

Bart Bellairs



10th Season ■ Warren Wilson '79

**1994-95 Southern Conference
Coach of the Year**

1995-96 Virginia Division I Coach of the Year



With his name firmly entrenched in the VMI history books, Bart Bellairs is poised to lead the program to new heights in the coming seasons.

Bellairs became VMI's all-time winningest coach in 2001 and continues to lead Runnin' Roos basketball toward unprecedented stability and competitiveness since taking over the program in April, 1994. Bellairs has been the architect of a rock solid foundation on which VMI basketball has flourished.

Few VMI basketball coaches have accomplished as much in as little time as Bart Bellairs. In his fourth season, Bellairs moved past the 50-win plateau and became the second fastest coach to move past that milestone in VMI's 90-year basketball history.

1998-99 saw the Keydets post their fourth consecutive .500 or better season in conference play, something that had been accomplished only one other time.

Bellairs was only the third coach in VMI history to log at least two winning campaigns in his first four years of the post.

Not only have Bellairs' VMI squads chalked up wins, a higher caliber of opponents have fallen to the Keydets recently. In 1997-98, VMI knocked off Penn State for the school's first win ever over a Big Ten team, and the Keydets upset Virginia Tech in Blacksburg for the first time since 1954.

Bellairs' impact on Keydet hoops goes far beyond the hardwood. His energetic and enthusiastic approach to the game of basketball has spread to players and fans alike who have been caught up in the exciting style of play known as "BartBall". Bellairs has been the driving force behind the resurgence of VMI basketball facilities, attendance, and, of course, victories.

"BartBall" will also have an extended run at VMI as Bellairs inked a ten-year contract extension in February, 1998, that extends to 2011. "Runnin' Roos" basketball under Bellairs has already produced the highest scoring team in VMI history, a team which won the most conference games (10) in school history, seven All-Southern Conference performers, a SoCon Player of the Year, two SoCon Freshmen of the Year, and an NCAA Post-Graduate scholarship recipient. Four of the top five

Bart Bellairs' Ledger

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OVERALL RECORD</u>	<u>CONFERENCE RECORD</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
1983-84	7-16	3-10	Wilkes University
1984-85	14-11	10-6	Wilkes University
1994-95	10-17	6-8	VMI
1995-96	18-10	10-4	VMI
1996-97	12-16	7-7	VMI
1997-98	14-13	8-7	VMI
1998-99	12-15	9-7	VMI
1999-2000	6-23	1-15	VMI
2000-01	9-19	5-11	VMI
2001-02	10-18	5-11	VMI
2002-03	10-20	3-13	VMI
TOTALS	122-178 (.406)	67-99 (.404)	Overall at VMI
	101-151 (.401)	54-83 (.394)	

crowds in Cameron Hall history witnessed a VMI basketball team coached by Bart Bellairs.

It was no surprise when Bellairs was tabbed 1996 state Division I Coach-of-the-Year by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the Virginia Sports Information Directors. He gained national notoriety by being named

Sports Illustrated's "Unknown Coach-of-the-Year". In his rookie season of 1995, Bellairs was honored as Southern Conference Coach-of-the-Year as selected by the league coaches.

On the court, Bellairs' success has been well noted with a 34-25 SoCon mark from 1996-1999. Off the court, he promotes the game and his program with the energy of a tireless political campaign staffer. Raising the awareness of VMI basketball in the community and building a marquee

home schedule continues to be a top priority. In 1995-96, Bellairs was the driving force behind the scheduling of only the second basketball game between VMI and next-door neighbor Washington and Lee. One year later, national power North Carolina became the first ACC team since 1984 to visit Cameron Hall, and top national programs such as Penn State, UNC Charlotte, Wake Forest, Virginia Tech, and Virginia have either visited or will do so in the near future.

Before coming to VMI, Bellairs spent six seasons as an assistant coach on the staff of Lefty Driesell at James Madison University and was involved in all aspects of the Dukes' basketball program including team administration and recruiting.

James Madison posted a 117-65 record in the six seasons Bellairs was associated with the program. The Dukes captured two regular season Colonial Athletic Association titles outright, and shared three other league crowns during that stretch. JMU appeared in five straight post-season tournaments including the NCAA's in 1994.

Bellairs last year completed his 22nd season as a college basketball coach and began his career as a graduate assistant coach at Western Illinois University where he earned his master's degree in physical education and athletic administration in 1981.

He took his first head coaching assignment in 1983 at Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre, PA where he rejuvenated a struggling program. He inherited a squad that had finished last in its league the previous season and a year later directed the Colonels to a Division III national ranking as high as 16th, and a conference division title.

In 1985-86, Bellairs joined Driesell as an assistant coach at the University of Maryland. He moved on to the University of Massachusetts the next two seasons where he inked four players who helped UMass to an NIT appearance in 1989 and NCAA play in 1990 and 1991.

