

KEYDET HEAD COACH

CAL MCCOMBS

■ THE CITADEL '67 ■ SEVENTH SEASON



Now in his seventh season as head coach of VMI football, Cal McCombs continues to direct the program with a steady hand.

Coaching football at a military college requires vision, determination, enthusiasm, patience, and the ability to win people over with trust and commitment.

In McCombs' six years, he has instilled those virtues into the heart of VMI football and the result has been success, not just on the field, but in the classroom and beyond - where young VMI football alumni are making an impact in the world.

In 2002, McCombs led the Keydets to six wins, the most victories since 1981, and was named Southern Conference Coach of the Year - the third VMI football coach bestowed that honor and the first since Bob Thalman in 1981. McCombs, later that season was tabbed the Virginia State Coach of the Year by the Richmond Touchdown Club. He led VMI football to 12 wins in 2002 and 2003-the most over a two-year period since the 1976 and

1977 seasons.

McCombs is quick to point out that it takes teamwork to build a winner, and the resurgence of VMI football has not been the product of one person's labor. Believing that there are no shortcuts to success, McCombs has taken a grass roots approach to rebuilding VMI football fortunes - brick-by-brick.

He has improved VMI's recruiting pool and retention rates by selling the total VMI experience to prospects, with the goal of an Institute degree and a lifelong bond among fellow graduates: the ultimate rewards to those who join the VMI football family.

With a focus on the priorities that produce the total student-athlete, McCombs not only rallied his troops, he made them believe that success both on and off the field is at hand, not some distant dream down the road.

Embarking on a new era of VMI football, McCombs was announced as the Institute's head coach on Dec. 18, 1998 after a successful stint as a coordinator and assistant coach at



VMI

the United States Air Force Academy.

McCombs had served on the staff of Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry for 15 seasons - initially coaching the Falcon defensive backs before assuming the duties of defensive coordinator in 1990. He reported for duty on the VMI post the first week of January, 1999, just days after his Falcon defense helped thwart Washington in the Oahu Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii.

McCombs played a major role in the accomplishments of Air Force football from 1984-1998. The Falcons captured two Western Athletic Conference championships, a WAC Mountain Division championship, and earned 10 bowl berths. Air Force ranked in the top 11 in Division I-A in total defense in 1998, and McCombs earlier directed the WAC's top defense in 1997 and the conference's leader in scoring defense in three different years. He also recruited Air Force standout quarterback Dee Dowis who was sixth in the Heisman trophy balloting in 1989. McCombs also tutored Air Force All-American defensive backs Scott Thomas and Carelton Thomas.

In the period McCombs served on the Air Force staff under DeBerry, the Falcons went 119-64-1 and captured 11 Commander-in-Chief's trophies - the annual award symbolizing service academy football supremacy.

McCombs, 60, became VMI's 28th head football coach in the program's 113-year football history. He is a 1967 graduate of The Citadel and a former All-Southern Conference football and track and field performer and held the school's high jump record (6'-7"). He lettered three years in track and two in football and was a two-time most valuable player on both teams in 1966 and 1967. McCombs was a Dean's List student in the Corps of Cadets and also served as Cadet Battalion Athletic officer. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the United States Army upon graduation and served a two-year tour of duty from 1967 to 1969.

All but two years of McCombs' 35-year coaching career has been served at a military college. He began at South Carolina as a graduate assistant coach for two years before returning to his alma mater in 1971. McCombs spent 13 years on the The Citadel staff under head coaches Red Parker, Bobby Ross, and Art Baker and coached on both sides of the ball - holding during his tenure the positions of defensive coordinator, recruiting coordinator, defensive back coach, quarterback coach, offensive back coach, and academic counselor.

McCombs, a native of Belton, S.C., and his wife Lynne have two children, Will and Layne, and two grandchildren, Bennett and Calvin.

