The Games
The Liberty Flames (6-3, 0-0 Big South) will host the Army Black Knights (2-5, 0-0 Patriot) in a three-game weekend series at Worthington Stadium, March 7-9. The first game of the series is scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday. Single games on Saturday and Sunday will start at 2 p.m. and 1 p.m., respectively.

Liberty will be looking to get back into the win column after dropping two contests this week. Flames Assistant Coach Nick Schnabel coached at Army for two seasons, before joining head coach Jim Toman’s staff at Liberty this past summer.

All-Time Series Against Army
Friday will be the third meeting all-time on the diamond between the Flames and the Black Knights, but the first since 1987.

Liberty and the U.S. Military Academy split a pair of games during the 1987 Florida International Tournament. The Black Knights took the first meeting, 5-3, on March 7, 1987, while the Flames came back four days later to post a 5-2 victory.

The Last Time Out
The Old Dominion Monarchs erased a 6-4 Liberty advantage with three runs in the seventh inning and two more in the eighth for a 9-7 win over the Flames, Wednesday afternoon, at Worthington Stadium.

Third baseman Cody Brown went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and a run scored for Liberty. Center fielder Kenneth Negron also added three hits and drove in a run, as the Flames had 14 hits in the contest.

Freshman left-hander Steven Evans took the loss in his first start in a Liberty uniform.

2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes
Games No. 10-12 - March 7-9, 2008
ARMY Black Knights (2-5, 0-0 Patriot)
vs.
LIBERTY Flames (6-3, 0-0 Big South)
Friday, March 7 - 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 8 - 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 9 - 1 p.m.
Worthington Stadium - Lynchburg, Va.

Possible Liberty Starters

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Cl.</th>
<th>Ht.</th>
<th>Wt.</th>
<th>Avg.</th>
<th>Other Stats</th>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Errol Hollinger (C)</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
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<td>.289</td>
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<td>Sr.</td>
<td>6-1</td>
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<td>.306</td>
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<td>Tommy Bussey (2B)</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Aaron Phillips (SS)</td>
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<td>Doug Bream (LF)</td>
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<td>Kenneth Negron (CF)</td>
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<td>6-3</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>.270</td>
<td>5 Runs, 1 RBI, 2 2Bs</td>
</tr>
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</table>
2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes

Liberty Head Coach Jim Toman (N.C. State, ’85,’95)

Record at School: 6-3 (First Year)

Overall Record: Same

On June 24, 2007, Jim Toman was named the sixth head coach in the 34-year history of the Liberty Baseball program.

The first-year skipper comes to Liberty after 11 seasons as the senior member of Ray Tanner’s coaching staff at South Carolina. Toman worked a total of 18 years alongside Tanner, dating back to the 1990 season at N.C. State.

During his time at South Carolina, Toman served as recruiting coordinator and worked with the team’s catchers. Known as one of the top recruiters in college baseball, the 19-year college coaching veteran was named the 2002 Baseball America/American Baseball Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year. Before joining the Gamecock staff in 1996, Toman served under Tanner for seven years at N.C. State.

Toman has recruited 15 top 25 classes, including all 11 of his seasons at South Carolina. From 2003-2006, three of the four Gamecock recruiting classes were ranked first in the nation by Collegiate Baseball. Toman’s 2003, 2005 and 2006 classes were named the top recruiting classes by the publication.

During his time on the staff in Columbia, S.C., Toman and the Gamecocks made nine NCAA Regional appearances, including eight-straight since 2000, and three consecutive trips to the College World Series (2002-04). Add in his seven seasons at N.C. State, and Toman has helped lead 15 teams to NCAA Regional appearances.

In addition, South Carolina posted eight-straight seasons of 40 or more wins with Toman on the Gamecock coaching staff, including 2007. During Toman’s 11 seasons at South Carolina, he helped the Gamecocks to a combined 500-220 (.694) record.

Toman earned four baseball letters at N.C. State, 1981-84, and was captain of the Wolfpack his junior and senior seasons. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in vocational industrial education in 1985. He received a Master of Science degree in sport management from N. C. State in 1995.

