

2008 VMI LACROSSE GAME NOTES



Game Fourteen:

VMI KEYDETS

(5-8, 4-3 MAAC)

vs.

MANHATTAN JASPERS

(5-8, 4-3 MAAC)



The Opponent: Scouting Report

Fresh off clinching their first-ever post-season berth, the VMI Keydets (5-8, 4-3 MAAC) travel to Riverdale, N.Y., to take on the Manhattan Jaspers (5-8, 4-3 MAAC).

VMI is coming off of a mid-week contest with Mount St. Mary's, which the Mount prevailed in 11-8, despite a hat trick by the Keydets' Tim Moran. The sophomore midfielder upped his goals scored total to a team-leading 23, and the Florence, N.J. native now has 41 points on the 2008 campaign.

Shortly after the Keydets' loss Wednesday, Manhattan defeated Saint Joseph's in a double-overtime thriller, 7-6. The Jaspers' win assured VMI of a spot in the 2008 MAAC Tournament, and gave the Keydets' the first post-season berth in program history. Canisius, Providence, and VMI have now clinched berths in the tournament, set to be held next weekend in Loudonville, N.Y.

The Manhattan win also made Manhattan the odds-on favorite to capture the final spot in the four-team tournament, as the Jaspers need only to win today to earn that position. Should VMI prevail, any number of scenarios could occur, and Manhattan, Saint Joseph's, and Siena would all be alive for the final playoff berth.

The Jaspers are led by Brian Wynne's 23 points on 10 goals and thirteen assists, along with Salvatore Spatarella's fifteen goals. The team from upstate New York has been outscored 105-76 this season, including 33-21 in the second quarter, but the somewhat sluggish offense has been helped by John Geagan in goal. The Manhattan netminder has a 6.98 GAA in his eleven appearances, including nine starts, and has made 120 saves during this season.



VMI versus The Opponent

The Keydets and Jaspers have faced each other seven times in lacrosse competition, with Manhattan holding a 5-2 edge in results.

Since VMI joined the MAAC in 2003, the Keydets have defeated the Jaspers just once, an 8-7 win in 2003 in Lexington. Manhattan has won the last four meetings between the clubs, including a 22-10 victory last year in Riverdale.

Prior to 2003, the teams battled three times, and the Keydets claimed one victory, a 14-8 win at the Institute in 1999.

The two schools have battled in several other sports, the results of which are shown below.

VMI Versus Manhattan (last meeting)

Football: Never Played

Baseball: Never Played

Basketball: Manhattan leads 1-0 (1982)

Men's Soccer: VMI leads 5-0 (2007)

Women's Soccer: Manhattan leads 2-0 (2006)

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2008 VMI LACROSSE SCHEDULE:

Feb 2.Belmont AbbeyScrimmage

Feb. 9at NavyAnnapolis, Md.	L (2-10)
Feb. 16	.....at Army	.....West Point, N.Y.	L (3-16)
Feb. 23	.....at Bellarmine	.....Louisville, KY	L (5-8)
Feb. 27	....Presbyterian	.....SprintTurf Field	W (15-4)
Mar. 4	.....at Virginia	.....Charlottesville, Va.	L (5-24)
Mar. 11	....Robert Morris	.....SprintTurf Field	L (4-15)
Mar. 15	....Marist	.....Foster Stadium	W (9-7)
Mar. 22	.....at Providence	.....Providence, R.I.	L (5-12)
Mar. 29	....Wagner	.....Foster Stadium	W (13-6)
Apr. 5	.....Saint Joseph's	.....Foster Stadium	W (14-12)
Apr. 12	.....at Siena	.....Loudonville, N.Y.	W (9-8)
Apr. 19	....Canisius	.....Foster Stadium	L (8-12)
Apr. 23	.....at Mount St. Mary's	.....Emmitsburg, Md.	L (8-11)
Apr. 26	.....at Manhattan	.....Riverdale, N.Y.	1 p.m.
May 2-4	....MAAC Tournament	....Loudonville, N.Y.	TBA

