

# 2009 VMI KEYDETS LACROSSE

## 2009 ROSTER BREAKDOWN

No.	Name	Class	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
1	John Collier	Sr.	G/M	5-10	180	Centreville, Va./Woodberry Forest
2	Shane Wilkinson	So.	D	6-0	180	Williamsburg, Va./Jamestown
3	Sean McCoy	Jr.	G	6-2	195	Hudson, Ohio/Hudson
4	Colin Bosse	Fr.	A	5-10	160	Charlotte, N.C./Charlotte Catholic
5	Jimmy Luckino	Fr.	A	5-8	140	Columbus, Ohio/Worthington
6	Brennan Buell	Fr.	D	6-0	180	Skaneateles, N.Y./Skaneateles
7	Keith Long	Fr.	A	6-3	195	Falls Church, Va./Falls Church
8	Hayden Cox	Jr.	A	6-1	175	Great Falls, Va./Langley
9	Matt Piazza	So.	A/M	5-9	155	Tully, N.Y./Tully
10	Brett Leonard	Jr.	A/M	5-11	170	Laurel, Md./St. Vincent Pallotti
11	Tim Moran	Jr.	M	5-9	175	Florence, N.J./Holy Cross
12	Alex Benedick	Fr.	G	5-10	175	Upper Arlington, Ohio/Upper Arlington
13	Dan Perestock	Jr.	M	6-1	200	Gibsonia, Pa./Hampton
14	Steve Lindley	Jr.	M	5-8	160	Pottstown, Pa./Pottsgrove
15	Lowell Patterson	Jr.	M/F-O	5-11	185	Bethesda, Md./Heights School
16	Chris Kenney	So.	D	6-1	211	Fredericksburg, Va./Mt. St. Joseph
17	Ryan Crean	Jr.	A	5-10	160	Danbury, Conn./Immaculate
19	Justin Ong	Jr.	M	6-0	170	Potomac Falls, Va./Potomac Falls
20	Chris Rossie	Fr.	M	5-10	163	Leesburg, Va./Heritage
22	Dave Padgett	Jr.	M	5-11	185	Rye, N.Y./Rye
23	Kyle Hofstetter	Fr.	D	6-2	180	Glenelg, Md./Glenelg
24	David Black	Fr.	D	6-2	190	Annapolis, Md./Annapolis Senior
25	Tyler Griffith	Fr.	M	5-10	165	Bel Air, Md./Calvert Hall
26	Zach Henke	So.	DM	6-0	172	Gardiner, N.Y./Wallkill
27	Dallas Wiggins	Fr.	M	5-7	165	Fairfax, Va./WT Woodson
28	Will Carlton	Sr.	D	5-11	195	Winston-Salem, N.C./RJ Reynolds
29	Jesse Newman	Jr.	M	5-10	155	Baltimore, Md./Parkville
30	Leonard Weschler	Jr.	M/F-O	6-1	195	Vienna, Va./James Madison
31	Andrew Nieminski	Fr.	M	6-1	200	Verplanck, N.Y./Hendrick Hudson
32	Stephen Magee	Fr.	D	5-10	175	The Woodlands, Texas/Woodlands
33	Jacob Weimer	Jr.	A	5-10	160	Bear, Del./Christiana
34	Drew Leonard	Fr.	A	6-2	170	Laurel, Md./St. Vincent Palotti
35	Chris Fraser	Fr.	M	6-3	225	Richmond, Va./FUMA
37	Stephen Robarge	Fr.	M/F-O	5-10	160	Lorton, Va./Hayfield HS
38	Kelly McMinn	Fr.	G	5-10	195	Mission Viejo, Calif./JSerra Catholic
39	Sean Kennedy	Jr.	D/LSM	6-0	185	Floral Park, N.Y./Floral Park
40	Patrick Maloney	Sr.	G	5-9	180	Silver Spring, Md./James Hubert Blake
41	Chris Kitchen	Fr.	A	5-11	175	Richmond, Va./Douglas Freeman
42	Anderson Caldwell	Fr.	A	6-1	180	Fairfax Station, Va./Lake Braddock
43	TJ Fischer	Fr.	M	5-10	165	Fairfax, Va./WT Woodson
44	Ben Schaefer	So.	D	5-10	165	Montgomery Village, Md./Our Lady of Good

