2008 Opponents

Mount St. Mary's Mountaineers
August 29, 4 p.m., Emmitsburg, Md.
Location: Emmitsburg, Md.
Enrollment: 1,526
Colors: Blue and White
Conference: Northeast (NEC)
Stadium: Waldron Family Stadium (1,000)
Head Coach: Rob Ryerson (UNLV ‘88)
Career Record: 41-75-21 (Ninth Season)
Record at MSM: Same as Above
2007 Record: 4-11-2 (2-6-1 NEC)
Letterman Returning/Lost: 18/5
Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3
Soccer SID: Dave Musil, Jr.
Email: musil@msmary.edu
Website: www.mountathletics.com

East Tennessee State Buccaneers
September 6, 11 a.m., Lexington
Location: Johnson City, Tenn.
Enrollment: 13,389
Colors: Navy Blue and Old Gold
Conference: Atlantic Sun
Stadium: Summers-Taylor Soccer Complex
Coach: Scott Caladrese (Bryant ’95)
Career Record: First Season
2007 Record: First Season of Program
Letterman Returning/Lost: N/A
Starters Returning/Lost: N/A
Soccer SID: Jeff Schneider
Email: schneidj@etsu.edu
Website: www.ETSUBucs.com

Longwood Lancers
September 20, 7 p.m., Farmville, Va.
Location: Farmville, Va.
Enrollment: 4,500
Colors: Blue and White
Conference: Atlantic Soccer Conference
Stadium: Athletics Complex
Coach: Jon Atkinson (W.Va. Wesleyan)
Career Record: 21-26-9 (Fourth Season)
Record at Longwood: Same as Above
2007 Record: 8-8-3 (3-5 ASC)
Letterman Returning/Lost: 11/16
Starters Returning/Lost: 5/6
Soccer SID: Kristian Martin
Email: martinke@longwood.edu
Website: www.longwoodlancers.com

Coastal Carolina Chanticleers
September 28, 12:30 p.m., Conway, S.C.
Location: Conway, S.C.
Enrollment: 8,300
Colors: Coastal Green, Bronze and Black
Conference: Big South
Stadium: CCU Soccer Field (1,000)
Coach: Sean Docking (Akron ’88)
Career Record: 145-83-16/13th Season
Record at CCU: 125-64-14/11th Season
2007 Record: 10-8-3 (5-0 BSC)
Letterman Returning/Lost: 11/11
Starters Returning/Lost: 5/6
Soccer SID: Scott Kemps
Email: skemps@coastal.edu
Website: www.goccusports.com

Unc Asheville Bulldogs
October 4, 2 p.m., Asheville, N.C.
Location: Asheville, N.C.
Enrollment: 3,500
Colors: Royal Blue and White
Conference: Big South
Stadium: Greenwood Field (500)
Coach: Steve Cornish (Manchester ’82)
Career Record: 94-184-16/17th Season
Record at UNCA: Same as Above
2007 Record: 4-13-1 (0-6 BSC)
Letterman Returning/Lost: 9/9
Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4
Soccer SID: Mike Gore
Email: mgore@uncsa.edu
Website: www.uncabulldogs.com

Washington and Lee Generals
September 20, 7 p.m., Farmville, Va.
Location: Lexington, Va.
Enrollment: 1,700
Colors: Royal Blue and White
Conference: Old Dominion Athletic Conference
Stadium: Alston Watt Field (1,000)
Coach: Rolf Piranian (W & L ‘74)
Career Record: 262-210-36 (33rd Season)
Record at W & L: Same as Above
2007 Record: 12-3-3 (6-1-2 ODAC)
Letterman Returning/Lost: N/A
Starters Returning/Lost: N/A
Soccer SID: Nate Jervey
Email: njervey@wlu.edu
Website: athletics.wlu.edu

Howard Bison
October 8, 7 p.m., Washington, D.C.
Location: Washington, D.C.
Enrollment: 10,500
Colors: Navy Blue, Red and White
Conference: Atlantic Soccer Conference
Stadium: Greene Stadium (7,005)
Coach: Michael Lawrence (Howard ‘08)
Career Record: First Season
2007 Record: 3-8-5 (1-3-1 ASC)
Letterman Returning/Lost: 14/4
Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3
Soccer SID: Chevonne Mansfield
Email: cmansfield@howard.edu
Website: www.howardbison.com
### 2008 Opponents

#### Winthrop Eagles
**Oct. 12, 2 p.m., Rock Hill, S.C.**
- Location: Rock Hill, S.C.
- Enrollment: 6,500
- Colors: Garnet and Gold
- Conference: Big South
- Stadium: Eagle Field (1,500)

