## 1987 VMI Baseball Final Statistics - 33 Games

Team Totals	Johnson Doczi Tilley Glover Armbruster Tognoli Ferguson Sparks Craft		Team Totals	Glover	Johnson	Havird	Swiencinski	Rhodes	0'Ferrall	Tilley	Beasley	Simpson	Slater	Bunn	Wood	Parrott	Galleo	Finwood	Walker	Stone	Sibayan		Overall: 16-16-1
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5.99	3.21 4.64 5.19 5.76 6.55 6.60 6.80 6.80 7.67	ERA	1	0	0	0	ω	0	4	1	ω	0	ω	9	9	ω	7	4	5	7	9	[G	Extra Innings: 2-1

## 1987 VMI BASEBALL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	CLASS	POS.	HT.	<u>wt.</u>	<u>B</u>	T	HOMETOWN
2	Criss Finwood	Jr.	Inf.	6-0	170	L	R	Hampton ,VA
3	Trey Rhodes	Fr.	Inf.	5-11	155	S	L	Portsmouth, VA
4	Ben Walker	Sr.	Of	5-8	165	L	L	Williamsburg, VA
5	Barry Johnson	Fr.	P	6-0	175	R	R	Christiansbug, VA
6	John Glover	So.	P	5-10	165	L	L	Smithfield, VA
7	Ren O'Ferrall	So.	Of	5-10	170	R	R	Richmond, VA
8	Gary Sibayan	So.	Inf.	5-8	165	R	R	Yorktown, VA
9	Darren Galleo	So.	Inf.	5-9	165	R	R	Roanoke, VA
10	Chris Tognoli	So.	P	5-11	170	L	L	Allentown, PA
11	Richard Stone	Jr.	Of	6-0	175	R	R	Vienna, VA
12	George Armbruster	So.	P	6-2	190	L	L	Va. Beach, VA
13	John Parrott	Jr.	Of	5-10	200	,R	R	Williamsburg, VA
14	Todd Tilley	So.	P	6-3	190	R	R	Chesapeake, VA
15	Andy Beasley	Fr.	С	6-4	195	L	R	Newport News, VA
16	Mike Doczi	Fr.	P	6-0	200	R	R	Manassas, VA
17	Richard Sparks	So.	P	6-2	180	R	R	Va. Beach, VA
18	Tom Slater	Fr.	Inf.	6-1	190	R	R	Richmond, VA
19	Chris Bunn	Jr.	Inf.	6-3	203	R	R	Zebulon, NC
20	D. T. Wood	Sr.	С	6-1	200	R	R	Amherst, VA
21	Mark Craft	Fr.	P	6-7	220	R	R	Powell, TN
22	Peter Catalano	So.	Inf.	6-1	200	L	L	Va. Beach, VA
23	Glenn Ferguson	Sr.	P	6-3	220	R	R	Nathalie, VA
24	John Jordan	Fr.	C	6-2	185	R	R	Altavista, VA
25	Marshall Simpson	Fr.	Inf.	6-5	210	L	R	Richmond, VA
26	Brian Swiencinski	Jr.	Of	6-1	175	R	R	Fairfax, VA
27	Rob Clark	Fr.	Р	6-3	170	R	R	Dallas, TX
28	Lee Havird	Fr.	Of	5-11	160	S	R	Portsmouth, VA
29	Holmes Smith	Fr.	Of	6-0	190	R	R	Manassas, VA
30	Monte Craft	Fr.	P	6-1	190	R	R	Uvalda, GA
31	Jack Roman	Fr.	P	5-10	165	L	L	Bethlehem, PA

FOR ALUMNI REVIEW by Wade Branner Acct. SID

The VMI baseball team wasn't about to see history repeat itself.

The Keydets entered the 1987 season sharing the same high hopes of previous squads but unlike its predecessors, this year's edition rid itself of old habits to assemble its finest campaign in 22 years.

A crucial extra-inning loss, a key pitching injury, a horrendous hitting slump, things that turned expectation to disappointment in prior years, didn't have the same impact this season thanks to a hard working group that refused to allow the past control its destiny.

With no home field because of renovation work to Patchin Field, the Keydets battled as the visiting team in 24 of 33 contests but still managed to reach the .500 mark for the first time since 1965 when VMI compiled a 15-9 record. The 16 wins also tied a school superlative for most wins in a season established by the 1984 and 1985 squads.

"As a coach you always want to see your team strive to play to its potential," said head coach Donny White '65. "I felt the last week of the season we played about as well as we could play."

Unlike the weak finishes of previous years, the Keydets made their most impressive showing in the final week and a half of '87 by reaching the championship round of the Southern Conference tournament, then disposing of state rivals Virginia Tech and Washington & Lee to finish with its first non-losing season in 22 years. The triumph over the Hokies was the first since 1969 and the first in Blacksburg since 1962.