**Head Coach:** Jeff Shirk (Maryland '01)

**Assistant Coaches:** Chris Feifs (Maryland '07), Chris Miller (Wesley '05)

**Volunteer Assistant:** Ryne Adolph (Maryland '08)

## Roster Breakdown

### By Class:

Freshman - 19, Sophomore - 5, Junior - 14, Senior - 3

### By State:

Virginia - 14, Maryland - 9, New York - 6, Ohio - 3, Pennsylvania - 2, N. Carolina - 2, New Jersey - 1, Delaware - 1, N. Carolina - 1, Texas - 1, California - 1, Connecticut - 1

## Top Returners

Name	GP-GS	Offense:					
		G	A	Pts	Sh	Shot%	GW
Leonard, Brett	16-9	21	11	32	56	.375	1
Moran, Tim	15-15	25	18	43	101	.248	3

### Defense:

Name	GP-GS	GB
Will Carlton	16-16	36

### Goalie:

Name	GP-GS	Min.	GA	GAAvg	Saves	Pct	W	L
McCoy, Sean	16-16	957:32	173	10.84	151	.466	6	10

## Alphabetical Roster

No.	First	Last	Position
12	Alex	Benedick	G
24	David	Black	D
4	Colin	Bosse	A
6	Brennan	Buell	D
42	Anderson	Caldwell	A
28	Will	Carlton	D
1	John	Collier	G/M
8	Hayden	Cox	M
17	Ryan	Crean	A
43	TJ	Fischer	D
35	Chris	Fraser	M
25	Tyler	Griffith	M
26	Zach	Henke	M
23	Kyle	Hofstetter	D
39	Sean	Kennedy	D/LSM
16	Chris	Kenney	D
41	Chris	Kitchen	A
10	Brett	Leonard	M
34	Drew	Leonard	A
14	Steve	Lindley	M
7	Keith	Long	M
5	Jimmy	Luckino	A
32	Stephen	Magee	D
40	Patrick	Maloney	D
3	Sean	McCoy	G
38	Kelly	McMinn	G
11	Tim	Moran	M
29	Jesse	Newman	M
31	Andrew	Nieminski	M
19	Justin	Ong	M
22	Dave	Padgett	M
15	Lowell	Patterson	M-F/O
13	Dan	Perestock	D
9	Matt	Piazza	A
37	Stephen	Robarge	M/F-O
20	Chris	Rossie	M
44	Ben	Schaefer	D
33	Jacob	Weimer	A
30	Leonard	Weschler	M/F-O
27	Dallas	Wiggins	M
2	Shane	Wilkinson	D

## By Position

### Attack (7):

Colin Bosse, Anderson Caldwell, Ryan Crean, Drew Leonard, Jimmy Luckino, Matt Piazza, Jacob Weimer

### Middie (17):

Hayden Cox, Chris Fraser, Tyler Griffith, Zach Henke, Brett Leonard, Steve Lindley, Keith Long, Tim Moran, Jesse Newman, Andrew Nieminski, Justin Ong, Dave Padgett, Lowell Patterson, Stephen Robarge, Chris Rossie, Leonard Weschler, Dallas Wiggins

### Defense (12):

David Black, Brennan Buell, Will Carlton, T.J. Fischer, Kyle Hofstetter, Sean Kennedy, Chris Kenney, Stephen Magee, Patrick Maloney, Dan Perestock, Ben Schaefer, Shane Wilkinson

### Goalie (4):

Alex Benedick, John Collier, Sean McCoy, Kelly McMinn

## Keydets Look to Answer Questions in '09

Normally when a team is coming off a storybook season that includes a postseason win, is returning its starting netminder, and two of its top three offensive performers, there are not a great deal of questions. That is, unless you are the 2009 VMI lacrosse team.