**Coach:** Rich Posipanko (Manchester '82)
- Career Record: 307-207-45 (30th Season)
- Record at WU: 190-158-25 (20th Season)
- 2007 Record: 11-4-3 (3-2-1)
- Letterman Returning/Lost: 14/9
- Starters Returning/Lost: 7/4

**Soccer SID:** Brett Redden
**SID Phone:** (803) 323-2129, ext. 6246
**email:** reddenb@winthrop.edu
[www.winthropes eagles.com](http://www.winthropes eagles.com)

#### Appalachian State Mountaineers
**Oct. 18, 3 p.m., Lexington**
- Location: Boone, N.C.
- Enrollment: 16,600
- Colors: Black and Gold
- Conference: Southern
- Stadium: Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex

**Coach:** Shaun Pendleton (Akron '85)
- Career Record: 320-53-13 (20th Season)
- Record at VT: First Season
- 2006 Record: 6-10-3 (2-4-1/4th SoCon)
- Letterman Returning/Lost: 12/15
- Starters Returning/Lost: 3/8

**Soccer SID:** Eric Bohannon
**Office Phone:** (828) 262-7166
**email:** dmichael@vt.edu
[www.GoASU.com](http://www.GoASU.com)

#### Radford Highlanders
**Oct. 22, 4 p.m., Lexington**
- Location: Radford, Va.
- Enrollment: 9,122
- Colors: Red and White
- Conference: Big South
- Stadium: Patrick D. Cupp Memorial (5,000)

**Coach:** Spencer Smith (Tennessee '87)
- Career Record: 158-171-25 (20th Season)
- Record at RU: 124-120-25 (15th Season)
- 2007 Record: 11-9-0 (3-3 Big South)
- Letterman Returning/Lost: 16/10
- Starters Returning/Lost: 4/5

**Soccer SID:** Joey Beeler
**SID Phone:** (540) 831-5726
**email:** jwbeeler@radford.edu
[www.ruhighlanders.com](http://www.ruhighlanders.com)

#### Gardner-Webb Bulldogs
**October 26, 7 p.m., Boiling Springs, N.C.**
- Location: Boiling Springs, N.C.
- Enrollment: 3,900
- Colors: Red and Black
- Conference: Big South
- Stadium: Varsity Field (1,000)

**Coach:** Tony Setzer (Lander '86)
- Career Record: 141-229-24 (21st Season)
- Record at GW: Same as Above
- 2007 Record: 3-16-1 (3-6 A-Sun)
- Letterman Returning/Lost: 18/6
- Starters Returning/Lost: N/A

**Soccer SID:** Greg Humphrey
**Office Phone:** (704) 406-3981
**email:** gmh0121@gardner-webb.edu
[www.gwuusports.com](http://www.gwuusports.com)

#### High Point Panthers
**Oct. 31, 7 p.m., High Point, N.C.**
- Location: High Point, N.C.
- Enrollment: 3,500
- Colors: Purple and White
- Conference: Big South
- Stadium: Richard F. Vert Stadium (1,100)

**Coach:** Dustin Fonder (Roanoke '94)
- Career Record: 5-14-1 (Second Season)
- Record at HPU: Same as Above
- 2007 Record: 5-14-1 (1-5 Big South)
- Letterman Returning/Lost: 18/4
- Starters Returning/Lost: 11/1

**Soccer SID:** Manny Nieves
**Office Phone:** (336) 841-4638
**email:** enieves@highpoint.edu
[www.highpointpanthers.com](http://www.highpointpanthers.com)

#### Presbyterian Blue Hose
**November 8, 11 a.m., Lexington**
- Location: Clinton, S.C.
- Enrollment: 1,200
- Colors: Blue & Garnet
- Conference: Big South
- Stadium: Edens Field (500)

**Coach:** Bret Boulware (Presbyterian '92)
- Career Record: 69-57-13 (Eighth Season)
- Record at PC: Same as Above
- 2007 Record: 4-11-2
- Letterman Returning/Lost: 12/10
- Starters Returning/Lost: 6/5

**Soccer SID:** Brian Hand
**Office Phone:** (864) 833-8252
**email:** bahand@presby.edu
[www.gobluehose.com](http://www.gobluehose.com)

#### Liberty Flames
**Nov. 4, 3 p.m., Lexington**
- Location: Lynchburg, Va.
- Enrollment: 11,500
- Colors: Red, White & Blue
- Conference: Big South
- Stadium: Liberty Soccer Field (500)

