

**Liberty University
Flames Baseball
Quick Facts**

Location: Lynchburg, Va.
Founded: 1971
Enrollment: 9,558
Colors: Red, White and Blue
Nickname: Flames
Mascot: Eagle
Conference: Big South
Chancellor: Dr. Jerry Falwell
Exec. VP: Dr. Ron Godwin
Director of Athletics: Jeff Barber
Athletic Phone: (434) 582-2100
Assoc. A.D. Internal Operations:
Mickey Guridy
Assoc. A.D. for Compliance/SWA:
Meredith Hollyfield
Assoc. A.D. for Academic Services:
Kristie Beitz
Faculty Athletic Representative:
Dr. William Gribbin
A.D. for Development: Bob Good
A.D. for External Operations:
Kevin Keys
Director of Facilities: Joe Pouliot

Head Baseball Coach:
Matt Royer (Liberty, '80)
Record at LU: 129-114 (Five Years)
Career Record: 447-353 (17 Years)
Baseball Office Phone:
(434) 582-2103
Assistants: Terry Weaver (Liberty, '97), Reggie Reynolds (Liberty, '98)
Athletic Trainer:
Scott Lawrenson

2006 Record: 39-21
Conference Record: 13-11/5th
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 11/5
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (incl. DH): 6/3
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 6/2
Newcomers: 12

Liberty's All-Time Record:
885-708-7 (.556)
Stadium: Worthington Stadium/1,000
Stadium Dimensions: Left - 325; Center - 390; Right - 325
Surface: Bermuda Grass

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Web Site: www.LibertyFlames.com
Assistant AMR: Vincent Briedis
Assistant AMR: Paul Carmany

**2007 Liberty University
Baseball Game Notes**



**Game No. 20-22 - March 17-19, 2007
UNC Asheville Bulldogs (5-14, 0-0 Big South)**

vs.

LIBERTY Flames (12-7, 0-0 Big South)

Saturday, March 17 - 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 18 - 1 p.m.

Monday, March 19 - TBA

Worthington Stadium - Lynchburg, Va.

The Games

The Liberty University Flames (12-7, 0-0 Big South) will open Big South Conference play this weekend by hosting the UNC Asheville Bulldogs (5-14, 0-0 Big South) in a three-game series at Worthington Stadium, Saturday - Monday, March 17-19.

The series will begin on Saturday at 2 p.m., followed by single games on both Sunday and Monday. Game time on Sunday is slated for 1 p.m. with Monday's game to be announced.

The Series Against UNC Asheville

Saturday's contest will be the 46th meeting with the Flames holding a 31-14 advantage in the all-time series since the two teams first met in 1986. Last season, the Bulldogs posted a 4-1 against Liberty, including two contests in the 2006 Big South Championship. UNC Asheville took two of the three regular season meetings with the Flames in Asheville, before handing Liberty its first loss of the Big South Championship with a 4-1 score. The Bulldogs then rallied for a come-from-behind 16-11 victory in the Big South Baseball Championship final.

The Last Time Out

Despite out-hitting James Madison, 14-10, the Flames fell 8-3 to the host Dukes. Four different James Madison batters hit their first home runs of the season in the victory.

Liberty's Tommy Bussey went 3-for-4 with a run scored, while teammates Phil John and Aaron Grijalva were 3-for-5 in the contest.

Starter Andrew Wilson, making his first start of the season, dropped to 0-1, allowing four runs on four hits and two walks in 4 1/3 innings.

Flames on the Radio

This season, the Flames Sports Network plans to broadcast 20 Liberty baseball regular season games. Games will air live on WWMC 90.9 FM "The Light" and on the World Wide Web at both www.LibertyFlames.com and www.thelightonline.com. The station plans an extra broadcast for Sunday, March 19 against UNC Asheville. The broadcast is slated to begin around 12:50 p.m.

Possible Starters

No.	Name	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Avg.	Other Stats
29	Errol Hollinger (C)	So.	6-4	200	.286	7 RBI, 11 Runs, 3 2Bs, 1 HR
5	Aaron Grijalva (1B)	R-Jr.	6-1	195	.309	15 RBI, 8 Runs, 1 2B, 8 SBs
3	Tommy Bussey (2B)	So.	5-11	180	.273	3 RBI, 6 Runs, 2 2B, 1 3B
10	Patrick Gaillard (SS)	Sr.	6-1	185	.246	5 RBI, 14 Runs, 4 2Bs
7	David Giammaresi (3B)	R-Jr.	6-0	195	.302	12 RBI, 7 Runs, 5 2Bs, 1 3B
1	Kenneth Negron (LF)	So.	5-8	168	.340	5 RBI, 9 Runs, 3 2Bs, 5 SBs
33	Garrett Young (CF)	Jr.	6-3	225	.419	20 RBI, 21 Runs, 8 2Bs, 4 HRs
30	Phil John (RF)	Sr.	6-2	180	.440	13 RBI, 15 Runs, 3 2Bs, 6 SBs
27	Tim Nanry (DH)	Sr.	6-3	225	.333	13 RBI, 10 Runs, 3 2Bs, 3 HRs
	R-redshirt					

Scouting the Bulldogs

Location: Asheville, N.C
Founded: 1927
Enrollment: 3,500
Nickname: Bulldogs
Colors: Royal Blue and White
Chancellor: Dr. Anne Ponder
Athletic Director: Janet Cone
Conference: Big South
Field (Capacity): Greenwood Field (500)
Dimensions: 365-395-375

Head Coach: Willie Stewart (UNC Asheville, 2000)
Record at School: 44-91 (Three Years)
Overall Record: Same
Office Phone: (828) 261-6920
Assistants: Tim Perry, Matt Reid, Bob Fenn

2006 Record: 28-35
2006 Conference Record/Finish: 10-14/Sixth
Lettermen Returning/Lost: 18/7
Position Starters Returning/Lost: 8/0
Pitchers Returning/Lost: 7/3

