



**Paul Wetmore**

**Head Coach**

*17th Season*

*439-496-1*

*Three-time Big South Coach of the Year*

*Four-time VaSID Coach of the Year*

*89th head coach in NCAA Softball history to reach 400-career victories.*

The goal of every athlete, regardless of the level of competition, is to not only compete against the world's best competition, but to beat the best.

That rule of thumb spreads further than just those wearing numbered uniforms on the athletic battlefield, but also is the singular focus of each member of the coaching staff.

Head coach Paul Wetmore, who is in his 17th year at the helm of the Lady Flames softball program, is a living testament to this aspiration. The skipper, who holds the second-longest coaching tenure among all coaches at Liberty, has led his squad to new heights, seemingly each and every year.

It took 518 games and nine seasons to reach one of his main goals, but if you asked Wetmore he would say it was worth every day of practice, every long bus ride, every win and even every loss as he guided his squad to its first-ever Big South Conference championship in 2002.

The irony of the story is that Wetmore, the winningest coach in the history of the program and the most victorious coach in all Liberty athletics history, accomplished the goal with one of his lesser-talented teams.

However, the squad rallied from a .500 regular season and a fifth-place seeding entering the conference tournament to post four-consecutive upset victories en route to the championship, earning the program's first-ever trip to an NCAA Regional.

"It was such a great opportunity to win the Big South as it was something we had been working toward for nine years," said Wetmore. "It is a great milestone in the history of the program and certainly something to build on for the future."

After the ceremonial trimming of his two-decade old mustache at Winthrop's home plate just minutes after the conclusion of the 1-0 victory over the host school (a reward Wetmore had been promising for years to the team that won the first championship), Wetmore took his squad to Columbia, S.C., to face the number-one seed and the top-ranked team in the nation in UCLA.

Unshaken by their opponent's lofty credentials, the Lady Flames played toe-to-toe with the best team in land as the game was scoreless heading into the bottom of the fifth inning. However, the Bruins showed why they were the nation's top-ranked team and eventually pulled away from Liberty for a 3-0 victory.

The Lady Flames also dropped a 7-1 decision to former Big South opponent UMBC in the second game, but walked away from the entire experience with great joy and respect and a new goal to achieve – a return trip, one he hopes will materialize each and every year of heading up the program.

Success has been no stranger to Wetmore over the years, who was named the program's fourth head coach in 1994 as the school reinstated the program after a seven-year layoff. He has guided the program to seven seasons with 30-plus wins over the past 14 years, half the years he has overseen the program.

The 2000 season proved to be another one of Wetmore's more

successful campaign, as the Lady Flames surpassed the 30-win plateau for the fifth-consecutive year with a 34-29 record. The team finished 9-1 in the Big South regular season standings, claiming the university's first-ever outright Big South regular-season title.

Liberty also made its second appearance in the title game of the Big South Softball Championship, as the Lady Flames also advanced to the final game of the 1998 Big South Championship.

For his efforts, Wetmore was honored as the Co-Big South Coach of the Year in 2000. This marked the third time in his career Wetmore has been honored as the league's top coach as he shared the honors with Radford's Charlie Gunter in 1996, while winning the award outright in 1999 after guiding the Lady Flames to a school-record 41-25 mark.

The goal of beating the nation's best moved from a preseason commitment card to a reality over the last three years, as Liberty has picked up its most notable wins under Wetmore since 2005.

Liberty began the successful run against nationally ranked programs with a 2-1 upset of No. 25 Texas A&M Corpus Christi in 2005, then an associate member of the Big South for softball.

The following season, Liberty took to the softball diamond for its annual tilt with in-state foe Virginia Tech, who entered the game ranked No. 24. The star-studded night saw the Lady Flames' bats come alive in the first for a 6-5 win, followed by a 3-0 shutout, giving Liberty its first-ever sweep over a Top 25 program.

However, the crowning run of success against the nation's best under Wetmore took place in 2007, when the skipper challenged his senior-laden squad with the most daunting schedule in program history.

But the talented crew responded to the menacing slate, starting with a 4-3 victory over host and No. 23 Hawaii at the Bank of Hawaii Invitational on March 14.