Upon graduation, Toman entered the coaching profession as an assistant at Richmond High School in Rockingham, N. C., for two years. He moved into the collegiate coaching ranks in 1989 as an assistant at Florida International for one year. At FIU, he was responsible for the weight program, worked with the squad’s catchers and coached first base. Toman joined the N. C. State staff before the 1990 season.

The Coaches

Liberty Head Coach Jim Toman is in his first season at the helm of the Flames. A 19-year member of the college coaching ranks, he served 18 years as a member of Ray Tanner’s staffs at South Carolina and N.C. State.

Toman was named the 2002 Baseball America/American Baseball Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year and recruited 15 top 25 classes, including all 11 of his seasons at South Carolina. From 2003-2006, three of the four Gamecock recruiting classes were ranked first in the nation by Collegiate Baseball.

During his time in Columbia, S.C., Toman and the Gamecocks made nine NCAA Regional appearances, including eight-straight since 2000, and three-consecutive trips to the College World Series (2002-04). Add in his seven seasons at N.C. State, and Toman has helped lead 15 teams to NCAA Regional appearances.

Army Head Coach Joe Sottolano is in his ninth season with Black Knights. He has led Army back to prominence over the past four years with a 131-72-2 (.644) mark. Overall, he has lead Army to a 212-159-5 (.568) record. Under his guidance, the Black Knights have made three NCAA Regional appearances in 2005, 2004 and 2000 and have won the Patriot League title four times. In 2005 and 2004, he was named the league’s Coach of the Year.
Following the Flames

This season, the Flames Sports Network plans to broadcast 19 Liberty baseball regular season games. Games will air live on WWMC 90.9 FM “The Light” and on the World Wide Web at both LibertyFlames.com and thelightonline.com.

The station plans to carry both the Saturday and Sunday contests between the Flames and the Black Knights this weekend, with the broadcasts beginning at 1:50 p.m. on Saturday and 12:50 p.m. on Sunday.

In addition, live stats are available for each Liberty contest through LibertyFlames.com.

A Look at the Black Knights

Army comes into Friday’s contest with a 2-5 record in 2008. The Black Knights went 2-1 last weekend at UMBC, defeating the Retrievers, 4-3 and 23-0, while dropping the middle contest of the series, 8-4.

Army has been playing without standout Cole White. The senior was named to the 2008 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Preseason All-America team as a utility player. This past week, the pitcher/outfielder was named to the preliminary watch list for the fifth annual Roger Clemens Award given to college baseball’s top pitcher. Last season, he batted .408 in being named Patriot League Player of the Year. Unfortunately for Army, he has not seen action in the early going due to injury.

In the early going, the Black Knights have been paced at the plate by lead off hitter Andy Ernesto. The center fielder has hit .400 with four RBIs and four runs scored.

Freshman left fielder Mike Greco leads Army with seven RBIs and two home runs. On the mound, Ben Koenigfeld and and Drew Clothier each sport a 1-1 mark.

Last season, Army went 25-23-1 overall, falling in the Patriot League title game to Lafayette.

A New Staff For 2008

With the hire of Jim Toman as head coach, the Liberty baseball team was greeted by a new coaching staff when fall practice began. Joining Toman are Scott Jackson, Nick Schnabel and Jeremiah Boles as assistants.

Jackson heads up the Flames’ pitching staff, while Schnabel serves as the team’s hitting and infield instructor. Schnabel also coaches third base.

Boles, a former Liberty baseball player, rounds out the staff. Boles is assisting with hitting instruction, working with the squad’s outfielders and coaching first base.
2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes

Flames at Worthington Stadium

For the past 28 years, the Flames have called Worthington Stadium their home. The Flames have compiled an impressive 478-216-4 record at the facility for a winning percentage of .689 since the stadium's inception in 1979. This year, the Flames are slated to play 28 home games at the stadium. After falling to Old Dominion in a mid-week contest at the facility, Liberty has begun its home schedule, 2-2.

The slate of 28 games is tentatively scheduled to include the first night contests in the history of the stadium this season. The lights at the facility are to be installed by March 22, with 10 contests currently scheduled to be played under the lights.

