

KEYDET HEAD COACH

# CAL MCCOMBS

## ■ THE CITADEL '67 ■ SIXTH SEASON



**T**he right man for the right job.

That may best describe Cal McCombs' working relationship as head football coach at Virginia Military Institute.

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

In McCombs' five 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 has led VMI football to 12 wins the past two years - the most 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 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, 59, 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 (33), and Layne (30).

## 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	

### 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

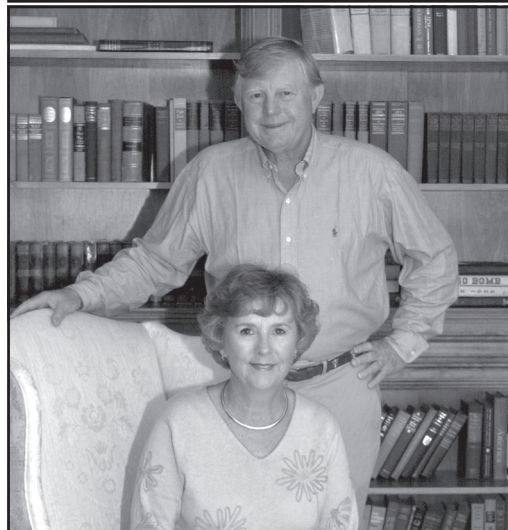
**Born:** August 4, 1945 in Belton, S.C.

**Family:** Wife - Lynne Brown

Two children - Will (33) and Layne (30)

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

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



Cal and Lynne McCombs