Two days later, the Lady Flames proved the victory was no fluke, as the Lady Flames shutout No. 10 and NCAA World Series participant Baylor, 4-0, closing out Liberty's first-ever trip outside the continental United States.

However, one of the crowing victories in Wetmore's legacy at Liberty came on March 26, 2007, when his Lady Flames shutout 2005 NCAA national champion Michigan, who was ranked No. 6 at the time, at the Women4Women Invitational in Louisville, Ky.

The victory marked the third highest ranked opponent a Liberty



### Paul Wetmore Quick Facts

**Birthdate:** Aug. 24

**Family:** Wife, Cynthia

**Children:** Two children, Todd and Amy

**Hometown:** Chester, Conn.

#### Coaching Honors

1996:	Big South Co-Coach of the Year VaSID Coach of the Year
1997:	VaSID Coach of the Year
1998:	VaSID Coach of the Year
1999:	Big South Coach of the Year
2000:	Big South Co-Coach of the Year
2002:	Big South Conference Champions NCAA Regional Appearance
2006:	VaSID Coach of the Year

athletics team has defeated in department history, falling only behind the baseball team's victory over No. 3 Wake Forest in 2002 and the men's soccer team's win over No. 5 Wake Forest in 2000. The baseball program also knocked off No. 6 Clemson in 2000, tying softball program's effort against the Wolverines.

Wetmore reached a lofty personal level of achievement on April 4, 2008, as Liberty's 4-0 victory over then Big South foe Birmingham-Southern gave the skipper his 400th career victory, making him the 89th coach in NCAA softball history to reach the 400-win mark.

Later that year, Wetmore guided the Lady Flames to a runner-up finish at the Big South Softball Championship in Rock Hill, S.C., accounting for the program's fourth appearance in the league's title contest.

And in 2008, Wetmore led the Lady Flames to their second-consecutive runner-up finish at the Big South Championship, where Liberty fell to regular-season champion Radford.

Wetmore has had the privilege of coaching some of the best athletes to don a Liberty uniform. Under his watch, a Lady Flame has been named the top player in the state of Virginia six times, garnering the VaSID honor in 1997, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2007.

Shannon Tanski, who ranks second all-time in school history with a .384 career batting average and 37 home runs, took home the award in 1997, and Stacy Radulovich, the school's all-time leader with 226 career hits, 167 runs scored and 80 stolen bases, received the award in 1998.

In 1999, Meredith Hollyfield was named the Co-VaSID Player of the Year after driving in a then school-record 60 RBI. Hollyfield was also named the Big South's Player of the Year, marking the first time Wetmore had coached a league player of the year. Freshman Cheryl Wyrick was named Co-Big South Rookie of the Year to account for the second time in Wetmore's tenure that a Lady Flame had been named the league's top newcomer.

In 2004, under Wetmore's tutelage, the Lady Flames had their third player honored as the top player in the league as Amanda Maska won Big South Player of the Year honors behind a career-best .409 batting average, 10 home runs and 41 RBIs. She was also tabbed VaSID Player of the Year as well.

In 2006, Wetmore returned his program to the glory years of the late '90s as the Lady Flames tied the 1999 squad for victories in a season by finishing the year 41-23. Liberty broke 10-team and six-individual records during the campaign.

Wetmore was once again honored for his efforts as he was named VaSID Coach of the Year, marking the fourth time in his career he has garnered the honor to tie for the most by a head coach in the state SID organization's history.

The 16-year skipper's most recent success story came in a transfer from Charlotte, who in just three years at Liberty rewrote the Lady Flames' record books. Jessica Moore, a two-time VaSID State Player of the Year and Liberty's only repeat Big South Player of the Year, finished her career atop almost every offensive category in program history.

She is the only player in program history to post a better than .400 career batting average (.419), to go along with 229 career hits, 191 runs scored and astonishing 58 home runs.

Moore, following the conclusion of her collegiate playing days, became Wetmore's first-ever recruited athlete to play professionally when she signed a contract with the Washington Glory. The Chesapeake, Va., native made an immediate impact on the squad, helping the Glory claim the National Pro Fastball championship in 2007. Moore is now a member of the Liberty coaching staff.