Top Returning Position Players:
 Elliott Arrington (Jr., OF, .352 BA, 47 RBI), Kevin Mattison (Jr., OF, .317 BA), Rob Vernon (Sr., OF, .330 BA)

Top Returning Pitchers: Jordan Dorsett (So., LHP, 2.25 ERA), Alan DeRatt (Jr., RHP, 8-5, 4.77 ERA), Chris Nigro (Sr., LHP, 5.57 ERA)

Baseball SID: Everett Hutto
Office Phone: (828) 251-6923
Cell Phone: (828) 545-1121
E-mail Address: ehutto@unca.edu
Fax Number: (828) 251-6386
Web Site: www.uncabulldogs.com

Recent Results

3/14 at Western Carolina W/ 7-6
 3/11 Samford L/ 9-12 (10)
 3/10 Samford L/ 4-6 (10)
 3/9 Samford W/ 6-4

Upcoming Schedule

3/20 at South Carolina
 3/21 at Appalachian State
 3/23 at UAB
 3/24 at UAB
 3/25 at UAB



2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



The Coaches

Saturday will be the ninth meeting between Liberty head coach Matt Royer and UNC Asheville head coach Willie Stewart with their respective teams.

Liberty: Matt Royer (Liberty, '80)

Record at School: 129-114 (Five Years)

Overall Record: 447-353 (17 Years)

Notes: Matt Royer is in his fifth year at the helm of his alma mater ... last season, Royer guided the Flames to their second-straight 30-plus win season, their first back-to-back 30-win seasons during his tenure and the fourth in school history ... Liberty posted 39 victories in 2006, the most Division I wins in program history ... on Feb. 21, 2006, he won his 400th career game as a head coach when the Flames defeated Longwood, 4-3 ... in each of his first four years, the Liberty win total has improved each season ... Royer has led the Flames to the Big South Championship final game in both 2002 and 2006 ... prior to his stint at Liberty, he had a nine-year run at Kutztown, where he posted a 271-176 mark ... the Golden Bears never had a losing season in his nine years at the school ... guided Kutztown to the Division II College World Series during his final two seasons at the school.

UNC Asheville: Willie Stewart (UNC Asheville, 2000)

Record at School: 44-91 (Three Years)

Overall Record: Same

Notes: Willie Stewart is in his third year as head coach of the Bulldogs ... was named head coach in the summer of 2004 ... last season, guided UNC Asheville to the 2006 Big South Championship, its first, after making it as the tournament's sixth and final seed ... posted a school record for victories in 2006 with a 28-35 mark, an 17-game improvement over his first season ... in his first season as head coach, he lead a young squad to victories over College World Series participants, Florida and Tennessee, in an 11-win season in 2005 ... a UNCA graduate, he was an assistant for three years with the Bulldogs before beginning named interim head coach in 2004 ... Stewart was a four-year letterwinner at second base for UNC Asheville and in his senior season earned all-conference first team honors.

LU	2007 Statistical Comparison	UNCA
12-7	Record	4-15
.311	Batting Average	.269
129	Runs	95
214	Hits	183
10	Home Runs	5
115	Runs Batted In	79
27	Stolen Bases	21
4.21	Earned Run Average	6.45
169.0	Innings Pitched	166.0
124	Strikeouts	141
4	Saves	4
.268	Opponent Batting Average	.321

Big South Conference Update

(as of Mar. 16, 2007)

Overall Standings

	W	L	Pct.
Coastal Carolina	16	3	.833
VMI	13	4	.800
Liberty	12	7	.706
Winthrop	11	10	.579
Charleston Southern	11	11	.476
High Point	9	11	.421
Radford	6	10	.428
UNC Asheville	5	14	.222

Conference Standings

	W	L	Pct.
Charleston Southern	0	0	.000
Coastal Carolina	0	0	.000
High Point	0	0	.000
Liberty	0	0	.000
Radford	0	0	.000
UNC Asheville	0	0	.000
VMI	0	0	.000
Winthrop	0	0	.000

Upcoming Schedule

Friday, Mar. 16

VMI at Charleston So.*	2 p.m.
Lafayette at High Point	2:30 p.m.
North Carolina A&T at Radford	2:30 p.m.
East. Michigan at Coastal Carolina	6 p.m.
Wagner at Winthrop	2 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 17

VMI at Charleston So.* (DH)	11 a.m.
Lafayette at High Point (DH)	Noon
North Carolina A&T at Radford	1 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Liberty*	2 p.m.
East. Michigan at Coastal Carolina	2 p.m.
Wagner at Winthrop	2 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 18

Lafayette at High Point (DH)	Noon
North Carolina A&T at Radford	1 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Liberty*	1 p.m.
East. Michigan at Coastal Carolina	2 p.m.
Wagner at Winthrop	2 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 19

UNC Asheville at Liberty*	TBA
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* - Big South Conference Game



2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



Returning to Their Alma Mater

The Liberty coaching staff, led by head coach Matt Royer, along with assistant coaches Terry Weaver and Reggie Reynolds, is unusual for Division I baseball. All three coaches are graduates of Liberty University.

Royer received his degree in 1980, while playing baseball for the program's founder, Al Worthington. Weaver and Reynolds also obtained their bachelor's degrees from Liberty, with Weaver achieving his in the fall of 1997 and Reynolds having his conferred upon him in 1998.

Flames at Worthington Stadium

For the past 27 years, the Flames have called Worthington Stadium their home. The Flames have compiled an impressive 459-207-4 record at home for a winning percentage of .688 since the stadium's inception in 1979. Under head coach Matt Royer, the Flames are proving the stadium to be an even tougher venue for opponents, having posted a 114-47 record (.708) during Royer's five years at the helm.

This season, the Flames have posted a 7-3 mark (.700) at home. Liberty went 22-9 (.710) at Worthington Stadium in 2006.

