

2007 A SEASON TO REMEMBER



• ONE OF 17 NCAA DIVISION I TEAMS
RECOGNIZED BY THE COLLEGE
SOCCER NEWS AS HAVING A
"SEASON TO REMEMBER"



• MADE PROGRAM'S FIRST EVER NCAA
TOURNAMENT APPEARANCE

• CAPTURED FIRST EVER BIG SOUTH
TITLE WITH 2-1 WIN OVER RADFORD



• RANKED EACH WEEK IN THE
NSCAA SOUTH ATLANTIC
REGION POLL



• POSTED 13 VICTORIES, THE SECOND
-HIGHEST VICTORY TOTAL IN
SCHOOL HISTORY



• HAD NINE SHUTOUTS, THE MOST BY
THE FLAMES SINCE 1999 AND
THE THIRD HIGHEST IN
PROGRAM HISTORY



• RANKED 25TH IN SCORING OFFENSE (1.8)
AND 27TH IN THE NATION IN
SHUTOUT PERCENTAGE (.45)



2007 BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONS

A GOAL REALIZED; THE FLAMES CAPTURE PROGRAM'S FIRST-EVER BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Ever since joining the Big South Conference, the Liberty Flames men's soccer program has set a goal of winning a conference championship. And despite several championship appearances and being a perennial contender in the Big South, the soccer season always seemed to come to an end without a conference title.

However, the 2007 campaign had turned out to be a banner year for Head Coach Jeff Alder's program during the regular season. For the first time since 2002, the Flames had reached double-digits in wins with a 10-4-2 record. Behind an outstanding defensive effort, Liberty had shut out eight opponents to place among the nation's elite in shutout percentage. In addition, for the first time since its beginning, the squad was ranked every week in the NSCAA South Atlantic Region weekly poll.

Behind outstanding defense and a quick scoring, opportunistic offense, the Flames posted a 5-1 mark in regular season Big South action to place second in the league's standings and secure the No. 2 seed for the conference's championship. Focused and determined, Liberty headed to Rock Hill, S.C., the site of the Big South Championship, looking to reach a program goal, which had eluded Flames teams throughout the years.

Liberty opened the tournament with a first-round match against the No. 7-seeded UNC Asheville Bulldogs. In a physical first half,

neither team could tally the contest's first goal, as the match went to intermission, 0-0.

Despite carrying play by outshooting the Bulldogs 9-1, the Flames could not get the upper hand. A shot by midfielder Josh Boateng in the opening five minutes hit the crossbar and the UNC Asheville goalkeeper turned back two other attempts to keep the contest scoreless.

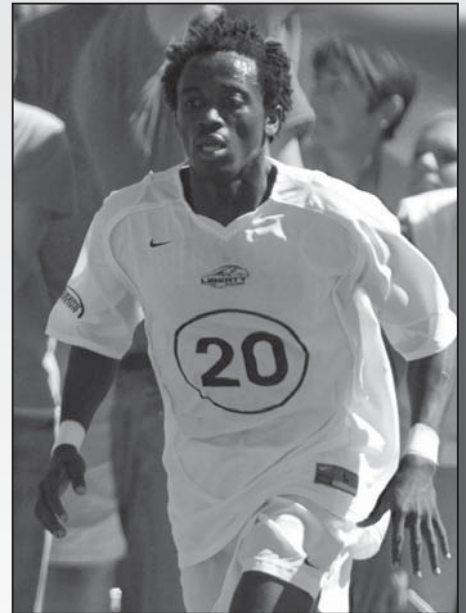
In the second half, the defensive struggle continued with neither team attempting a shot through the first 18 minutes. At 63:02, the half's first shot by UNC Asheville's Scott Szymanski found the left corner of the Liberty net, and the Flames found themselves down, 1-0.

However, Liberty remained poised and continued to work its offensive patterns in search of tying the score. Over the next 18 minutes, the Flames were not able to get off a scoring chance, but their patience paid off with less than 10 minutes to play.

