12	0	3	5	0	58.2	91	70	53	46	27	8.13
2002	12/0	0	0	0	0	15.2	33	30	29	7	9	16.66
2003	6/0	0	0	0	0	13.0	18	14	10	5	7	6.92
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34/12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>5843</b>		<b>9.48</b>

# 12 Richard Litwin



- PITCHER
- JUNIOR
- 5-10 ■ 185 lbs.
- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. / OCEAN LAKES
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS LEFT

**Will begin the season pitching out of the bullpen with an opportunity to work himself into the starting rotation.**

**2003:** Spent most of the season on the disabled list.

**2002 Summer:** Pitched for the Peninsula Pilots of the Coastal Plains League.

**2002:** Pitched in 13 games for VMI, starting in 11.

**High School:** Posted a 5-2 record and 1.44 ERA for Ocean Lakes High School ...Pitched for the Gold Medal winning East team in the 2000 Commonwealth Games.

**Personal:** Son of Richard and Debra Litwin ... Full name is Richard Anthony Litwin ... Majoring in economics and business.

**Litwin's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2002	13/11	0	2	7	0	48.0	66	51	35	19	24	6.56
2003	6/2	0	0	1	0	17.0	30	18	18	7	13	9.53
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19/13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7.34</b>

# 24 Jason Major



- FIRST BASE
- SOPHOMORE
- 6-1 ■ 205 lbs.
- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. / BAYSIDE
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS LEFT

*A first baseman who will primarily be used against right handers.*

**2003:** Played in six games and batted 13 times as a freshman.

**High School:** A four-year letterman with a career .380 batting average...An all-district selection in 2000, 2001 and 2002...Earned all-district honors as a punter on the Bayside football team in 2001...Also a member of the wrestling team, where he was a district champion and an all-star selection.

**Personal:** Son of Aubrey and Barbara Major...Full name is Jason Thomas Major...Majoring in biology.

**Major's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2003	6/3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6/3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>.000</b>

# 30 Mike Maleski



- CATCHER
- SOPHOMORE
- 5-11 ■ 210 lbs.
- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. / FIRST COLONIAL
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*An extremely physical catcher with a strong arm...Hits for power...Plays linebacker and special teams for the Keydet football team.*

**High School:** Played three years at Kempsville High School and his senior year at First Colonial...Honorable mention all-district as an outfielder his senior year...Second-team all-district as a catcher his junior year.

**Personal:** Son of Mike and Trudy Maleski...Full name is Michael Edward Maleski Jr...Majoring in political science.

**Maleski's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2003	4/0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4/0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.000</b>

# 7 Brandon Massenburg



- OUTFIELD
- SOPHOMORE
- 5-8 ■ 170 lbs.
- PRINCE GEORGE, VA. / PRINCE GEORGE
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*An explosive athlete with good speed...Has a very quick bat and a great ability to find his way on base.*

**2003 Summer:** Played for the Petersburg Generals in the Coastal Plains League.

**2003:** Started 41 games as a freshman (mostly in centerfield)...Tied for first on the team in triples (2), third in doubles (9) and tied for third in home runs (5)...Was 7 out of 8 in stolen base attempts.

**High School:** A four-year letterman in baseball ... An all-district selection in 2001 and 2002 ... Lettered one year in track and field.

**Personal:** Son of Donald and Sheena Massenburg ... Full name is Brandon Lemar Massenburg ... Majoring in history.

**Massenburg's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2003	46/41	137	32	36	9	2	5	19	64	7	21	34	.263
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46/41</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>.263</b>

# 13 Josh Owens



- PITCHER
- SENIOR
- 5-9 ■ 185 lbs.
- SANDSTON, VA. / BENEDICTINE
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS LEFT

*Will be used out of the bullpen.*

**2003:** Was injured most of the season and made just one appearance.

**2002:** Appeared in 19 games after recovering from an auto accident ... Second on the team with a 5.45 ERA.

**2001:** Led the Keydets pitching staff in wins (5) and in starts (16)... Second on the Keydet staff in innings pitched (61.2) and strikeouts (38).

