



## 2007 LIBERTY MEN'S SOCCER NCAA FIRST ROUND NOTES



Liberty vs. Loyola

November 24, 1 p.m.

Diane Geppi-Aikens Field - Baltimore, Md.

### LIBERTY TO FACE LOYOLA IN NCAA FIRST ROUND

The Liberty University Flames (13-4-2) will face the Loyola Greyhounds (18-3) at 1 p.m. Saturday at Diane Geppi-Aikens field in Baltimore, Md. in the first round of the NCAA Men's College Cup. The winner will advance to meet No. 13 seed Maryland on Nov. 28 at 5 p.m. in College Park, Md.

The contest will be the Flames' first-ever NCAA Men's Soccer Championship game. Liberty qualified for the 2007 College Cup by earning the Big South's automatic bid last Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Radford.

### FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMS

Liberty and Loyola have never met on the soccer field. Liberty earned the Big South's automatic bid with 2-1 win over Radford last Sunday. Loyola defeated St. Peters , 1-0, last weekend to claim the automatic bid from the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

### LIBERTY IN NCAA MEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

Liberty will be making its first appearance in a NCAA Men's Division I College Cup since becoming a Division I member in 1989.

#### 2007 LIBERTY MEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Overall: 13-4-2 Big South: 5-1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
9/1	<b>Mount Vernon Nazarene</b>	<b>W, 3-0</b>
9/5	at Campbell	W, 1-0
9/8	at Gardner-Webb	W, 2-1
9/14	vs. College of Charleston ^	L, 0-2
9/16	at UNC Wilmington ^	W, 2-1
<b>9/19</b>	<b>Longwood</b>	<b>T, 0-0 2 OT</b>
<b>9/26</b>	<b>Radford *</b>	<b>W, 3-0</b>
<b>9/29</b>	<b>Winthrop*</b>	<b>W, 1-0</b>
10/2	at North Carolina	L, 1-7
<b>10/6</b>	<b>Marshall</b>	<b>T, 0-0 2 OT</b>
<b>10/8</b>	<b>Columbia Union</b>	<b>W, 8-0</b>
10/12	at Coastal Carolina *	L, 1-2
<b>10/18</b>	<b>UNC Asheville*</b>	<b>W, 2-0</b>
10/23	#13 Virginia	L, 0-3
10/31	at High Point *	W, 3-1
<b>11/6</b>	<b>VMI *</b>	<b>W, 4-1</b>
11/15	UNC Asheville &	W, 2-1
11/16	Winthrop &	W, 1-0 2OT
11/18	Radford &	W, 2-1
11/24	Loyola %	1 p.m.

#### Home Games in Bold

\* - Big South Conference Match

^ - Jameson Inn/UNCW Soccer Classic

& - Big South Championship; Rock Hill, S.C.

% - NCAA Men's Colleg Cup First Round - Baltimore, Md.

### LIBERTY CLAIMS BIG SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Head Coach Jeff Alder's Flames captured the program's first-ever Big South Conference Championship this past Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Radford in Rock Hill, S.C.

Trailing 1-0 in late in the first half, Liberty defender Douglas Nyame and midfielder Cameron Chastian scored goals 1:36 apart to propel the Flames to the 2-1 win and their first conference championship.

Liberty arrived in the title contest by defeating Winthrop in 1-0 in double overtime. After a scoreless regulation and first overtime period, 2007 Big South Championship MVP Joshua Boateng blasted a shot past the Eagle keeper from 18 yards out at 107:01 for the golden goal and the Liberty victory.

The Flames opened the tournament with a 2-1 win over UNC Asheville in first round of the Big South Championship. Chastain and forward Justin Willoughby both netted goals in the last eight minutes of play for the come-from-behind victory.

### BOATENG SELECTED TOURNAMENT MVP

Liberty midfielder Joshua Boateng was voted the 2007 Big South Championship Most Valuable Player. The junior scored the game-winning goal in the second overtime in a 1-0 win over Winthrop in the tournament's semifinals and also added two assists on the weekend.

Joining Boateng on the 2007 Big South All-Tournament squad were teammates Cameron Chastain, Andrew Kappler and Justin Willoughby.

### GILBERT NAMED BIG SOUTH FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Flames' goalkeeper Paul Gilbert was selected the 2007 Big South Freshman of the Year.

The goalkeeper has started every Liberty contest this season, posting a 13-4-2 mark with a 1.03 goals-against-average. Gilbert also led the Big South with eight shutouts.

He is the third Flame to be named Big South Freshman of the Year. He joins Kyle Cupid in 2004 and Darryl Roberts in 2002 to garner the honor.

### SEVEN FLAMES RECEIVE ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

Seven Liberty players were named All-Big South team honorees this season. Senior forward Adrian Bumbut, sophomore midfielder Juan Guzman and senior defender Mike Gelatt were selected all-conference first team members. Four other Flames garnered second-team honors, as junior midfielder Joshua Boateng, freshman goalkeeper Paul Gilbert, junior midfielder Daniel McGarry and junior defender Douglas Nyame were named to the team.



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### **MOST VICTORIES SINCE 1999**

With three victories last weekend on their way to winning the Big South Championship, the 2007 Liberty Flames pushed their record to 13-4-2 on the season.

The Flames' 13 wins are the most by a Liberty men's soccer squad since the 1999 team posted a 14-2-1 mark. The victory total is tied for third all-time in program history, behind the 1999 and 1985 teams, who each won 14 contests.

### **FLAMES RANK AMONG SOUTH ATLANTIC'S BEST**

Liberty finished the 2007 regular season ranked No. 9 in the final National Soccer Coaches Association of America South Atlantic Region Poll.

