

## Keydets Hope Competition, Senior Leadership Fuels '08 Success

With the dawning of a new campaign, VMI Lacrosse continues to strive toward the goal of becoming a top Division I program. During the 2008 season, the Keydets will look towards two primary factors to reveal the season's outcome: Positional battles and senior leadership. VMI features a deep senior class, including pre-season all-MAAC selection Kevin Hill at attackman, co-captain Pat Zanelotti at defenseman, and seven others, all of whom should play a key role during the upcoming season. Despite the talented senior class, and the leadership they bring to the table, the other key to the Keydets' season is expected to be the positional battles. No one is assured a position, and Coach Jeff Shirk expects this to benefit the squad.

"I believe that the competition for positions is key to our season, because it prevents players from becoming complacent," Shirk stated. "When a player is not assured of a starting position, he plays harder, he works harder, and I believe that healthy competition such as this makes for better lacrosse players. Whether a player is at the top of the depth chart, or perhaps a bit lower, they're all pushing each other and making each other better."

### Goalie:

At press time, VMI has just two full-time goalies on the roster. Sean McCoy returns as the projected starter. After a promising freshman campaign, McCoy has continued to improve. "I honestly think he'll be one of the best goalies in the conference this year," Coach Shirk stated about his primary netminder. "Before it's all said and done, he might be one of the best goalies in the country." John Collier is the backup at the position, and he continues to strive to improve while demonstrating a solid work ethic, while Patrick Maloney will also backup McCoy.

### Defense:

One-third of the nine seniors on this year's Keydet squad are featured on the defensive unit. Co-Captain Pat Zanelotti, Brent Whitsitt, and Robert Hawley are expected to form a powerful headline triumvirate at their position. Zanelotti, voted co-captain with David Jacobs, began his career as a long-stick middle, but has successfully made the transition to defenseman. He features a strong combination of size and athleticism to go with his experience. Whitsitt and Hawley are the front-runners to team with him on the back line, and both are looked to provide leadership to the remaining defensive players. In addition to the three seniors, junior Will Carlton, sophomore Sean Kennedy, and freshman Shane Wilkinson are all expected to see significant time.

#### Top Defensive Returners (all stats '07):

##### CLOSE DEFENSE:

Player, Yr.	GP/GS
• Pat Zanelotti, Sr.	14/14
• Brett Whitsitt, Sr.	13/6

##### LONG STICK MIDDIE:

Player, Yr.	GP/GS
• Matt Turner, Sr.	12/9

##### SHORT STICK D-MIDDIE:

Player, Yr.	GP/GS
• David Jacobs, Sr.	14/0

### Defensive Middies:

VMI features competition at the short stick d-middie position, as several players continue to fight for the top spots on the Keydet depth chart. Senior co-captain David Jacobs could be considered the clear front-runner for this, possibly the most difficult non-goalie position on the field. Jacobs comes off a season in which he posted five goals and four assists.

John Regan, Dave Padgett, Remington Adams, Steve Lindley, and Dan Perestock are also very much in the running for significant playing time, and the competition continues as the

season edges closer.

Senior Matt Turner, perhaps one of the most athletic long-sticks in the conference, will headline the Keydet unit at this position. Turner is experienced, having played in 12 games during a strong junior campaign, and features very good speed for his position. The Franklin, Tenn. native is also regarded as a very strong on-ball defenseman, and VMI will no doubt rely on those skills during the upcoming campaign.



Senior defenseman Pat Zanelotti was named co-captain of this year's squad.

### Face-off:

VMI looks to improve in their face-off ability, after having a bit of a down year at the spot during the '07 campaign. At press time, sophomores Lowell Patterson, Leonard Weschler and others are all locked in a battle for playing time in the face-off X. Dave Padgett and Shane Wilkinson also could see time there, as the Keydets boast depth and varying types of abilities in their potential face-off middies. The team hopes this will create further success in this area, and foster match-up problems for their opponents in the process.

### Midfield:

Timmy Moran, Brett Leonard, and Bobby Davis currently comprise the Keydets first line. The three sophomores demonstrated tremendous potential last season, have shown a great work ethic, and hope to lead VMI to a successful 2008 campaign. "I honestly believe that if they play to their potential, they can be one of the top midfield units in the conference," Shirk asserted. The other six midfielders are locked in a battle to play on the second line, or perhaps even to supplant the current top three.

