

2007 VMI FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE

LOOKING AT 2007

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Numbers Game

In '07, the Keydets will look to improved numbers on the roster to launch their improvement on the field

In his second year at the helm, VMI head coach Jim Reid will look to a strength in numbers approach to bolster the Keydets' football fortunes on the field.

After a highly successful recruiting class over the winter and spring that will bring in 28 new faces to the program, VMI will have 96 players on its football roster when classes start for the fall semester.

Among that group, there will be ample experience from a core of "young veterans" – freshmen thrown into the fire as starters in their first year of college football last fall and emerged stronger and more prepared for their sophomore season and beyond.

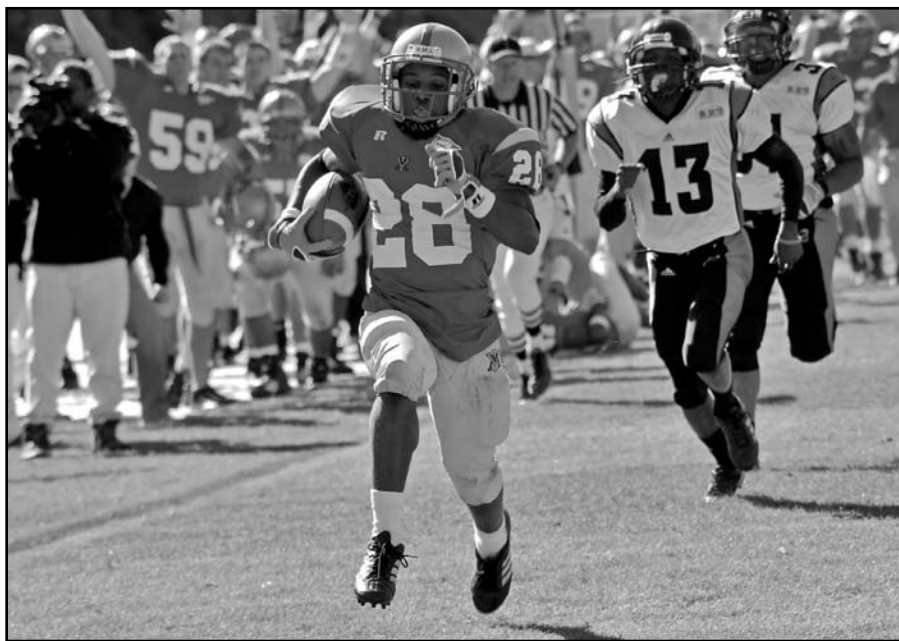
The 2007 VMI football team returns 34 lettermen from last year's team including 14 starters-six offensive and eight defensive.

The Keydet offense, which moved to a spread option attack last fall, looks to continue the significant improvement it showed in production during the second half of 2006. VMI's offense flourished and averaged 26.6 points in last five games of the season after averaging just 11.0 over the first half of the campaign while the offense was taking root.

A battle between redshirt sophomore Joey Robinson (Gaithersburg, Md.) and sophomore Kyle Hughes (Williamsburg, Va.) for the starting quarterback job will be one of the headliners heading into fall camp. Robinson, who played mainly at slotback last season, took virtually all the snaps at QB in spring drills and emerged as the frontrunner for the job, but could receive a strong challenge from Hughes who started three games at mid-season and saw considerable playing time in the season finale. Robinson gives the offense big-play explosiveness, while Hughes showed strong leadership skills and poise under pressure while on the field. Both upperclassmen could also be pushed from four incoming signees who bring impressive high school quarterback credentials to the Institute.

The running game will have to find a replacement for 2006 Big South rushing champ and four-year starter Sean Mizzer, who gained 1,022 yards in a sensational senior season. The leading candidates to replace Mizzer at the "B" back are sophomore Howard Abegesah (Beltsville, Md.) who lettered while playing mostly special teams last year, and sophomore Zach Collins (Universal City, Texas), who showed considerable promise his freshman year and can give the position a break-away threat.

2006 Big South Conference Freshman of the Year Tim Maypray (Madisonville, Ky.) returns for his sophomore season to spark the offense at slotback. Maypray was a big-play performer who broke onto the scene last year and had an immediate impact by finishing second on



Sophomore Tim Maypray sparked the VMI offense at slotback last season and was named Big South Conference Freshman of the Year - becoming the first Keydet football player to win such an honor since 2001.

the team in receptions with 14 catches for 244 yards and two TD's and was third on the team in rushing while averaging 6.8 yards per carry. With contributions to special teams as well, Maypray's all-purpose yardage should once again rank atop the league leaders and he will contend for all-conference honors.