The Keydets throughout the season showed those qualities which separate good teams from also rans. VMI was 3-8 in one run games last year but improved to 5-3 in one run affairs this season, including a 2-1 mark in extra innings. VMI limped to the finish line last season, dropping four of its last five but this year the Keydets kicked in the stretch taking four of the last five. The team also avoided the disasterous lengthy losing streaks that cripple a season, falling no more than four times in a row. Last year, they suffered a six game losing streak and a pair of five game spells.

"We developed the ability to win the close ones and also win some extra innings games which in the past had been a problem," commented White. "It was especially gratifying to see a team play up to its potential and win some big games."

Bolstered by the hitting performances of four starters who batted over .350, the Keydets hit a record .301 and averaged 7.4 runs per game. Sophomore second baseman Gary Sibayan led the team in hitting with a .359 average, followed by junior outfielder Richard Stone (.357), senior outfielder Ben Walker (.355) and shortstop Criss Finwood (.354).

Did White seriously expect four starters to hit over .350?

"I expected Ben Walker to have a big year again," said White. "He's carried us so many times before and this season was no exception. Sibayan proved before that he could hit .300. But the guys who really surprised me were Finwood and Stone. They really exceeded my expectations."

After comparing Finwood and Stone's batting averages to the previous season, it's no wonder that White is wearing a smile. Finwood jacked his average 113 points from his '86 mark of .243 and Stone improved his .273 clip by 84 points. Both players hit over .300 for the first time in their collegiate careers.

The Keydets also solved the power hitting puzzle that riddled them entering the season. Graduated slugger Greg Weddle departed along with his 37 career round-trippers, but Walker and junior rightfielder John Parrott combined for 20 homers to fill the void this season. Walker blasted nine round trippers and led the team in RBI's with 42 while Parrott went on a late season rampage to finish with a club high 11 home runs and 34 RBI. Over the last five games, Parrott hit .360, clouted seven homers and knocked in 17 runs.

VMI also received admirable performances both in the field and at the plate from junior first baseman Chris Bunn (.273) and freshman third baseman Tom Slater (.269).

But no team can win baseball games without pitching and the Keydets took advantage of their deepest staff in years to outlast opponents. The biggest surprise in the mound corps was freshman Mike Doczi who registered a 3-0 record and 4.64 ERA in 12 relief appearances. Doczi's wins included a SC tournament decision over Appalachian State and the triumph over Virginia Tech in extra innings. Sophomore Todd Tilley emerged as VMI's most dependable starter and finished 4-3. '86 ace Glenn Ferguson struggled with arm problems to go 2-4 but gave the staff necessary quality starts along with sophomore Richard Sparks and freshman Mark Craft. Doczi teamed up with sophomore John Glover for a dependable bullpen which kept the Keydets in most of the contests. The pitchers set a season school record by striking out 207 batters.

VMI assembled its best Southern Conference regular season record at 8-4 and earned a trip to the league tournament in Asheville, NC for the first time in three years. Expected to exit early by most observers, the Keydets suffered a 16-4 thumping to Western Carolina in the opening round. Starring elimination in the face, VMI rallied the next day to defeat Davidson 15-7 and North Division rival Appalachian State 11-10 in 10 innings. The wins sent the Wildcats and Mountaineers packing and pitted a rematch between the Keydets and Western Carolina in the championship round where the Catamounts prevailed 9-4 behind four home runs.

Several Keydets saved their best performances for the tournament. Sibayan hit .474 over the four game stretch while Stone and DH D.T. Wood batted .412. Stone and Parrott each hit three tourney home runs but perhaps took a back seat in dramatics to Slater's emotional 10th inning blast at 12:24 a.m. Sunday morning to lift the Keydets over Appalachian State and into the finals the next afternoon.

The strong finish was an appropriate tribute to skipper White, who announced to his team before the Southern Conference tournament that this season would be his last. After leading the Keydets for seven seasons, he is relocating to the Richmond, VA area and leaves behind a competitive program rebuilt during his tenure. Inheriting a squad in 1982 that finished 3-37 the previous season, he led the Keydets over a six year span to 85 wins, two Southern Conference tournament appearances, and victories over state rivals James Madison, Virginia, and Virginia Tech. White was selected Southern Conference Coach-of-the-Year in 1982 and finished second in this year's balloting. His successor will be Paul Maini '66, currently the Executive Assistant in the VMI Alumni Association and former assistant coach at both the Institute and Navy. (See related article)

Sibayan and Finwood earned All-Southern Conference North Division honors for the second time and Walker was selected to the squad to round out his outstanding athletic career at VMI.

