

**Liberty University
Flames Baseball
Quick Facts**

Location: Lynchburg, Va.
Founded: 1971
Enrollment: 9,558
Colors: Red, White and Blue
Nickname: Flames
Mascot: Eagle
Conference: Big South
Chancellor: Dr. Jerry Falwell
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. for Compliance/SWA:
Meredith Hollyfield
Assoc. A.D. for Academic Services:
Kristie Beitz
Faculty Athletic Representative:
Dr. William Gribbin
A.D. for Development: Bob Good
A.D. for External Operations:
Kevin Keys
Director of Facilities: Joe Pouliot

Head Baseball Coach:
Matt Royer (Liberty, '80)
Record at LU: 123-110 (Five Years)
Career Record: 441-349 (17 Years)
Baseball Office Phone:
(434) 582-2103
Assistants: Terry Weaver (Liberty, '97), Reggie Reynolds (Liberty, '98)
Athletic Trainer:
Scott Lawrenson

2006 Record: 39-21
Conference Record: 13-11/5th
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 11/5
Starting Position Players Returning/Lost (incl. DH): 6/3
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost: 6/2
Newcomers: 12

Liberty's All-Time Record:
879-704-7 (.555)
Stadium: Worthington Stadium/1,000
Stadium Dimensions: Left - 325;
Center - 390; Right - 325
Surface: Bermuda Grass

Asst. A.D. for Athletic Media Relations: Todd Wetmore
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Ryan Bomberger
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E-Mail Address:
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Press Box Phone: (434) 582-2914
Web Site: www.LibertyFlames.com
Assistant AMR: Vincent Briedis
Assistant AMR: Paul Carmany

**2007 Liberty University
Baseball Game Notes**



Games No. 10 - Feb. 27, 2007
LIBERTY Flames (6-3, 0-0 Big South)
vs.
VCU Rams (4-3, 0-0 CAA)
Tuesday, Feb. 27 - 4 p.m.
The Diamond - Richmond, Va.

The Games

The Liberty University Flames (6-3, 0-0 Big South) travel to Richmond, Va., to face off with the VCU Rams (4-3, 0-0 CAA) in a non-conference midweek game, Tuesday, Feb. 27 at the Diamond. Game time is set for 4 p.m. It is Liberty's first midweek game of the 2007 season.

The Series Against VCU

Tuesday is the 46th meeting between the Flames and Rams since 1976. Liberty trails in the series between the two clubs, 27-18.

Last season, VCU and Liberty met in the Flames' home opener and first midweek game at Worthington Stadium on Feb. 15. VCU defeated the Flames, 4-2, in 10 innings.

The Last Time Out

Liberty swept a doubleheader Saturday to complete a sweep of a three-game week-end series at Worthington Stadium from the Albany Great Danes.

Ryan Page saved both ends of the doubleheader as the Flames downed the Great Danes, 5-1 and 7-5. In the opener, starter Dustin Umberger pitched seven scoreless innings, scattering five hits, striking out four and walking one. Left fielder Kenneth Negrón went 3-for-4 with two RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases in the contest.

In the nightcap, Liberty plated five runs in the second inning to take a 5-1 lead and never trailed the rest of the way in a 7-5 victory. Third baseman David Giammaresi paced the Flames with two doubles and two RBI.

Friday, Michael Solbach pitched six innings as the Flames scored four runs in the third and five in the fourth in 9-2 win over Albany in the home opener at Worthington Stadium.

The Flames on the Radio

This season, the Flames Sports Network plans to broadcast 20 Liberty baseball regular season games. Games will air live on WVMC 90.9 FM "The Light" and on the World Wide Web at both www.LibertyFlames.com and www.thelightonline.com. Today's game will be broadcasted LIVE beginning at 3:50 p.m.