Liberty on the Road

Liberty has started 2007 with a 5-4 mark away from Worthington Stadium. This season, the Flames are 4-3 in road contests and 1-1 at neutral sites. Liberty finished the 2006 season with a 17-12 road mark. Its record was a four-game improvement over 2005, when the Flames went 9-12 away from home.

Flames in Big South Openers

This weekend's series is only the third time in 16 years in the Big South, the Flames have started conference play at home. Liberty is 20-22 in their Big South opening three-game series of the season.

Of the 42 games, Liberty has opened conference play on the road 13 times with a record of 15-21. The Flames have opened at home twice, going 5-1.

Last season, Liberty visited Winthrop for the third time to open conference regular season play. The Eagles won all three games at the Winthrop Coliseum (Mar. 24-26).

The last time Liberty opened at Worthington Stadium was in 2003. The Flames took two-of-three from Charleston Southern (Mar. 13-16) in head coach Matt Royer's first season as Liberty head coach.

Flames Against the Big South

Liberty has compiled a 191-147 record against current members of the Big South. The Flames have also compiled a 30-16 mark in Big South Championship games over the same span.

Liberty's All-Time Record Against the Big South

Charleston Southern	29-19
Coastal Carolina	25-31
High Point	26-22
Radford	36-23
UNC Asheville	31-16
VMI	21-7
Winthrop	23-29
Totals	191-147



**Liberty University
2007 Baseball Schedule**

**Record: 12-7
Big South: 0-0**

2/9	at East Carolina	W, 6-2
2/10	at East Carolina	L, 4-7
2/11	at East Carolina	L, 2-11
2/16	vs. South Carolina!	L, 2-10
2/17	at The Citadel!	W, 2-1
2/18	vs. Richmond!	W, 28-7
2/23 Albany		W, 9-2
2/24 Albany - Gm. 1		W, 5-1
2/24 Albany - Gm. 2		W, 7-5
2/27	at VCU	W, 8-2
3/2 Manhattan		W, 6-2
3/3 Manhattan		L, 2-9
3/4 Manhattan		W, 14-6
3/6	at Old Dominion	W, 8-2
3/9 George Washington		W, 9-3
3/10 George Washington	W, 7-6 (10)	
3/11 George Washington	L, 5-6 (10)	
3/13 Virginia Tech		L, 2-8
3/14	at James Madison	L, 3-8
3/16 UNC Asheville*		3 p.m.
3/17 UNC Asheville*		2 p.m.
3/18 UNC Asheville*		1 p.m.
3/21 UMBC		3 p.m.
3/23	at High Point*	2:30 p.m.
3/24	at High Point*	1 p.m.
3/25	at High Point*	1 p.m.
3/28	at George Mason	2:30 p.m.
3/31 Monmouth (DH)		11 a.m.
4/1 Monmouth		1 p.m.
4/3 William & Mary		3 p.m.
4/6 Marshall		3 p.m.
4/7 Marshall (DH)		11 a.m.
4/10	at William & Mary	7 p.m.
4/13 Charleston Southern*		3 p.m.
4/14 Charleston Southern*		2 p.m.
4/15 Charleston Southern*		1 p.m.
4/18 James Madison		3 p.m.
4/20 Radford*		3 p.m.
4/21 Radford*		2 p.m.
4/22 Radford*		1 p.m.
4/24 George Mason		3 p.m.
4/27	at Coastal Carolina*	6 p.m.
4/28	at Coastal Carolina*	2 p.m.
4/29	at Coastal Carolina*	1 p.m.
5/1	at Virginia Tech	7 p.m.
5/4	at Arizona	10 p.m.
5/5	at Arizona	9 p.m.
5/6	at Arizona	3 p.m.
5/11 Winthrop*		4 p.m.
5/12 Winthrop*		2 p.m.
5/13 Winthrop*		2 p.m.
5/18	at VMI*	7 p.m.
5/19	at VMI*	7 p.m.
5/20	at VMI*	2 p.m.
5/22-26	Big South Championship @ Rock Hill, S.C.	

Home Games in bold

* Big South Conference Game
! The Crab House Shootout @
Charleston, S.C.

(DH) - Doubleheader

All Times Eastern Standard Time

**2007 Liberty University
Baseball Game Notes**



Baseball in the Commonwealth

Thirteen Division I baseball teams call the Commonwealth of Virginia home. This season, the Flames are scheduled to face opponents from the "Old Dominion State" 17 times. Liberty has begun its slate against state opponents with a 3-2 mark.

Liberty posted a 15-5 record against Virginia teams in 2006. The Flames are scheduled to meet state squads George Mason (twice), James Madison (twice), Old Dominion (once), Radford (three times), Richmond (once), VCU (once), VMI (three times), Virginia Tech (twice) and William & Mary (twice) this season.

Another Fantastic February

The month of February has been good to the Flames the past three seasons. Liberty won its last five contests in the second month of the year in 2006 to post a 7-2 mark. In 2005, the Flames started 7-1 in February to begin the season.

2007 was no different, as Liberty finished the year's opening month on a six-game win streak to post a 7-3 mark in the season's first month.

2007 by the Month

The Flames will play 19 contests in the month of March. Liberty started the third month by winning five of its first six contests, before dropping its last three contests to currently stand at 5-4 in March. Last season, Liberty dropped its first game of the month at James Madison on March 1, before reeling off nine victories to tie the school Division I record for consecutive wins. The Flames finished 12-6 during March 2006. In Big South Conference games in March, Liberty went 1-4 in the month to open league play.

Liberty opened the season by going 7-3 in February.