Last season, Liberty went 23-9 at Worthington. The 23 wins tie for the third most by the Flames in a year at the facility.

Liberty on the Road

This year, Liberty is scheduled to play 22 contests on the road, plus six on neutral fields. Jim Toman’s team’s road schedule includes two tournaments. The first is in Clearwater, Fla., which opened the season, followed by The Coca-Cola Classic in Hattiesburg, Miss., March 14-15.

The Flames are off to a good start away from Lynchburg, winning four of their first five road contests. Liberty took all three of its contests at the Clearwater Invitational and a game at Norfolk State, before being edged on Tuesday at VCU.

Last season, Liberty posted a 10-15 road mark, plus a 3-1 neutral field record.

Baseball in the Commonwealth

Thirteen Division I baseball teams call the Commonwealth of Virginia home. The Flames will play a slate of 25 games against opponents from the “Old Dominion State” this season. Liberty is 1-2 in the early going against state teams. Last year, the Flames posted a 11-6 record against Commonwealth teams in 2007.

The Flames are scheduled to meet state squads George Mason (two times), James Madison (three times), Longwood (three times), Norfolk St. (two times), Old Dominion (two times), Radford (three times), VCU (two times), VMI (three times), Virginia (one time), Virginia Tech (two times) and William & Mary (two times) this season.

Flames by the Month

The Flames played five contests during the month of February in 2008, with the inception of the common starting date for college baseball. For the first time this season, NCAA Division I programs could not begin competition until Feb. 22. Liberty went unbeaten during the month, posting a 5-0 mark to open the 2008 campaign.

Last season, Liberty started the 2007 campaign by posting a 7-3 mark in February, while in 2006, Liberty started 7-2. The Flames have been successful in the month with a mark of 69-29 since 1976. It is the third-straight season the Flames have had a strong opening month.

The Flames are 1-3 so far in March. Liberty will play 18 contests in the third month of the year and begin Big South Conference play during the last weekend of the month by hosting Coastal Carolina (March 28-30). Last season, Liberty posted a 10-9 record in March and began Big South play with a 3-3 record. Since 1976, the Flames have posted a record of 418-253-2 in the month of March.

Liberty’s 2008 record, by the month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>5-0, 0-0 Big South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1-3, 0-0 Big South</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flames Against the Patriot League

Army is a member of the Patriot League. Liberty has compiled a 10-2 mark against the current membership of the Patriot League since 1976.

Liberty's All-Time Record Against the Patriot League

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucknell</td>
<td>6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>3-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>10-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liberty in Season Lid Lifters

The 2008 season opener was the 34th since the Flames began playing baseball in 1974. With its 6-2 victory over Notre Dame at the Clearwater Invitational on Feb. 22, Liberty now sports a 22-10 record in the first game of the season since 1976.

The Flames have played a majority of their season openers on the road, compiling a 11-7 mark. Meanwhile, Liberty has a 9-2 mark at home and has posted a 2-1 ledger on a neutral playing field.

The Flames have won four-straight campaign openers. Liberty has not dropped an opener since 2004. Last season, the visiting Flames defeated East Carolina, 6-2, on catcher Errol Hollinger’s grand slam. In 2006, Liberty beat host Wofford, 4-1, while in 2005, Liberty scored five first-inning runs and Aaron Grijalva belted a home run, as the Flames edged Old Dominion, 7-6.

The Flames in Home Openers

Feb. 29 was the 30th home opener at Liberty’s Worthington Stadium. With a 4-3 victory over Rider, the Flames are 25-5 in home openers at the facility.

Aaron Phillips hit a solo home run to lead off the seventh inning, breaking a 3-3 tie to give the Flames the victory in the season opener. Dustin Umberger struck out five and retired all six batters he faced in the eighth and the ninth innings to wrap-up the win and earn a save.

Last season, the Flames scored four runs in the third inning and five in the fourth in a 9-2 win over Albany in the home opener at Worthington on Feb. 23.