**Coach:** Jeff Alder (Liberty '91)
- Career Record: 65-56-9 (Eighth Season)
- Record at LU: Same
- 2007 Record: 13-5-2 (5-1 BSC)
- Letterman Returning/Lost: 14/6
- Starters Returning/Lost: 8/3

**Soccer SID:** Ryan Bomberger
**Office Phone:** (434) 582-2292
**email:** rbomberger@liberty.edu
[www.libertyflames.com](http://www.libertyflames.com)

### Schedule Notes
This is the inaugural season for East Tennessee State Men’s Soccer as a varsity sport. The Keydets did take on a club team from the Johnson City campus in both 1980 and ’81, winning on both occasions.

The Keydets, who take on crosstown rival Washington and Lee on Sept. 23, are 14-17-4 against the Generals all-time. The 21 battles mark the second-most common opponent for the Keydets, with Appalachian State’s 38 battles with VMI ranking first.

The VMI/N.C. State matchup marks the second-consecutive year the Keydets have faced an ACC opponent, having squared off with Virginia Tech last season.

Liberty is the defending Big South Tournament champions and defeated the Keydets in both teams’ 2007 regular season finale. The Flames return Freshman of the Year Paul Gilbert along with seven other starters from a year ago.
2008 VMI Men's Soccer Media Guide

THIS IS THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

For seven consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges," has named VMI as among the top three public-supported liberal arts college in the nation. It ranked its engineering program in the top one-third of "Best Undergraduate" accredited programs at schools offering only bachelor's and master's degrees. In addition, Princeton Review has named VMI in its "Best Mid-Atlantic Colleges" list.

ALUMNI:
VMI alumni support is unparalleled in many ways, especially in terms of financial support. In the most recent survey by the National Association of College and University Business Officers VMI's endowment is the largest per student of any public institution. VMI alumni include Nobel Prize winner George C. Marshall; 1,700 Rhodes Scholars; and 40 college presidents. VMI alumni have distinguished themselves in every American conflict since the Mexican War, among them 7 Medal of Honor recipients, and 265 general and flag officers. Some 500 alumni served in Gulf War operations "Desert Storm" and "Desert Shield," and more than 1,000 VMI graduates are now or have been deployed in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

For seven consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges," has named VMI as among the top three public-supported liberal arts college in the nation, and ranked its engineering program in the top one-third of "Best Undergraduate" accredited programs at schools offering only bachelor's and master's degrees. In separate rankings for engineering specialties, VMI's civil engineering program ranks sixth. VMI has been repeatedly included in Peterson's "Competitive Colleges," guide. The highly respected book includes information on "top colleges for top students." In addition, Princeton Review has named VMI to its "Best Mid-Atlantic Colleges" list.

THE INSTITUTE:
The Virginia Military Institute is the nation's oldest state-supported military college, founded in 1839 in Lexington, Va., located at the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley. VMI offers qualified young men and women a demanding combination of academic study and rigorous military training that exists nowhere else, and grants B.A. and B.S. degrees in 14 disciplines within the general fields of engineering, science, and liberal arts. The Institute's emphasis on qualities of honor, integrity, and responsibility contributes to its unique educational philosophy. Professional leadership training is provided to all cadets through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs, maintained at VMI by the Department of Defense. Cadets are encouraged to pursue commissions in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps.

In every field of endeavor, whether it's leadership in business, industry, public service, education, the professions, or careers in the military, success comes early to a high number of VMI graduates. In an independent survey of college graduates seeking employment, armed forces commission, or admission to graduate or professional school following graduation, more than 95 percent of VMI graduates met their goal by the following October.

VMI's academic breadth is diverse: The curricula for the selected major begins the first year. About 40 percent of cadets major in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering, about half the Corps majors in liberal arts fields, and the two most popular majors are economics/business and history.
THE VMI CORPS OF CADETS:
Today 1,300 young men and women in the VMI Corps of Cadets represent 41 states and nine foreign countries. More than 100 study abroad each year, one-third complete in intercollegiate athletics, and all have significant leadership opportunities.

All cadets reside in "Barracks," the centerpiece of the VMI "Post." The original structure was built in 1850 and is a National Historic Landmark. An additional wing was added in 1949. A third section is currently under construction, with cadets expected to take up residence during the 2008-09 academic year.