Liberty midfielder Cameron Chastain was able to get past the UNC Asheville defense and received a long feed from Justin Willoughby. The junior, finding himself one-on-one against the keeper, drilled it past him, knotting the contest at 1-1 with 9:58 remaining.

Looking to give Liberty the lead, midfielder Jeremiah Kappler broke free for a shot with four minutes remaining, but a diving block by the Bulldog keeper kept the score deadlocked.

Pushing the attack, the Flames found the game-winner moments later. Boateng dribbled down the right side of the field and sent a cross-



Joshua Boateng
2007 Big South Championship MVP

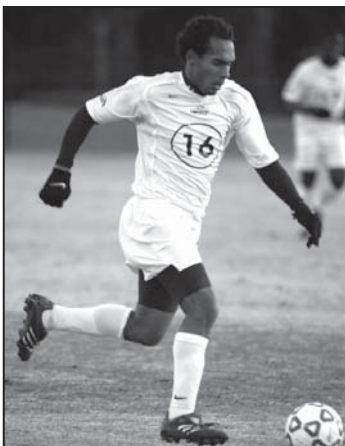
ing pass through the UNC Asheville penalty area. The cross found an open Willoughby, who pushed home the goal at 87:19 to give Liberty a 2-1 win and advance the Flames into the semifinals.

In the semifinals, Liberty faced the championship's host and No. 3 seed Winthrop Eagles. As with the day before, shots were once again at a premium in the first half of the contest. Liberty would outshoot its hosts, 4-3, but neither team would be able to muster much offense.

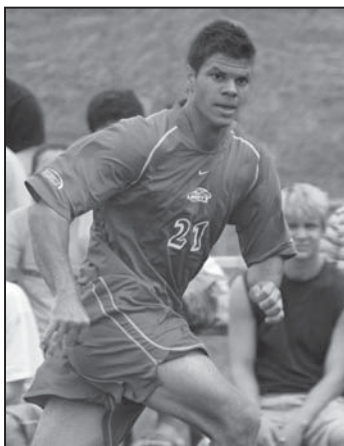
The Flames did come close to scoring first, in the 23rd minute. Midfielder Brandon Patterson directed a 30-yard kick toward the top of the net, but the Eagle keeper made a leaping save, deflecting the shot over the crossbar and out of bounds.

Both keepers made great saves within minutes of each other, early in the second half. The Winthrop goalie jumped to his left to deny a shot in the 52nd minute. Three minutes later, 2007 Big South Freshman of the Year, Liberty goalie Paul Gilbert, raced to his right and turned away a header attempt by an Eagle player.

Winthrop had another scoring opportunity in the 64th minute when an Eagle attacker turned and fired from close range, but the Liberty defense deflected the ball just to the left of the net and out of play. Continuing to provide an outstanding effort in net, Gilbert made several diving attempts to keep the No. 3 seed Eagles



Cameron Chastain
2007 All-Tournament Team



Andrew Kappler
2007 All-Tournament Team



off the scoreboard, including a hard liner from close distance with time winding down in regulation to send the contest to overtime.

Neither team was able to score the game-winner in the first overtime period. However in the second overtime, Alder's team made good on the only shot attempt of overtime to claim victory.

Boateng took a pass from Adrian Bumbut and blasted an 18-yard shot from the right side into the top right corner of the net, to give the No. 2-seeded Flames the 1-0, double overtime decision. The goal, coming with three minutes remaining in the second overtime, advanced Liberty to its first tilt since 2001.

Two days later, the 12-4-2 Flames faced the No. 4-seeded Radford Highlanders in the Big South Title tilt. The Highlanders had defeated No. 1 seed Coastal Carolina in the semifinals, 3-1, and looked for a measure of payback on the Flames after an earlier season, a 3-0 blanking by Liberty in Radford during the regular season.

And while history rarely concerns the players on the current team, Liberty had been in this position four previous times in its history and each time had come away empty handed.

The Highlanders stake themselves to 1-0 advantage in the contest's seventh minute. A crossing shot from the right side found the left corner of the net at 6:38 for Radford's only score of the match.

