

**Liberty University
Flames Baseball
Quick Facts**

Location: Lynchburg, Va.
Founded: 1971
Enrollment: 10,400
Colors: Red, White and Blue
Nickname: Flames
Mascot: Eagle
Conference: Big South
Founder: Dr. Jerry Falwell
Chancellor: Jerry Falwell, Jr.
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./SWA:
 Meredith Hollyfield
Assoc. A.D. for Academic Services:
 Kristie Beitz
Assoc. A.D. for External Operations: Kevin Keys
Faculty Athletic Representative:
 Dr. William Gribbin

Head Baseball Coach:
 Jim Toman (N.C. State, '85,'95)
Record at LU: 3-0
Career Record: Same
Baseball Office Phone:
 (434) 582-2103
Assistants: Scott Jackson
 (Campbell, '98), Nick Schnabel
 (East Carolina, '00), Jeremiah Boles

Athletic Trainer: Scott Lawrenson

2007 Record: 36-25
Conference Record: 14-7/3rd
Postseason: Runner-up Big South Championship
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 18/6
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (incl. DH): 6/3
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost (30 IP min): 5/2
Newcomers: 9

Liberty's All-Time Record:
 9140-730-7 (.556)
Stadium: Worthington Stadium/1,000
Stadium Dimensions: Left - 325;
 Center - 390; Right - 325
Surface: Bermuda Grass

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Press Box Phone: (434) 582-2914
Web Site: LibertyFlames.com
Assistant AMR: Vincent Briedis
Assistant AMR: Paul Carmany

2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes



Games No. 4 - Feb. 27, 2008

LIBERTY Flames (3-0, 0-0 Big South)

vs.

NORFOLK STATE Spartans (2-0, 0-0 MEAC)

Wednesday, Feb. 27 - 2 p.m.

Marty L. Miller Field - Norfolk, Va.

The Game

The Liberty University Flames (3-0, 0-0 Big South) travel to Norfolk, Va., for their first midweek contest Wednesday. The Flames will square off with the Norfolk State Spartans (2-0, 0-0 MEAC) at Marty L. Miller Field. It will also be Liberty's first game of the season against a Commonwealth opponent. First pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m.

All-Time Against Norfolk State

Wednesday will be the 37th meeting between Liberty and Norfolk State since 1976 on the baseball field. The Flames hold a 23-13 advantage in the all-time series.

However, the two squads have not met since 1999. On March 8, 1999, Liberty edged Norfolk State 6-5 at Worthington Stadium. First baseman Ryan McClellan hit a walk-off two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth to erase a 5-4 deficit and give Liberty the victory.

The Last Time Out

The Flames capped a 3-0 weekend by downing the Iowa Hawkeyes, 3-1, Sunday morning, at the Clearwater Invitational. Aaron Grijalva had a RBI single and Clearwater native P. K. Keller belted a solo home run in the victory. David Stokes pitched a strong 7 1/3 innings in his first start of the season for the Flames, striking out seven and not issuing a walk. Dane Beakler pitched out of eighth and ninth inning jams to record the save.

Earlier in the tournament, Liberty defeated Notre Dame, 6-2, behind starter Clarence Nicely on Friday, and edged Albany, 5-4, on Saturday on a seventh-inning RBI double by designated hitter Garrett Young.

Possible Liberty Starters

No.	Name	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Avg.	Other Stats
29	Errol Hollinger (C)	Jr.	6-4	205	.091	1 Run, 1 2B
5	Aaron Grijalva (1B)	Sr.	6-1	200	.222	3 Runs, 1 RBI
1	Kenneth Negron (2B)	Jr.	5-9	175	.364	1 Run, 2 SBs
6	Aaron Phillips (SS)	Sr.	6-2	200	.400	1 Run, 2 RBIs, 1 2B
7	David Giammaresi (3B)	Sr.	6-0	205	.125	1 Run, 2 RBIs, 1 2B
14	Doug Bream (LF)	Fr.	6-2	210	.500	1 Run, 1 RBI, 1 2B
30	Tim Rotola (CF)	Jr.	6-1	175	.222	1 RBI, 1 2B
19	P.K. Keller (RF)	Sr.	6-3	195	.200	4 Runs, 1 RBI, 1 2B, 1 HR
33	Garrett Young (DH)	Sr.	6-3	225	.154	1 RBI, 1 2B

A Look at Norfolk State

Location: Norfolk, Va.
Founded: 1935
Enrollment: 6,200
Nickname: Spartans
Colors: Green & Gold
President: Dr. Carolyn W. Meyers
Athletic Director: Marty L. Miller
Conference: Mid-Eastern Athletic (MEAC)
Field (Capacity): Marty L. Miller Field (1,500)
Head Coach: Claudell Clark (Norfolk State, '01)
Record at School: 64-85 (Four Years)
Overall Record: Same
Office Phone: (757) 823-8196/9533
Assistants: A.J. Corbin, Quentin Jones, Jose Torres