**High School:** Was named first team All-Metro in 2000 and earned a spot on the All-State VISBA first team for both 1999 and 2000 seasons

**Personal:** Son of Roy and Christy Owens ... Full name is Joshua Andrew Owens ... Majoring in economics and business... His cousin, Tracy Woodson, played for and won the 1988 World Series for the Los Angeles Dodgers under former manager Tommy Lasorda.

**Owens' Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2001	19/16	0	5	8	0	61.2	81	69	53	40	38	7.74
2002	19/0	0	0	1	0	34.2	45	27	21	12	18	5.45
2003	1/0	0	0	1	0	1.0	3	4	4	2	1	36.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39/16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>7.21</b>

# 17 Will Paulette



- PITCHER
- JUNIOR
- 6-4 ■ 212 lbs.
- RICHMOND, VA. / ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*Will see action in middle relief out of the bullpen... Showed great improvement over the last year while he was redshirted.*

**High School:** Lettered in four sports (baseball, football, cross country, basketball) at St. Christopher's ... Team captain in his senior season ... Winner of the Davenport Trophy at St. Christopher's, given to the school's top athlete.

**Personal:** Son of William and Carolyn Paulette ... His father William, played baseball and football at VMI ... Full name is William Harrison Paulette II ... Majoring in English.

**Paulette's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2003	7/0	0	0	2	0	7.2	7	8	5	5	6	5.87
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5.87</b>

# 9 J.R. Royston



- OUTFIELD
- SENIOR
- 6-2 ■ 200 lbs.
- STAFFORD, VA. / STAFFORD
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*Will see action in the outfield ... A strong defensive outfielder.*

**2003:** Served as a late inning defensive replacement in the outfield.  
**2002:** Played in 26 games, starting in 14 ... Batted 2-for-5 with one RBI and one run against Howard (Feb. 24).

**2001:** Saw action in 14 games, starting once against College of Charleston (Apr. 29) ... Had a two-hit performance against VCU (May 2).

**High School:** A four-year letterman at Stafford High School in Stafford, Virginia ... A two-time first team all-district selection.

**Personal:** Son of Roger and Ruth Royston ... Full name is Joseph Ryan Royston ... Majoring in economics and business.

**Royston's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2001	14/1	20	3	6	0	0	0	1	6	0	2	6	.300
2002	26/14	57	9	10	4	1	0	6	16	3	3	17	.175
2003	13/2	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53/17</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>.182</b>

# 4 Chad Rice



- INFIELDER
- FRESHMAN
- 5-10 ■ 175 lbs.
- GRIDSTONE, PA. / BROWNSVILLE AREA
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*Will provide needed depth at third base and shortstop.*

**High School:** Four-year letterman...All-county and all-conference in 2003...Posted second highest single season batting average (.561) and scored the second most runs (53) in his school's history...Played for the West team in the East/West game.

**Personal:** Son of Ralph and Julie Rice ...Full name is Chad Michael Rice...Majoring in economics and business.

# 15 Sean Seawell



- CATCHER
- FRESHMAN
- 5-11 ■ 175 lbs.
- SPOTSYLVANIA, VA. / SPOTSYLVANIA
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

*A polished catcher who can catch and throw well...Can also hit for a high average.*

**High School:** Team's MVP in 2002...All-state, all-district, all-region and all-district in 2002.

**Personal:** Son of David and Caroline Seawell...Full name is Sean Palmer Seawell...Majoring in economics and business.

# 16 Matt Smith



- SHORTSTOP
- JUNIOR
- 5-10 ■ 170 lbs.
- CHESAPEAKE, VA. / GREAT BRIDGE
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Backbone of the infield...Will be the everyday shortstop for the third straight season.**

**2003 Summer:** Played for the Arlington Hillcats of the Clark Griffith League.

**2003:** Started 49 out of 52 games. Lead the team in stolen bases (10)...Made just seven errors in 49 games at shortstop.

**2002 Summer:** Played for the Fauquier Gators in the Clark Griffith League.

**2002:** Appeared in 50 games for the Keydets, starting in 49 ... Tied for second on the team in steals (7).

**High School:** A member of the 2000 High School Regional Champion squad hit .387 with a .486 on-base percentage in senior season ... A second team all-district in 2000 and 2001.