The Flames, who had been listed as high as No. 5 in the poll this season (Oct. 8), were ranked among the region's top teams in every poll this season. It is the first time a Liberty squad has ever been listed in each poll during a year.

### **ON THE ATTACK**

Liberty has outscored its opponents, 36-20, this season, and are averaging 1.89 goals per game.

Senior forward Adrian Bumbut is tied for second in the Big South Conference in both points and goals, with 29 points and 12 goals, respectively. The marksman is also tied for the Big South lead with five game-winning goals.

The forward is followed by midfielder Joshua Boateng, who added four points to his total last weekend with a goal and an assist at the Big South Championship. The midfielder has tallied 15 points, with five goals and five assists on the year. He enters Saturday's contest tied with Bumbut for the team lead and fourth in the Big South in assists.

The pair is followed by senior forwards Toby Lewis and Justin Willoughby with nine points each. Lewis, who has been lost for the season with an injury, had posted nine points on four goals and an assist in 15 games this season.

Meanwhile, Willoughby has scored three goals and three assists, including a goal and an assist against UNC Asheville in the first round of the Big South Championship last week.

### **DANDY DEFENSE**

Liberty's defensive play has been one of its strongest suits this season. Coming into today's contest, the Flames lead the Big South Conference with nine shutouts and currently rank No. 26th nationally with a .47 shutout percentage.

Liberty has yielded 1.05 goals per contest this season and allowed only one goal in seven home matches this year.

In his first season in the Flames' net, freshman keeper Paul Gilbert has recorded a 13-4-2 mark in 1,751 minutes with a 1.03 goals-against-average and eight shutouts. Gilbert was named Big South Freshman of the Year and a Big South all-conference second-team member for his efforts.

The defensive corps has been led by Mike Gelatt, Michael Ward, Douglas Nyame and Andrew Kappler. Gelatt, Nyame and Ward have started all 19 of Liberty's contests this season, while Kappler has played in 17 games.

Three members of the group have been honored this season. Gelatt was named first team All-Big South, while Nyame was selected to the all-conference second team. Kappler earned 2007 all-tournament team honors last weekend.



***Adrian Bumbut (No. 10)***  
***2007 first team All-Big South***

### **HEAD COACH JEFF ALDER**

Jeff Alder is in his seventh season as the head coach of the Liberty Flames. Coming into today's game, Alder has compiled a 65-55-9 overall record and a 31-16-3 record in Big South conference play.



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During Alder's tenure, the Flames have never finished at or below .500 in the Big South regular season, while posting a 7-6 mark in the Big South Championship. Besides capturing the first Big South Championship in program history last week, Alder also guided Liberty to the conference final in 2001.

Alder has been synonymous with the Liberty men's soccer program, having played for the Flames from 1987-90 and then spending nine years as an assistant coach with the team. Alder graduated from Liberty in 1991.

### FLAMES POST BACK-TO-BACK WINNING SEASONS

With an 13-4-2 mark entering today's match, Liberty will finish the 2007 campaign with its second-consecutive winning season.

Last year, the Flames went 9-6 to post its first winning mark since 2002. That season, the Flames went 11-8-2 in Jeff Alder's second season as head coach.

It is the first time since the 1998 and 1999 seasons Liberty teams have posted back-to-back above-.500 marks.

### PITCHING SHUTOUTS

This season, the Flames have recorded a Big South-leading nine shutouts and are among the nation's elite in shutout percentage.

Liberty currently rank No. 26 nationally in shutout percentage with a .46 percentage.

Three of the Flames' eight shutouts came during conference play and an additional shutout came during their run to the Big South title. Liberty did not yield a goal in a home contest at Liberty Soccer Field until the last minute of regulation in its last contest of the home schedule this season. Dating back to the next to last home contest of 2006, the Flames did not allow an opponent goal for 671:43 at Liberty Soccer Field. During the streak, Liberty posted a 7-0-2 mark.

### BUMBUT'S BEST

In his final season with the Flames, senior forward Adrian Bumbut seems to have saved his best for the last.

The Flames' scoring leader the past two seasons, Bumbut is leading not only Liberty once again, but is also tied for second in the Big South in points and goals. The forward has tallied 29 points and netted 12 goals, both career-highs, this season. He also is tied for the Big South lead with five game-winning goals.

Nationally, Bumbut ranks No. 19 in points per game with a 1.53 average and goals per game with a 0.63 average.

His 79 career points rank him fourth all-time on the Liberty points list, while his 32 career goals tie him for fourth on the school's all-time goals ledger.



**Paul Gilbert**

**2007 Big South Freshman of the Year**

Bumbut was selected to the Big South all-conference first team last week. He also garnered Big South Player of the Week honors on Oct. 2, after scoring a goal in Liberty's 3-0 win over Radford and the game-winner in the Flames' 1-0 victory over Winthrop during the previous week.

Also, Bumbut had a career game-high three goals in Liberty's 3-1 win at High Point on Oct. 31. The senior had several two-goal games during his career, but had never scored three markers in a game during his four years at Liberty.

### GELATT ACADEMIC HONOREE

Liberty senior defender Mike Gelatt was named to the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America first team, recognizing his efforts both on the field and in the classroom.

The kinesiology major has started the past 34 Liberty contests and has been a key member of the Flames' defensive corps this year at middle defender. He earned a Big South All-Conference first team selection this season.

Off the field, Gelatt has posted a 3.82 GPA and been a member of the Dean's list in each of his six semesters. In addition, he has earned selection to the Big South Presidential Honor Roll the past three academic years, along with selection to the 2007 Big South All-Academic team.

Gelatt becomes the fourth Liberty student-athlete to achieve first-team Academic All-America status and the 12th overall.