THE CAL McCOMBS PROFILE

COACHING CAREER

| <u>Yr.</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>Rec.</u> | <u>Coaching Role</u> | <u>Post Season</u> |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1969 | South Carolina | 7-4 | Graduate assistant | Peach Bowl |
| 1970 | South Carolina | 4-7 | Graduate assistant | |
| 1971 | The Citadel | 8-3-0 | Secondary | |
| 1972 | The Citadel | 5-6-0 | Secondary | |
| 1973 | The Citadel | 3-8-0 | Wide receivers | |
| 1974 | The Citadel | 4-7-0 | Wide receivers | |
| 1975 | The Citadel | 6-5-0 | Wide receivers | |
| 1976 | The Citadel | 6-5-0 | Quarterbacks | |
| 1977 | The Citadel | 5-6-0 | Running backs | |
| 1978 | The Citadel | 5-6-0 | Secondary | |
| 1979 | The Citadel | 6-5-0 | Secondary | |
| 1980 | The Citadel | 7-4-0 | Secondary | |
| 1981 | The Citadel | 7-3-1 | Defensive coordinator | |
| 1982 | The Citadel | 5-6-0 | Defensive coordinator | |
| 1983 | The Citadel | 3-8 | Running backs | |
| 1984 | Air Force | 8-4-0 | Secondary | Won Independence Bowl |
| 1985 | Air Force | 12-1-0 | Secondary | Won Bluebonnet Bowl |
| 1986 | Air Force | 6-5-0 | Secondary | |
| 1987 | Air Force | 9-4-0 | Secondary | Lost Freedom Bowl |
| 1988 | Air Force | 5-7-0 | Secondary | |
| 1989 | Air Force | 8-4-1 | Secondary | Lost Liberty Bowl |
| 1990 | Air Force | 7-5-0 | Defensive coordinator | Won Liberty Bowl |
| 1991 | Air Force | 10-3-0 | Defensive coordinator | Won Liberty Bowl |
| 1992 | Air Force | 7-5-0 | Defensive coordinator | Lost Liberty Bowl |
| 1993 | Air Force | 4-8-0 | Defensive coordinator | |
| 1994 | Air Force | 8-4-0 | Defensive coordinator | |
| 1995 | Air Force | 8-5-0 | Defensive coordinator | Lost Copper Bowl |
| 1996 | Air Force | 6-5-0 | Defensive coordinator | |
| 1997 | Air Force | 10-3-0 | Defensive coordinator | Lost Las Vegas Bowl |
| 1998 | Air Force | 12-1-0 | Defensive coordinator | Won Oahu Bowl |
| 1999 | VMI | 1-10-0 | Head Coach | |
| 2000 | VMI | 2-9-0 | Head Coach | |
| 2001 | VMI | 1-10-0 | Head Coach | |
| 2002 | VMI | 6-6-0 | Head Coach | |
| 2003 | VMI | 6-6-0 | Head Coach | |
| 2004 | VMI | 0-11-0 | Head Coach | |

PLAYING CAREER

Two-year letterwinner for The Citadel in football ('65 and '66), and three-year letterwinner in track ('65, '66, and '67); two-time MVP for both teams in 1966 and 1967; Earned All-Southern Conference and All-State honors in both track and football; Set Citadel record for high jump (6'7")

PERSONAL

Born: August 4, 1945 in Belton, S.C.

Family: Wife - Lynne Brown

Two children - Will (34) and Layne (31)

Education: B.S. in physical education, The Citadel, 1967

M.Ed. in physical education, University of South Carolina, 1970



Cal and Lynne McCombs

KEITH BRAXTON

- VMI '97
- FIFTH SEASON
- DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Keith Braxton joined the VMI football coaching staff in June, 2001 and took over the defensive line coaching responsibilities... worked the previous two years at First Union Corporation in



Richmond, Va... previously coached defensive tackles at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa during the 1997 season... returns to his alma mater and was a four-year letterman

defensive tackle at VMI through the 1993 and 1996 seasons... graduated from VMI with a B.A. in History in 1997... posted 195 career tackles including six sacks and 11 tackles for loss... was three-year starter at defensive tackle... had one of his top games as a sophomore when he secured six solo tackles, two assists, and a quarterback pressure in VMI's 26-23 overtime win over Appalachian State... played in all 44 games over his four-year career with 35 starts... 30 years old... a native of Beaverdam, Virginia and a graduate of Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Va.

FAST FACT
BRAXTON WAS A THREE YEAR STARTER AT DEFENSIVE TACKLE FOR VMI FROM 1994-1996.