Senior captain Nat Jackson (Fredericksburg, Va.), who is approaching 1,000 career rushing yards, is slated to start at the other slotback position and brings three years of starting experience to the role. Jackson can get the tough yards inside but can be explosive and break open the big one and is versatile enough to play the "B" back position if called upon. Redshirt sophomore Derrick Leland (Prince George, Va.) will provide depth to the slotback position after seeing mostly special teams duty last year.

The offensive line features three returning starters. Anchoring the left line is junior and two-year starter Jeff Marcey (6-4, 275) who has made 21 starts over his career. Marcey will once again work out of the left tackle slot after ten starts last year at the position. Second Team All-Big South tackle Robert Brown (6-6, 300, Sr.) returns to his left guard slot and has made 26 career starts, bringing the most experienced offensive lineman. At center will be walk-on turned starter George Handler (6-3, 255, R-So.), who was one of the best stories of 2006,

working his way into the two-deep and eventually a starting role, as he played all 11 games. The right side of the offensive line will be manned by senior guard Mike Watson (6-4, 280), who played on the defensive line last season but transitioned well in spring drills to his new spot. Redshirt sophomore guard Kyle Johnson (6-3, 255), another walk-on who made his way to a start in 2006, is projected to move into the right tackle starting job after working a full spring practice in that slot. Reserve help on the offensive line could come from tackles Frank Ellis (6-7, 260, R-So.), Jarrett Craddock (6-5, 280, R-Fr.), guards Gerard Payne (6-1, 280, Jr.) and Sean Thompson (6-3, 275, Jr.) and center Tim Howard (6-3, 270, R-Fr.).

Junior Travis Ludden (6-3, 230) returns to tight end after moving inside to tackle for seven starts last year. Ludden is a seasoned veteran at the tight end position and possesses excellent hands and blocking ability. Redshirt freshman Josh Favaro (6-3, 230) will back-up at tight end and will push for playing time.

The wide receivers group needs to replace leading reception man and two-sport junior Willie Bell (17 catches, 340 yards, 3 TD's) who has opted to concentrate on basketball this year. Junior Rick Goodwin (Richmond, Va.) and junior Ryan Mingus (Athens, Ohio) have experience mostly on special teams, but are ready to step up in a more visible role. Sophomore John





Tagg (Cary, N.C.), who participated in last year's Corps volunteer initiative under Coach Reid, the "New Market Squad," remained with the team in spring drills and will add depth to the receiving corps.

Seven starters return to the defensive unit including the inside linebacking duo of sophomore "Mike" LB Patrick McKinney (Big Stone Gap, Va.) and junior Jacob Rochester (Dallas, Texas). McKinney quickly made a big impact in his first year of college football and established himself as a defensive leader with 82 tackles and will vie for all-conference honors this year. Rochester, an FCS Academic All-Star and ESPN The Magazine All-District III honoree, has gradually increased his role over his first two seasons of college football and is slated to start at the "Will" linebacker slot and made seven starts last season. Also in the linebacker rotation should be sophomore Mike Hutchings (Lexington, Va.) who saw considerable action as a true freshman and racked up 33 tackles while also seeing action on special teams. Other depth will come from redshirt freshman Jack Curtis (Fairfax, Va.) and sophomore Dennis Dunaway (Goochland, Va.).

Junior Terrel Allen (Wilmington, N.C., 40 tackles), who successfully made the transition from quarterback to "Sam" linebacker last season with five starts while appearing in all 11 games, returns as the starter and will be backed up by redshirt freshman Mike Louthan (Richmond, Va.).

The defensive backfield returns many faces with playing experience including three starters and eight lettermen. Headlining the group is senior Marcus Brown (Norfolk, Va.), who split starting time between cornerback and free safety last season and will contend for all-conference recognition in 2007. Junior free safety Keith Taylor (Mechanicsville, Va.) finished third on the team in tackles in 2006 with 61 stops

and also played at strong safety while true freshman Levi Swindell (Elk Grove, Calif.), who ranked second on the defensive charts with 70 tackles, returns to the starting strong safety role with a year's experience behind him. One hole that needs to be filled is the left corner slot which graduated senior co-captain and all-conference honoree Jamaal Walton (59 tackles, three interceptions) occupied last year. Sophomores Christian Kelly (Centerville, Va.) and Bryant Youngblood (Youngstown, Ohio) who both lettered and had starting experience last year as true freshmen, will vie for the starting job at one cornerback slot. Junior Lucas Combs (Grottoes, Va.) and fifth-year senior and converted wideout Chi-Chi Ezekwe will provide depth in the secondary.