Possible Starters						
No.	Name	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Avg.	Other Stats
29	Errol Hollinger (C)	So.	6-4	200	.361	7 RBI, 7 Runs, 1 2B, 1 HR
5	Aaron Grijalva (1B)	R-Jr.	6-1	195	.161	2 RBI, 2 Runs, 1 SB
3	Tommy Bussey (2B)	So.	5-11	180	.259	2 RBI, 4 Runs, 1 2B, 1 3B
10	Patrick Gaillard (SS)	Sr.	6-1	185	.167	4 RBI, 8 Runs, 1 2B
7	David Giammaresi (3B)	R-Jr.	6-0	195	.385	4 RBI, 3 Runs, 2 2Bs
1	Kenneth Negrón (LF)	So.	5-8	168	.467	3 RBI, 3 Runs, 1 2B, 4 SBs
33	Garrett Young (CF)	Jr.	6-3	225	.361	7 RBI, 10 Runs, 3 2Bs, 2 HR
30	Phil John (RF)	Sr.	6-2	180	.474	10 RBI, 6 Runs, 2 2Bs, 3 SB
27	Tim Nanry (DH)	Sr.	6-3	225	.400	10 RBI, 6 Runs, 3 HRs
	R-redshirt					

**Scouting
the Rams**

Location: Richmond, Va.
Founded: 1838
Enrollment: 31,300
Nickname: Rams
Colors: Black and Gold
President: Dr. Eugene P. Trani
Athletic Director: Norwood Teague
Conference: Colonial Athletic Association
Field (Capacity): The Diamond (12,134)
Dimensions: 330-402-330

Head Coach: Paul Keyes (Old Dominion, 1984)
Record at School: 445-269 (13 Years)
Overall Record: Same
Office Phone: (804) 828-4820
Assistants: Shawn Stiffler, Tim Haynes, Billy Daniels

2006 Record: 34-24
2006 Conference Record/Finish: 18-11/Fourth
Lettermen Returning/Lost: 14/8
Position Starters Returning/Lost: 5/3
Pitchers Returning/Lost: 6/3

Top Returning Position Players:
 Jared Bolden (So., 1B, .385 BA, 45 RBI), Kwan Evans (Jr., CF, .308 BA), Sergio Miranda (Jr., SS, .400 BA, 40 RBI)

Top Returning Pitchers: Cody Eppley (Jr., RHP, 6-1, 4.44 ERA), John Leonard (Sr., RHP, 3.56 ERA, 91 SO), Brett Walker (Jr., RHP, 4.89 ERA)

Baseball SID: Scott Day
Office Phone: (804) 828-1727
E-mail Address: sdday@vcu.edu
Fax Number: (804) 828-9428
Web Site: vcurams.vcu.edu

Recent Results

Feb.24 Fordham - Gm. 2 W, 4-3
 Feb. 24 Fordham - Gm. 1 W, 7-6
 Feb. 23 Fordham W, 1-0

Upcoming Schedule

Mar. 2 Radford 4 p.m.
 Mar. 3 Radford 1 p.m.
 Mar. 4 Radford 1 p.m.
 Mar. 6 Virginia Tech 4 p.m.

**2007 Liberty University
Baseball Game Notes**



The Coaches

Tuesday is the sixth meeting between Liberty head coach Matt Royer and VCU's Paul Keyes with their respective teams ...

Liberty: Matt Royer (Liberty, '80)
Record at School: 123-110 (Five Years)
Overall Record: 441-349 (17 Years)

Notes: Matt Royer is in his fifth year at the helm of his alma mater ... last season, Royer guided the Flames to their second-straight 30-plus win season, their first back-to-back 30-win seasons during his tenure and the fourth in school history ... Liberty posted 39 victories in 2006, the most Division I wins in program history ... on Feb. 21, 2006, he won his 400th career game as a head coach when the Flames defeated Longwood, 4-3 ... in each of his first four years, the Liberty win total has improved each season ... Royer has led the Flames to the Big South Championship final game in both 2002 and 2006 ... prior to his stint at Liberty, he had a nine-year run at Kutztown, where he posted a 271-176 mark ... the Golden Bears never had a losing season in his nine years at the school ... guided Kutztown to the Division II College World Series during his final two seasons at the school.

VCU: Paul Keyes
Record at School: 445-269 (13 Years)
Overall Record: Same

Notes: Paul Keyes is in his 13th season as the head coach at VCU ... last season, he led the Rams to a 34-24 mark ... ranks among the top 50 active Division I coaches in winning percentage ... Under his direction, VCU captured back-to-back Colonial Athletic Association titles in 1997 and 1998 and claimed its first ever CAA tournament championship in 2002 ... the Rams also won the league's regular season and tournament titles in 2003, earning VCU a berth in the NCAA tournament for the fifth time in a six-year span ... the winningest coach in the school history, he has been named the CAA's Coach of the Year three times (1997, 1998, 2003).