This year's incarnation of Keydet lacrosse will have a great deal of those questions, the first of which concerns the program's freshmen. This year, head coach Jeff Shirk and his staff have added 20 talented newcomers to the roster, of which no less than 10 could see significant playing time during the '09 campaign. Observers may be concerned about the youth of this team, but Coach Shirk isn't.

"These freshmen have made us more athletic. They're all good players and great athletes," stated the VMI head man. "While it may take them some time to adjust to the college game, once they do, we look for great things from them."

The Keydets come into 2009 riding high, having made their first postseason appearance ever, and then have defeated the MAAC Tournament's top seed, Providence in the opening round of the conference tournament. The team was then tied with eventual champion Canisius after the opening period of the title game, but the Golden Griffins pulled away for the victory. VMI was led throughout the tournament by graduated senior, and 2008 MAAC Offensive Player of the Year, Kevin Hill.

"We certainly lost a lot of goals this past season, with the graduation of Kevin and others," said Coach Shirk. "However, we're returning Tim Moran, who was First-Team All-MAAC, as well as his linemate Brett Leonard and starting attack Jacob Weimer. With those guys and the newcomers we've brought in, we think we can score more than enough to win."

### Attack:

The Keydet starting attack will be led by junior Jacob Weimer. Weimer, who started 12 games last year, comes off a 2008 in which he tallied 12 goals. Those 12 goals placed him fifth on the team, despite missing four games with a leg injury. The Bear, Del. native had an impressive streak during 2008, as he scored at least one goal in seven consecutive games, a run which spanned two full months due to injury. He scored two goals in each of the first three games of that streak, and also showed he could handle a bigger stage, scoring a pair of goals in the MAAC title game.

Matt Piazza also enjoyed success on the postseason stage in 2008, as he scored two of his three goals in the MAAC Tournament. This year, Piazza returns to his natural position as an attackman, and coach Shirk seems pleased with the results.

"We've moved Matt Piazza back to attack, as we think that's a more natural position for him," offered Coach Shirk. "He seems to really understand the position, his role in the offense, and how to create movement within an offensive scheme."

Piazza and Weimer will be joined by a cast of freshmen. Columbus, Ohio's Jimmy Luckino appears to have the inside track on the final starting spot, but Colin Bosse will be looked to as a contributor as well. Several freshmen, including Drew Leonard, brother of midfielder Brett Leonard, could also see time during the upcoming campaign.

### Defense:

The Keydet defense will be led by one of VMI's three captains, Will Carlton. Last year, Carlton was the only non-senior starter for the team's back line; now, he is its leader. In 2008, he started every game and grabbed 36 groundballs, and this year, he will be counted on to not only provide leadership, but to shadow talented attackers from some of the elite teams VMI will see this season.

Carlton will be joined by a large cast, but one with two clear frontrunners. Sophomore Shane Wilkinson showed a great deal of versatility during his freshman year, and is expected to join Carlton as a starter during the upcoming year. Another frontrunner is freshman Kyle Hofstetter, who has emerged from the pack to lead the battle among several talented freshman defenders.

Hofstetter's size (6'2, 225 lbs.) could prove an asset as VMI faces such attackers as Virginia's Danny Glading and Canisius' Adam Jones.

### Midfield

The strength of this year's Keydets lies in their midfield. The first line is led by junior Moran, who was named to the All-MAAC first team last season and was second on the Keydets in both goals (25) and assists (18). The Florence, N.J. native had a seven-point game and a six-goal contest last year, and his quickness will be looked to as a tone-setter for the VMI offense. This year, Moran will serve as one of VMI's three captains.

Despite Moran's leadership, the would-be quarterback of the VMI midfield may very well be fellow junior Brett Leonard. Leonard, who ranked third on the team in both goals (21) and assists (11) last season, has shown a great deal of improvement in each of his two seasons at the Institute, and will be expected to continue his upswing in 2009.

As with the attackers, the third midfield position is up for grabs. Freshmen Keith Long is the early frontrunner, as the 6-3 Falls Church, Va., native has shown a great deal of potential early on. Long's size and deft passing touch (32 assists in his final high school season) could help set up Moran and Leonard for scoring chances.