### Attack:

The attack position may very well be the Keydet strong suit, as they return pre-season all-MAAC player Kevin Hill. Hill, a senior from Rockville Centre, N.Y., posted 50 points last season, including the 24 goals he put into the back of the net. "I couldn't be more pleased with how far Kevin's come. He's a guy that everyone else on the team looks up to, a guy who plays hard and plays within the system. He's taken on a leadership role, and in the process has helped our young, sophomore middle line, which is our top line." The Keydets also return senior Matt Harrison, who tallied 18 points last season, Jacob Weimer, who is a projected starter, along with several others who expect to challenge the aforementioned three for playing time.

## The Schedule:

For the second consecutive season, the Keydet schedule will prove to be very difficult. VMI will open play with a scrimmage against Belmont Abbey on February 2, and then will play back-to-back contests against top-25 programs Navy and Army to open the regular season. This may seem overly ambitious to some, but Coach Shirk believes such contests are vital to the success, both present and future, of the lacrosse program.

### Top Offensive Returners:

#### MIDFIELD:

- **Tim Moran (So.)**  
-13 Goals, 8 Assists, 59 Shots
- **David Jacobs (Sr.)**  
-14 GP, 5 Goals, 4 Assists

#### ATTACK:

- **Kevin Hill (Sr.)**  
-24 Goals, 26 Assists, 81 Shots
- **Brent Leonard (So.)**  
-17 Goals, 6 Assists, 36 Shots

"We've got to get our players to really believe that we can be a top D-I program," Shirk commented. "I think by scheduling top-25 teams early in the season, it shows them that we believe they can compete at that level. It also exposes them to high-quality competition, so that when we get into league play, the players have experienced a big game at a high level of competition."

Following the tilt against Army, VMI will travel to Louisville, Ky. to take on Bellarmine. From there, they will return home to host their first regular season match-up, a battle with the Blue Hose from Presbyterian College. Perhaps the toughest matchup of all is on March 4,

when the Keydets travel to Charlottesville to face the Virginia Cavaliers, who are ranked third in the pre-season.

When asked about this difficult non-conference slate, and the players' reaction to it, Shirk stated: "They're excited about it. All of these players came to VMI with dreams of not only playing, but of competing at Division I's highest level. They get excited to go to places like Navy, West Point, and Virginia, and our team is hungry to prove that they are a better, much improved squad."

VMI will wrap up their non-conference schedule with a trip to Robert Morris, and then will open league play on March 15 versus the Marist Red Foxes. Conference play will feature four games apiece both home and away, and will involve the usual cast of league opponents, including the four who will travel to Lexington: Marist, Wagner, St. Joseph's, and Canisius. VMI will host the Golden Griffins on April 19, and will honor their nine seniors that day. The Keydets will travel to Manhattan, Mount St. Mary's, Siena, and Providence during conference play.

VMI had a difficult time in the MAAC last season, but with a season of growth under their belts, the Keydets and their staff believe they will be much improved this season. However, despite the growth the Keydets are showing, perhaps the thing Coach Shirk is most proud of is the previously mentioned nine seniors. From Kevin Hill, to Pat Zanelotti, to Matt Harrison, John Regan, Jr., and on down the line, VMI's lacrosse coach spoke proudly of the nine men who will lead the squad during the 2008 campaign.

"One of the best things about our senior class is that they've really embraced what we've been trying to teach as a coaching staff, bought into our philosophy and set a great example for our younger players. I can't say enough about how badly they want to win, and about how much leadership they bring to our squad. I'm proud of how all of the seniors have bought into what it takes to be successful, not only on the field, but in all aspects of life."



Goalie Sean McCoy (L) returns, and looks to build on a promising freshman campaign.