Liberty answered off its third corner kick of the half, evening the score in the 34th minute. On Boateng's corner kick, Willoughby sent a crossing pass in front of the net, which defender Douglas Nyame headed into the top of the net. The goal was Nyame's first of the year and knotted the score at 1-1.

Once again, the Flames struck quickly to take a 2-1 advantage, before intermission. Less than two minutes after Nyame's goal, Chastain found

himself one-on-one with the goalkeeper after receiving a pass on the right side by Bumbut. On the attack, the midfielder sidestepped the keeper and blasted his game-winning attempt into the bottom left-hand corner of the net for a 2-1 Liberty edge.

In the second half, the Liberty defense took over. The back line of Michael Gelatt, Michael Ward, Andrew Kappler and Nyame, the backbone of the Flames defense the whole season, helped to limit the Highlanders to four shot attempts during the period. Only one of the four shots reached Gilbert in net, and he successfully repelled the attempt, as Liberty captured its first-ever Big South Championship.

"I said this since the beginning of the season. God took a group of ordinary men and did something extraordinary," stated Alder after the game. "I really feel he prepared us for this all year and am very proud of my team."

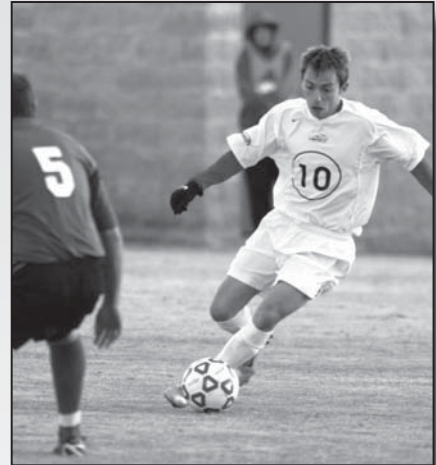
Boateng was named Tournament MVP for his play in Liberty's three wins. Joining Boateng on the 2007 Big South Championship All-Tournament Team were Andrew Kappler, Willoughby and Chastain.

Later in the week, Boateng received selections to both the College Soccer News National and Soccer Soccer America Players of the Week teams.

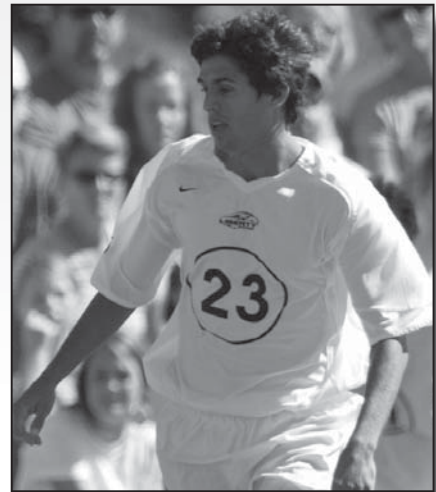
The victory ran the Flames' mark to 13-4-2. The 13 wins were the most by a Liberty men's soccer squad since 1999.

For their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance, the Flames faced MAAC Champion Loyola (Md.) in Baltimore, Md. Despite a second-half rally, Liberty fell 2-0. However, it could not undo a magical season for the Flames.

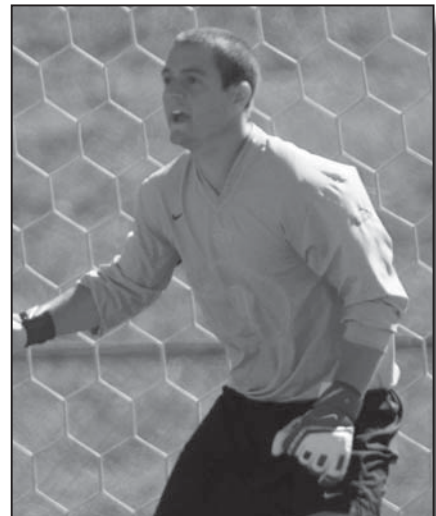
A month later, the College Soccer News dubbed the 2007 Liberty season, "A Season to Remember." It was definitely that, as the Flames finally obtained one of their program's goals – a Big South Championship.