Liberty's 2007 record, by the month:

Month	Record
February	7-3, 0-0 Big South
March	5-4, 0-0 Big South

Liberty's 2006 record, by the month:

Month	Record
February	7-2, 0-0 Big South
March	12-6, 1-3 Big South
April	14-5, 10-4 Big South
May	6-8, 2-4 Big South

Turning It Around

After starting the year 1-3, head coach Matt Royer's squad won 11 out of their next 12 games to post a 12-4 record. Following a loss to then #1 South Carolina at the Crab House Shootout on Feb. 16, the Flames won a season-high seven games in a row, before dropping a contest to Manhattan on March 3. Liberty then ran off four-straight victories, before falling in extra innings on last Sunday to George Washington.

The Flames began the 2006 season at 2-2, before closing out February with five-straight victories. In addition, the Flames ran off nine-game winning streaks twice last season, tying the Division I school mark reached by both the 1985 and 1995 teams. The school record is 15-straight wins, set by the 1976 Liberty team.

2007 Liberty Flames Roster

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



Position Players

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.
1	Kenneth Negron	OF	So.
3	Tommy Bussey	2B	So.
4	Cody Brown	1B/3B	R-So.
5	Aaron Grijalva	1B	R-Jr.
6	Aaron Phillips	3B	Jr.
7	David Giammaresi	3B	R-Jr.
8	Derek Bennion	OF	R-Sr.
9	David McCall	INF	So.
10	Patrick Gaillard	SS	Sr.
12	Shawn Teufel	1B	So.
15	Cory Johnson	C	Fr.
19	P. K. Keller	OF	Jr.
20	Jonathan Schneider	OF	Fr.
23	Nate Thompson	C	R-Fr.
26	Andrew Weaver	2B	Fr.
27	Tim Nanry	OF	Sr.
29	Errol Hollinger	C	So.
30	Phil John	OF	Sr.
33	Garrett Young	OF	Jr.

Pitchers

11	Doug Wallace	LHP	R-So.
13	Dane Beakler	RHP	So.
16	Andrew Wilson	RHP	So.
17	Dustin Umberger	RHP	So.
18	Grady Ihnat	LHP	Fr.
22	Tim John	RHP	Sr.
31	Tyler Light	RHP	So.
32	Chase Vaden	LHP	Fr.
34	Ryan Page	LHP	Jr.
38	Michael Solbach	RHP	R-Jr.
42	David Stokes	RHP	Jr.
52	Rusty Lajoie	RHP	Fr.

Head Coach: 2 Matt Royer

Assistant Coaches: 14 Terry Weaver

24 Reggie Reynolds

Trainer: Scott Lawrenson

R - redshirt

Over Two Years and Counting

The Flames have gone 157 games and over three years without being shut out in a contest. During the span, Liberty mound staff has pitched six shutouts, including three in 2006.

The last time a Liberty team was shut out was April 10, 2004 at Winthrop. Eagles' starter Jeff Reeves combined with relievers Jonathan Settle and Chris Leroux to allow the Flames three hits in a 6-0 win.

Liberty has been limited to one run five times during the period. Last season, Birmingham-Southern allowed the Flames single runs in in back-to-back games on April 28 and 29. Liberty also scored one run in a loss at Winthrop on March 24.

In 2005, Liberty scored only one run on two occasions, in a 1-0 victory over Fairfield on March 9 and in the last game of the season, a 2-1 setback to Coastal Carolina on May 27 at the Big South Baseball Championship.

The Flames have scored more than one run in each of its first 19 games this season.

Winning the Close Ones

Liberty finished last season 10-5 in one-run games. Its record in one-run games was one of the keys to Liberty's fast start to 2006 on its way to breaking the school mark for victories in a season. Six of the Flames' first 10 games were decided by one run. Liberty went 5-1 in those games.

The Flames have started 2007, 2-1, in contests decided by one run this season. The last two were Matt Royer's team's first two extra-inning contests of 2007. Last weekend, Liberty had back-to-back games go extra frames in order to determine an outcome. The Flames defeated George Washington, 7-6, in 10 innings on Saturday, before falling on Sunday to the Colonials, 6-5, in 10 innings.

Running Again

The Flames are off and running again this season. So far in 2007, Liberty has stolen 27 bases in 30 attempts. Leading the way with eight steals is first baseman Aaron Grijalva. He has not been caught yet this season. Phil John is next with six steals.

In 2006, Liberty led the Big South with 104 stolen bases. In addition, the Flames ranked 30th in the country among Division I programs in stolen bases per game, as they averaged 1.73 steals per contest, marking stark contrast to 2005.

Last season, the Flames swiped 39 more stolen bases in 60 contests than they had in 55 the previous year. Liberty averaged 1.73 steals per game as they swiped 104 bases in 127 attempts, an 82 percent success rate.

In 2005, Liberty finished the season with a 77 percent success rate, as they stole 63 bases in 81 attempts (less than 1.15 per game).

Chad Miller finished fourth in the Big South with 24 steals in his final season with Flames. Aaron Grijalva ranked fifth in the conference with 23 stolen bases. Patrick Gaillard was also among the Big South leaders with 16 thefts, ranking ninth.

Young Off to Strong Start

Center fielder Garrett Young has started his first season at Liberty in strong fashion. The Liberty center fielder has hit .419 with eight doubles and four home runs in his first 18 games with the Flames. He has also driven in 20 runs and scored 21 others.

The Fountain Valley, Calif., native entered the week as the Big South leader in RBI and total bases with 49, second in the conference in batting average, tied for second in hits with 30 and runs scored, and tied for the lead in doubles. In addition, he has had at least one hit in 15 games and has nine multi-hit games to go along with a team-leading six multiple RBI contests.

When the Flames...