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>Belmont Abbey</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>12 p.m.</b>
Feb. 9	at Navy	Annapolis, MD	12 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Army	West Point., N.Y.	1 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Bellarmine	Louisville, KY	1 p.m.
<b>Feb. 27</b>	<b>Presbyterian</b>	<b>SprintTurf Field</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>
Mar. 4	at Virginia	Charlottesville, VA	7 p.m.
Mar. 8	at Robert Morris	Moon Township, PA	1 p.m.
<b>Mar. 15</b>	<b>Marist</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Mar. 22	at Providence	Providence, RI	12 p.m.
<b>Mar. 29</b>	<b>Wagner</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>Apr. 5</b>	<b>St. Joseph's</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Apr. 12	at Siena	Loudonville, NY	1 p.m.
<b>Apr. 19</b>	<b>Canisius</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Apr. 23	at Mt. St. Mary's	Emmitsburg, MD	4 p.m.
Apr. 26	at Manhattan	Riverdale, NY	1 p.m.

*Home Games in Bold*



Senior Kevin Hill returns as the team's top scorer, after posting 50 points (24 goals and 26 assists) in 2007.

# KEYDETS LACROSSE

No.	Name	Pos.	Height	Weight	Class	Hometown/Previous School
1	John Collier	G/M	5-10	180	Jr.	Centreville, Va./Woodberry Forest
2	Shane Wilkinson	D	6-0	180	Fr.	Williamsburg, Va./Jamestown
3	Sean McCoy	G	6-2	195	So.	Hudson, Ohio/Hudson
4	David Jacobs	M	5-10	185	Sr.	Plainview, N.Y./Plainview JFK
5	Kevin Hill	A	6-0	170	Sr.	Rockville Centre, N.Y./South Side
6	Richard Kent	A	5-10	165	Fr.	North Potomac, Md./Thomas Wootton
7	Matt Brode	M	5-8	170	Fr.	Allison Park, Pa./Hampton HS
8	Hayden Cox	A	6-1	175	So.	Great Falls, Va./Langley
9	Matt Piazza	A	5-9	155	Fr.	Tully, N.Y./Tully HS
10	Brett Leonard	A/M	5-11	170	So.	Laurel, Md./St. Vincent Pallotti
11	Tim Moran	M	5-9	175	So.	Florence, N.J./Holy Cross
12	John Regan, Jr.	M	6-0	190	Sr.	Mt. Airy, Md./Glenelg
13	Dan Perestock	M	6-1	200	So.	Gibsonia, Penn./Hampton
14	Steve Lindley	A	5-8	160	So.	Pottstown, Penn./Pottsgrove
15	Lowell Patterson	M-F/O	5-11	185	So.	Bethesda, Md./Heights School
16	Chris Kenney	D	6-1	211	Fr.	Fredericksburg, Va./Mt. St. Joseph
17	Ryan Crean	A	5-10	160	So.	Danbury, Conn./Immaculate HS
18	Matt Harrison	M	6-0	190	Sr.	Great Mills, Md./St. Mary's Ryken
19	Justin Ong	M	6-0	170	So.	Potomac Falls, Va./Potomac Falls
20	Brett Whitsitt	D	5-11	185	Sr.	McLean, Va./Langley
21	Bobby Davis	M	5-10	170	So.	Vienna, Va./Oakton
22	Dave Padgett	M-F/O	5-11	185	So.	Rye, N.Y./Rye
24	Brian Peeler	M	5-11	175	Sr.	Springfield, Va./Robert E. Lee
26	Zach Henke	M	6-0	172	Fr.	Gardiner, N.Y./Wallkill
27	Matt Spitzer	D	5-7	165	Fr.	Warrenton, Va./Highland School
28	Will Carlton	D	5-11	195	Jr.	Winston-Salem, N.C./RJ Reynolds HS
29	Jesse Newman	M	5-10	155	So.	Baltimore, Md./Parkville HS
30	Leonard Weschler	M	6-1	195	So.	Vienna, Va./James Madison
32	Roland Richardson	A	5-8	160	Fr.	Chesapeake, Va./Norfolk Collegiate
33	Jacob Weimer	A	5-10	160	So.	Bear, Del./Christiana
34	Jamie Wulforst	M	6-2	205	Fr.	Medfield, Mass./Medfield HS
35	Patrick Zanelotti	D	6-1	220	Sr.	Chantilly, Va./Paul VI
37	Remington Adams	M-F/O	5-9	165	Jr.	Barrington, N.H./Dover HS
38	Matt Turner	M	6-0	190	Sr.	Franklin, Tenn./Centennial
39	Sean Kennedy	D	6-0	185	So.	Floral Park, N.Y./Floral Park
40	Patrick Maloney	G	5-9	180	Jr.	Silver Spring, Md./James Hubert Blake HS
44	Ben Schaefer	D	5-10	165	Fr.	Montgomery Village, Md./Our Lady of Good
45	Robert Hawley, Jr.	D	5-10	195	Sr.	Fulton, N.Y./G. Ray Bodley