Avoiding Goose Eggs

The Flames have gone 208 games and over three years without being shut out in a contest. The last time a Liberty team was shut out was April 10, 2004 by the Winthrop Eagles at the Winthrop Ballpark. During the span, the Liberty mound staff has pitched eight shutouts, including two in 2007.

Flames Mound Staff Off to Good Start

The Liberty pitching staff is off to a strong start in 2008. Over the first nine games of the year, the Flames’ hurlers have posted a 3.02 ERA, allowing 32 runs in 80 1/3 innings pitched.

Liberty starters have pitched six or more innings on six occasions, so far this season. Senior right-hander David Stokes has not allowed an earned run in either of his starts in the 2008 campaign and sports a 2-0 record. He has gone six or more frames in each start. Junior starter Clarence Nicely has also pitched into the sixth inning in his two starts. The right-hander has a 1.46 ERA over 12 1/3 innings with a 1-0 mark.

Big South Conference Update

(as of 3/3)

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<th>Team</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>Pct.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Carolina</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radford</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>VMI</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>.571</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNC Asheville</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winthrop</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston Southern</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>.222</td>
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</table>

Upcoming Schedule

Friday, March 6
UNC Asheville vs. Wright State Noon
Seton Hall at Radford 2 p.m.
Md.-East. Shore at Charleston So. 2 p.m.
Army at Liberty 3 p.m.
Toledo at Coastal Carolina 4 p.m.
High Point at Charlotte 4 p.m.
Winthrop at Southern California 6 p.m.
VMI at Auburn 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
UNC Asheville vs. Evansville 10 a.m.
High Point at Charlotte Noon
Md.-East. Shore at Charleston So. 1 p.m.
Seton Hall at Radford 1 p.m.
Army at Liberty 2 p.m.
Ball State at Coastal Carolina 3 p.m.
Winthrop at Southern California 4 p.m.
VMI at Auburn 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 8
High Point at Charlotte Noon
Winthrop at Southern California Noon
Seton Hall at Radford 1 p.m.
Army at Liberty 1 p.m.
Md.-East. Shore at Charleston So. 1 p.m.
Ball State at Coastal Carolina 2 p.m.
UNC Asheville at the Citadel 3 p.m.
VMI at Auburn 3 p.m.

2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes

Big South Conference

Update

(as of 3/3)

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2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes

Liberty's All-Time Record Against the Patriot League

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<td>Lehigh</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals | 10-2
Fast Start For Bream

Freshman Doug Bream has gotten off to a fast start at the plate for Liberty in his first season of collegiate baseball. The Flame left fielder leads the Liberty with a .500 batting average, 15 hits and nine RBIs over the first nine contests of the year. He has already posted five multi-hit games and three multi-RBI contests this season.

Last week, the Liberty newcomer hit .600 and drove in seven runs in four games. Bream capped off the week with a 4-for-5 afternoon and two RBIs on Sunday against Rider.

Flames Breakout With 21 Hits to Take Rider Series

Liberty’s bats came alive this past Sunday, as the Flames had 21 hits in an 18-2 win over Rider to take the three-game series, two games to one. Aaron Grijalva went 4-for-5 with four RBIs, two doubles and a triple, while Doug Bream continued his hot hitting with a 4-for-5 afternoon. Tommy Bussey, making his first start of the season at second base, drove in five runs, helping make a winner of David Stokes. The senior ran his record to 2-0 with six innings of one-hit pitching.

The Flames dropped their first contest of the season on last Saturday, 5-4, to Rider, while on Friday, a seventh-inning home run by Aaron Phillips gave Liberty a 4-3 victory over the Broncos.

Freshman left-fielder Doug Bream hit .636 and drove in seven runs during the series. He went 7-for-11 with two walks in the three-game series and had to multiple-hit games.

Liberty Opens With Trio of Wins in Clearwater

The Flames began the 2008 season in grand fashion, going 3-0 at the Clearwater Invitational at Jack Russell Stadium, Feb. 22-24.

In Jim Toman’s head coaching debut on Feb. 22, Liberty plated four runs in the fourth inning to take the lead and never looked back in a 6-2 victory over Notre Dame in the first-ever meeting between the squads on the diamond. Liberty starter Clarence Nicely picked up the win in his first appearance in a Flames uniform. The right-hander went six innings, allowing only an unearned run in the victory. Clearwater native P.K. Keller hit a home run in the ninth inning for the Flames.