S. McCoy 11 Saves, 3 ground balls
 T. Moran 3 Goals
 S.McCoy 16 Saves, J. Weimer 2 Goals
 T. Moran 7 Points, VMI Scores 11 straight goals
 M. Harrison 3 Goals
 Weimer Scores in 4th Straight Game
 K. Hill 5 Goals, MAAC Off. Player of the Week
 M. Piazza first collegiate goal
 T. Moran 6 Goals, MAAC Off. POTW
 K. Hill/B. Leonard eight pts. each
 K.Hill 7 points, McCoy seven 4th-quarter saves
 Second-half rally falls short against MAAC leaders
 K.Hill moves into top-five career points scored

Home Games In Bold

VMI Award Winners

March 3	Tim Moran	MAAC Offensive Player of the Week	4 goals, 3 assists versus Presbyterian Feb. 27
March 17	Kevin Hill	MAAC Offensive Player of the Week	5 goals versus Marist in MAAC Opener
March 29	Tim Moran	MAAC Offensive Player of the Week	6 goals against Wagner March 29, 13-6 VMI win
Apr. 7	Kevin Hill	MAAC Offensive Player of the Week	5 goals, 3 assists versus Saint Joseph's Apr. 5

Hill Chases History

VMI senior attackman Kevin Hill continues to add to his presence in the VMI record books. Hill moved into second place on the all-time assist list with his performance against Canisius, and solidified his grip on that with two more assists Wednesday against Mount St. Mary's. Hill also scored a single goal against the Mount, moving him within one of the top-ten goals scored list. All told, his three points in Emmitsburg moved him into fifth on the all-time points scored list, one ahead of Andrew Lawrence. Hill could move up the goals scored list today against the Jaspers.

Goals:

7. Mason Ayers (96-99)	82
8. Brad Muston (98-01)	78
9. Leo McInerney (01, 03, 05)	76
10. Spencer Gill (90, 92-93)	74
11. Kevin Hill (05-08)	73

Assists:

1. Rob Worrell (94-97)	87
2. Kevin Hill (05-08)	78
3. Tim Nolan (88-91)	73
4. Joe Brockman (93-96)	71
5. Andrew Lawrence (88-91)	66

Points:

4. Joe Brockman (93-96)	185
5. Kevin Hill (05-08)	151
6. Andrew Lawrence (88-91)	150
7. Mason Ayers (96-99)	138
8. Matt Gallienne (97-00)	119



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2008 VMI KEYDETS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown/Previous School
1	John Collier	G/M	5-10	180	Jr.	Centreville, Va./Woodberry Forest
3	Sean McCoy	G	6-2	195	So.	Hudson, Ohio/Hudson
4	David Jacobs	M	5-10	185	Sr.	Plainview, N.Y./Plainview JFK
5	Kevin Hill	A	6-0	170	Sr.	Rockville Centre, N.Y./South Side
6	Richard Kent	A	5-10	165	Fr.	North Potomac, Md./Thomas Wootton
7	Matt Brode	M	5-8	170	Fr.	Allison Park, Pa./Hampton HS
8	Hayden Cox	A	6-1	175	So.	Great Falls, Va./Langley
9	Matt Piazza	A	5-9	155	Fr.	Tully, N.Y./Tully HS
10	Brett Leonard	A/M	5-11	170	So.	Laurel, Md./St. Vincent Pallotti
11	Tim Moran	M	5-9	175	So.	Florence, N.J./Holy Cross
12	John Regan, Jr.	M	6-0	190	Sr.	Mt. Airy, Md./Glenelg
13	Dan Perestock	M	6-1	200	So.	Gibsonia, Penn./Hampton
14	Steve Lindley	A	5-8	160	So.	Pottstown, Penn./Pottsgrove
15	Lowell Patterson	M-F/O	5-11	185	So.	Bethesda, Md./Heights School
16	Chris Kenney	D	6-1	211	Fr.	Fredericksburg, Va./Mt. St. Joseph
17	Ryan Crean	A	5-10	160	So.	Danbury, CT/Immaculate HS
18	Matt Harrison	M	6-0	190	Sr.	Great Mills, Md./St. Mary's Ryken
19	Justin Ong	M	6-0	170	So.	Potomac Falls, Va./Potomac Falls
20	Brett Whitsitt	D	5-11	185	Sr.	McLean, Va./Langley
21	Bobby Davis	M	5-10	170	So.	Vienna, Va./Oakton
22	Dave Padgett	M-F/O	5-11	185	So.	Rye, N.Y./Rye
24	Brian Peeler	M	5-11	175	Sr.	Springfield, Va./Robert E. Lee
25	Shane Wilkinson	D	6-0	180	Fr.	Williamsburg, Va./Jamestown
26	Zach Henke	DM	6-0	172	Fr.	Wallkill, N.Y./Gardiner
27	Matt Spitzer	D	5-7	165	Fr.	Warrenton, Va./Highland School
28	Will Carlton	D	5-11	195	Jr.	Winston-Salem, N.C./RJ Reynolds HS
29	Jesse Newman	M	5-10	155	So.	Baltimore, Md./Parkville HS
30	Leonard Weschler	M	6-1	195	So.	Vienna, Va./James Madison
32	Roland Richardson	A	5-8	160	Fr.	Chesapeake, Va./Norfolk Collegiate
33	Jacob Weimer	A	5-10	160	So.	Bear, Del./Christiana
34	Jamie Wulforst	M	6-2	205	Fr.	Medfield, Mass./Medfield HS
35	Patrick Zanelotti	D	6-1	220	Sr.	Chantilly, Va./Paul VI
36	Lance Hindel	G				
37	Remington Adams	M-F/O	5-9	165	Jr.	Barrington, N.H./Dover HS
38	Matt Turner	M	6-0	190	Sr.	Franklin, Tenn./Centennial
39	Sean Kennedy	D	6-0	185	So.	Floral Park, N.Y./Floral Park
40	Patrick Maloney	G	5-9	180	Jr.	Silver Spring, Md./James Hubert Blake HS
44	Ben Schaefer	D	5-10	165	Fr.	Montgomery Village, Md./Our Lady of Good
45	Robert Hawley, Jr.	D	5-10	195	Sr.	Fulton, N.Y./G. Ray Bodley