2007 Record: 25-25
2007 Conference Record/Finish: 9-8/5th
Lettermen Returning/Lost: 14/12
Position Starters Returning/Lost: 4/5
Pitchers Returning/Lost: 4/3

Top Returning Position Players: John Boyd III (Sr., DH, .284 BA, 21 RBI), Billy Canady (Jr., OF, .264 BA, 11 SB), Moriba George (Sr., INF, .284 BA, 40 RS)

Top Returning Pitchers: Jason Barker (Jr., RHP, 4.83 ERA, 17 APP), Leon Schabacker (Sr., RHP, 3.87 ERA, 88.1 IP), Joey Seal (Sr., RHP, 4.29 ERA, 26 APP)

Baseball SID: Matt Michalec
SID Phone: (757) 823-2628
E-mail Address: mmichalec@nsu.edu
Fax Number: (757) 823-8218
Web Site: nsuspartans.com

Recent Results

2/24	Chicago State - Gm. 1	9-2
2/24	Chicago State - Gm. 2	11-0

Upcoming Schedule

3/1	Lafayette (DH)	1 p.m.
3/2	Lafayette	Noon
3/5	Longwood	3 p.m.



2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes



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

Record at School: 3-0 (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 County 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.

Norfolk State Head Coach Claudell Clark is in his fourth year at the helm of his alma mater. Clark has posted a career mark of 64-85. Last season, he led the Spartans to a 25-25 mark, the most victories by a Norfolk State squad at the Division I level.

**Liberty University
2008 Baseball Schedule**

**Record: 3-0
Big South: 0-0**

Feb 22	vs. Notre Dame!	W/6-2
Feb. 23	vs. Albany!	W/5-4
Feb 24	vs. Iowa!	W/3-1
Feb 27	at Norfolk St.	2 p.m.
Feb 29	Rider	3 p.m.
Mar 1	Rider	2 p.m.
Mar 2	Rider	1 p.m.
Mar 4	at VCU	3 p.m.
Mar 5	Old Dominion	2:30 p.m.
Mar 7	Army	3 p.m.
Mar 8	Army	2 p.m.
Mar 9	Army	1 p.m.
Mar 14	vs. Cal St. Northridge#	2:30 p.m.
Mar 15	vs. Southern Miss.#	Noon
Mar 15	vs. Cal St. Northridge#	3:30 p.m.
Mar 18	James Madison	3 p.m.
Mar 20	Columbia	3 p.m.
Mar 21	Columbia	3 p.m.
Mar 22	Columbia (DH)	11 a.m.
Mar 26	at George Mason	2:30 p.m.
Mar 28	Coastal Carolina*	3 p.m.
Mar 29	Coastal Carolina*	2 p.m.
Mar 30	Coastal Carolina*	1 p.m.
Apr 1	William & Mary	7 p.m.
Apr 2	Norfolk St.	3 p.m.
Apr 4	at UNC Asheville*	3 p.m.
Apr 5	at UNC Asheville*	2 p.m.
Apr 6	at UNC Asheville*	1 p.m.
Apr 8	James Madison	7 p.m.
Apr 9	at Virginia	6 p.m.
Apr 11	at Radford*	3 p.m.
Apr 12	at Radford*	1 p.m.
Apr 13	at Radford*	1 p.m.
Apr 15	at William & Mary	7 p.m.
Apr 16	Virginia Tech	7 p.m.
Apr 18	VMI*	7 p.m.
Apr 19	VMI*	4 p.m.
Apr 20	VMI*	1 p.m.
Apr 22	at James Madison	3 p.m.
Apr 23	at Old Dominion	6 p.m.
Apr 25	at Winthrop*	6 p.m.
Apr 26	at Winthrop*	4 p.m.
Apr 27	at Winthrop*	2 p.m.
Apr 30	George Mason	3 p.m.
May 3	at Charleston So.*	3 p.m.
May 4	at Charleston So* (DH)	11 a.m.
May 7	at Virginia Tech	7 p.m.
May 10	at Longwood (DH)	3 p.m.
May 11	Longwood	4 p.m.
May 13	VCU	3 p.m.
May 16	High Point*	7 p.m.
May 17	High Point*	4 p.m.
May 18	High Point *	1 p.m.
May 20-25	Big South Baseball Championship	
May 30-Jun. 1	NCAA Regional	
Jun. 6-9	NCAA Super Regionals	
Jun. 14-25	College World Series	