Bellairs, 47, brings to VMI the total package as both a coach and motivator of student-athletes. His resume crosses paths with some of the greatest names in college basketball today. He has served as a head coach on the college level in two divisions. He holds coaching experience in prestigious conferences such as the Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic 10, and Colonial Athletic Association, as well as the Southern Conference. He assumed the rank of college basketball coach at all three divisions of the NCAA, combining for over 300 wins. He possesses extensive experience in recruiting, scouting, and teaching at the

college level. He is dedicated to the success of the VMI cadet beyond his playing days, and is an honorary member of the VMI class of 1998.

A native of Richmond, Kentucky, Bellairs graduated with a bachelor's degree from Warren Wilson College in 1979.

Bellairs is married to the former Jacki Berkshire. They have three sons, Andrew (12), Jacob (10), and Will (7), and two daughters Katie (22), and Alli (5).

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Profile

PERSONAL

Name: Bart Bellairs
 Hometown: Richmond, Kentucky
 Education: Western Illinois University, M.S. in Physical Education and Athletic Administration, 1981
 Warren Wilson College, B.A. in Sociology/Social Work, 1979
 Family: Married, Five children
 Wife: Jacki
 Children: Katie - 22, Andrew - 12, Jacob - 10, Will - 7, Alli - 5

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head Basketball Coach
 Virginia Military Institute (1994-present)
 Assistant Basketball Coach
 James Madison University (1989-1994)
 Assistant Basketball Coach
 University of Massachusetts (1987-1988)
 Assistant Basketball Coach
 University of Maryland (1986)
 Head Basketball Coach
 Wilkes University (1984-1985)
 Assistant Basketball Coach
 Wilkes University (1982-1983)
 Assistant Basketball Coach
 Western Illinois University (1981)
 Head Junior Varsity Basketball Coach
 Lycoming College (1980)



The Bellairs family: Jacki, Will, Bart, Alli, Katie, (back row) Jacob, Andrew.

ASSISTANT COACH

Grafton Young

Second Season ■ Warren Wilson '79



Grafton Young returned to VMI in 2002 after a 13-year period of coaching positions at other institutions.

Young, 46, joined the Keydets after serving as head coach at Newberry (S.C.) College from the 1993-94 through the 2001-02 seasons. While directing the Newberry program, Young coached the team in 1997 to its first winning season since 1981-82. He also coached the SAC Player of the Year and

second team Division II All-American Brandon Hughes in 2000 (still playing professionally in Ireland), and also coached the SAC freshman of the year Alex Fair in 1999. Young also served as Newberry Director of Athletics from 1995 until 2000, and administered and supervised all facets of the college's 14 sports programs. Among the major capital improvements under his tenure as AD was a soccer and softball complex, which opened in 1998.

A 1979 graduate of Warren Wilson College with a B.A. in sociology, Young was a classmate of Bellairs at the Asheville, N.C. area college, and has held a longtime association with the Keydet head coach.

Young's hiring will mark the second time he has coached basketball at VMI. He served as a volunteer assistant coach under Joe Cantafio for two seasons (1988-89). He was on the bench when VMI marched to the 1988 Southern Conference Tournament Finals before falling to Chattanooga in the championship game.

Young left VMI following the 1989 season to join Les Robinson as an assistant at East Tennessee State, and was part of one of the greatest championship runs in Southern Conference basketball history. During Young's four-year tenure at ETSU, the Bucs posted a 98-29 record, captured three Southern Conference Tournament titles, and advanced to the NCAA tournament three consecutive years. The 1991 ETSU squad attained a top 10 national ranking during the regular season, and the '92 squad advanced to the NCAA second round after dispatching Arizona in the opening round.

He began his coaching career at A.C. Reynolds High School in Asheville in 1979 where he served as both head J.V. Boy's coach and assistant varsity coach from 1979 to 1985.

Young began his college coaching career as an assistant coach under Vern Canfield at neighboring Washington and Lee University from 1985 through 1987. While coaching at W&L, the Generals reached the ODAC tournament finals in 1986.

Young is a member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the Black Coaches Association. While at Newberry, Young played a leadership role in various Newberry city and county drug and alcohol related programs and was active in several civic organizations. He also started a "Lunch Buddies" program, which had Newberry athletes visit and interact with local elementary school students.

ASSISTANT COACH

Don Burgess

Second Season ■ Radford '94



Don Burgess, a former Radford University standout forward, begins his second season as an assistant coach at VMI.

Burgess came to VMI from Coastal Carolina University where he served the past two years as an assistant coach on the staff of former VMI assistant coach Pete Strickland.