**Head Coach:** Jeff Shirk (Maryland '01)  
**Assistant Coach:** Chris Feifs (Maryland '07)  
**Assistant Coach:** Nat St. Laurent (Keuka '04)

## Roster Breakdown

### By Class:

Freshman - 10, Sophomore - 15, Junior - 4, Senior - 9

### By State:

Virginia - 12, Maryland - 8, New York - 7, Pennsylvania - 3, New Jersey - 3, Delaware - 1, Massachusetts - 1, New Hampshire - 1, N. Carolina - 1, Ohio - 1, Tennessee - 1, Connecticut - 1

## Top Returners

Name	GP-GS	Offense:					Shot%	GW
		G	A	Pts	Sh			
Hill, Kevin	14-12	24	26	50	81	.296	1	
Leonard, Brett	14-12	17	6	23	36	.472	0	
Moran, Tim	14-6	13	8	21	59	.220	0	
Harrison, Matt	14-14	14	4	18	39	.359	0	

Name	GP-GS	Defense:
		GB
Pat Zanelotti	14-14	40
Brett Whitsitt	13-6	17

Name	GP-GS	Min.	Goalie:						
			GA	GAAvg	Saves	Pct	W	L	T
McCoy, Sean	14-14	831:20	176	12.70	160	.476	2	11	0

## Alphabetical Roster

No.	First	Last	Position
37	Remington	Adams	M-F/O
7	Matt	Brode	M
28	Will	Carlton	D
1	John	Collier	G/M
8	Hayden	Cox	A
17	Ryan	Crean	A
21	Bobby	Davis	M
18	Matt	Harrison	M
45	Robert	Hawley, Jr.	D
26	Zach	Henke	D
5	Kevin	Hill	A
4	David	Jacobs	M
39	Sean	Kennedy	D
16	Chris	Kenney	D
6	Richard	Kent	A
10	Brett	Leonard	A/M
14	Steve	Lindley	A
40	Patrick	Maloney	G
3	Sean	McCoy	G
11	Tim	Moran	M
29	Jesse	Newman	M
19	Justin	Ong	M
22	Dave	Padgett	M-F/O
15	Lowell	Patterson	M-F/O
24	Brian	Peeler	M
13	Dan	Perestock	M
9	Matt	Piazza	A
12	John	Regan, Jr.	M
32	Roland	Richardson	A
44	Ben	Schaefer	D
27	Matt	Spitzer	D
38	Matt	Turner	M
33	Jacob	Weimer	A
30	Leonard	Weschler	M
20	Brett	Whitsitt	D
2	Shane	Wilkinson	D
34	Jamie	Wulforst	M
35	Patrick	Zanelotti	D

## By Position

### Attack (9):

Hayden Cox, Ryan Crean, Kevin Hill, Richard Kent, Steve Lindley, Brett Leonard, Matt Piazza, Roland Richardson, Jacob Weimer

### Middie (17):

Remington Adams, Matt Brode, Bobby Davis, Matt Harrison, Zach Henke, David Jacobs, Tim Moran, Jesse Newman, Justin Ong, Dave Padgett, Lowell Patterson, Brian Peeler, Dan Perestock, John Regan, Jr., Matt Turner, Leonard Weschler, Jamie Wulforst

### Defense (9):

Will Carlton, Robert Hawley, Jr., Sean Kennedy, Chris Kenney, Ben Schaefer, Matt Spitzer, Brett Whitsitt, Shane Wilkinson, Pat Zanelotti

### Goalie (3):

John Collier, Patrick Maloney, Sean McCoy