OFFICIAL NCAA BASEBALL BOX SCORE  Date APRIL 24, 1987 Time Stadium McCormick FIEUD City ASHEVILLE, N.C.  VIRGINIA MILITARY AB R H RBI BB SO PO A WESTERN CAROLINA AB R H RBI BB SO PO A															W)		
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GAME 5- SOUTHERN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL NCAA BASEBALL BOX SCORE

Date APRIL 25,1989 Time 9:00 p.m. Stadium McCORMICK FIELD City ASHEVILLE, N.C. APPALACHIAN STATE (2410) AB R H RBI BB SO PO A WRGINIAMILITARY (14-15-1) AB R H RBI BB SO PO A CRAWFORD, DH 4 SIBAYAN, ZB RILEY, SS 1 2 FINWOOD, SS 2 SLUDER, 3B WALKER, CF 2 PARROTT, RF 4 7 3 DUBIEL, RF 5 2 2 1 STONE, LF 3 LONG, C 8 3 BUNN, 1B GREEN, 1B 2 2 2 NAIL, CF WOOD DH-C HINSHAW, LF 4 BEASLEY C SUGGS, 2B 4 3 3 O'FERRALL, PR GALLEO, PH 41 2 CORNETTE SLATER, 313 CRAFT, P 429 14 8 6 7 28 15 TOTALS 3610118 6 5 30 14 **TOTALS** H E SCORE BY APPALACHIAN STATE VIRGINIA MILITARY INNINGS E-SIBAYAN, SLUPER, LONG, GREEN DP- ASU 3, VM1 2 LEFT- ASU 11, VM1 7 HR— STONE (4), SIBAYAN (3), SLUDER (4), CRAWFORD (9) SB— BUNN, SIBAYAN, WALKER SF- NONE SH-SLATER, GALLEO. APPALACHIAN STATE ER BB SO VIRGINIA MILITARY IP H R IP H R ER BB SO 8 NORMAN 4 5.1 4 5 4 2 CRAFT 10 2.2 TUTTLE 3 2 2 4.2 4 2.1 DOCZI DOVEL 2 2 2 CORNETTE 2.1 2 WINNER-DOCZI (2-0) LOSER-CORNETTE (0-Z) SAVE-NONE PB- NONE WP-CRAFT 2, TUTTLE HBP - BY CRAFT (RILEY) (DVBIEL) BY CORNETTE (WOOD) U— TOHNSON (HP), SPENCER (3R), COFFECT (7B), BARKER (1B). T— 3:20 A— 325 (EST)
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Date APRIL 26, 1987 Time 1:03 P.M. Stadium McCORMICIC FIGLD City ASHEVILLE, N.C. IESTERN CAROLINA (34-18) AB R H RBI BB SO PO A VIRGINA MILITARY (14-16-1) H RBI BB SO PO A 3 IAILEY, LF 3 22 SIBAYAN, 2B 2 24 eCCAIR, 1B FINWOOD, SS 4 1 2 AIREY, DH 2 WALKER, CF 4 5 3 'ARSON, RF PARROTT, RF 2 3 NELLOMS, CF 4 STONE, LF 2 1 Z BUNN, IB 4 PICKMAN, 3B 10 4 ORDON, ZB 3 WOOD, C 4 POGERS, C 2 SIMPSON, DH 5 BRITTAIN, SS GALLED, DH SLATER, 3B 2 LAUGHTER, P FERGUSON, P 35999 66277 OTALS 9 27 10 39 4 13 TOTALS RH WESTERN CAROLINA ORE BY ININGS VIRGINIA MILITARY -BRITTAIN, WOOD. P- NONE LEFT- UMI 9, WCU 5. PARRUTT (7), CARSON (10), B-BUNN, PARROTT, HAILEY, SLATER IR- LECLAIR (8) STONE (5), FAIREY (18), LECLAIR (9) SB- HAILEY GORDON CS-SIBAYAN SF-NONE H-NONE ESTERN CAROLINA IP ER BB SO VIRGINIA MILITARY H R IP ER | BB | SO 7.1 4 LAUGHTER 4 4 13 5 FERGUSON \* 4 6+ JITHROW 1.2 4 TOGNOLI 2 2 \* FACED I BATTER IN 77H. VINNER-SLAUGHTER (6-3) LOSER-FERGUSON (2-4) SAVE-WITHROW (7) IP- FERGUSON, WITHROW PB- NONE BP-BY WITHRUW (WALKER) - GADDY (HP), COFFELT (3B), BARKER (2B), JOHNSON (IB). T-3:03 A-565 by National Collegiate Athletic Association 1976

OFFICIAL NCAA BASEBALL BOX SCORE

GAME 6-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT