

General Information

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2008 Quick Facts

Location Lexington, Va.
 Founded 1839
 Enrollment 1,400
 Nickname Keydets
 Colors Red, White & Yellow
 Home Field Patchin Field (Grass/Cap. 1000)
 Affiliation NCAA Division I
 Conference Big South
 Superintendent Gen. J.H. Binford Peay, III '62
 Athletic Director Donny White '65

Coaching Staff

Head Coach Bryan Williams
 Alma Mater Washington & Lee '81
 Phone 540-464-7608
 Fax 540-464-7790
 Record at VMI 17-37-2/Fourth season
 Career Record 47-115-11/Tenth season
 Assistant Coach Kerry Smith
 Alma Mater Nova Southeastern (Fla.) '06

Team Information

2007 Record 5-13-2, 1-6 Big South
 Starters Returning/Lost 8/3
 Letter winners Returning/Lost 11/4
 Newcomers 6

Athletic Media Relations

Assoc. A.D./Athletic Communications Wade Branner
 Asst. A.D./Media Relations (WS) Christian Hoffman
 Office Phone (540) 464-7514
 Cell Phone (540) 460-6920
 Email hoffmanjc@vmi.edu
 Fax (540) 464-7583
 Assistant Media Relations Director Brad Salois
 Website www.VMIKeydets.com
 Mailing and Overnight Address
 VMI Sports Information Office
 116 Smith Hall; Lexington, VA 24450

Credits

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It's VMI Please

When referring to our athletic teams, it is requested that members of the media refer to this institution as "VMI", or "Virginia Military Institute", not "Virginia Military" or the cryptic "Va. Military" or V.M.I. Any help in using the correct moniker would be greatly appreciated.



2008 Schedule

AUGUST

22 at Howard 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

2 at Longwood 7 p.m.

6 Campbell 5 p.m.

12 South Carolina State 1 p.m.

14 Navy 1 p.m.

19 at Northern Arizona# 7 p.m. (MST)

21 vs. Boise State# 10 a.m. (MST)

24 Liberty* 4:30 p.m.

28 Delaware State 4 p.m.

OCTOBER

1 Winthrop* 4 p.m.

4 Charleston Southern* 11 a.m.

8 Radford* 4 p.m.

12 at Austin Peay 2 p.m. (CDT)

18 at High Point* 7 p.m.

21 at UNC Asheville* 4 p.m.

24 at Coastal Carolina* 6 p.m.

26 Richmond 1 p.m.

29 at Presbyterian* 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 Gardner-Webb* 1 p.m.

6-9 at Big South Championship
 High Point, N.C. TBD

*-Denotes Big South Contest

Home Matches in **Bold**

All Times Eastern Unless Otherwise Noted

The Online Home for VMI Athletics...VMIKeydets.com

Relaunched this June with JumpTV, the new website gives fans new ways to follow their favorite Keydets. You can keep up with live games through free audio and live stats, view on-demand videos profiling your favorite athletes and get the inside scoop on the teams with several new feature columns.

In addition, fans can buy photos, sign up for email alerts, purchase tickets and bid on auction items, all while still having access to all of the up-to-the-minute news on VMI's 16 varsity sports.



2008 Team Preview

Led by a defense that returns each member from last year's record-setting unit, the 2008 VMI women's soccer program appears poised to tackle the toughest schedule in the program's six-year history. For the first time, the Keydets will face an all-Division I lineup, including a pair of teams coming off of appearances in last season's National Championship tournament.

This year's Keydets should be well-prepared to face such a test. Returning eight starters from a year ago, VMI will once again rely on a nucleus built from the back line. Junior **Audrey Falconi**, a 2007 All-Conference selection, and senior co-captain **Celine Ziobro** will lead a Keydet defense that set new school records for shutouts and goals-against-average a season ago. Add in the return of each of the three goalkeepers that saw action last season, including 2007 Big South All-Freshman team member **Angela Redmond**, and a strong freshman class, and head coach Bryan Williams has more than enough reasons to be excited for 2008.

"This year certainly has the potential to be special as we continue to make strides as a program," said Williams. "The potential that this team has with the returning upperclassmen combining with a very strong freshman class is exciting to see, even this early into fall practice.

"With this group of women, all of the records that have been established in the past should be eliminated, from scoring records to defensive statistics, and certainly our overall wins total. We have the opportunity to be in games that we've never been in before, which will give us the chance to post results that we've never had a chance to before. The 2008 season will be a tremendous amount of fun to watch and follow for all of our fans and supporters of the program."

Goalkeeping

In yet another first for the still-young program, the Keydet goalkeeping corps boasts three returnees for the '08 season. Sophomores **Angela Redmond** and **Heidi Beemer** split a majority of the time last season in between the pipes, while junior **Kathleen Underwood** played a key role down the stretch a year ago, turning in key performances when called upon late in the year.

Redmond was a dominant presence in goal last season, resulting in only the second Big South All-Freshman recognition in Keydet history. Though just shy of 100% entering the season, she shouldn't be far from that come opening day. Redmond's athleticism, intensity and strong work rate give her the potential to become a force within the Big South Conference.

Beemer, meanwhile, will likely begin the year in goal for the Keydets. The 5-foot-10 Beemer gives VMI size, quickness and a strong distribution game in goal. A late-season injury a year ago ended a strong run for her, when she allowed only two goals in over 225 minutes of play. She will be looking to build on a solid spring showing, and the coaching staff is hoping she can run with the starting job after getting the first crack at it this fall.

Underwood returns for her junior campaign still working to recover from a debilitating knee injury suffered well over a year ago. Through her rehabilitation, she has remained a key member of the program, showing great resilience and determination to return to the field. Her play in goal a year ago helped her to set the school's longest individual shutout streak, as she played over 220 minutes without allowing a goal, a streak that lasted over parts of five games.

Defense

Following a strong showing on the defensive end a season ago, chances are Keydet fans could see an improved back line in 2008. While all of the starters return last season, a pair of talented freshmen could see time on defense this season.

Last season, **Audrey Falconi** made an immediate impact on the back line after transitioning from the midfield. Teaming with **Celine Ziobro** in the center of the defense, the duo gives the team two highly-skilled players that can create counterattacks out of the back.

Freshmen **Kelly Morrison** and **Gabrielle McCarron** are slated to see time in the back right away. Morrison is the first All-State First Team player from Virginia to sign with the Keydets, and brings a great deal of experience and versatility. Her technical ability, speed and vision of the game will make her an asset on the field, most likely at outside back, though she could also see time at forward. McCarron, meanwhile, is a strong, physical player who could be well suited for play as a central defender.

Returning outside backs **Jennifer Ball** and **Alexi Staton** will also be in the mix on defense. Ball returns for her sophomore season after starting all 20 games last year, and could see time in the midfield to take advantage of her aggressiveness on the field, or back on defense. Staton, a rising junior, reported back in strong physical shape after a summer stint with her naval commissioning unit and brings versatility and plus technical skills to the back line.

Midfield

Entering the year, the midfield is the unit that will see the most changes from a season ago. However, with several freshmen ready to step into a pair of departed starting slots, the revamped midfield could be a key to the team's 2008 breakthrough.

Anchoring the center of the field once again is senior co-captain **Megan Strand**. A three-year starter, Strand has excelled as the team's defensive midfielder in the past, and is expected to start the season there once again. A dangerous weapon on restarts and corner kicks, Strand gives the Keydets experience and aggressiveness in the center of the field.

Opponents could be seeing double this season in the Keydet midfield, as Megan Strand is expected to be joined by her sister, Sarah, in the center of the field. **Sarah Strand** is a tall, physical player who could be an immediate impact player as a freshman. Expected to see time anywhere from the defensive midfield to the center midfield to even an attacking position, Sarah is another powerful and versatile weapon for the Red, White and Yellow.

Several options exist for the Keydets at outside midfield. Freshmen **Olivia Moore** and **Christina Gontarski** could be in the mix there, along with returning sophomores **A.J. Baker** and **Carolyn Kenaley**. Moore's creativity and speed will assure her of playing time on the outside, while Gontarski's vision and versatility will prove valuable. Baker's ability to mark top opposing players fills a role for the team, and Kenaley is coming off of a strong spring season. Other options in the midfield include Ball and Staton, who could shift up from the back line on occasion.

Forwards

Replacing the top two scorers from a year ago will be a key to the Keydets' 2008 success. In all, the Keydets return only 15 of the team's 30 goals scored from last season, so finding a reliable attack is an important step early in the season.

Junior **Chrissy Beach** enjoyed a breakout year in 2007, leading the team with five assists and collecting a career-best 13 points. This season, Beach could become a dominant player for the team within the Big South, as she showed flashes of down the stretch last season.

Beach is expected to team with freshman **Amanda Berrios** on the Keydet attack. The sister of former Keydet Vanessa, Berrios has shown impressive technical skills, tremendous vision and a strong sense of creativity that could prove to be very dangerous up top.

Berrios most likely will not be the only first-year player to see time on the attack, as Morrison and Moore are also expected to see time at the forward spots.

Schedule

An ambitious schedule awaits Coach Williams' squad, with the Keydets playing their first-ever all-Division I slate in '08. Highlights include the program's first trip west of the Mississippi, when they play in a tournament at Northern Arizona, and several tough home matches, including back-to-back Patriot League Champions Navy.

"The 2008 season represents a lot of work in how the schedule has been put together with having our non-conference portion geared toward not only playing quality opponents, but also expanding our name to a greater audience nationally," said Williams. "Obviously going out to Arizona and over toward Nashville give us the ability to do that. We face several strong regional opponents, highlighted by two-time National Championship participant Navy, along with in-state rivals Longwood and Richmond. We're really excited to see one of the service academies willing to make the trip to come play us at home after what was a very good match against them last year."

The Big South Conference undergoes another set of changes this season, as Presbyterian and Gardner-Webb have been added into the fray. Though the Blue Hose are not eligible for the league's postseason championship, a nine-game conference schedule will present the toughest such challenge in the program's history.

"The Big South continues to be a great conference for our program to be a part of," continued Williams. "It's a very competitive league, and our players understand that anything can happen against a conference opponent, as our win against Winthrop, a team ranked second in the standings, proved last season. Our ability to play with the best teams in our conference demonstrates where the program is headed, and we look to continue that progress this season. Each program looks to have retooled and should improve significantly this season, but I feel like we have done the same. I am looking forward to each match we play within the conference, and having the opportunity in each match to prove ourselves against our rivals within the Big South."

Following the team's first-ever postseason appearance, a narrow 1-0 loss to top-seeded Coastal Carolina, you can bet the team is hungry to back up that showing this season. And given the team's combination of schedule and talent, it appears the program could be poised to turn heads in 2008.

Rosters and Roster Breakdown

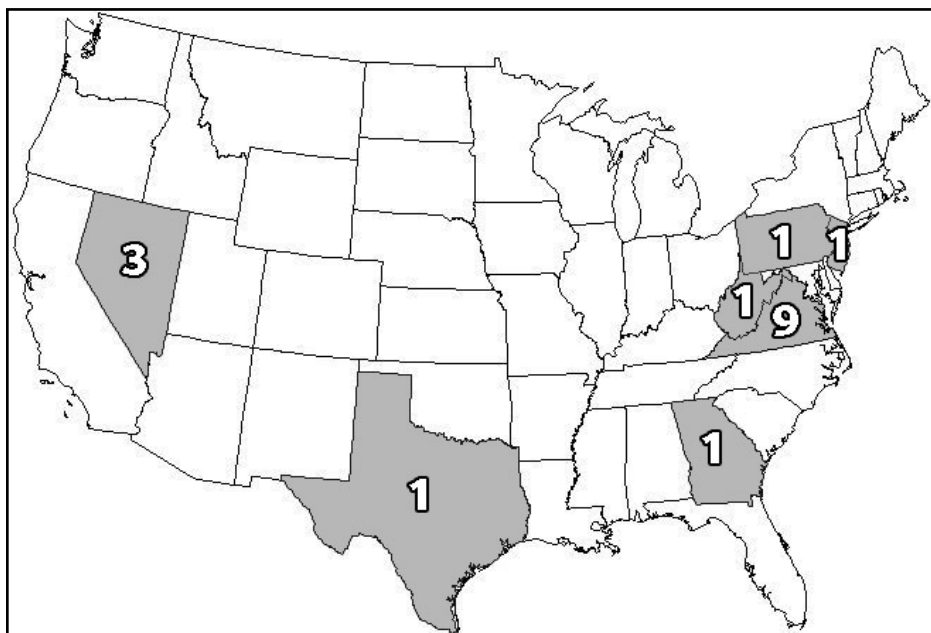
Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Cl.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
0	Kathleen Underwood**	Jr.	GK	5-6	Spotsylvania, Va./Courtland
00	Angela Redmond*	So.	GK	5-6	Fairfax Station, Va./Woodson
1	Heidi Beemer*	So.	GK	5-10	Virginia Beach, Va./Ocean Lakes
2	Megan Strand***	Sr.	M	5-4	Fredericksburg, Va./Stafford
3	Gabrielle McCarron	Fr.	D	5-11	Harleysville, Pa./Lansdale Catholic
4	Alexi Staton**	Jr.	M/D	5-4	Roanoke, Va./Northside
7	Chrissy Beach**	Jr.	F	5-9	Las Vegas, Nev./Rancho
8	Carolyn Kenaley*	So.	M	5-3	Houston, Texas/Klein Forest
9	A.J. Baker*	So.	M	5-6	Powder Springs, Ga./Dominion Christian
10	Sarah Strand	Fr.	M	5-9	Fredericksburg, Va./Colonial Forge
11	Kelly Morrison	Fr.	D/F	5-7	Virginia Beach, Va./Cox
12	Audrey Falconi**	Jr.	D	5-1	Las Vegas, Nev./Centennial
14	Christina Gontarski	Fr.	M	5-5	Little Egg Harbor, N.J./Pinelands Regional
15	Celine Ziobro***	Sr.	D	5-6	Henderson, Nev./Green Valley
16	Amanda Berrios	Fr.	F/M	5-7	Yorktown, Va./York
17	Jennifer Ball*	So.	D/M	5-4	Hurricane, W.Va./Hurricane
18	Olivia Moore	Fr.	F/M	5-3	Powhatan, Va./Powhatan

Head Coach: Bryan Williams (Washington & Lee '81), Fourth Season

Assistant Coach: Kerry Smith (Nova Southeastern '06), Second Season

Team Manager: Haley Dalberg



Breakdown by State:

Georgia: 1

A.J. BakerPowder Springs

Nevada: 3

Chrissy BeachLas Vegas

Audrey FalconiLas Vegas

Celine ZiobroHenderson

New Jersey: 1

Christina Gontarski.....Little Egg Harbor

Pennsylvania: 1

Gabrielle McCarron.....Harleysville

Texas: 1

Carolyn Kenaley.....Houston

Virginia: 9

Heidi BeemerVirginia Beach

Amanda Berrios.....Yorktown

Olivia Moore.....Powhatan

Kelly MorrisonVirginia Beach

Angela RedmondFairfax Station

Alexi StatonRoanoke

Megan StrandFredericksburg

Sarah Strand.....Fredericksburg

Kathleen Underwood.....Spotsylvania

West Virginia: 1

Jennifer BallHurricane

Alphabetical Roster

9	A.J. Baker*	M
17	Jennifer Ball*	D/M
7	Chrissy Beach**	F
1	Heidi Beemer*	GK
16	Amanda Berrios	F/M
12	Audrey Falconi**	D
14	Christina Gontarski	M
8	Carolyn Kenaley*	M
3	Gabrielle McCarron	D
18	Olivia Moore	F/M
11	Kelly Morrison	D/F
00	Angela Redmond*	GK
4	Alexi Staton**	M/D
2	Megan Strand***	M
10	Sarah Strand	M
0	Kathleen Underwood**	GK
15	Celine Ziobro***	D

Pronunciation Guide

Amanda **Berrios**- bear-REE-ohs

Audrey **Falconi**- fal-CO-nee

Alexi **Staton**- STAY-ton

Celine **Ziobro**- zee-OH-bro

Breakdown by Class

First Classmen (Seniors): 2

Megan Strand, Celine Ziobro

Second Classmen (Juniors): 4

Chrissy Beach, Audrey Falconi, Alexi Staton, Kathleen Underwood

Third Classmen (Sophomores): 5

A.J. Baker, Jennifer Ball, Heidi Beemer, Carolyn Kenaley, Angela Redmond

Fourth Classmen (Freshmen): 6

Amanda Berrios, Christina Gontarski, Gabrielle McCarron, Olivia Moore, Kelly Morrison, Sarah Strand