**Personal:** Son of Ron and Phyllis Smith ... Full name is Matthew Brandon Smith ... His grandfather, Billy Smith, was a pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies ... His father, Ron, played baseball at American University ... Majoring in economics and business.

**Smith's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2002	50/49	161	21	43	5	0	0	20	48	7	18	21	.267
2003	49/49	168	22	41	5	0	0	16	46	10	20	26	.244
<b>Totals</b>	<b>99/98</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>.255</b>

# 20 Thane Smith



- OUTFIELDER
- FRESHMAN
- 5-11 ■ 170 lbs.
- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. / FIRST COLONIAL
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Very polished defensively with above average speed.**

**High School:** A four-year letterman in baseball...Also lettered in football (defensive back), track (sprints and hurdles) and wrestling (145 lbs. division).

**Personal:** Son of James and Cynthia Smith ... Full name is Thane Jordan Smith... Majoring in economics and business.

# 27 Kelly Sweppenhiser



- THIRD BASE
- SOPHOMORE
- 5-10 ■ 185 lbs.
- HERNDON, PA. / LINE MOUNTAIN
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Middle of the lineup hitter...Will anchor the infield at third base.**

**2003 Summer:** Played for the Vienna Mustangs of the Clark Griffith League.

**2003:** Named to the 2003 Louisville Slugger Freshmen All-American Baseball Team - the first ever in VMI history...Southern Conference Freshman of the Year...Started all 52 games VMI played...Led the team in hits (59) and at-bats (192).

**High School:** A four year letterman...First team league all-star in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002...Holds school records in career hits (138) and career home runs (20)...MVP of the All-East Game in Pennsylvania.

**Personal:** Son of David and Jane Sweppenhiser...Full name is Kelly Max Sweppenhiser...Majoring in economics and business.

**Sweppenhiser's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2003	52/52	192	30	59	8	1	3	26	78	0	24	25	.307
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52/52</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>.307</b>

# 14 Jimmy Thoms



- PITCHER
- JUNIOR
- 6-1 ■ 183 lbs.
- NEWPORT NEWS, VA. / DENBIGH
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Showed tremendous improvement in fall practice...Could compete for a spot in the starting rotation this year.**

**2003 Summer:** Played for the Peninsula Pilots of the Coastal Plains League.

**2003:** Pitched in 18 games and started nine...Struck out 34 hitters while only walking 18.

**2002:** Led the Keydets in appearances with 23 ... Made his first career appearance against Samford (Feb. 8).

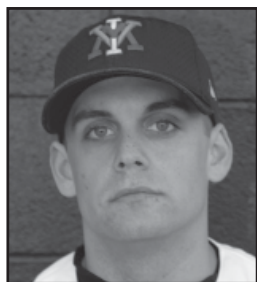
**High School:** An all-district and all-state selection in his senior year, going 9-1 with a 1.24 ERA with 66 strikeouts in 56- 2/3 innings pitched. At the plate, he hit .426 with two home runs and 24 RBI's ... Also a participant on the Tidewater Mets Showcase Team.

**Personal:** Son of James and Christina Thoms ... Full name is James Michael Thoms II ... Majoring in electrical engineering.

**Thoms' Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	CG	W	L	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
2002	23/0	0	0	1	0	39.2	63	47	38	15	32	8.62
2003	18/9	1	3	6	0	53.0	71	50	43	18	34	7.30
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41/9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>7.92</b>

# 8 Brent Upham



- SECOND BASE
- FRESHMAN
- 5-10 ■ 170 lbs.
- ORLANDO, FLA. / DR. PHILLIPS
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**High School:** Was starting second baseman and team MVP senior year...Member of all-county all-star team.

**Personal:** Son of Janet Hodge and Mike Upham...Full name is Brent Michael Upham...Majoring in history.

# 35 John Wilson



- PITCHER
- RED SHIRT - FRESHMAN
- 6-2 ■ 200 lbs.
- NATURAL BRIDGE, VA. / ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**The starting quarterback for VMI's football team...Could see significant innings out of the bullpen.**

**High School:** Local product out of Rockbridge County High School...Pitched and played shortstop at Rockbridge County High School...Selected as *Associated Press* All-State and All-Timesland (*Roanoke Times*) in football...Named first team quarterback on all-region II, All-Valley District and was 2001 All-Valley District Player of the year.