The defensive line will see the most transition of any defensive position group in 2007, as just one starter, junior defensive end Andy Viola (Broadway, Va.), returns among the front four. Viola successfully made the transition from offense to defense last year, and will be backed up by veteran senior Keashawn Artis (Alexandria, Va.), a former linebacker, and redshirt freshman Zach Williams (Powell, Ohio). Senior Tommy Lloyd (Fishersville, Va.), who played three positions on both sides of the ball last season, will move into the other defensive end spot where redshirt freshman Damiso Alexander (Richmond, Va.) will compete for playing time. The inside tackle starting jobs were occupied on the pre-camp depth chart by junior and two-year letterman Robbie Appel (Sterling, Va.) and redshirt freshman Ben Brandt (Forest, Va.), who is



Sophomore linebacker Patrick McKinney topped the VMI defensive charts last year with 82 tackles.

eager to step into a starting role. Redshirt sophomore Leon Barrow (Williamsburg, Va.) had an excellent spring practice and will push for playing time along with sophomore Nick Mims (Virginia Beach, Va.)

Senior placekicker Barrett Way (Richmond, Va.) returns to handle the kicking duties. Way was selected 2006 second team All-Big South and holds the school career mark for highest field goal percentage, having converted 29-37 for 78.4% in his three years.



Redshirt sophomore Joey Robinson brings big-play capability to the offensive backfield and finished the spring as the leading candidate at starting quarterback.

Coaching Staff

Table listing coaching staff: Head Coach (Jim Reid), VMI Record (1-10), Career Record (.85-92-3), Assistant Coaches (Bob Bodine, Brent Davis, Jeff Hanson, Richard McNutt, Brock Pittman, Greg Shockley, Vince Sinagra, Paul Soltis), Strength & Conditioning Coach (Phil Sabatini), Athletic Trainer (Lance Fujiwara).

Team Information

Table listing team statistics: Lettermen Returning (34), Lettermen Lost (17), Starters Returning (14), Starters Lost (9), 2006 Record (1-10), Offensive System (Spread Option), Defensive System (Multiple).

Leading Returnees

Table listing leading returnees: Rushing (Joey Robinson), Passing (Kyle Hughes), Receiving (Tim Maypray), Tackles (Patrick McKinney), Tackles for Loss (Terrell Allen), Interceptions (Christian Kelly), Kick Returns (Tim Maypray).





LETTERMEN RETURNING

Lettermen Returning by position: 34

Starters Returning by Position: 15 (includes specialists)

OFFENSE (15 returning, 6 starters)

- Receivers: Rick Goodwin
- Tackles: Andrew Gore, JEFF MARCEY
- Guards: ROBERT BROWN, Kyle Johnson, Gerard Payne, Mike Watson*
- Center: GEORGE HANDLER
- Quarterback: Kyle Hughes
- Running Backs: Howard Abegesah, NAT JACKSON
- Slot Backs: Zack Collins, Tim Maypray, JOEY ROBINSON
- Tight End: TRAVIS LUDDEN

* Lettered on Defense in 2006

DEFENSE (18 returning, 8 starters)

- Tackles: Robbie Appel, Leon Barrow
- Ends: Tommy Lloyd*, Nick Mims, ANDY VIOLA
- Linebackers: TERRELL ALLEN, KEASHAWN ARTIS, Mike Hutchings, PATRICK MCKINNEY, JACOB ROCHESTER, Kris Ware
- Cornerbacks: MARCUS BROWN, Christian Kelly, Bryant Youngblood
- Strong Safety: LEVI SWINDELL, Joe Taylor
- Free Safety: Chi Chi Ezekwe*, KEITH TAYLOR

* Started on Offense in 2006

SPECIALISTS

- Punter: None
- Placekicker: BARRETT WAY

LETTERMEN LOST

Lettermen Lost By Position: 17

Starters Lost: 9 (includes specialists)

OFFENSE (9 lost, 4 starters)

- Receivers: WILLIE BELL, CHRIS GILLILAND
- Tackles: Justin Chetney, Daniel vonSchuch
- Guards: Rusty Webb
- Center: Adam Reel
- Quarterback: JONATHAN WILSON
- Running Backs: SEAN MIZZER, Derek Smith
- Slot Backs: None
- Tight End: None

DEFENSE (7 lost, 4 starters)

- Tackles: ERIC HALL, JACK HERZOG, CHARLIE LIESFELD,
- Ends: None
- Linebackers: Colby Hollingsworth, Ryan Stratis
- Cornerbacks: Wilson Ileso, JAMAAL WALTON
- Strong Safety: None
- Free Safety: None