Returning to Their Alma Mater

The Liberty coaching staff led by head coach Matt Royer, along with assistant coaches Terry Weaver and Reggie Reynolds, is unusual for Division I baseball. All three are graduates of Liberty University.

Royer received his degree in 1980, while playing baseball for the program's founder, Al Worthington. Weaver and Reynolds also obtained their bachelor's degrees from Liberty, with Weaver achieving his in the fall of 1997 and Reynolds having his conferred upon him in 1998.

LU	2007 Statistical Comparison	VCU
6-3	Record	4-3
.308	Batting Average	.276
65	Runs	37
100	Hits	68
6	Home Runs	1
58	Runs Batted In	32
11	Stolen Bases	15
3.81	Earned Run Average	5.29
78.0	Innings Pitched	63.0
59	Strikeouts	40
3	Saves	3
.246	Opponent Batting Average	.302

**Liberty University
2007 Baseball Schedule**

**Record: 6-3
Big South: 0-0**

2/9 at East Carolina	W, 6-2
2/10 at East Carolina	L, 4-7
2/11 at East Carolina	L, 2-11
2/16 vs. South Carolina!	L, 2-10
2/17 at The Citadel!	W, 2-1
2/18 vs. Richmond!	W, 28-7
2/23 Albany	W, 9-2
2/24 Albany	W, 5-1
2/25 Albany	W, 7-5
2/27 at VCU	4 p.m.
3/2 Manhattan	2:30 p.m.
3/3 Manhattan	1 p.m.
3/4 Manhattan	1 p.m.
3/6 at Old Dominion	3 p.m.
3/9 George Washington	2:30 p.m.
3/10 George Washington	1 p.m.
3/11 George Washington	1 p.m.
3/14 at James Madison	2:30 p.m.
3/16 UNC Asheville*	3 p.m.
3/17 UNC Asheville*	2 p.m.
3/18 UNC Asheville*	1 p.m.
3/21 Virginia Tech	3 p.m.
3/23 at High Point*	2:30 p.m.
3/24 at High Point*	1 p.m.
3/25 at High Point*	1 p.m.
3/28 at George Mason	2:30 p.m.
3/31 Monmouth (DH)	11 a.m.
4/1 Monmouth	1 p.m.
4/3 William & Mary	3 p.m.
4/6 Marshall	3 p.m.
4/7 Marshall (DH)	11 a.m.
4/10 at William & Mary	7 p.m.
4/13 Charleston Southern*	3 p.m.
4/14 Charleston Southern*	2 p.m.
4/15 Charleston Southern*	1 p.m.
4/18 James Madison	3 p.m.
4/20 Radford*	3 p.m.
4/21 Radford*	2 p.m.
4/22 Radford*	1 p.m.
4/24 George Mason	3 p.m.
4/27 at Coastal Carolina*	6 p.m.
4/28 at Coastal Carolina*	2 p.m.
4/29 at Coastal Carolina*	1 p.m.
5/1 at Virginia Tech	7 p.m.
5/4 at Arizona	10 p.m.
5/5 at Arizona	9 p.m.
5/6 at Arizona	3 p.m.
5/11 Winthrop*	4 p.m.
5/12 Winthrop*	2 p.m.
5/13 Winthrop*	2 p.m.
5/18 at VMI*	7 p.m.
5/19 at VMI*	7 p.m.
5/20 at VMI*	2 p.m.
5/22-26 Big South Championship @ Rock Hill, S.C.	

Home Games in bold

* Big South Conference Game
! The Crab House Shootout@
Charleston, S.C.
(DH) - Doubleheader

All Times Eastern Standard Time

**2007 Liberty University
Baseball Game Notes**



Liberty in Season Lid Lifters

The Flames' season opener at East Carolina was the 32nd in the program's history. With its 6-2 victory, Liberty has now posted a 22-10 record in the first game of the season. They have compiled a 12-7 mark when opening the season on the road, while going 9-2 at home and 1-1 at a neutral site. Liberty has now won three- straight openers.

Liberty in Home Openers

This past Friday was the 29th home opener at Liberty's Worthington Stadium. With their 9-2 victory over Albany, the Flames are 24-5 in home openers at the field.

Flames at Worthington Stadium

For the past 27 years, the Flames have called Worthington Stadium their home. The Flames have compiled an impressive 455-205-4 record at home for a winning percentage of .688 since the stadium's inception in 1979. Under head coach Matt Royer, the Flames are proving the stadium to be an even tougher venue for opponents, having posted a 110-45 record (.710) during Royer's five years at the helm. Liberty went 22-9 (.710) at Worthington Stadium in 2006.