**Personal:** Son of Jonathan and Charlene Wilson...Full name is Jonathan Lee Wilson ... Majoring in biology.

# 31 Jon Wade



- FIRST BASE
- JUNIOR
- 5-11 ■ 200lbs.
- MARIETTA, GA. / HARRISON
- BATS RIGHT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Will be the everyday first baseman...Has made rapid improvements both offensively and defensively.**

**2003:** Started 50 of team's 52 games played...Second on the team in at-bats (178).

**2002:** Played in 22 games with six starts ...Recorded first career hit against Georgia Southern (March 9).

**High School:** A two-year letterman at Harrison High School, while hitting .385 in his senior year ... All-Cobb County Honorable Mention selection and team captain his senior year ... Graduated with honors from Harrison High School.

**Personal:** Son of David and Amy Wade ... A recipient of the prestigious Institute Scholarship at VMI ... Full name is Jonathan David Wade ... Majoring in biology.

**Wade's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2002	22/6	34	3	11	0	0	0	2	11	0	0	10	.324
2003	52/50	178	26	48	7	1	4	27	69	0	7	32	.270
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74/56</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>.278</b>

# 25 Allan Wimmer



- OUTFIELD
- SOPHOMORE
- 6-3 ■ 195 lbs.
- VIENNA, VA. / JAMES MADISON
- BATS LEFT ■ THROWS RIGHT

**Was the team's leading hitter during fall practice...Will hit in the middle of the lineup.**

**2003:** Team's third leading hitter (.310) as a freshman...First on the team in total bases (85) and second in doubles (13).

**High School:** A three-year letterman at James Madison, the 2002 Virginia state champions ... An all-state and all-district selection his senior season ... Holds the school record for the most RBI in a season.

**Personal:** Son of Richard and Kathleen Wimmer ... Full name is Richard Allan Wimmer ... Majoring in psychology.

**Wimmer's Career Numbers**

Year	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	BB	K	BA
2003	51/50	187	25	58	13	1	4	28	85	4	19	45	.310
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51/50</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>.310</b>

# 2003 VMI Final Statistics

Overall: 24-28 Home: 14-6 Away: 8-20 Neutral: 2-2 Southern Conference: 16-14

## ■ Hitting / Fielding Statistics

No.	Player	Avg.	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	SF/SH	SB-SBA	PO	A	E	FLD%
33	Zach Kennedy	.375	6-2	8	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	.375	0	0	4	0/0	1-2	3	0	0	1.000
26	Andy Barden	.318	46-41	148	30	47	5	2	7	30	77	.520	13	13	32	2/1	7-10	207	37	4	.984
8	Justin Briggs	.312	44-41	157	22	49	7	0	5	27	71	.452	15	5	20	2/3	0-0	132	25	3	.981
25	Allan Wimmer	.310	51-50	187	25	58	13	1	4	28	85	.455	19	2	45	1/4	4-7	71	1	9	.889
27	K. Sweppenhiser	.307	52-52	192	30	59	8	1	3	26	78	.406	24	7	25	3/2	0-3	33	77	19	.853
6	Elliott Erbe	.302	48-39	129	22	39	6	2	7	26	70	.543	18	2	29	1/0	4-4	61	3	3	.955
1	Jason Annis	.293	48-46	164	25	48	15	0	1	25	66	.402	11	7	21	3/4	2-3	82	102	13	.934
31	Jon Wade	.270	52-50	178	26	48	7	1	4	27	69	.388	7	4	32	2/9	0-1	449	22	4	.992
7	B. Massenburg	.263	46-41	137	32	36	9	2	5	19	64	.467	21	9	34	0/1	7-8	30	0	6	.833
16	Matt Smith	.244	49-49	168	22	41	5	0	0	16	46	.274	20	3	26	0/7	10-16	83	145	7	.940
4	Ben Rand	.206	41-27	107	13	22	4	0	0	6	26	.243	15	4	17	0/3	8-9	78	1	3	.963
11	B.T. Good	.158	18-9	38	7	6	2	0	0	2	8	.211	3	2	12	0/0	3-3	14	22	6	.857
2	Jon Hadra	.111	8-2	9	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	.111	1	0	4	0	1-1	11	1	0	1.000
3	Chris Brooks	.070	35-11	43	4	4	0	0	0	2	3	.070	6	2	13	1/3	0-1	40	0	0	1.000
5	Matt Cage	.067	10-3	15	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	.133	1	0	6	0/0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
24	Jason Major	.000	6-3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	6	0/0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
9	J.R. Royston	.000	13-2	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2	1	5	0/0	0-0	7	0	0	1.000
30	Mike Maleski	.000	4/0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	2	0/0	0-0	1	0	0	1.000