VMI cadets uphold an honor system as old as the Institute. An oath of honor is taken by each cadet to "not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do," and the oath is practiced in daily life. Because it is basic to cadet life, honor is ingrained, and builds strong character. Honor is the cornerstone of every cadet's lifelong commitment to integrity, duty, self-discipline, and self-reliance.

One of the oldest VMI traditions is the orientation and instruction provided to new cadets by old cadets. Regardless of background or prior training, every cadet in his or her first year at VMI is a "Rat," and each is a "Brother Rat" to the other. They live under the "Rat System" until "Break Out," and their bonds formed by this experience are lifelong.

FACULTY:
All VMI faculty members teach in the classroom, and 98 percent hold doctoral or terminal degrees in their disciplines. The faculty to cadet ratio is less than 12:1, permitting a close, "mentor" relationship between a cadet and instructor, and faculty research is frequently conducted in partnership with cadets. ROTC instructors are experienced military officers, and make an outstanding contribution to cadet leadership training.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM:
VMI's demanding academic program reflects established needs and emerging trends of an ever-changing global society. A robust undergraduate research initiative extends through summer, affording cadets and faculty financial incentives and continuous support for a wide range of investigative projects. The Institute's international programs include faculty and student exchanges with more than a dozen international academies and universities, foreign internships, and numerous study-abroad programs each semester and during the summer.

The Institute Honors Program offers highly motivated and high-achieving cadets the opportunity to enrich their academic experience, including through competition for prestigious external scholarships. The Institute Writing Program seeks to equip cadets for both academic success and participation in the full range of rhetorical occasions they will encounter in their lives as citizens and professionals.

VMI is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is a member of American Council on Education, the Association of American Colleges, the College Entrance Examination Board, and the Association of Virginia Colleges. VMI's engineering programs and the computer science program are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, and the chemistry program is accredited by the American Chemical Society.

MAJORS and DEGREES:
VMI offers the baccalaureate degree in 14 curricula. The B.S. is awarded in applied mathematics, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, engineering management, history, international studies, modern languages, and psychology.

The B.A. is awarded in biology, chemistry, computer science, and psychology. The B.S. or B.A. can be earned by biomass. A course of study leading to the B.S. or B.A. is chosen upon entering VMI, but transfer from one major field of study to another is permitted.

FACILITIES:
The VMI Post is 134 acres. Twelve acres are designated a National Historic District. VMI's academic facilities, Superintendent's quarters, library, alumni hall, and other administrative buildings, along with barracks, encircle a 12-acre parade ground used for marching drills, weekly parades, training exercises, and social gatherings. The George C. Marshall Research Museum and the VMI Museum are located on Post. Athletic grounds and facilities are within easy access to the Post.

VISION 2039:
From the perspective of VMI's long history, the 200th anniversary of its founding is just around the corner. Superintendent Gen. J.H. Bonifay '62 has set in motion Vision 2039, a program emphasizing excellence in such areas as the Institute's physical and cultural environment; academics; athletics; and military component. The strategic direction offered by Vision 2039 is designed to ensure VMI will be vibrant and relevant when the Institute's 200th anniversary arrives in 2039.
VISION 2039 INITIATIVE

Vision 2039 is not a construction plan; it is a leadership plan that seeks to improve all aspects of the VMI experience: academic, military, physical/cultural, and athletic. However, construction of new facilities and the renovations of older buildings on Post are essential components of Vision 2039 all the same. They provide the foundation for excellent programs. They encourage pride and set standards that impact the thinking and attitudes of cadets.

Just as the proud traditions and history of VMI influence the culture of the Corps of Cadets, so too do the physical facilities in which the Corps lives, learns, trains, and competes.

Indeed, the unique architectural flavor of the VMI Post helps set the tone for all that happens on it and communicates the extraordinary expectations that the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation have for cadets and for the Institute itself.

The facilities necessary to provide an education that thoroughly prepares cadets to meet the challenges of the 21st century are far more complex than they were in 1839. Vision 2039 aims to maintain the historic atmosphere of the Post as it develops the modern, technologically advanced facilities that VMI needs to prepare cadets for lives of success, service, and leadership.

General J. H. Binford Peay III, VMI Class of 1962, became the Institute’s 14th Superintendent on July 1st, 2003. Through Vision 2039, he has ushered in a period of enthusiasm, growth, and change throughout all aspects of VMI.

Never losing sight of VMI’s primary “academic focus,” which he emphasizes as “first among equals,” Vision 2039 sets forth a plan that will guide the Institute for decades to come, as it moves toward its 200th anniversary.