Are at home	7-3
Are on the road	4-3
Are at a neutral site.	1-1
In Day Games	12-7
In Night Games	0-0
vs. left-handed starter	3-4
vs. right-handed starter	9-3
In one-run games	2-1
In two-run games	1-0
In five-plus run games.	6-5
Extra innings	1-1
Shutouts	0-0
Score first	4-1
Opponents score first	8-6
Scored In the first	3-2
Opponent scored in first	3-4
Lead after the first	3-0
Trail after the first	2-2
Are tied after the first.	7-5
Lead after the second	5-0
Trail after the second	3-5
Are tied after the second.	4-2
Lead after the third	8-1
Trail after the third	2-6
Are tied after the third	2-0
Lead after the fourth	8-0
Trail after the fourth.	3-6
Are tied after the fourth	1-1
Lead after the fifth	11-1
Trail after the fifth	1-5
Are tied after the fifth.	0-1
Lead after the sixth	10-1
Trail after the sixth.	2-6
Are tied after the sixth.	0-0
Lead after the seventh.	11-1
Trail after the seventh	1-6
Are tied after the seventh	0-0
Lead after the eighth	11-0
Trail after the eighth	0-6
Are tied after the eighth.	1-1
Go to extra innings	1-1
After winning a game	9-3
After losing a game.	2-4
Out-hit opponent	11-2
Out-hit by opponent.	1-5
Hits are tied.	0-0
Hit a home run	4-0
Opponents hit a home run	4-4
Wear red uniforms.	1-1
Wear white uniforms	3-2
Wear navy uniforms	5-1
Wear grey uniforms.	3-3
Play on Monday	0-0
Play on Tuesday	2-1
Play on Wednesday	0-1
Play on Thursday	0-0
Play on Friday	4-1
Play on Saturday.	4-2
Play on Sunday.	2-2

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



Last week, Young batted .556 (10-18) and knocked in nine runs in four contests. He had two or more hits in each game and drove in two more runs in each contest also. The Flames' center fielder was named Big South Player of the Week for the effort.

On Feb. 27 at VCU, the junior went 4-for-5 with three doubles and three RBI in the Flames' victory over the Rams. It was not the first time the outfielder has gone 4-for-5 this season. He also was 4-for-5 with four runs driven in, a double and a home run in helping to pace the Flames' 28-hit attack in a 28-7 win over Richmond on Feb. 18 at the Crab House Shootout in Charleston, S.C.

In his first game in a Flames' uniform, he went 3-for-5 with a home run, a RBI and two runs scored in Liberty's 6-2, season-opening victory at East Carolina.

Solbach Finds Groove

After starting the season 0-1 in his first two starts, right-hander Michael Solbach has given the Flames three-straight strong outings and has run his record to 3-1 on the season. During the three-game stretch, the redshirt-junior has a 0.45 ERA as he allowed five runs, only one which was earned, in 20 innings. He has also struck out 18 and walked four in the span.

Solbach picked up his first victory of the year to begin the streak on Feb. 23 against Albany. The right-hander yield two unearned runs and just one hit in six innings of work in a 9-2 Liberty win. Solbach retired the last 16 batters he faced before giving way to a reliever. The following week, he allowed one run on four hits in a 6-2 Flames' win over Manhattan. He struck out a season-high seven in the outing. For the two week effort, he received Big South Pitcher of the Week honors.

Last Friday, Solbach was once again strong, yielding only an unearned run over seven frames to move to 3-1 on the season in Liberty's 9-3 victory over George Washington.

The Woodbridge, Va. native, enters the weekend with an overall 2.25 ERA, which ranks him sixth in the Big South in the category. He has also racked up 23 strikeouts on the season, tying him for the team lead.

Phil John Gives A Jolt

Senior Phil John has given Liberty a lift with both his glove and bat since his insertion into the line-up on Feb. 16 against then No. 1 South Carolina. The right-fielder had two hits in the game and has continued to aid the Flames by having at least one hit in each of his first seven starts this season. It took a gash to the chin on a diving attempt on a hit to right in Saturday's game against George Washington to halt the streak as the outfielder was forced to come out in the second inning.

However, the right fielder has picked his hot hitting right back up where he left off the next day with two hits on Sunday against the Colonials. He then went 3-for-5 on Wednesday at James Madison in his next start.

A strong defender, John has collected 22 hits in 50 at bats for a .440 batting average and began the week ranked third in the Big South in batting average. He also leads Liberty in on base percentage with a .491 percentage. John also has had the longest hitting streak by a Flame this year by hitting safely in 11-straight contests.

Liberty's Young Named Big South Player of the Week

Liberty outfielder Garrett Young has been selected as the Big South Conference Choice Hotels Baseball Player of the Week for games played March 5-11.

Young batted .556 (10-18) and knocked in nine runs in leading the Flames to a 3-1 mark last week. He posted a .579 on-base percentage, 16 total bases, an .889 slugging percentage, four multi-hit games and four multi-RBI games. Young went 3-4 with two runs scored and two RBI to begin the week at Old Dominion, then drove in three runs in Friday's win over George Washington with a home run and a triple. He also tallied five runs scored, one double and two stolen bases during the week.

The Flames Leaders:**Batting Average**

30 John, Phil	.440
33 Young, Garrett	.419

Slugging Pct.

33 Young, Garrett	.716
27 Nanry, Tim	.544

On base Pct.

30 John, Phil	.491
33 Young, Garrett	.469

Runs Scored

33 Young, Garrett	21
30 John, Phil	15

Hits

33 Young, Garrett	31
30 John, Phil	22

RBI

33 Young, Garrett	20
5 Grijalva, Aaron	15

Doubles

33 Young, Garrett	8
7 Giammaresi, David	5

Triples

Seven with	1
------------	---

Home Runs

33 Young, Garrett	4
27 Nanry, Tim	3

Stolen Bases

5 Grijalva, Aaron	8
30 John, Phil	6

ERA

34 Page, Ryan	2.01
38 Solbach, Michael	2.25

Appearances

34 Page, Ryan	9
22 John, Tim	8

Wins

42 Stokes, David	3
38 Solbach, Michael	3
3 Tied	2

Saves

34 Page, Ryan	3
22 John, Tim	1

Innings Pitched

17 Umberger, Dustin	31.0
42 Stokes, David	29.2
38 Solbach, Michael	28.0

Opposing Batting Avg.