<b>Totals</b>	<b>.270</b>	<b>52-52</b>	<b>1706</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>.392</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15/37</b>	<b>47-68</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>.954</b>	
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>.286</b>	<b>52-52</b>	<b>1735</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>.425</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>25/38</b>	<b>46-71</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>.964</b>

LEFT ON BASE: VMI 392, Opponents 286 DOUBLE PLAYS: VMI 24, Opponents 52 CATCHER INTERFERENCE: VMI 2, Opponents 0

## ■ Pitching Statistics

No.	Player	ERA	W	L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	BF	OBA
34	Jeff DeMara	3.66	3	1	22	0	0	0	6	32.0	36	17	13	7	19	4	3	3	138	.283
22	Duke Acors	3.78	6	5	15	14	1	0	0	88.0	74	44	37	39	74	16	1	7	382	.230
20	Phil Hendrix	3.87	7	4	15	15	4	1	0	97.2	115	56	42	30	77	17	1	6	441	.299
29	Jeremy Harper	4.07	4	4	16	11	2	0	0	77.1	69	43	35	36	70	21	2	6	346	.243
17	William Paulette	5.87	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	7.2	7	8	5	5	6	2	0	1	39	.266
10	Matt Liffick	6.92	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	13.0	18	14	10	5	7	4	0	2	64	.333
14	Jimmy Thoms	7.30	3	6	18	9	1	0	0	53.0	71	50	43	18	34	9	1	5	247	.324
32	Tristen Covington	7.33	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	23.1	36	25	19	12	15	11	1	0	120	.360
18	J.J. Hollenbeck	7.44	1	4	18	1	0	0	3	32.2	38	28	27	10	32	9	1	5	148	.292
12	Richard Litwin	9.53	0	1	6	2	0	0	0	17.0	30	30	18	7	13	7	1	4	87	.390

<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>442.2</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>.286</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>4.34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>448.1</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>.270</b>

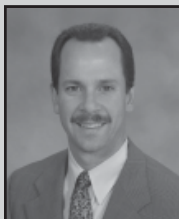
WILD PITCHES: VMI\ Opponents 30 PASSED BALLS: VMI 13, Opponents 4 PICKOFFS: VMI 20, Opponents 9