SPECIALISTS

- Punter: ADAM PETERS
- Placekicker:

** Starters listed in CAPS





OFFENSE (SPREAD OPTION)

WR #73 Marcey (Jr.) #71 R. Brown (Sr.) #55 G. Handler (R-So.) #70 Watson (Sr.) #74 K. Johnson (R-So.) #90 Ludden (Jr.)
 #18 Goodwin (R-Jr.) #79 Ellis (R-So.) #56 Payne (Jr.) #69 Howard (R-Fr.) #72 Thompson (Jr.) #78 Craddock (R-Fr.) #89 Favaro (R-Fr.)
 #6 Mingus (Jr.) #82 Gore (R-So.) #67 Kulat (R-Fr.) #62 Leach (R-So.) #93 Tench (R-Fr.) #59 Wegener (Jr.)

QB

#1 Robinson (R-So.)
 #14 Hughes (So.)

SB

#28 Maypray (So.)
 #25 Leland (R-So.)

SB

#22 Jackson (Sr.)
 #25 Leland (R-So.)

RB

#32 Abegesah (So.)
 #24 Collins (So.)

K

#41 Way (Sr.)

DEFENSE (MULTIPLE)

DE

#88 Lloyd (Sr.)
 #84 Alexander (R-Fr.)
 #11 Guthrie (R-Fr.)

DT

#51 Brandt (R-Fr.)
 #83 Mims (So.)
 #92 M. Johnson (R-Fr.)

NT

#75 Appel (Jr.)
 #57 Barrow (R-So.)
 #91 Keeney (R-Fr.)

DE

#44 Viola (R-Jr.)
 #8 Artis (Sr.)
 #96 Williams (R-Fr.)

CB

#3 M. Brown (Sr.)
 #29 Kelly (So.)

WLB

#35 Rochester (Jr.)
 #45 Curtis (R-Fr.)

MLB

#17 McKinney (R-So.)
 #48 Hutchings (So.)
 #54 Dunaway (R-So.)

SLB

#2 Allen (Jr.)
 #36 Louthan (R-Fr.)

CB

#29 Kelly (So.)
 #5 Youngblood (So.)

FS

#21 K. Taylor (Jr.)
 #42 Ezekwe (Sr.)

SS

#19 Swindell (So.)
 #20 J. Taylor (R-So.)
 #27 Combs (Jr.)

P

TBA

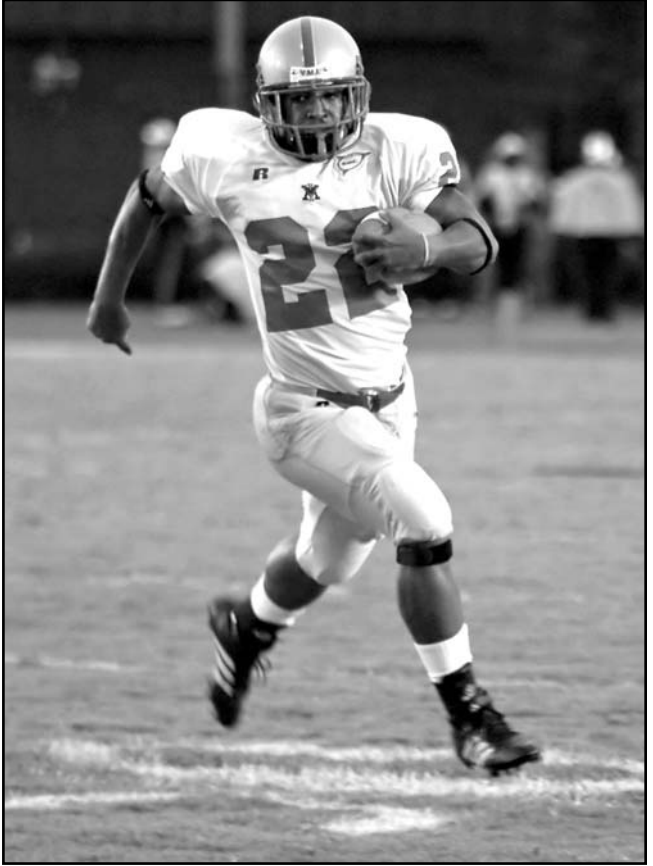




Players to Watch in 2007



Sophomore defensive tackle Leon Barrow showed great promise in spring drills and will contribute to the defensive line this fall.



Senior running back Nat Jackson is the most experienced returnee in the Keydet backfield this fall.