Liberty concluded the series with a 3-1 win over Iowa on Feb. 24. David Stokes pitched 7 1/3 solid innings, allowing only an unearned run in the victory. Clearwater native P.K. Keller hit a home run in the ninth inning for the Flames.

Lights for Worthington on Their Way

The Liberty Athletics Department announced the department has entered into a contract which will allow lights to be installed at Worthington Stadium.

The lights will be installed at Worthington Stadium, the home of the Flames, by Musco Sports Lighting. Founded in 1976, Musco is recognized as a world-class leader in sports lighting, with lighting systems installed around the globe. The company, based in Oskaloosa, Iowa, expects to complete the project in time for the first game of a three-game Big South series with defending conference champion Coastal Carolina, March 28.

The installation of lights is one of several improvement projects to Worthington Stadium and the adjacent Crowder/Muckel Field House over the past year. The Liberty baseball program moved to the on-campus facility in 1979. At the time, the field was named Liberty Field. In May 1989, the field was renamed Worthington Stadium after the program’s first coach and later Athletic Director Al Worthington.
**2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes**

**Young Selected to Brooks Wallace Watch List**
Liberty outfielder Garrett Young has been named to the preseason 2008 Brooks Wallace Player of the Year Award Watch List. The Wallace Award is presented to the nation’s top collegiate baseball player at the end of the season.

Young is one of 224 collegiate players appearing on the preseason Wallace Watch list. The senior is the first Liberty player to appear on the list since its inception in 2004.

Last season, the outfielder led the Flames and finished among the Big South leaders in batting average, slugging percentage, on base percentage, hits, runs scored, RBI and home runs. The senior hit .389 with 12 doubles, eight home runs, 46 RBI and 53 runs scored in 50 games. He also hit in 18-straight games, the longest hitting streak by a Liberty player this year, and capped his season by being named to the 2007 Big South All-Tournament team.

Young was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 46th round of Major League Baseball’s June amateur draft. After completing his first season with the Flames in 2007, he was selected to both the Big South All-conference and VaSID all-state second teams.

The Wallace award is a dedication to the memory of the former Texas Tech player and assistant coach Brooks Wallace. The shortstop was diagnosed with cancer and fought the disease courageously until his death in March, 1985, at age 27. The 2008 award banquet will be held July 3, in the United Spirit Arena on the campus of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

**Flames Name Tri-Captains**
The Liberty Flames have selected Aaron Grijalva, Errol Hollinger and P.K. Keller captains for 2008. The three players were selected in a vote by team members.

Keller, an outfielder from Clearwater, Fla., and Grijalva, a first baseman from Redlands, Calif., return for their final seasons in a Flames uniform in 2008, while Hollinger, a native of Upland, Calif., is in his third year as Liberty’s starting catcher.

**Three-Straight Years of 30-plus**
For the third-straight season, Liberty won 30-plus contests in 2007, only the second time in the program’s 33-year history. The Flames recorded a 36-25 overall mark and reached the Big South Championship for the second-straight season.

Liberty began the string in 2005 by recording a 36-19 campaign. The following year, Hollinger, a native of Upland, Calif., is in his third year as Liberty’s starting catcher.

The Flames recorded three-straight 30 or more victory seasons on one other occasion in program history. From 2000-02, Liberty won 30-plus games each season. The Flames have never had four-straight years of 30 or more wins.

**A Look Ahead**
The Flames travel to Hattiesburg, Miss., for the Coca-Cola Classic, Friday and Saturday. Liberty will square off against Cal. State Northridge on Friday at 2:30 p.m. On Saturday, Jim Toman’s squad faces host Southern Miss at Noon. The Golden Eagles have been nationally ranked this season in several polls. Later in the day, the Flames will then play Cal. State Northridge at 3:30 p.m. to close out their tournament slate.

Liberty returns home to Worthington Stadium on March 18 when it hosts James Madison in a mid-week contest. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.