34 Page, Ryan	.192
38 Solbach, Michael	.204
31 Light, Tyler	.236

Strikeouts

38 Solbach, Michael	23
42 Stokes, David	23
17 Umberger, Dustin	20

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes

**Flames Get Boost From Outfielders Against GW**

Liberty took two-out-of-three from George Washington in a three-game weekend series, March 9-11, thanks to the hitting efforts of its outfielders.

The Flames opened the series with a 9-3 win on Friday as pitcher Michael Solbach won his third-straight start. Designated hitter Tim Nanry went 4-for-4 with two RBI and center fielder Garrett Young continued his big week by driving in three runs with a home run and a triple in the win.

Saturday, Derek Bennion went 3-for-5 and drove in the winning run in the 10th inning as the Flames defeated the Colonials, 7-6. Bennion had entered the game in the second as a replacement in right field for Phil John, who had to leave the contest due to injury. The senior had two doubles among his three hits and drove in three runs as Liberty came from five runs down for the extra inning victory.

On Sunday, it was Colonials who took the contest in extra innings, 6-5. A solo home run in the 10th won it for George Washington. Young, Nanry and John had two hits apiece for the Flames. Young also had two RBI, running his week's total to nine.

Stokes Leads Flames Past Monarchs

Liberty right-hander David Stokes gave up one run on four hits over eight innings in his strongest outing of the season, as the Flames defeated the Old Dominion Monarchs, 8-2, on March 6 at the Bud Metheny Baseball Complex.

Stokes scattered four hits and allowed one run over eight innings in the longest outing of his four starts this season. He struck out five and did not yield a walk on the afternoon. The right-hander retired the first 10 batters he faced.

Aaron Grijalva and Garrett Young both were 3-for-4 with two RBI to pace the Liberty attack. Phil John also had two hits as the Flames plated five runs in the fourth inning to take a 5-1 advantage, they never relinquished.

Solbach Named New Balance Big South Pitcher of the Week

Liberty right-hander Michael Solbach was selected the New Balance Pitcher of the Week for games played Feb. 19-March 4.

Solbach picked up his first two wins of the season with victories over Albany and Manhattan during Liberty's season-long seven-game winning streak from Feb. 17-March 2. The Flames' right-hander posted a 0.69 earned run average in 13.0 innings of work, allowing just one earned run, while striking out 13 batters.

Against Albany on Feb. 23, the redshirt junior allowed two unearned runs and just one hit over six innings on a cold and windy day at Worthington Stadium. Solbach retired 16-straight batters before giving way to a reliever, collecting his first win of the year.

On March 2, Solbach went seven innings and allowed two runs, one earned, on four hits against Manhattan. The right-hander fanned seven and walked two. With the win over the Jaspers, Solbach moved his 2007 mark to 2-1.

Gaillard and Grijalva Push Flames Past Manhattan

First baseman Aaron Grijalva's bases-clearing triple with two outs broke a 6-6 tie and began an eight-run, eighth-inning uprising, pushing the Flames past the Manhattan Jaspers, 14-6, March 11 at Worthington Stadium. Grijalva went 4-for-5 with five RBI and two runs scored in helping the Flames take the series, two games to one. Third baseman David Giammaresi also drove in three runs with two hits in the contest, while Kenneth Negron and Tommy Bussey had two hits apiece. In addition, catcher Nate Thompson hit a three-run home run.

The previous day, Liberty had its seven-game winning streak snapped as the Jaspers defeated the Flames, 9-2. Negron and Patrick Gaillard had two hits apiece for Liberty in the setback.

MISCELLANEOUS STATS

MULTIPLE HIT GAMES	2	3	4	5+	Tot
33 YOUNG, Garrett	4	3	2	-	9
30 JOHN, Phil	5	2	-	-	7
5 GRIJALVA, Aaron	3	2	1	-	6
1 NEGRON, Kenneth	3	2	-	-	5
10 GAILLARD, Patrick	4	1	-	-	5
27 NANRY, Tim	3	-	1	1	5
7 GIAMMARESI, David	4	1	-	-	5
29 HOLLINGER, Errol	4	-	-	-	4
3 BUSSEY, Tommy	3	1	-	-	4
6 PHILLIPS, Aaron	3	-	-	-	3
4 BROWN, Cody	2	-	-	-	2
19 KELLER, P. K.	2	-	-	-	2
8 BENNION, Derek	-	1	-	-	1
23 THOMPSON, Nate	1	-	-	-	1
12 TEUFEL, Shawn	1	-	-	-	1
TEAM	42	13	4	1	60

MULTIPLE RBI GAMES	2	3	4	5+	Tot
33 YOUNG, Garrett	3	2	1	-	6
7 GIAMMARESI, David	3	1	-	-	4
5 GRIJALVA, Aaron	2	-	-	1	3
27 NANRY, Tim	2	-	-	1	3
30 JOHN, Phil	1	-	-	1	2
29 HOLLINGER, Errol	1	-	1	-	2
6 PHILLIPS, Aaron	2	-	-	-	2
19 KELLER, P.K.	2	-	-	-	2
8 BENNION, Derek	-	1	-	-	1
10 GAILLARD, Patrick	1	-	-	-	1
1 NEGRON, Kenneth	1	-	-	-	1
23 THOMPSON, Nate	-	1	-	-	1
TEAM	18	5	2	3	28

HITTING STREAKS	Longest	Current
30 JOHN, Phil	11	2
33 YOUNG, Garrett	9	9
10 GAILLARD, Patrick	7	-
7 GIAMMARESI, David	5	1
6 PHILLIPS, Aaron	5	-
29 HOLLINGER, Errol	4	-
4 BROWN, Cody	3	-
1 NEGRON, Kenneth	3	3
19 KELLER, P. K.	3	3
3 BUSSEY, Tommy	3	1
5 GRIJALVA, Aaron	3	2
27 NANRY, Tim	3	1
12 TEUFEL, Shawn	2	-
23 THOMPSON, Nate	2	2
8 BENNION, Derek	2	2
9 MCCALL, David	1	1

**2007 Liberty University
Baseball Game Notes**



In the series' opener on March 9, Michael Solbach allowed two runs on four hits over seven innings to run his record to 2-1, and Liberty scored four times in the fifth to defeat Manhattan, 6-2. Gaillard went 3-for-5 and plated a run to pace a 13-hit Flames' attack.