Enhancing the physical and cultural environment is a key component for the future. Full renovations of Nichols Engineering Hall, Crozet Hall, Mallory Hall, and J.M. Hall have recently been completed, with a major modernization project at Kilbourne Hall, a new Leadership and Ethics Center, and a third Barracks all in “full swing.” In addition to the new third barracks structure, this project will include modernization of all rooms in the current Old and New Barracks as well. General Peay and his staff have also spent hundreds of hours buried in the details of cadet leadership functions, cadet organizations, the regimental and class systems, the Honor System, and the cadet daily schedule.

“We must have the daily schedule right; leadership, cadet life, study time, management skills, and everything else at VMI evolve around that,” says General Peay.

Academically, VMI remains a clear leader among undergraduate colleges. In July 2007, the Institute, in a superb performance, successfully completed its ten year Compliance Certification by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools receiving reaffirmation of accreditation. Modernized and technologically enhanced academic buildings and a full academic support staff complement splendid instructors. The Institute receives annual national and state recognition for its programs.

Military and athletics combine with academics to form the historic three-legged stool at VMI, and both play major roles in Vision 2039. A significant increase in commissioning is called for as General Peay emphasizes the importance of military service, not necessarily as a career, but rather for a couple of years in the true spirit of the citizen-soldier.

Over the past four years, the percentage of graduating cadets receiving commissions has grown from 34% to 51%.

A strong proponent of athletics, Vision 2039 (and “every cadet an athlete”) calls for huge capital building efforts which will benefit intercollegiate teams, club teams, intramural sports, and the Corps in general. The initial and most obvious effort is the newly renovated football stadium at Alumni Memorial Field, dedicated - Foster Stadium - in September 2006 in honor of P. Wesley Foster, Jr., VMI Class of 1956. The Gray-Minor Baseball Stadium, named in honor of Senator Elmon Gray ’46 and G. Gilmer Minor, III ’63, and the Paulette Locker Room complex in honor of Bill Paulette ’69 were completed and dedicated in March 2007.

A lacrosse-soccer stadium, additional multi-purpose fields, new Corps confidence courses, tennis courts, RAT Challenge courses, and an improved cross country “Chessie Trail” are planned for the North Post area and will “round-out” what General Peay calls “leadership valley.”

General Peay considers his Superintendency as an opportunity to give something back to VMI which has had such a significant influence on his life and that of his family. His Father, J.H.B. Peay, Jr. was a graduate of the VMI Class of 1929, and he and his wife, Pamela, have two sons, who are also graduates: Jim, Class of ’98, and Ryan, Class of ’02. Born in Richmond, Virginia on 10 May 1940, General Peay, upon graduation, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery, embarking on a 35-year career in the United States Army. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from VMI, a Masters of Arts degree from George Washington University, and he is also a graduate of the United States Army War College. As a cadet, he was a quartermaster on the football team, a member of the Honor Court, a Battalion Commander and awarded the Institute’s prestigious Cincinnati Medal at graduation.

He assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division on 3 August 1989 and led the Division throughout Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in the Persian Gulf. Promoted to Lieutenant General in 1991, he was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Department of the Army and Senior Army Member, United States Military Committee, United Nations and on 26 March 1993, he was promoted to the rank of General and appointed the 24th Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

His last assignment was Commander-in-Chief, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, from 5 August 1994 to 13 August 1997, with responsibility for the region encompassing twenty countries in Africa, the Middle East, Persian Gulf and South Asia. General Peay is currently Chairman, the Allied Defense Group, and a
The most ambitious capital improvements to athletic facilities in 20 years have been launched under the Vision 2039 initiative of VMI Superintendent General J.H. Binford Peay, and Athletic Director Donny White has been a guiding force in the process.

Over the past two years, both the football and baseball programs have seen their facilities significantly upgraded with the additions of P. Wesley Foster, Jr. ’56 Stadium and Gray-Minor Stadium.

White is entering his 26th year in VMI Athletics, having spent 15 seasons as a coach and the past ten years as Athletic Director. The improvement of athletic facilities on post is just one issue that White has tackled since taking over as AD in 1998. Upon his return, White immediately went to work addressing the challenging issues facing the VMI athletic department.

At the same time, he has built support for intercollegiate athletics among the VMI community and its alumni. His effort has resulted in a change in conference affiliation, increased funding for operations, the development of women’s athletics, and a better overall competitive environment for VMI sports.