Liberty on the Road

Liberty has started 2007 with a 3-3 mark after playing their first six games of the season away from Worthington Stadium. This season, the Flames are 2-2 in road contests and 1-1 at neutral sites. Liberty finished the 2006 season with a 17-12 road mark. Their record was a four-game improvement over 2005, when the Flames went 9-12 away from home.

Baseball in the Commonwealth

Thirteen Division I baseball teams call the Commonwealth of Virginia home. This season, the Flames are scheduled to face opponents from the "Old Dominion State" 17 times. Liberty posted a 15-5 record against Virginia teams in 2006. The Flames are slated to meet state squads George Mason (twice), James Madison (twice), Old Dominion (once), Radford (three times), Richmond (once), VCU (once), VMI (three times), Virginia Tech (twice) and William & Mary (twice) this season.

Flames Against the Colonial Athletic Conference

Liberty has compiled a 121-140 record against current members of the Colonial Athletic Conference.

Liberty's All-Time Record Against the CAA

Delaware.	0-2
Georgia St.	0-0
George Mason	29-21
Hofstra	2-1
James Madison	26-27
Northeastern	1-0
Old Dominion	15-31
UNC Wilmington	5-3
Towson	6-8
VCU	18-27
William & Mary	19-20
Totals	121-140



2007 Liberty Flames Roster

Position Players

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.
1	Kenneth Negron	OF	So.
3	Tommy Bussey	2B	So.
4	Cody Brown	1B/3B	R-So.
5	Aaron Grijalva	1B	R-Jr.
6	Aaron Phillips	3B	Jr.
7	David Giammaresi	3B	R-Jr.
8	Derek Bennion	OF	R-Sr.
9	David McCall	INF	So.
10	Patrick Gaillard	SS	Sr.
12	Shawn Teufel	1B	So.
15	Cory Johnson	C	Fr.
19	P. K. Keller	OF	Jr.
20	Jonathan Schneider	OF	Fr.
23	Nate Thompson	C	R-Fr.
26	Andrew Weaver	2B	Fr.
27	Tim Nanry	OF	Sr.
29	Errol Hollinger	C	So.
30	Phil John	OF	Sr.
33	Garrett Young	OF	Jr.

Pitchers

11	Doug Wallace	LHP	R-So.
13	Dane Beakler	RHP	So.
16	Andrew Wilson	RHP	So.
17	Dustin Umberger	RHP	So.
18	Grady Ihnat	LHP	Fr.
22	Tim John	RHP	Sr.
31	Tyler Light	RHP	So.
32	Chase Vaden	LHP	Fr.
34	Ryan Page	LHP	Jr.
38	Michael Solbach	RHP	R-Jr.
42	David Stokes	RHP	Jr.
52	Rusty Lajoie	RHP	Fr.

Head Coach: 2 Matt Royer

Assistant Coaches: 14 Terry Weaver

24 Reggie Reynolds

Trainer: Scott Lawrenson

R - redshirt

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



Flames Against the Big South

Liberty has compiled a 194-157 record against current members of the Big South. The Flames have also compiled a 30-16 mark in Big South Championship games over the same span.

Liberty's All-Time Record Against the Big South

Birmingham-Southern	.3-10
Charleston Southern	.29-19
Coastal Carolina	.25-31
High Point	.26-22
Radford	.36-23
UNC Asheville	.31-16
VMI	.21-7
Winthrop	.23-29
Totals	.194-157



Nanry Receives Conference Player of the Week Honors

Outfielder Tim Nanry was been selected as the Big South Conference Choice Hotels Player of the Week for games played Feb. 12-18.

Nanry batted .667 (6-for-9) in three games last weekend, helping the Flames post a 2-1 record at the Crab House Shootout in Charleston, S.C. He garnered his first two starts of the season on Saturday against host The Citadel and Sunday against Richmond.

The outfielder responded with Liberty's first hit of the day against The Citadel in the fifth inning and scored the tying run in the Flames' 2-1 win.

Sunday against intra-state rival Richmond, Nanry belted three home runs, plated eight runs and scored four times in the Flames' 28-7 victory over the Spiders. The senior, who had the best day of his Liberty career, went 5-for-5 in the contest and was a hit by pitch to pace a 28-hit afternoon for the Flames, a new school record. Nanry finished with a 1.667 slugging percentage on the week.