On the weekend, Grijalva was 5-for-11 (.455) in the three games, driving in eight runs. Gaillard went 6-for-13 (.462) with two doubles and three runs scored in the series.

Young Has Big Day Against VCU

Center fielder Garrett Young went 4-for-5 with three doubles and three RBI as visiting Liberty defeated VCU, 8-2, on Feb. 27 in its first midweek contest of 2007. The victory was the Flames' sixth-straight win.

Tyler Light ran his record to 2-0 on the year with five innings of work, providing another strong performance from the Flames' mound staff. The right-hander yielded one run on five hits, before giving way to Ryan Page in the sixth.

First baseman Aaron Grijalva and second baseman Aaron Phillips also had two hits apiece for the Flames. The tandem both drove in runs in a five-run sixth inning as Grijalva doubled home one run and Phillips followed with a triple to score two more in the frame.

Strong Mound Efforts Help Flames Sweep Albany

Liberty swept a doubleheader on Feb. 24 from the Albany Great Danes to complete a sweep of a three-game weekend series between the two teams. The host Flames got solid mound outings from starters Dustin Umberger and Michael Solbach during the weekend.

Ryan Page saved both ends of the doubleheader as the Flames downed the Great Danes, 5-1 and 7-5, Saturday. In the opening game, starter Dustin Umberger pitched seven scoreless innings, scattering five hits, striking out four and walking one. It was the second-straight seven-inning outing for the right-hander, as he moved his mark to 2-1 on the year. Left fielder Kenneth Negron went 3-for-4 with two RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases in the contest.

In the nightcap, Liberty plated five runs in the second inning to take a 5-1 lead and never trailed the rest of the way in a 7-5 victory. Third baseman David Giammaresi paced the Flames with two doubles and two RBI.

On Feb. 23, starter Michael Solbach evened his record at 1-1, allowing two unearned runs in the first inning and one hit in six strong innings in a 9-2 victory over Albany in the home opener at Worthington Stadium. After a shaky first frame, the right-hander retired 16 batters in a row, before yielding to a reliever on a cold and windy afternoon. Taking advantage of several Great Dane fielding miscues, the Flames scored four runs in the third inning and five in the fourth inning in the victory.

Nanry Receives Conference Player of the Week Honors

Outfielder Tim Nanry was selected the Big South Conference Choice Hotels Player of the Week for games played Feb. 12-18.

Nanry batted .667 (6-for-9) in three games, helping the Flames post a 2-1 record at the Crab House Shootout in Charleston, S.C. He garnered his first two starts of the season on Feb. 17 against host The Citadel and Feb. 18 against Richmond.

The outfielder responded with Liberty's first hit of the day against The Citadel in the fifth inning and scored the tying run in the Flames' 2-1, Feb. 17 win.

The next day against intra-state rival Richmond, Nanry belted three home runs, plated eight runs and scored four times in the Flames' 28-7 victory over the Spiders. The senior, who had the best day of his Liberty career, went 5-for-5 in the contest and was hit by a pitch to pace a 28-hit afternoon for the Flames, a new school record. Nanry finished with a 1.667 slugging percentage on the week.

**Flames Among
the Big South Leaders
(March 12, 2007):**

Batting Average

Garett Young .429 (2nd)
Phil John .422 (3rd)

Hits

Garrett Young 30 (Tied-2nd)

Runs Scored

Garrett Young 20 (2nd)

Runs Batted In

Garrett Young 19 (1st)

Doubles

Garrett Young 8 (Tied-1st)

Total Bases

Garrett Young 49 (1st)

Stolen Bases

Aaron Grijalva 8 (Tied-2nd)

ERA

Ryan Page 1.74 (4th)
Michael Solbach 2.25 (6th)

**Big South Conference
Player of the Week**

Feb. 7 Tommy Lentz, Sr., OF
Winthrop

Feb. 14 David Sappelt, Jr., OF
Coastal Carolina

**Feb. 21 Tim Nanry, Sr., OF/DH
Liberty**

Mar. 6 Chris Raber, Sr., 1B
Coastal Carolina

**Mar. 13 Garrett Young, Jr., OF
Liberty**

**Big South Conference
Pitcher of the Week**

Feb. 7 Eammon Portice, Jr.,
RHP, High Point

Feb. 14 Jason Franzblau, So.
RHP, Winthrop

Feb. 21 Bobby Gagg, So.
RHP, Coastal Carolina

**Mar. 6 Michael Solbach, R-Jr.
RHP, Liberty**

Mar. 13 Bubba O'Donnell, Jr.
RHP, High Point

**2007 Liberty University
Baseball Game Notes**



Flames Break Records in Victory over Richmond

Tim Nanry hit three home runs to pace a school record-breaking, 28-hit attack as the Flames defeated the Richmond Spiders, 28-7, Feb. 18 at Riley Park in their final game at the Crab House Shootout in Charleston, S.C. The Flames broke the school mark with 28 hits and tied the single-game record for runs in the contest.

Liberty's 28 hits set a new standard for hits in a contest, breaking the old mark of 26, which the 2006 squad reached in a contest at UNC Asheville on May 13 of last season and on March 25, 1995, against UMBC. The Flames also surpassed the school mark of 25 RBI in a contest with 28. Liberty tied the school record for runs scored as the Flames also plated 28 runs in a 28-3 victory over Radford on March 19, 1985.