Sophomore linebacker Mike Hutchings will see action at middle linebacker and special teams.



2007 VMI FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH JIM REID • 20

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Jim Reid
Second Season

Jim Reid accepted the challenge and has reenergized the VMI football program in his first year as head coach. Players, alumni and fans alike have appreciated the tireless enthusiasm he brings to the program as a successful foundation is built for the coming seasons. He has charged his players to "Embrace the Process" and accept all the qualities that make the Institute unique.

In Reid's first season, the Keydets showed remarkable improvement over the second half of the season and were extremely competitive, especially in Big South Conference games. Although VMI did not taste victory in its four Big South games, the Keydets fell by a combined margin of only 13 points in all four League tilts.

Reid became the 29th head football coach in the 115-year gridiron history of the Institute on December 22, 2005. With over 30 of years coaching experience, including 16 seasons and 85 victories as a head coach, Reid returned to the Commonwealth as a Division I-AA head coach after directing the University

of Richmond football program from 1995 through 2003.

"It is an absolute honor and privilege to be selected as the head football coach at Virginia Military Institute," said Reid upon taking the job.

A name familiar to VMI football fans while serving as head coach of one of the

Institute's long-time in-state rivals, Reid guided Richmond to 48 wins over his nine years as head coach, which

"He is a perfect fit for VMI. We wanted to find a coach who is an outstanding leader with successful head coaching experience. We have found that man in Jim Reid."

-VMI Athletic Director Donny White

ranks third on the school's all-time win list. His UR teams posted three of the top 13 season one-loss records, and the only ten-win season in school history. He led Richmond to Atlantic 10 championships and I-AA playoff appearances in 1998 and 2000 and was named conference coach of the year both times. He was also selected Yankee Conference co-coach of the year in his debut season of 1995 when Richmond went 7-3-1 and finished the season ranked 20th in I-AA. In 2000, the Spiders won a school-record ten games, including a victory over Youngstown





State in the I-AA playoffs. The 2000 Richmond football team finished the season with a final national ranking of sixth in I-AA.

During Reid's tenure as Richmond head coach, 13 players rose to the ranks of professional football.

Reid left Richmond following the 2003 season to serve as defensive line coach for Syracuse University, where he coached for one season. He came to VMI from Bucknell University, where he served as an assistant coach for the 2005 season.

Reid also previously guided the University of Massachusetts football program as head coach from the 1986 through 1991 seasons. He posted a 36-29-2 record over the six seasons as coach of the Minutemen and was the Yankee Conference Coach of the Year in 1988 and 1990. He led UMass to a Yankee Conference co-championship in 1986, and followed with conference titles and I-AA playoff berths in 1988 and 1990.

A 1973 graduate of the University of Maine where he was a three-year starter, Reid began his coaching career as a graduate assistant under Dick McPherson at UMass in 1973, beginning a 19-year coaching association with the school. In 1978, Reid was promoted to defensive coordinator, a post he held until being named UMass head coach in 1986.

Reid moved to Richmond to serve as defensive coordinator in 1992 and held the same post at Boston College in 1994 before being named UR head coach the following season.

Reid and his wife, Judy, have three children: daughter's Meghan and Molly, and son Matt, who served as assistant baseball coach at VMI in 2002.



THE JIM REID PROFILE

COACHING CAREER:

Yr.	Team	Record	Coaching Role	Postseason
1973	Massachusetts	6-5	Graduate Assistant	
1974	Massachusetts	5-6	Graduate Assistant	Yankee Conference Champs
1975	Massachusetts	8-2	Assistant Coach	
1976	Massachusetts	5-5	Assistant Coach	
1977	Massachusetts	8-3#	Assistant Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1978	Massachusetts	9-4*	Assistant Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1979	Massachusetts	6-4	Assistant Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1980	Massachusetts	7-3	Assistant Coach	
1981	Massachusetts	6-3	Assistant Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1982	Massachusetts	5-6	Assistant Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1983	Massachusetts	3-8	Assistant Coach	
1984	Massachusetts	3-8	Assistant Coach	
1985	Massachusetts	7-4	Assistant Coach	
1986	Massachusetts	8-3	Head Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1987	Massachusetts	3-8	Head Coach	
1988	Massachusetts	8-4*	Head Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1989	Massachusetts	5-5-1	Head Coach	
1990	Massachusetts	8-2-1*	Head Coach	Yankee Conference Champs
1991	Massachusetts	4-7	Head Coach	
1992	Richmond	7-4	Defensive Coordinator	Ranked in I-AA Top 10
1993	Richmond	5-6	Defensive Coordinator	Ranked in I-AA Top 20
1994	Boston College	8-4	Defensive Coordinator	Aloha Bowl Champions
1995	Richmond	7-3-1	Head Coach	Ranked in I-AA Top 20
1996	Richmond	2-9	Head Coach	
1997	Richmond	6-5	Head Coach	Ranked in I-AA Top 20
1998	Richmond	9-3*	Head Coach	Atlantic 10 Champs
1999	Richmond	5-6	Head Coach	Ranked in the I-AA Top 20
2000	Richmond	10-3*	Head Coach	Atlantic 10 Champs
2001	Richmond	3-8	Head Coach	
2002	Richmond	4-7	Head Coach	
2003	Richmond	2-9	Head Coach	
2004	Syracuse	6-6	Assistant Coach	Big East Co-Champions
2005	Bucknell	1-10	Assistant Coach	
2006	VMI	1-10	Head Coach	