Adrian Bumbut



*Justin Willoughby
2007 Big South All-Tournament Team*



Paul Gilbert



2007 BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
EAGLE FIELD - ROCK HILL, S.C - NOV. 15-18

THURSDAY, NOV. 15 - QUARTERFINALS

- GAME 1:** NO. 4 RADFORD 2, NO. 5 VMI 0
GAME 2: NO. 2 LIBERTY 2, NO. 7 UNC ASHEVILLE 1
GAME 3: NO. 2 WINTHROP 3, NO. 6 HIGH POINT 0

FRIDAY, NOV. 16 - SEMIFINALS

- GAME 4:** NO. 4 RADFORD 3, NO. 1 COASTAL CAROLINA
GAME 5: NO. 2 LIBERTY 1, NO. 3 WINTHROP 0 (2OT)

SUNDAY, NOV. 18 - CHAMPIONSHIP

- GAME 6:** NO. 2 LIBERTY 2, NO. 4 RADFORD 1

2007 BIG SOUTH ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Joshua Boateng, Liberty - MVP

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cameron Chastain, Liberty | Dane Whitman, Coastal Carolina |
| Andrew Kappler, Liberty | John Gilkerson, Winthrop |
| Justin Willoughby, Liberty | Otto Loewy, Winthrop |
| Paul Caruso, Radford | Will Quarles, VMI |
| Davorin Husadzinovic, Radford | Scott Szymanski, UNC Asheville |
| Josh McCrary, Radford | Michael Saryee, High Point |
| Kyle Russell, Coastal Carolina | |



Joshua Boateng
2007 Big South Championship MVP

THE RUN TO THE BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

LIBERTY 2, UNCA 1

Nov. 15, Rock Hill, S.C.

BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP - QUARTERFINALS

Scoring:

- UNCA - SZYMANSKI, Scott (GALLAGHER, J.W.) 63:02
- LIBERTY - CHASTAIN, Cameron (WILLOUGHBY, Justin) 81:02
- LIBERTY - WILLOUGHBY, Justin (BOATENG, Joshua) 87:19

UNC Asheville	0	1	-	1
LIBERTY	0	2	-	2

Shots: UNC Asheville 4, LIBERTY 12

Goalie Saves: Phillip Horner (UNC Asheville) 3, Paul Gilbert (LIBERTY) 1

Liberty Starters: Gilbert, J. Kappler, Gelatt, Ward, Bumbut, Guzman, Patterson, Nyame, Boateng, A. Kappler, Mandell

Liberty Subs: Chastain, Willoughby

LIBERTY 1, Winthrop 0

Nov. 16, Rock Hill, S.C.

BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP - SEMIFINALS

Scoring:

- LIBERTY - BOATENG, Joshua (BUMBUT, Adrian) 107:01

Winthrop	0	0	0	0	0
LIBERTY	0	0	0	1	-

Shots: LIBERTY 9, WU 7

Goalie Saves: Paul Gilbert (LIBERTY) 2, Patrick Mitrovich (WU), 4

Liberty Starters: Gilbert, Gelatt, McGarry, Ward, Bumbut, Guzman, Patterson, Nyame, Mandell, Boateng, A. Kappler.

Liberty Subs: Chastain, Willoughby

LIBERTY 2, Radford 1

Nov. 18, Rock Hill, S.C.

BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Scoring:

- RADFORD - McCRARY, Josh (ELIMBI, Franklin) 6:38
- LIBERTY - NYAME, Douglas (WILLOUGHBY, Justin; BOATENG, Joshua) 33:54
- LIBERTY - CHASTAIN, Cameron (BUMBUT, Adrian) 35:00

Radford	1	0	-	1
LIBERTY	2	0	-	2

Shots: RU 9, LIBERTY 6

Goalies Saves: Zach Rosel (RU) 2; Paul Gilbert (LIBERTY) 2

Liberty Starters: Gilbert, Gelatt, McGarry, Ward, Bumbut, Guzman, Patterson, Nyame, Mandell, Boateng, A. Kappler.

Liberty Subs: Chastain, Osborne, Willoughby.