## ■ 2003 Results

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	VMI PITCHER	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	VMI PITCHER
Jan. 31	#at Florida State	4-12 L	Owens (0-1)	Apr. 4	*UNC-GREENSBORO	W 11-4	Acors (3-4)
Feb. 1	#at Florida State	1-5 L	Hendrix (0-1)	Apr. 5	*UNC-GREENSBORO	3-8 L	Hendrix (3-4)
Feb. 2	at Florida State	3-10 L	Hollenbeck (0-1)	Apr. 6	*UNC-GREENSBORO	W 7-5	DeMara (2-1)
Feb. 8	at Samford	1-2 L	(Acors 0-1)	Apr. 12	COPPIN STATE	W 16-6	Thoms (3-1)
Feb. 8	at Samford	1-3 L	(Hendrix 0-2)	Apr. 12	COPPIN STATE	W 15-8	Hendrix (4-4)
Feb. 9	at Samford	W 4-3	Thoms (1-0)	Apr. 15	at Virginia Tech	4-6 L	Paulette (0-2)
Feb. 21	at Norfolk State	W 5-0	Acors (1-1)	Apr. 18	*at Western Carolina	3-16 L	Acors (3-5)
Mar. 4	RADFORD	1-2 L	Harper (0-1)	Apr. 19	*at Western Carolina	7-11 L	Thoms (3-2)
Mar. 5	at Richmond	8-9 L	Hollenbeck (0-2)	Apr. 20	*at Western Carolina	9-14 L	Harper (2-2)
Mar. 7	*DAVIDSON	W 6-1	Acors (2-1)	Apr. 22	at Virginia Commonwealth	0-1 L	Thoms (3-3)
Mar. 8	*DAVIDSON	W 7-2	Hendrix (1-2)	Apr. 26	*WOFFORD	W 5-3	Acors (4-5)
Mar. 9	*DAVIDSON	W 9-7	Harper (1-1)	Apr. 26	*WOFFORD	5-11 L	Thoms (3-4)
Mar. 11	at Elon	4-5 L	Paulette (0-1)	Apr. 27	*WOFFORD	W 10-0	Hendrix (5-4)
Mar. 12	at NC State	4-9 L	Thoms (1-1)	May 3	*at Appalachian State	W 6-4	Acors (5-5)
Mar. 14	*at East Tennessee State	1-2 L	Acors (2-2)	May 3	*at Appalachian State	W 10-8	Hendrix (6-4)
Mar. 15	*at East Tennessee State	W 3-1	Hendrix (2-2)	May 4	*at Appalachian State	W 11-1	Harper (3-2)
Mar. 16	*at East Tennessee State	0-7 L	Litwin (0-1)	May 10	*COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	6-18 L	Harper (3-3)
Mar. 18	MARIST	W 8-4	Harper (2-1)	May 11	*COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	W 6-5	DeMara (3-1)
Mar. 22	*FURMAN	1-7 L	Acors (2-3)	May 12	*COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	W 5-3	Acors (6-5)
Mar. 22	*FURMAN	W 8-5	Hendrix (3-2)	May 17	*at The Citadel	0-10 L	Thoms (3-5)
Mar. 23	*FURMAN	W 4-3	DeMara (1-0)	May 17	*at The Citadel	W 7-6	Hollenbeck (1-3)
Mar. 26	WILLIAM & MARY	2-13 L	Hollenbeck (0-3)	May 18	*at The Citadel	1-5 L	Harper (3-4)
Mar. 28	*at Georgia Southern	0-2 L	Acors (2-4)	May 21	^at Georgia Southern	4-6 L	Hollenbeck (1-4)
Mar. 29	*at Georgia Southern	6-13 L	Hendrix (3-3)	May 22	^at The Citadel	W 2-1	Hendrix (7-4)
Mar. 30	*at Georgia Southern	2-3 L	DeMara (1-1)	May 23	^FURMAN	W 2-1	Harper (4-4)
Apr. 2	at Radford	W 11-6	Thoms (2-1)	May 24	^UNC-GREENSBORO	1-10 L	Thoms (3-6)

HOME GAMES IN ALL CAPS  
 \* Denotes Southern Conference game  
 # Denotes played in Tampa, Fla.  
 ^ Denotes SoCon Tournament game

# THE BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE



**Kyle Kallander**  
Commissioner



**James Companion**  
Associate Commissioner



**Dawn Turner**  
Assistant Commissioner



**Jason Corriher**  
Director  
of Public Relations



**Lauren Cooper**  
Assistant Director  
of Public Relations



**Chad Cook**  
Assistant Director of Marketing  
and Championships

**T**he Big South Conference is a progressive NCAA Division I athletic conference reflecting the energy and growth of the New South. Founded in 1983, the Big South Conference has matured in its brief history into a competitive leader in college athletics, actively pursuing excellence, both on the field and in the classroom.

The Conference's growing presence as an NCAA Division I athletic league is evident by a bold basketball television package, a state-of-the-art web site and nine schools committed to excellence, which will carry the Conference through the 21st century.

The Big South Conference, in its 20th year of existence, consists of nine member institutions in the Southeast. Members include: Birmingham-Southern College, Charleston Southern University, Coastal Carolina University, High Point University, Liberty University, UNC Asheville, Radford University, Virginia Military Institute and Winthrop University.