Home Games in bold
* - Big South Conference Game
! - Clearwater Invitational
- Coca-Cola Classic
(DH) - Doubleheader
All Times Eastern Standard Time

2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes



A Look at the Spartans

Norfolk State opened its 2008 campaign by taking both ends of a doubleheader this past Sunday from Chicago State at the HBCU Classic in Savannah, Ga. Spartan designated hitter John Boyd went 2-for-3 with five RBIs in a 9-2, game-one triumph. In the second game, pitcher Leon Schabacker tossed a two-hit shutout in a seven-inning contest in a 11-0 victory. Third baseman Chris Joyce was 4-for-4 with a three RBIs and a run scored to pace a 14-hit Norfolk State attack.

Last season, the Spartans went 25-25 and finished fifth in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Norfolk State's 25 wins set a school Division I record for victories.

LU	Statistical Comparison	Norfolk State
3-0	Record	2-0
.240	Batting Average	.415
14	Runs	20
23	Hits	22
1	Home Runs	0
12	Runs Batted In	17
3	Stolen Bases	6
2.00	Earned Run Average	1.38
27	Innings Pitched	13
26	Strikeouts	12
1	Saves	0
.220	Opponent Batting Average	.133

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.

Flames at Worthington Stadium

For the past 28 years, the Flames have called Worthington Stadium their home. The Flames have compiled an impressive 475-214-4 record at the facility for a winning percentage of .688 since the stadium's inception in 1979. 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.

This year, the Flames are slated to play 28 home games at the stadium. Liberty hosts Rider in its home opener on Feb. 29. The slate of 28 games is tentatively scheduled to host its first night contests in the history of the stadium this season. The lights at the facility are to be installed by March 28, with 12 contests scheduled to be played under the lights.

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. This 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, after winning all three of their contests at the Clearwater Invitational this past weekend.

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

2008 Liberty Flames Roster

Position Players

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.
1	Kenneth Negron	2B/OF	Jr.
3	Tommy Bussey	2B/RHP	Jr.
4	Cody Brown	INF/RHP	Jr.
5	Aaron Grijalva	1B	Sr.
6	Aaron Phillips	INF	Sr.
7	David Giammaresi	INF	Sr.
9	Jeff Jefferson	OF/C	Fr.
10	Jason Love	C/1B	So.
11	Doug Wallace	LHP	Jr.
12	Chase Vaden	LHP	So.
13	Dane Beakler	RHP	So.
14	Doug Bream	1B/OF	Fr.
15	Joseph Feeley	OF	Fr.
16	Andrew Wilson	RHP	Jr.
17	Dustin Umberger	RHP	Jr.
18	Grady Ihnat	LHP	So.
19	P.K. Keller	OF	Sr.
20	Philip Locklear	C	Fr.
21	Steven Evans	LHP	Fr.
22	Rusty LaJoie	RHP	Fr.
23	Nathan Thompson	C	So.
24	Shawn Teufel	1B	Jr.
25	Brett Curl	RHP	So.
27	Jimmy Miller	RHP	Fr.
28	Clarence Nicely	RHP	Jr.
29	Errol Hollinger	C	Jr.
30	Tim Rotola	OF	Jr.
31	Tyler Light	RHP	Jr.
32	Aaron Parnell	INF	Fr.
33	Garrett Young	OF	Sr.
34	Ryan Page	LHP	Sr.
42	David Stokes	RHP	Sr.
46	Joe Steinwedell	RHP	So.

Head Coach: 37 Jim Toman

Assistants: 8 Scott Jackson, 2 Nick

Schnabel, 38 Jeremiah Boles

Trainer: Scott Lawrenson

2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes



Liberty in Season Lid Lifters

Last week's season opener was the 34th in Flames' history. With its 6-2 victory over Notre Dame at the Clearwater Invitational last Friday, 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 posted 2-1 on a neutral playing field.

The Flames have won four-straight campaign openers. Liberty has not dropped a 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.

Baseball in the Commonwealth

Thirteen Division I baseball teams call the Commonwealth of Virginia home. Today's contest begins a slate of 25 games against opponents from the "Old Dominion State". Liberty posted a 11-6 record against Virginia 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 will play five contests in 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 only begin competition until Feb. 22.

Liberty has been successful in the month with all-time mark of 59-29. In the past two years, the Flames have had strong opening months. Last season, Liberty started the 2007 campaign by posting a 7-3 mark in February, while in 2006, Liberty started 7-2.

With their wins to open the 2008 campaign in Clearwater, Fla., this past weekend, the Flames have started the month, 3-0.