On the defensive side, junior Dave Padgett is VMI's top option. Padgett played a critical role in last season's tournament run with his energy and hustle, and will be expected to do the same this year as he continues to mature.

At the short stick defensive midfield spot, junior Dan Perestock appears to have the inside track. "We've been impressed with Dan since we first saw him at short stick. He's the leader at the battle for that spot," said Coach Shirk.

Others who could see time on the midfield include junior Justin Ong and his classmate Lowell Patterson, who was VMI's face-off specialist each of the last two seasons. Sophomore Zach Henke and a cast of freshmen will also compete for playing time in both the offensive and defensive midfield rotations.

### Face-off:

While the 2008 VMI face-off stats were not overly impressive, both Lowell Patterson and Leonard Weschler showed big-play ability last season, rising to the occasion when needed. The Keydets will look for that to continue from their 2009 face-off specialist, freshman Stephen Robarge.

"Stephen is incredibly talented," said Coach Shirk. "He has good technique, but also a burning desire to constantly learn more and to continue to improve. We look for big things from him during his stay at VMI."

Robarge will not be the only freshman to see time in the face-off X, as Shirk also recruited Chris Rossie to come to the Institute, and the two could switch off depending on matchups. Robarge and Rossie will be backed up by a large cast, including Weschler, Patterson, Dave Padgett and others.

On the wings of face-offs, junior Sean Kennedy appears to have the inside track to be this year's long-stick midfielder. "We've been very impressed with Sean since we put a long pole in his hands," offered Coach Shirk. "He's shown a great deal of improvement, and we've always liked his energy and potential. He'll be a key player for us this year."

On the other side, there will be a rotating cast. Both Moran and Leonard could see time, as could Padgett and many others.

### Goalie:

VMI stalwart Sean McCoy, who has started every game since coming to the Institute, will return in 2009 as the incumbent starter and one of this year's Keydet captains.

"Sean's got a great deal of competitive drive," said Coach Shirk. "He believes, and so do we, that he's one of the better goalies in this league, and he'll be out to prove it this year."

McCoy had a pair of key games last year in conference play. In the MAAC opener versus Marist, he made a season-high 17 saves to preserve a 9-7 victory,

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beginning a stretch during which VMI won four-of-five in conference to set itself up for its eventual postseason berth. The junior from Hudson, Ohio also made several key stops in the final period against Siena, a game the Keydets won 9-8 on the road, and a contest which proved to be crucial later in the year.

The difference in the goalkeeping contingent is not at the top, where McCoy remains the clear-cut starter, but in reserve. Two talented freshmen, Alex Benedick and high school All-American Kelly McMinn will provide quality, if unproven, backups to McCoy.

### The Schedule:

VMI's 2009 schedule has a distinctly familiar feel. In fact, the Keydets will play the same opponents they did in 2008, with the venues changing for the majority of the contests.

The season will open Feb. 7 at No. 11 Navy, a game which is expected to be the first to begin at the NCAA Division I level this season. It earned that distinction last year, a game Navy won 10-2 despite 11 McCoy saves, several of which were of the spectacular variety. Following Navy, the Keydets will go further north to West Point, N.Y., to battle No. 22 Army on Feb. 14. Moran scored three goals when the teams battled last year, but Army won handily, 16-3.

"I think this year, the team is more ready and feels like they belong," said Coach Shirk regarding his team's tough schedule. "Last year, they might have felt a bit overwhelmed at some of these venues, but I look for better results this season."

VMI then travels to Clinton, S.C. to face the Presbyterian Blue Hose on Feb. 21, before the home opener is contested on Saturday, Feb. 28 versus the Knights of Bellarmine University. Last season, the two games were reversed, as VMI's third contest was against Bellarmine, an 8-5 loss in Louisville, Ky., in a game that turned on a third-period illegal stick penalty. The Keydets' 2008 home opener was against the Blue Hose, a game the home squad won handily, 15-4 behind seven points from Moran.