In 2007-2008, the Keydet programs made significant strides: VMI basketball posted 14 wins for the second-consecutive year as standout Reggie Williams led the nation in scoring for the second straight season. In addition, the baseball team had its best conference record in 21 years and won 93 games in three years, the lacrosse squad advanced to the finals of the conference tournament for the first time in history, and track athlete Felix Kitur finished 9th in the nation in the 800-meter run at the NCAA Championships.

Between coaching at the Institute and returning to head VMI’s athletic program, White spent 11 years concentrating on private business, as well as high school athletics. The current VMI AD began a six-year stint as the athletic director at Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Virginia in 1992.
The Big South Conference is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2008-09, a milestone coming on the heels of unprecedented achievements and unparalleled success in League history over the past few years. Since its founding in 1983, the Big South Conference has matured into a competitive leader in college athletics, actively pursuing excellence on the field of play and in the classroom.

The League’s growing presence as an NCAA Division I athletic conference is evident by athletic accomplishments on the national stage, innovative marketing and media partnerships, increased television packages, and quality athletic competition while intentionally fostering the academic, personal, social, athletic and leadership development of each student-athlete.

The Big South Conference was formed on August 21, 1983, when Charleston Southern (then Baptist College) Athletic Director Howard Bagwell and Augusta President George Christenberry began recruiting members into the Big South, receiving initial commitments from Augusta, Charleston Southern, Campbell University, Coastal Carolina and Winthrop.

One month later, Dr. Edward M. Singleton was selected as the League’s first Commissioner and continued to solicit new members. His efforts led to the additions of Armstrong State, Radford and UNC Asheville, giving the Big South more than the required six members to constitute an official conference. The Big South’s first year of competition was in the Fall of 1984, and in September 1986, the Big South Conference was granted full-fledged NCAA Division I status.

During its infancy and prior to securing automatic bids to NCAA Championships, the Big South made early strides in earning at-large berths in several national postseason events, including volleyball, women’s basketball and women’s golf. The League received its first automatic bid in 1990 to the NCAA Baseball Championship. In 1989, George F. “Buddy” Sasser replaced the retiring Dr. Singleton as Commissioner.

Under Sasser’s leadership, the Conference implemented its public relations and compliance programs, and introduced its first-ever men’s basketball television package, featuring the Big South competing among some of the finest teams in the nation.

In the last 15 years alone, the Big South Conference has experienced monumental growth and success in nearly every sport. During this time, the Conference has had two individual National Champions, close to 200 All-Americans, has reached the “Sweet 16” in men’s soccer, women’s basketball and baseball, has received national Top 25 rankings in men’s soccer, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, baseball, men’s outdoor track & field, and men’s golf, had an individual selected to play in the NCAA Singles Championship three times, had the No. 1 ranked men’s golfer in the country, had the national team and individual scoring leader in men’s basketball twice, received an at-large playoff berth in the Football Championship Subdivision in 2006, and had an institution finish fifth in the NCAA Men’s Golf Championships — the Conference’s highest-ever team finish in an NCAA event.

In 2006-07 alone, the Big South was the only Conference nationwide to have an at-large participant in the football playoffs (Coastal Carolina), a team in the Second Round of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament (Winthrop) and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Baseball Regionals (Coastal Carolina). In fact, Coastal Carolina’s baseball program has been a No. 1 seed three out of the last four years, while its playoff berth in 2006 came in just the fifth-year of the Big South’s football existence.

In August 1996, Kyle B. Kallander replaced Sasser as the League’s third Commissioner, and in his 12 years at the helm of the Big South, Kallander has been instrumental in aggressively promoting the Conference to new levels.

The Conference has enjoyed record levels in marketing revenue during the past several years, he has brought television coverage to Big South women’s basketball, baseball and softball for the first time in Conference history, as well as increased national television exposure to the League as a whole through aggressive and unique television packages.

Under Kallander’s leadership, the Big South developed and initiated its first long-range strategic plan, re-affirming the League’s vision as a distinctively athletic Conference committed to the quality of institutional life through athletic competition. He also spearheaded the efforts to add football as a championship sport, which came to fruition in 2002.

Kallander’s long range vision has also included technological advancements, as the Conference introduced its first live event video streaming in 2005 and has since expanded its video offerings to more than 500 events annually through a partnership with the member institutions, as well as the creation of a Conference blog and an online merchandise store.

The Conference’s on-field accomplishments have been duplicated in the classroom. Annually, more than 40 percent of Conference student-athletes are named to the Big South’s Presidential Honor Roll for maintaining a cumulative 3.0 grade-point average, and the League has had more than 90 Academic All-Americans in its quarter-century of existence.