Flames Against the MEAC

Norfolk State is a member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Liberty has compiled an 39-19 record against current members of the MEAC since 1976.

Liberty's All-Time Record Against the MEAC

Bethume Cookman	.0-0
Coppin St.	.2-0
Delaware St.	.2-0
Florida A&M	.0-0
Hampton	.0-0
Howard	.24-5
Maryland Eastern Shore	.3-0
Morgan St.	.0-0
Norfolk St.	.1-0
North Carolina A&T	.15-1
South Carolina St.	.0-0
Totals	69-19



Big South Conference

Update

(as of 2/26)

Overall Standings

	W	L	Pct.
Coastal Carolina	4	0	1.000
Liberty	3	0	1.000
High Point	2	1	.667
Radford	2	1	.667
UNC Asheville	2	1	.667
Winthrop	2	1	.667
Charleston Southern	1	2	.333
VMI	1	2	.333

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
VMI	0	0	.000
UNC Asheville	0	0	.000
Winthrop	0	0	.000

Upcoming Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 26

UNC Asheville at Gardner-Webb	2 p.m.
Radford at James Madison	2:30 p.m.
Campbell at High Point	4 p.m.
St. John's at Winthrop	4 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at College of Charleston	5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Liberty vs. Norfolk State	2 p.m.
Furman at Charleston Southern	2 p.m.
UNC Asheville at South Carolina	3 p.m.
High Point at Clemson	4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 28

North Carolina at Winthrop	5 p.m.
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* - Big South Conference Game



2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes

Avoiding Goose Eggs

The Flames have gone 202 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.

Liberty Picked Third in Big South Preseason Poll

The Flames were tabbed by Big South coaches and sports information directors to finish third in the conference standings this season. VMI edged Liberty by one point in being selected to place second in the Big South race. The Keydets tallied 97 points, while the Flames garnered 96.

Defending champion Coastal Carolina was named on all 16 ballots to win the conference title again this season. After VMI and Liberty, Winthrop was selected fourth and High Point was picked fifth. UNC Asheville was tabbed to finish in sixth place, while Charleston Southern and Radford were selected to tie for seventh.

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.

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, two triples, 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



MISCELLANEOUS STATS

MULTIPLE HIT GAMES 2 3 4 5+ Tot

1	NEGRON, Kenneth	1	-	-	-	1
14	BREAM, Doug	1	-	-	-	1
6	PHILLIPS, Aaron	1	-	-	-	1
TEAM		3	-	-	-	3

MULTIPLE RBI GAMES 2 3 4 5+ Tot

7	GIAMMARESI, David	1	-	-	-	1
TEAM		1	-	-	-	1

HITTING STREAKS Longest Current

1	NEGRON, Kenneth	3	3
6	PHILLIPS, Aaron	3	3
30	ROTOLO, Tim	2	-
33	YOUNG, Garrett	2	2
19	KELLER, P. K.	2	2

2008 Liberty Baseball Game Notes



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 in 2005. The following year, the Flames posted the most victories by a Liberty team at the Division I level with a 39-21 record.

The Flames recorded three-straight 30 or more victory seasons on one other occasion in program 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.

Nicely Takes Mission Trip Voyage

Liberty Flames pitcher Clarence Nicely recently was one of 160 men who participated in SCORE International's annual baseball outreach in the Dominican Republic.

During the week of Nov. 12, Nicely, a junior right-hander from Milton, W.Va., was part of the mission's outreach which put on daily baseball clinics, provided disaster relief and shared the word of God throughout the country.

Over 8,000 boys attended the 10 baseball clinics put on by the group, which included professional and college baseball players and coaches, businessmen, doctors and pastors, and heard a clear gospel presentation at the end of the day. SCORE reports that over 2,000 at the clinics responded to receive Christ.

Each day, the group split into four teams which went to different areas of the country and put on baseball clinics for the area's children. After each clinic, one of the professional players on the trip spoke, sharing their testimony. The professional players with the SCORE team included Mariano Rivera and Andy Phillips of the New York Yankees, Aaron Ledesma of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and Eric Stults of the Los Angeles Dodgers. A pastor then presented the gospel and an invitation to the clinic's participants.

A Look Ahead

After four road games to open the season, Liberty returns to Worthington Stadium for a three-game series on Friday with the Rider Broncs. The home and series opener is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Friday, followed by a 2 p.m. Saturday start. The series will close on Sunday with a 1 p.m. contest.

Next week, the Flames travel to Richmond, Va., on Tuesday, for a midweek contest at VCU. The contest is set for 3 p.m., at The Diamond. The following afternoon, Liberty will host Old Dominion at Worthington Stadium. The first pitch, Wednesday, is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.