On March 3, VMI hosts perhaps the most prominent opponent to ever come to Lexington, preseason #1 Virginia. The game is scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m., and will feature the Keydets facing a lineup of All-Americans and otherwise honored players from the visiting Cavaliers.

Following that tilt, the Keydets travel to the Keystone State, heading to Moon Township, Pa. to face Robert Morris on March 7. That game is VMI's final non-conference game of the season, as the following weekend, the Keydets open MAAC action by taking on the Providence College Friars and 2008 conference Coach of the Year Chris Burdick.

The Friars will be followed into Foster Stadium by the Manhattan Jaspers, who will face-off with VMI on March 21. The Keydets then hit the road for two straight weekends, facing Saint Joseph's and Marist, two teams they defeated at home last year, before returning to Lexington for April 11's Senior Day versus Siena.

Coach Shirk's squad then closes out the year with three games in the season's final week, as it faces Wagner in a road matchup April 18, Mount St. Mary's in Lexington on April 22, and then closes out the year with a MAAC Championship rematch against Canisius. The Keydets and Golden Griffins will do battle April 25 in Buffalo, N.Y.

Despite the numerous questions facing this team, it goes into the year with a great deal of confidence, and Coach Shirk and his staff believe that can continue.

"We know we have some things to figure out, but we're proud of what we accomplished last year," said the VMI coach. "We've made a lot of strides forward in practice, our returning players are ready to go, and they're ready to show the freshmen what to expect. We truly believe that we're talented, athletic and ready to compete with anyone and anything the MAAC has to offer this season."

### 2009 SCHEDULE:

Feb. 7	at Navy	Annapolis, Md.	Noon
Feb. 14	at Army	West Point, N.Y.	Noon
Feb. 21	at Presbyterian	Clinton, S.C.	1 p.m.
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>Bellarmine</b>	<b>SprintTurf Field</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>Mar. 3</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>
Mar. 7	at Robert Morris	Moon Township, Pa.	1 p.m.
<b>Mar. 14</b>	<b>Providence*</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>Mar. 21</b>	<b>Manhattan*</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Mar. 28	at Saint Joseph's*	Philadelphia, Pa.	1 p.m.
Apr. 4	at Marist*	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	1 p.m.
<b>Apr. 11</b>	<b>Siena (Sr. Day)*</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Apr. 18	at Wagner*	Staten Island, N.Y.	1 p.m.
<b>Apr. 22</b>	<b>Mount St. Mary's*</b>	<b>Foster Stadium</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
Apr. 25	at Canisius*	Buffalo, N.Y.	Noon
May 1-3	MAAC Championships - Buffalo, N.Y.		

#### Home Games in Bold

\* = Metro-Atlantic Athletic Conference Game



Senior Will Carlton will be the leader of a young VMI defense, as he serves as one of VMI's three captains.