* I-AA Playoff appearance # Division II Playoff appearance

COACHING HONORS:

Five-time Conference Coach of the Year (A-10 - 1998 & 2000; Yankee Conf. 1988, 1990 & 1995)
Aloha Bowl Champions in 1994 (Boston College-Def. Coordinator)
2004 Big-East Co-Champions (Syracuse-Def. Coordinator)

PLAYING CAREER:

Three-year starter at the University of Maine

PERSONAL:

Born: Dec. 1, 1950 in Medford, Mass.

Family: Wife - Judy

Three children - Megan, Molly and Matt

Education: B.S. in Education (Maine, 1973); M.S. Sport Management (Mass., 1975)



Jim Reid was formally introduced to the media and VMI community as the Institute's 29th head football coach on January 13th, 2006 at the Reading Room of the George C. Marshall Library located on VMI Post.





BOB BODINE

- TULANE '93
- SECOND SEASON
- OFFENSIVE CENTERS/GUARDS



Bob Bodine begins his second season at VMI and will focus his attention on the Keydets' offensive centers and guards.

Bodine has strong ties to the current VMI coaching staff and served with offensive coordinator Brent Davis at Georgia Southern University for six seasons.

While at Georgia Southern from 1997 through 2002, Bodine worked with the offensive line for two seasons, then moved to the defensive line for two more seasons before taking charge of the Eagle outside linebackers in 1999, wide receivers for 2000 and 2001 and slot backs in 2002.

A two-year starter and three-year letterwinner at offensive guard, Bodine earned his B.A. in Psychology at Tulane University in 1993. He earned Tulane's Ben Weiner Inspiration Award for 1993.

Bodine began his coaching career at his alma mater and assisted with the Green Wave offensive line and long snappers over a three season span.

A native of Hazleton, Pa., Bodine also served as offensive line coach at Jackson State for two years and was slot backs coach for one season at Bethune-Cookman.



Bob Bodine

BRENT DAVIS

- GEORGIA '97
- SECOND SEASON
- OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/QB



Brent Davis returns for his second season as the Keydets' offensive coordinator after coaching nine years at Georgia Southern as an offensive coach in the powerful run-oriented option style offense under head coaches Paul Johnson and Mike Sewak.

In his first season as VMI offensive coordinator, the Keydets led the Big South in rushing, averaging 206.6 yards per game.

Davis coached the offensive line for the Eagles from 2002-05 and his unit helped GSU to three consecutive I-AA rushing titles (386.2 ypg in 2002, 335.6 ypg in 2003, and 370 ypg in 2004). One of his players, center Charles Clarke, was awarded the Jacobs Blocking Trophy in 2002 and three Eagles reached All-America status under Davis' tutelage.

Prior to taking over offensive line responsibilities, Davis coached Georgia Southern's running backs and worked with Walter Payton Award winner and Chicago Bears back Adrian Peterson in 1998 and 1999.

Davis, an Athens, Ga. native, played two seasons at The Citadel under Charlie Taafe in 1992 and 1993. As a tight end in 1992, he helped the Bulldogs to the SoCon Championship and a NCAA I-AA playoff appearance.

Davis transferred to Georgia his junior year where he lettered and also earned a spot on the Academic All-SEC Honor Roll in his senior year. Davis graduated from Georgia in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in business management.

Davis and his wife, Jennifer, were married in July, 2006.