Prior to his days with the Lady Flames, Wetmore logged over 30 years as both a player and coach at all levels of the softball and baseball ranks. He was a four-year letterman at Valley Regional High School in Deep River, Conn., before receiving an invitation to try out with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Over his two-decade long coaching career, Wetmore guided numerous boys' and girls' and men's and women's softball squads at all levels to various championships. He has also served in several administrative capacities, ranging from Little League Vice President to instructional camp organizer for players and umpires.

Wetmore has been affiliated with the University for over 18 years as he served as University's Director of Printing Services for 16 years, including several years in dual positions as head softball coach and printing department director.

A native of Connecticut, Wetmore and his wife, Cynthia, now reside in the Lynchburg area. The couple has two children, Todd, who is the Assistant Athletics Director for Communications at the University, and daughter, Amy.





**Tuesday Van Engen**  
**Assistant Coach**  
*Seventh Season*

Tuesday Van Engen is currently in her seventh year overall with the Liberty softball program, including her fourth year back since returning to the coaching staff for the 2007 season.

During her first year back, Van Engen helped the Lady Flames to one of their most successful seasons in program history. Liberty posted a 36-26 overall record, which included wins over three nationally ranked programs topped by a shutout victory over No. 6 Michigan. The Lady Flames also finished atop the Big South standings, tying for the regular season title with an 11-4 conference mark.

In 2008, Van Engen helped lead Liberty to the Big South Championship title game against Winthrop. The championship game appearance was the fourth in program history and the first with Van Engen on staff.

Van Engen again helped the Lady Flames to the Big South Championship title game in 2009, where the team fell to eventual champion Radford.

Van Engen helped resurrect the program in 1994 after it was reinstated and served as an assistant coach for three seasons (1994-96). During her final year with the squad, Van Engen assisted in Liberty's first of five-straight 30-plus victory seasons. The Lady Flames posted a 36-18 record and a 9-7 mark in Big South play, marking Liberty's first-ever winning season in conference competition.

Van Engen is no stranger to Liberty; as she graduated from the institution in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and a minor in health education. She was a four-year starter (1981-84) at third base for Liberty's softball team during her collegiate days and still ranks in several Lady Flames' career categories. She currently ranks fifth in school history with a .334 career batting average, and her .361 batting average in 1981 ranks 12th best in school history.

Van Engen, who is a native of Nashville, Mich., is married to Robert Van Engen, who is a professor in Liberty's School of Religion. The couple has two children – son Garrett and daughter Meagan, who are both students at Liberty.



**Dana Wheeler**  
**Student Assistant Coach**  
*First Season*

Dana Wheeler, a rising senior at Liberty who suffered a career-ending injury last year, will round out the 2010 coaching staff as a student assistant coach, and will concentrate solely on pitchers.

During her two competitive years as a Lady Flame, Wheeler performed well in the circle, and is currently fifth in Liberty history for career-best ERA (2.33).



**Jessica Moore**  
**Assistant Coach**  
*First Season*

Jessica Moore, a Liberty softball standout from 2005-07, returns to her alma mater after competing for two years for the Washington Glory, a professional fast-pitch organization.

Moore capped off a stellar collegiate career for the Lady Flames atop several program record lists, including career batting average (.419), career runs scored (191) and career home runs (58). Moore also holds the school record for most home runs in a single season, with 21, in 2006. She was named the 2006 and 2007 Big South Player of the Year, and became the first player in program history to garner the honor twice during a career. Moore was also named the VaSID Player of the Year in 2006 and 2007, and was the first player to garner that award twice as well.

After signing with the Glory, Moore recorded 11 hits, 10 RBIs and six home runs in her rookie season, as Washington finished its first year with a 34-10 record en route to the 2007 NPF Championship title. In 2008, Moore finished the year with 18 hits, 13 RBIs and three home runs.

Moore will serve as the coaching staff's hitting specialist, working to improve the team's offense.

Moore, who also earned her master's degree in accounting through Liberty's distance-learning program, gained coaching experience at Western Branch High School in Chesapeake, Va., in 2008.