Nanry led the Liberty outburst by going 5-for-5 and being hit by a pitch. The outfielder hit three home runs, had eight RBI and scored four times in the contest. Center fielder Garrett Young went 4-for-5 on the afternoon with four RBI and a home run. Right fielder Phil John also had three hits and drove in six runs for the Flames. Shortstop Patrick Gaillard tied a school mark by scoring five times in the contest.

Changes Continue at Worthington

When the Flames took the field at Worthington Stadium on Feb. 23 against Albany in their home opener, both players and fans saw several changes at the complex.

The most noticeable difference is the field turf collar installed around the home plate area. The collar will save wear and tear on the grass in the area. Fans also saw new uniforms and jackets for the Flames.

Another visible difference is the refurbished scoreboard. The board itself has been painted navy blue with red trim and all 730 light bulbs have been replaced. Besides the scoreboard, the press box, several spectator areas and both dugouts have also been painted navy blue with red trim.

Inside the field house, the Liberty locker room has been redone with a new Tuflex surface. Also, additional lighting has been added and the current lighting upgraded in the indoor batting cage area.

Big South Tabs Flames Fifth

Liberty was picked to finish fifth in the Big South Conference this season in the league's annual preseason baseball poll, as voted on by the conference's head coaches and sports information directors.

Winthrop was chosen as the conference's team to beat in 2007. The Eagles were picked first on 14 out of the 16 ballots cast. In addition, Winthrop outfielder Tommy Lentz was voted the conference's Preseason Player of the Year, while sophomore pitcher Alex Wilson was selected as the conference's Preseason Pitcher of the Year by the panel.

Liberty comes off a 39-21 mark in 2006, which set a new school record for Division I victories. The Flames, who have recorded back-to-back 30-win seasons for the fourth time in the program's history the past two seasons, received 71 points.

Winthrop received 126 points in being tabbed first, followed by Coastal Carolina, who received the other two first-place votes and 108 points. Defending tournament champion UNC Asheville and High Point tied for the third spot in the poll with 82 points. After Liberty, VMI was selected sixth (54), Charleston Southern was tabbed seventh (34) and Radford was eighth (19) in conference voting.

SEBaseball.com Picks Flames Third

The website South Eastern Baseball tabbed Liberty to finish third in its 2007 Big South Conference Preview. The Winthrop Eagles and Coastal Carolina Chanticleers were picked ahead of the Flames.

Liberty Weekend Probables



Saturday
Michael Solbach
RHP, R-Jr.
3-1, 2.25 ERA
Woodbridge, Va.



Sunday
Dustin Umberger
RHP, So.
2-2, 4.35 ERA
Hummelstown, Pa.



Monday
Tyler Light
RHP., So.
2-0, 3.38 ERA
San Bernardino, Calif.

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



Liberty first baseman Aaron Grijalva and pitchers Ryan Page and Tim John were named to SEbaseball's Preseason All-Big South first team, while shortstop Patrick Gaillard, outfielder P.K. Keller and pitcher Michael Solbach were selected to the second team. The Flames and Eagles placed the most players on the 30-man All-Big South team with six apiece.

The site also picked Liberty as one of the Southeastern 64, a list of the region's top teams. The Southeastern 64 includes teams from the ACC, SEC, Conference USA, Sun Belt, Atlantic Sun, Colonial, Big South, Southern, Southland, Ohio Valley, MEAC and SWAC, along with South Florida, Louisville, Louisiana Tech and Charlotte, who were included due to their geographic location.

Liberty was the list's 61st team. Also, making the list were 2007 Flames' opponents the Citadel (50), James Madison (40), East Carolina (38), Old Dominion (34), Coastal Carolina (32), VCU (31), Winthrop (19) and South Carolina (3).

2006 Flames Set School Division I Win Mark

With a 9-7 win over Winthrop in the first round of the Big South Championship on May 24, the 2006 Liberty squad recorded its 37th victory of the season, setting a new school record for Division I single-season wins. Head Coach Matt Royer's squad went on to collect two more victories for 39, one shy of the all-time school record of 40, set in 1983.

Besides the Flames setting a new benchmark for Division I wins, several other Liberty team and individual records were tied or broken in 2006.

Twice during the year, the Flames won nine-consecutive games to tie the program mark for consecutive wins (March 4-March 15 and March 29-April 11) and made 1,610 putouts, a single-season record.

Individually, several marks were surpassed led by senior Phillip Laurent. The left fielder's 280 career hits eclipsed the previous mark of 262 safeties set by Larry Wayne York in 2002. He also set new school career standards for doubles with 68 and at bats with 816. Laurent left his mark on the single-season record book as well with 27 doubles in his last season at Liberty.

He was joined in the record book by Michael Just and Chad Miller as the two infielders broke single-season marks in their final year as Flames. Just set new standards with 94 hits in seasons and 248 at bats, while Miller took over the top of the Liberty single-season run list with 68.

Liberty head coach Matt Royer also got into the act as the Flames skipper reached two career milestones in 2006. On Feb. 21, the Liberty skipper won the 400th game of his 16-year coaching career as the Flames defeated Longwood, 4-3, in Farmville, Va. Later in the season, Royer picked up his 100th victory in his four-year tenure as the head coach of his alma mater with a 15-4 Liberty win at William & Mary on April 5.

Looking Ahead

After opening Big South Conference play this weekend, the Flames will host UMBC on Tuesday at Worthington Stadium for a single non-conference contest. Game time is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Liberty then takes to the road for its first conference road series on the weekend. The Flames will travel to High Point for a three-game series with the Panthers, March 23-25. Friday's opener is scheduled for 2:30 p.m., followed by 1 p.m. starts on both Saturday and Sunday.