Keith Braxton

JOHNNY BURNETT

- UC-SANTA BARBARA '70
- FOURTH SEASON
- DEF. COORDINATOR/SECONDARY

Begins his fourth season as defensive coordinator while also coaching the defensive backs...came to the Institute after coaching three seasons at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where he was



assistant head coach, defensive coordinator, and recruiting coordinator...also coached at Oklahoma State for three seasons (96-98) and served as the Cowboys co-coordina-

tor on defense and handled the secondary...a veteran of military college football coaching, he spent the majority of his coaching career at the United States Military Academy where he coached for 17 years... coached linebackers and secondary under three Army head coaches...a 58 year-old native of Alameda, Calif...also coached as an assistant at University of Utah (1970) and moved on to Shippensburg State College (1972), Utah (1975-76) the Air Force Academy (1977) and Pacific (1978)...has coached four All-Americans, 18 all-conference performers, and seven academic All-America selections.

FAST FACT
BURNETT TOOK OVER AS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR IN 2002.



Johnny, Barbara and Kyle Burnett

JON GENSON

- INDIANA '99
- FIRST SEASON
- OFFENSIVE BACKS

Takes over the running back responsibilities...comes to VMI from Colgate University where he coached Raider running backs for three productive seasons... Colgate went 31-8 over that span and captured



Patriot League titles in 2002 and 2003 and reached the I-AA championship game in 2003...While at Colgate, Genson coached Raider running back Jamaal Branch who led the nation in rushing in 2003

with 2,326 yards, as the team gained a school record 3,256 yards on the ground. Branch captured the 2003 Walter Payton Award, given to the outstanding Division I-AA Player in the Nation...previously coached at Amherst College for one season, during which the Lord Jeffs finished 7-1 with his running backs averaging 204.4 rushing yards per game...began his coaching career with a two-year stint at Division I-AA power Hofstra where he served as a defensive graduate assistant and assisted the defensive backs coach. He helped the Pride to a Lambert Cup Championship in 1999 and consecutive trips to the second round of the NCAA I-AA playoffs...26 years old...graduated from Indiana University in 1999 with a degree in sports marketing and served four years as a football manager...earned his master's degree in physical education from Hofstra University in 2001...He and his wife, Jami, reside in Lexington.

FAST FACT
GENSON COACHED COLGATE'S JAMAAL BRANCH, THE 2003 PAYTON AWARD WINNER.



Jami and Jon Genson

ETHAN JEROS

- MARIETTA '95
- FIRST SEASON
- DEFENSIVE ENDS

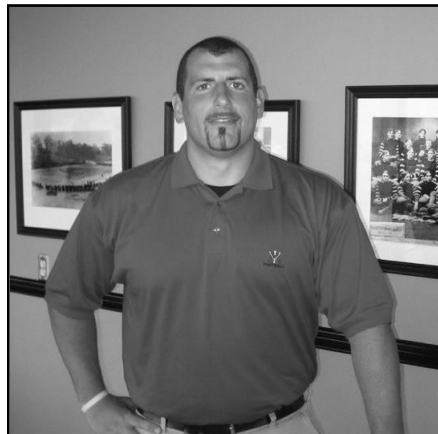
Joined the coaching staff during the 2005 spring drills and is coaching the defensive ends position group...comes to the Institute from Muskingum (OH) College where he served as defensive line coach and junior varsity defensive coordinator...While at Muskingum, Jeros led a defensive line that improved from last in the Ohio Athletic Conference to second in the league in quarterback sacks. Five Muskingum players under his tutelage



attained All-OAC conference honors...also assisted Muskingum in scouting, recruiting, and game plan management...previously served as defensive line and junior varsity defensive coordinator at his alma mater

Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio from 2000-2002...served as defensive coordinator in the high school ranks at South Brunswick High School from 1998-99, and offensive and defensive line coach at New Milford High School from 1996-1997...Jeros received a B.A. in Public Relations from Marietta College in 1995 and earned an M.A. in education at Marietta in 2002...As a college player, Jeros attained All-American status at Marietta in 1993 and was All-Ohio Athletic Conference in 1992 and 1993. In 1991, Jeros earned the Most Improved Player Award from Ramapo (NJ) College...33 years old...a native of Hightstown, N.J., Jeros was inducted into the Hightstown High School Hall of Fame.