Flames Break Records in Victory over Richmond

Tim Nanry hit three home runs to pace a school record-breaking, 28-hit attack as the Flames defeated the Richmond Spiders, 28-7, this past Sunday at Riley Park in their final game at the Crab House Shootout in Charleston, S.C. The Flames broke the school mark with 28 hits and tied the record for runs in the contest.

The Liberty's 28 hits set a new standard for hits in a contest, breaking the old mark of 26, which the 2006 squad reached in a contest at UNC Asheville on May 13 of last season and on March 25, 1995, against UMBC. The Flames also surpassed the school mark of 25 RBI in a contest with 28. Liberty tied the school record for runs scored as the Flames also plated 28 runs in a 28-3 victory over Radford on March 19, 1985.

Nanry led the Liberty outburst by going 5-for-5 and being hit by a pitch. The outfielder hit three home runs, had eight RBI and scored four times in the contest. Center fielder Garrett Young went 4-for-5 on the afternoon with four RBI and a home run. Right fielder Phil John also had three hits and drove in six runs for the Flames. Shortstop Patrick Gaillard tied a school mark by scoring five times in the contest.

Young Has Quick Start to LU Career

Junior college transfer Garrett Young started his first season in strong fashion. In the Flames' first six games, the outfielder hit .522 with three doubles and two home runs. He has also drove in six RBI and scored nine runs. The Fountain Valley, Calif. native's batting average, runs scored and 12 hits led the Flames at that point.

Big South Conference Update

(as of Feb. 26, 2007)

Overall Standings

	W	L	Pct.
Coastal Carolina	9	1	.900
VMI	5	2	.714
Winthrop	8	4	.667
Liberty	6	3	.667
Charleston Southern	7	5	.583
Radford	2	4	.333
UNC Asheville	3	4	.429
High Point	3	7	.300

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

Upcoming Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Elon at High Point	2 p.m.
Furman at Charleston So.	2 p.m.
Winthrop at Georgia	3 p.m.
Liberty at VCU	4 p.m.
VMI at Virginia	4 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

UNC Greensboro at High Point	2:30 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at North Carolina	3 p.m.
Radford at Old Dominion	3 p.m.
Winthrop at Clemson	4 p.m.



2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes

The junior started each of Liberty's first six games and hit in 5-of-6 of those contests. The only time, he did not have a hit, Young reached base twice on walks. In his first game in a Flames' uniform, he went 3-for-5 with a home run, a RBI and two runs scored in Liberty's 6-2, season-opening victory at East Carolina.

Liberty Against Nationally Ranked Opponents

Feb. 16th's contest against South Carolina, ranked No. 1 in the nation by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers of America, was the 37th time the Flames have met a nationally-ranked opponent. With its setback in the contest, Liberty has posted an 8-28 mark in those meetings with one contest ending in a tie after being called in the seventh inning due to rain.

The Flames have now squared off against two teams ranked No. 1 in one of the four major polls on five different occasions. Liberty's first meeting with a No. 1 ranked team came against Friday's opponent, South Carolina, in the 2000 NCAA Columbia Regional with the Flames dropping a 6-4 decision to the Gamecocks on May 26. In 2003, No. 1 and eventual national champion Rice swept a three-game series from Liberty in Houston, Tex (March 21-23).

Another Fantastic February?

The month of February has been good to the Flames the past two seasons. Liberty won its last five contests in the second month of the year in 2006 to post a 7-2 mark. In 2005 Flames started 7-1 to begin the season.

So far in 2007, Liberty is 6-3 with today's game the only contest remaining in the opening month of the season.

Liberty's 2007 record, by the month:

Month	Record
February	6-3, 0-0 Big South

Liberty's 2006 record, by the month:

Month	Record
February	7-2, 0-0 Big South
March	12-6, 1-3 Big South
April	14-5, 10-4 Big South
May	6-8, 2-4 Big South

Winning the Close Ones

Liberty finished last season 10-5 in one-run games. Its record in one-run games was one of the keys to Liberty's fast start to 2006 on its way to breaking the school mark for victories in a season. Six of the Flames' first 10 games were decided by one run as Liberty went 5-1 in those games.

The Flames have started 2007, 1-0, in contests decided by one run, defeating The Citadel, 2-1 on February 17.