Big South Football began play in the Fall of 2002, bringing the number of Division I championship programs the Big South is sponsoring to 18. There are nine championship sports for men: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, indoor/outdoor track and tennis, and nine for women: basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, indoor/outdoor track and volleyball.

This season, Big South champions in the sports of men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's golf, baseball, softball, men's and women's tennis and men's and women's track and field will receive automatic bids to NCAA Championships.

The Big South signed landmark television agreements in 2002 and 2003, making the Conference's one of the leaders among all Division I Leagues in television exposure for its student athletes. Agreements with The Football Network and College Sports Television will give coverage to Big South football, as well as sports which traditionally don't get maximum exposure. This is in addition to a very aggressive men's and women's basketball package

which is carried on several networks, including ESPN, Fox Sports Net, Comcast Sports Southeast and the Big South Television Network.

Beginning in the Spring of 2003, the Big South kicked off its 20th Anniversary Celebration by forming a Hall of Fame. Inducted into the first class were 11 former student-athletes and administrators who were key in the early development and vitality of the Big South.

In addition to the Big South's athletic accomplishments, the League also honors academic achievement. Each year the Presidential Honor Roll and the George A. Christenberry Awards honor outstanding work in the classroom by the League's student-athletes. For the ninth year, the Conference's Sports Information Directors will select a Scholar-Athlete in each Conference sport and a male and female Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Additionally, the Big South Select-Scholars, honored by the Conference's Faculty Athletics Representatives, will be presented for its fourth consecutive year. The League's outreach program includes a community day at which select student-athletes help a local charity, such as Habitat for Humanity complete a project.

In May of 1998, Dr. Jairy C. Hunter, Charleston Southern President, succeeded Winthrop President Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio as Conference President. Hunter, who served as the League's Vice President under DiGiorgio, has now entered his second term as Conference President. Under his leadership, the Big South continues to push several initiatives focusing on strategic planning, fiscal integrity, community involvement and enhancement of athletic competition.

Dr. DiGiorgio's leadership served the Conference well during his tenure. He represented the Big South nationally as a member of the prestigious President's Commission and Board of Directors of the NCAA. He spent two terms as league President (six years), succeeding former Radford University President Dr. Donald Dedmon. Dedmon also spent two terms (six years) at the helm of the League and played an instrumental role in establishing the Big South as a competitive NCAA Division I Conference.

The Conference was formed on Aug. 21, 1983, when Charleston Southern (then Baptist College) Athletic Director Howard Bagwell, and Augusta President George Christenberry initially began recruiting members into the Big South. One month later, Dr. Edward M. Singleton was selected as the league's first Commissioner and continued to solicit new members. By 1984, the League's charter members included: Armstrong State, Augusta, Campbell, Charleston Southern, Coastal Carolina, Radford and Winthrop.

Not only has the league seen changes in membership, but in administration as well. In 1989, George F. "Buddy" Sasser replaced the retiring Dr. Singleton as Commissioner. Under his leadership, the Conference implemented its public relations and compliance programs, and introduced its first-ever men's basketball television package, featuring the Big South competing among some of the finest teams in the nation. So integral was Sasser to the growth of the League, that in 2000 the Conference renamed the Commissioner's Cup, the award given to the institution with the most successful athletic year, to the George F. Sasser Cup.

In 1996, Kyle B. Kallander replaced Sasser, who would continue to serve the League as Director of Athletics at Coastal Carolina University until his retirement in 1999. Kallander has been instrumental in aggressively promoting the Conference, including the development of the Big South Marketing Group, which has resulted in increased revenues and exposure for the Conference and its members. He also brought television coverage to Big South women's basketball, a first in Conference history. Under Kallander's leadership the Big South developed and initiated its first long-range strategic plan, re-affirming the league's vision as a distinctive athletic Conference committed to the quality of institutional life through athletic competition.

As college athletics has rolled into the 21st century, a vibrant Big South Conference is emerging, providing quality athletic competition while intentionally fostering the academic, personal, social and athletic development of each student-athlete.