Head Coach: Jeff Shirk (Maryland '01)
 Assistant Coach: Chris Feifs (Maryland '07)
 Assistant Coach: Nat St. Laurent (Keuka '04)



Kevin Hill (L) and Patrick Zanelotti (R)



2008 VMI LACROSSE GAME NOTES

The Coaches: VMI Keydets **Head Coach Jeff Shirk**

Coach Jeff Shirk begins his second year as the head lacrosse coach at VMI. The former University of Maryland midfielder was named the new head coach of the VMI men's lacrosse team in July 2006.

Shirk came to the Institute with an impressive background in lacrosse, having played at the collegiate and professional level for eight seasons, followed by six years of coaching experience.

"I couldn't be more excited for this opportunity to work at such an outstanding institution," said Shirk at the time of his hiring. "I was impressed with General Peay and Donny White's dedication to the Vision 2039 plan, the facility upgrades, the town, and I am very excited to be joining the VMI lacrosse family."

Shirk, 29, who took over the reins of the program from 21-year head coach Doug Bartlett, came to VMI after serving the 2006 campaign as an assistant coach at Brown University in the Ivy League.

In the first head coaching role of his young career, Shirk took over the lacrosse program at the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) in the fall of 2001. He spent three seasons with the team, leading them to a 22-11 record, and was responsible for overseeing all aspects of the program. While at NAPS, Shirk also served as the Institution's Associate Director of Athletics, holding additional responsibilities that adapted him to the military environment.

In his playing days, he was a standout letterman in the Maryland Terrapins' defensive unit for four seasons under coaching legend Dick Edell from 1997 through the 2000 season. Throughout his career, he was known for his tough style of defense, and was even coined the "Nastiest Hitter" in the nation by the Baltimore Sun. Prior to the 2001 season, Shirk was also selected First Team Preseason All-American by Face-Off Magazine, as well as Third Team Preseason All-American by College Lacrosse USA.

Shirk is also the founder and director of the Jeff Shirk Lacrosse Camps, providing instructional camps to young lacrosse players throughout the year, and played in the National Lacrosse League for the Philadelphia Wings (2001), Washington Power (2002) and the New York Saints (2003) while he began his coaching career.

Shirk, a Mountain Lakes, N.J. native, boasts an impressive background that will help in leading the VMI lacrosse program, and he can also turn to his father for some professional advice. His dad, Gary Shirk, was a tight end in the NFL for over a decade, including seven years with the N.Y. Giants. He caught 130 passes for 1,640 career yards, and also held the team record for most receptions in a game (11) until 2006.