Brent Davis

JEFF HANSON

- RICHMOND '72
- FIRST SEASON
- DEFENSIVE LINE/CHIEF OF STAFF



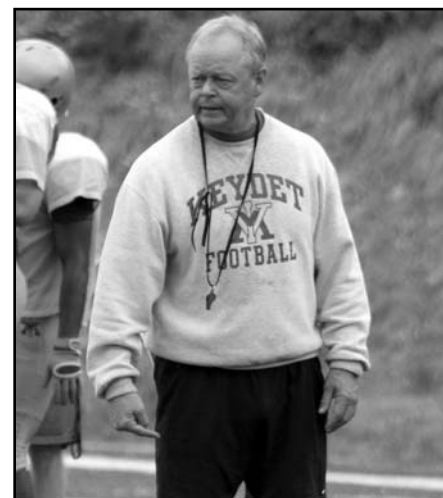
Jeff Hanson takes over the team's defensive line duties while also serving as the program's Chief of Staff, upon reuniting with head coach Jim Reid after spending the past 18 years at Richmond, including 11 seasons alongside Reid.

Hanson comes to VMI with 35 years of coaching experience, including 26 with the Spiders. He spent the past two seasons as the team's defensive line coach, where he coached five all-conference players in those years.

A native of Beloit, Wis., Hanson began coaching in 1971 after a standout career with the Spiders, where he played on the 1968 Tangerine Bowl championship team. He served as a graduate assistant from 1971-73 while completing his Master's degree in education, and worked for the next five seasons with the tight ends & receivers, as well as the defensive unit.

Before returning to Richmond in 1989, Hanson had coaching stints at Marshall (1980-81), Lamar (1982-83), SW Texas State (1983-86) and West Texas State (1987-88).

Hanson and his wife, DeDe, have three daughters: Laurie, Kristin and Katie.



Jeff Hanson





RICHARD McNUTT

- OHIO STATE '04
- SECOND SEASON
- DEFENSIVE BACKS



Richard McNutt enters his second season on the VMI staff and will again coach the Keydet defensive backs after spending two seasons at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. where he also served as the secondary coach.

During his two-year stint at Washington & Jefferson, the football team went 21-3 and advanced to the the round of the Division III playoffs in 2004 and another playoff berth in 2005. Under his tutelage, Washington & Jefferson ranked second in interceptions in Division III with 26 in 2004.

A 2004 graduate of Ohio State University, McNutt played three years at cornerback for the Buckeyes. He played in all 24 games during his first two years and made two starts as a sophomore.

McNutt played the first six games of Ohio State's 2002 national championship season, but was forced to end his playing career due to an injury. He served as a student coach during each of his last two seasons.

A native of Park Forest, Ill., McNutt ranked as one of the top five high school prospects at cornerback by numerous publications. He had 14 interceptions as a high school junior.



Richard McNutt

BROCK PITTMAN

- EAST TENNESSEE STATE '04
- SECOND SEASON
- OFFENSIVE TACKLES



Brock Pittman returns for his second season at VMI and will handle the offensive tackles this season after working with wide receivers a year ago.

Prior to his move to Lexington, Pittman spent a season in the football office at Richmond where he was the assistant director of football operations for the Spiders and assisted with the defensive unit, as well as scouting, film analysis, and summer camps.

Pittman is no stranger to VMI football, as he competed in 2002 against the Keydets as an offensive guard for East Tennessee State. He transferred to ETSU from Scottsdale (Ariz.) Junior College where he earned first team all-conference and all-region accolades. Pittman graduated from East Tennessee State in 2004 with a B.S. in Sports Management.

A native of Mechanicsville, Va., Pittman was an all-state, all-metro and all-region lineman at Lee-Davis High School and played one year at defensive end at Fork Union Military Academy.



Brock Pittman

GREG SHOCKLEY

- VIRGINIA TECH '99
- THIRD SEASON
- RUNNING BACKS



Greg Shockley came to the Institute in March, 2005 and handled the Keydet wide receivers for one season before moving onto the team's running backs prior to last year. He also serves as the program's recruiting coordinator.

Shockley came to VMI from William & Mary where he coached tight ends during the Tribe's successful 2004 campaign. William & Mary posted an 11-3 mark and reached the semifinals of the I-AA playoffs before falling to eventual champion James Madison. The Tribe also won the Atlantic 10 Conference championship in 2004.

Shockley began his coaching career under Frank Beamer at Virginia Tech where he was also a player before assuming graduate assistant duties on the Hokie staff. At Tech, Shockley was an offensive assistant and worked primarily with the offensive lines and tight ends. The Hokies went to bowls each of the three seasons Shockley served on the staff.

A Blacksburg, Va. native and 1999 graduate of Virginia Tech, Shockley was a quarterback and wide receiver for the Hokie squads that won three Big East championships during his playing days, including the 1999 Sugar Bowl squad that played for the national championship. In 1999, he was awarded the John William Schneider Award, given to the Tech player who excels in athletics, scholarship and leadership.