FAST FACT
JEROS ATTAINED ALL-AMERICA STATUS AT MARIETTA COLLEGE.



Ethan Jeros

REED HEIM

- AUSTIN COLLEGE '00
- THIRD SEASON
- LINEBACKERS

Joined the staff in May, 2003...will shift from defensive ends to coaching linebackers this fall...came to VMI from Louisiana College in Pineville, La. where he coached linebackers in a multiple 4-3



coached on two club teams in Europe...played middle linebacker and fullback for the Vienna Rangers in Vienna, Austria in the summer of 2001...played for the SHA Unicorns

in Schwaebisch Hall, Germany and coordinated the defense while coaching special teams...was a four-year letterwinner at Austin College and graduated in May, 2000 with a degree in Business Administration...captained the 2000 Austin College team...played for VMI defensive coordinator Johnny Burnett at Austin College...was a three-time All-Conference ASC player at Austin College...28 years old.

FAST FACT
HEIM IS MOVING TO LINEBACKERS COACH IN 2005.



Reed Heim

CHRIS MALONE

- VIRGINIA TECH '96
- SECOND SEASON
- OFFENSIVE LINE

Entering his second season at the Institute after serving as offensive line coach at the University of Massachusetts the previous three years...coached UMass tight ends in 2001,



his first year on the Amherst campus, then handled offensive line responsibilities the for two seasons...coached an All-American and All-Atlantic 10 selection while serving as line coach...worked as

an assistant line coach with Virginia Tech when they went 22-2, with the team winning the Big East Championship and advancing to the national title game in 1999, and winning the Gator Bowl in 2000...also spent one year at Fork Union under head coach John Shuman (VMI '80), coaching offensive and defensive lines and directing the strength and conditioning program...earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Virginia Tech in 1996...then earned a master's degree in consumer economics in 1998...was a four-year starter at Virginia Tech at left guard and earned All-Big East honors as a senior in 1995...played on the 1995 Big East title team, the 1995 Sugar Bowl champion squad, and the 1993 Independence Bowl title team...the Hokies posted a 29-17-1 record during Malone's four years as a player...he and wife Susan reside in Lexington.

FAST FACT
MALONE WAS AN ALL-BIG EAST LINE-MAN AT VIRGINIA TECH IN 1995.



Chris and Susan Malone

WILL MCCOMBS

- AIR FORCE '94
- SEVENTH SEASON
- OFF. COORDINATOR/QB'S

Moved into the offensive coordinator's role last season after serving five years as VMI offensive line coach...helped VMI's offense set school records for points in 2002 and 2003... also serves as the QB's coach and Keydet recruiting coordinator...came to VMI from The Citadel where he was an offensive assistant (1995), assistant OL and TE coach (1996-



97) and receivers coach (1998)...a 1994 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy with a B.S. in Biology... served active duty as a lieutenant in the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston A.F.B. from 1995-98...earned two varsity letters as an offensive lineman at Air Force and played in three consecutive Liberty Bowls (1990-92)...was OL coach at USAFA Prep after graduation...son of head coach Cal McCombs... 34 years old...married to the former Emilie Turnage of Charleston, S.C...the couple has one daughter, Bennett (3) and one newborn son, Calvin.

FAST FACT

WILL MCCOMBS BEGINS HIS SECOND SEASON AS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR.



Will, Bennett, Emilie and Calvin McCombs

GREG SHOCKLEY

- VIRGINIA TECH '99
- FIRST SEASON
- RECEIVERS

Comes 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 semi-finals of the I-AA playoffs before falling to eventual champion James Madison...The Tribe also won the Atlantic 10 Conference championship in 2004...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... 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

FAST FACT

SHOCKLEY LAST YEAR COACHED TIGHT ENDS FOR ATLANTIC 10 CHAMPION WILLIAM & MARY.

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 awarded the John William Schneider Award, given to the Tech player who excels in athletics, scholarship, and leadership...married to the former Cheryl Denny, an assistant softball coach at James Madison University...the couple resides in Staunton.



Cheryl and Greg Shockley