Shirk is married to the former Elizabeth Love, and the couple currently lives in Lexington with their daughter Emily and their yellow lab Maggie.



2008 VMI LACROSSE GAME NOTES

2008 VMI Keydet Assistant Coaches

Assistant Coach Chris Feifs

On July 2, 2007, Head Lacrosse Coach Jeff Shirk announced the hiring of former Maryland Terrapins middie Chris Feifs to his staff as an assistant coach.

Feifs (pronounced FIE-fifs) recently rounded out his playing career at Maryland where he served as co-captain of the 2007 team.

"I am extremely excited to have Chris join the VMI lacrosse family," said Shirk. "I had the opportunity to coach him at both the Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS) and the University of Maryland, and he is a great addition to our program."

"I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity to work with Coach Shirk at such a highly respected institution," said Feifs. "I'm really looking forward to helping build this program and taking on the challenge of a coaching a Division 1 lacrosse program."

VMI lacrosse has a great deal of potential and I am motivated to help them reach that high standard of excellence."

"As a player Chris was tough, hard working, and led by example," commented Shirk. "As a person, he is well spoken, motivated, and passionate."

In May 2007, Feifs received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland. He posted a 3.5 GPA, and was a three-time member of the All-ACC Academic Honor Roll. Feifs has also spent the past four summers as a camp instructor for several top lacrosse camps on the east coast.



Assistant Coach Nat St. Laurent

Shortly after accepting the head coaching job at VMI in July 2006, Jeff Shirk quickly moved to keep Nat St. Laurent on the Keydet coaching staff.

Heading into his fourth season at the Institute, St. Laurent, a 2004 Keuka (NY) College graduate, continues to increase his role with the VMI lacrosse team. Nat assists in many aspects of the program, including the recruitment of new players.

"I am excited to work with Coach St. Laurent and use his enthusiasm, experience, and dedication as tools to help build this program into a consistent winner," said VMI head coach Jeff Shirk. "Coach St. Laurent will be an immeasurable asset to the future success of this program. His work ethic, knowledge of the game, and outstanding attitude made Nat the right fit for me, our program, and the Institute."

St. Laurent has worked many summer camps, including the Jeff Shirk Lacrosse Camp at VMI, the Special Olympics, and many other camps across the country.

St. Laurent came to Lexington after completing his degree, and worked as an Elementary Special Education Teacher at Enderly Heights Elementary in Buena Vista, Va. He also began work as an instructor in the 80th infantry division of the Army Reserve based out of Charlottesville, Va.

He and his wife, Cristin, reside in Buena Vista, Va.



VMI Lacrosse
 VMI Keydets High/Low Analysis (as of Apr 24, 2008)
 All games

VMI Keydets - INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

POINTS.....	8	Leonard, Brett vs Saint Joseph's (Apr 05)
	8	Hill, Kevin vs Saint Joseph's (Apr 05)
GOALS.....	6	MORAN, Tim vs WAGNER (Mar 29)
	5	Hill, Kevin vs Saint Joseph's (Apr 05)
	5	HILL, Kevin vs Marist (Mar 15)
ASSISTS.....	4	Leonard, Brett vs Saint Joseph's (Apr 05)
	4	HILL, Kevin vs WAGNER (Mar 29)
SHOTS.....	14	DAVIS, Bobby vs Presbyterian (Feb 27)
	12	MORAN, Tim vs Presbyterian (Feb 27)
SHOTS ON GOAL.....	8	MORAN, Tim vs WAGNER (Mar 29)
	7	Hill, Kevin vs Saint Joseph's (Apr 05)
	7	MORAN, Tim vs Presbyterian (Feb 27)
SAVES.....	17	MCCOY, Sean vs Marist (Mar 15)
	16	MCCOY, Sean at Bellarmine (Feb 23)
GROUND BALLS.....	7	Mccoy, Sean at Siena College (Apr 12)
	7	PATTERSON, Lowell vs Presbyterian (Feb 27)
CAUSED TURNOVER....	4	PATRICK, Zanelotti at Bellarmine (Feb 23)
	3	Carlton, Will at Army (Feb 16)