Shockley is married to the former Cheryl Denny, an assistant softball coach at James Madison University and the couple resides in Staunton, Va.



Greg Shockley





VINCE SINAGRA

- RHODE ISLAND '75
- SECOND SEASON
- DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/LB



Vince Sinagra returns for his second season in Lexington and will once again serve as the team's defensive coordinator while overseeing the team's linebacking corps.

Sinagra brings a wealth of experience to VMI including a total of 14 years at I-AA programs Stony Brook, Holy Cross, Hofstra, and Fordham.

Prior to his tenure at Stony Brook, Sinagra spent five seasons at Holy Cross (1999-2004) where he was linebackers coach and special teams coordinator. While at Holy Cross, Sinagra was responsible for game and practice planning as well as recruiting.

Sinagra also had two stints at Hofstra University serving as the Pride defensive coordinator and linebackers coach during the 1998 season. Sinagra had earlier coached the Hofstra wide receivers during the 1993 season.

From 1994 to 1998 Sinagra coached as an assistant at Fordham where he was defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. Sinagra also served as defensive coordinator and defensive line coach for Bloomsburg (Pa.) University from 1986-1992 and also worked as an academic advisor and headed the summer football camp.

Sinagra graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1975, receiving a bachelor's degree in physical education and health before completing work on a master's degree in physical education, health and recreation from Rhode Island in 1983. Sinagra started three years at defensive tackle for URI and played professionally with the Philadelphia Bell of the World Football League and Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League.

Sinagra began his coaching career at Rhode Island coaching the defensive line in 1976-77 before moving to Milford Academy in Connecticut for nine seasons.



Vince Sinagra

PAUL SOLTIS

- YOUNGSTOWN STATE '90
- SECOND SEASON
- WIDE RECEIVERS



Paul Soltis enters his second season at VMI, continuing to serve as both the Director of Football Operations while shifting his emphasis to the offensive side of the ball this season while coaching wide receivers.

Soltis played at Ohio State University, earning a letter as a freshman. He then transferred to Youngstown State University where he was a two-time All-American linebacker. In 1987 and 1989 he played on playoff teams, captaining the 1989 squad. In 1997, Soltis was also named the Ohio Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year. In 1999, Soltis was inducted into Youngstown State's Sports Hall of Fame.

Soltis' name is still listed frequently in the Youngstown State record book. Currently, Soltis is second in school history for tackles in a career, with a remarkable 468 stops, an average of 156 tackles per season for his three-year YSU career.

Following college, Soltis was signed by the Miami Dolphins. He then played for former Saints head coach and now defensive coordinator for the St. Louis Rams, Jim Haslett in the World League.

He was in Law Enforcement at both the state and federal level for nine years before arriving in Lexington.

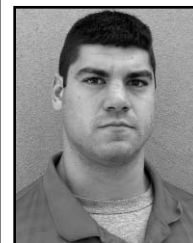
Soltis is married to the former Stacey Smallwood. They have three children, Abbey, Daniel and Alayna.



Paul Soltis

PHIL SABATINI

- OHIO '05
- FIRST SEASON
- STRENGTH TRAINING



Phil Sabatini begins his first season as the strength and conditioning coach for football and began working with the Keydet football players when he arrived on Post in June. He will supervise the strength and conditioning efforts for the football program exclu-

sively and will direct his efforts in the newly constructed Luck Weight Room that was a major part of the facility improvements located in the expanded Clarkson-McKenna Hall in conjunction with the refurbishing to Alumni Memorial Field at Foster Stadium in 2006.

Sabatini comes to the Institute after working two seasons in professional baseball while completing work on a master's degree.

Sabatini was employed for two years in the Chicago Cubs organization from 2005-2006 serving both in the club's spring training complex and as strength coach for the 2006 Peoria Chiefs, the Cubs' Class A affiliate in the Midwest League.

A 2005 graduate of Ohio University with a degree in Physical Education, Sabatini also received in 2007 his Masters in Coaching Education with an emphasis on strength and conditioning from Ohio.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa. and graduate of Oakmont Riverview High School, Sabatini, 24, was a four-year member of the Ohio baseball team and was a catcher and outfielder.

Sabatini is a member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association and is CSCS certified as a strength and conditioning specialist by the NSCA. He is also a member of the USA Weightlifting organization.

Sabatini fills the role of Jimmy Whitten who served as VMI football strength coach for three seasons, but will now work with other VMI athletic teams as Associate Head Coach for Strength and Conditioning.