While at Coastal Carolina, Burgess served as the Chanticleers' recruiting coordinator and

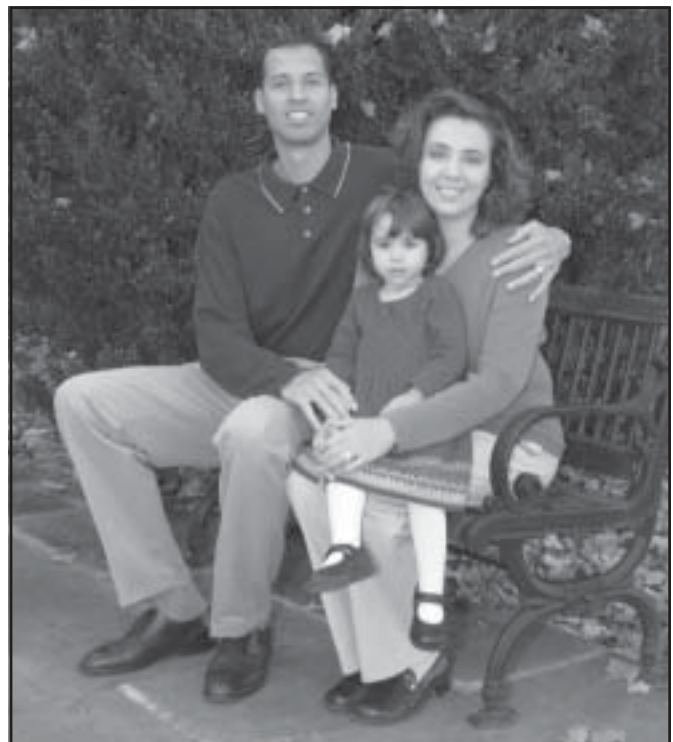
handled other coaching duties including game preparation, student-athlete academic support, and coordinating CCU's camps and clinics. Burgess helped coach Coastal Carolina's Troy Butler, who was the 2001 Big South Player of the year and an honorable mention All-America selection.

Burgess also coached previously as an assistant coach at the University of Central Florida and served on the staff of Kirk Speraw.

He compiled an outstanding career for the Radford Highlanders from 1990 to 1994, and served as a student assistant coach in 1995 while he earned his degree in Business Management. As a player, Burgess averaged 12.4 points and 5.2 rebounds per game for his 117-game career. An All-Conference selection as a senior, he finished his career ranked in the Radford top five all-time in points (1,452), rebounds (614), steals (162) and blocks (84).

Burgess was an All-Big South selection in 1993-94 and was named captain and MVP of the Highlander squad his senior year. He represented Radford on the Big South All-Star team that toured Russia for two weeks in the summer of 1993.

Burgess is a native of Harrisonburg, Virginia. He is married to the former Stephanie Riddlebarger, who is a 1995 graduate of Radford with a degree in Elementary Education. The couple has one daughter, Kaley, who was born June 2001.



Don, Stephanie, and Kaley Burgess

ASSISTANT COACH

Kevin Martin

Second Season ■ Roanoke '94



Kevin Martin became the newest addition to the VMI basketball staff, officially beginning his duties with the Keydets in October of 2002.

Martin joined the staff after serving as assistant basketball coach the last two years at Winchendon School in Winchendon, Mass. He assisted in all phases of the one of the nation's top prep hoops programs while also directing the Winchendon golf program.

A 1994 graduate of Roanoke College, Martin was a three-year starter for the Maroons and helped lead Roanoke College to a 26-2 record his senior year and a ranking of fourth in the nation. He finished his collegiate career ranked in the top 10 on the school charts in assists, steals, and 3-point percentage.

Martin began his college coaching career at his alma mater and helped guide the Maroons to the 1996 ODAC championship and NCAA tournament appearances for each of the three years he was on the staff. The 1996 Roanoke College basketball team also reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division III tournament. His major responsibility on the coaching staff was recruiting and was also head coach of the JV program.

Following the 1996-97 season, Martin moved into private business where he worked in sales for Bluegreen Resorts in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and later was a project manager for Byrd and Goff construction company in Raleigh, N.C.

A native of Collinsville, Va., Martin scored over 1,300 points for his career at Fieldale-Collinsville High School and was a first-team All-Timesland selection and first team AA All-State his senior year when he averaged 28.8 points per game.

Martin is single and resides in Lexington.



Kevin Martin joined the VMI staff in October, 2002.



Grafton Young is in his second season on the Bellairs staff, and was also a VMI hoops assistant in 1998 and 1999.

Athletic Academic Honor Roll Patch



The VMI Athletic Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes who complete the academic year with a 3.0 or better GPA. For the 2003-04 school year, 73 VMI cadet-athletes received the honor as follows: baseball - 14, basketball - 3, cross country - 3, football - 10, lacrosse - 14, rifle - 6, soccer - 6, swimming - 5, tennis - 3, track and field - 12 and wrestling - 2.

In recognition of their achievements, the returning cadet-athletes will wear a special insignia on their uniforms that represents the mortarboard worn by scholars, produced in the VMI colors: red, yellow, and white.

The VMI Athletic Academic Honor Roll insignia program was developed at the suggestion of Keydet Club members Dr. Carter A. Sinclair '46 of Hickory, N.C., and the Hon. Thomas R. McNamara '46, class agent of Blue Grass, Va. It is sponsored by the VMI Keydet Club, Inc., and administered by the Institute. The wearing of the insignia publicly acknowledges the academic accomplishments of these cadet-athletes, and reinforces VMI's philosophy that all athletes are students first.

Keydet Club members congratulate these young men and women and wish them continued success in all their endeavors, on and off the field.