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## 2008 Summary

Overall: 6-10    Conf: 5-5-0    Home: 4-2    Away: 1-7    Neut: 1-1							
Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	Conf.	Attend	Goalie	Site
Feb. 9, 2008	at Navy	L, 2-10	0- 1- 0	N/A	2133	McCoy, Sean (0-1)	Annapolis, Md.
Feb. 16, 2008	at Army	L, 3-16	0- 2- 0	N/A	728	McCoy, Sean (0-2)	West Point, N.Y.
Feb. 23, 2008	at Bellarmine	L, 5-8	0- 3- 0	N/A	301	McCoy, Sean (0-3)	Louisville, Ky.
Feb. 27, 2008	Presbyterian	W, 15-4	1- 3- 0	N/A	76	McCoy, Sean (1-3)	Lexington, Va.
Mar. 4, 2008	at Virginia	L, 5-24	1- 4- 0	N/A	393	McCoy, Sean (1-4)	Charlottesville, Va.
Mar. 11, 2008	Robert Morris	L, 4-15	1- 5- 0	N/A	99	McCoy, Sean (1-5)	Lexington, Va.
Mar. 15, 2008	Marist*	W, 9-7	2- 5- 0	1-0-0	143	McCoy, Sean (2-5)	Lexington, Va.
Mar. 22, 2008	at Providence*	L, 5-12	2-6- 0	1-1-0	472	McCoy, Sean (2-6)	Providence, R.I.
Mar. 29, 2008	Wagner*	W, 13-6	3- 6- 0	2-1-0	224	McCoy, Sean (3-6)	Lexington, Va.
Apr. 5, 2008	Saint Joseph's*	W, 14-12	4- 6- 0	3-1-0	201	McCoy, Sean (4-6)	Lexington, Va.
Apr. 12, 2008	at Siena*	W, 9-8	5-6- 0	4-1-0	907	McCoy, Sean (5-6)	Loudonville, N.Y.
Apr. 19, 2008	Canisius*	L, 8-12	5-7- 0	4-2-0	207	McCoy, Sean (5-7)	Lexington, Va.
Apr. 23, 2008	at Mount St. Mary's*	L, 8-11	5-8- 0	4-3-0	259	McCoy, Sean (5-8)	Emmitsburg, Md.
Apr. 26, 2008	at Manhattan*	L, 7-8 (2OT)	5-9- 0	4-4-0	348	McCoy, Sean (5-9)	Riverdale, N.Y.
May 2, 2008	Providence - 1st Round++	W, 9-8 (OT)	6-9- 0	5-4-0	400	McCoy, Sean (6-9)	Loudonville, N.Y.
May 4, 2008	Canisius -Championship++	L, 5-14	6-10-0	5-5-0	607	McCoy, Sean (6-10)	Loudonville, N.Y.

\* - Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Game

++ - MAAC Tournament

## Team Statistics

CATEGORY:	VMI	OPP				
<b>SHOT STATISTICS:</b>						
Goals-Shot attempts	121-465	175-552				
Goals scored average	7.52	10.88				
Shot pct	.260	.317				
Shots/Game	29.1	34.5				
Assists	70	108				
<b>MAN-UP OPPORTUNITIES</b>						
Goals-Opportunities	18-69	22-53				
Conversion Percent	.261	.415				
<b>GOAL BREAKDOWN</b>						
Total Goals	121	175				
Man-up	18	22				
Man-down	0	1				
Unassisted	51	67				
<b>GROUND BALLS</b>						
GROUND BALLS	466	494				
<b>FACEOFFS (W-L)</b>						
Faceoff W-L Pct	.457	.543				
<b>CLEARNS</b>						
CLEARNS	232-315	234-321				
Clear Pct.	.737	.729				
<b>PENALTIES</b>						
Number	57	72				
Minutes	50:00	64:00				
<b>GOALS BY PERIOD</b>						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
VMI	28	29	28	35	1	121
Opponents	33	46	48	47	1	175
<b>SHOTS BY PERIOD</b>						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
VMI	103	131	114	115	2	465
Opponents	137	136	141	135	3	552
<b>SAVES BY PERIOD</b>						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
VMI	40	32	39	40	0	151
Opponents	26	37	35	32	0	130

### VMI - TEAM GAME HIGHS

POINTS	25	vs Presbyterian (2/27/08)
	22	vs Saint Joseph's (4/5/08)
GOALS	15	vs Presbyterian (2/27/08)
	14	vs Saint Joseph's (4/5/08)
ASSISTS	10	vs Presbyterian (2/27/08)
	8	vs Saint Joseph's (4/5/08)
SHOTS	48	vs Presbyterian (2/27/08)
	38	vs Providence (5/2/08)
SHOTS ON GOAL	28	vs Presbyterian (2/27/08)
	23	vs Saint Joseph's (4/5/08)
SAVES	17	vs Marist (3/15/08)
	16	at Bellarmine (2/23/08)
GROUND BALLS	46	vs Saint Joseph's (4/5/08)
	38	vs Presbyterian (2/27/08)

### VMI - GAME LOWS

POINTS	3	at Navy (2/9/08)
	3	at Army (2/16/08)
GOALS	2	at Navy (2/9/08)
ASSISTS	0	at Army (2/16/08)
SHOTS	19	at Army (2/16/08)
SHOTS ON GOAL	8	at Army (2/16/08)
SAVES	3	vs Providence (5/2/08)