Quick Starters

With its victory over Marist on March 15, Liberty opened the 2006 season with a 16-3 mark. The record tied the best start by a Flames' team in school history. The 1979 team also started its season at 16-3. Liberty's mark was the best start by a Liberty team at the Division I level.

The 2006 start matched the Flames' early-season success of the previous year. Royer's squad opened 2005 with a 13-3 record en route to a 36-19 final ledger.



When the Flames...

Are at home	3-0
Are on the road	2-2
Are at a neutral site	1-1
vs. left-handed starter	1-2
vs. right-handed starter	5-1
In one-run games	1-0
In two-run games	1-0
In five-plus run games	2-2
Extra innings	0-0
Shutouts	0-0
Score first	2-1
Opponents score first	4-2
Score In the first	2-1
Opponent scores in first	2-3
Lead after the first	1-0
Trail after the first	1-2
Are tied after the first	4-1
Lead after the second	2-0
Trail after the second	2-2
Are tied after the second	1-1
Lead after the third	5-1
Trail after the third	1-2
Are tied after the third	0-0
Lead after the fourth	5-0
Trail after the fourth	1-3
Are tied after the fourth	0-0
Lead after the fifth	6-0
Trail after the fifth	0-2
Are tied after the fifth	0-1
Lead after the sixth	6-0
Trail after the sixth	0-3
Are tied after the sixth	0-0
Lead after the seventh	6-0
Trail after the seventh	0-3
Are tied after the seventh	0-0
Lead after the eighth	6-0
Trail after the eighth	0-3
Are tied after the eighth	0-0
Go to extra Innings	0-0
After winning a game	4-1
After losing a game	1-2
Out-hit opponent	5-1
Out-hit by opponent	1-2
Hits are tied	0-0
Hit a home run	2-0
Opponents hit a home run	2-2
Wear red uniforms	0-0
Wear white uniforms	2-0
Wear navy uniforms	3-1
Wear grey uniforms	1-2
Play on Monday	0-0
Play on Tuesday	0-0
Play on Wednesday	0-0
Play on Thursday	0-0
Play on Friday	2-1
Play on Saturday	3-1
Play on Sunday	1-1

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



Over Two Years and Counting

The Flames have gone 147 games and 34 months without being shut out in a contest. During the span, Liberty mound staff has pitched six shutouts, including three in 2006.

The last time a Liberty team was shut out was April 10, 2004 at Winthrop. Eagles' starter Jeff Reeves combined with relievers Jonathan Settle and Chris Leroux to allow the Flames three hits in a 6-0 win.

Liberty has been limited to one run five times during the period. Last season, Birmingham-Southern allowed the Flames single runs in in back-to-back games on April 28 and 29. Liberty also scored one run in a loss at Winthrop on March 24.

In 2005, Liberty scored only one run on two occasions, in a 1-0 victory over Fairfield on March 9 and in the last game of the season, a 2-1 setback to Coastal Carolina on May 27 at the Big South Baseball Championship.

Changes Continue at Worthington

When the Flames took the field at Worthington Stadium this past Friday for their home opener against Albany, both players and fans saw several changes at the complex.

The most noticeable difference is the field turf collar installed around the home plate area. The collar will save wear and tear on the grass in the area. Fans will also see new uniforms and jackets for the Flames.

Another visible difference will be the refurbished scoreboard. The board itself has been painted and all 730 light bulbs replaced. Besides the scoreboard, the press box, several spectator areas and both dugouts have also received a coat of paint.

Inside the field house, the Liberty locker room has been redone with a new Tuflex surface and paint scheme. Also, additional lighting has been added, while the current lighting was upgraded in the indoor batting cage area.

Big South Tabs Flames Fifth

Liberty was picked to finish fifth in the Big South Conference this season in the league's annual preseason baseball poll, as voted on by the conference's head coaches and sports information directors.

Winthrop was chosen as the conference's team to beat in 2007. The Eagles were picked first on 14 out of the 16 ballots cast. In addition, Winthrop senior outfielder Tommy Lentz was voted the conference's Preseason Player of the Year, while sophomore pitcher Alex Wilson was selected as the conference's Preseason Pitcher of the Year by the panel.

Liberty comes off a 39-21 mark in 2006, which set a new school record for Division I victories. The Flames, who have recorded back-to-back 30-win seasons for the fourth time in the program's history the past two seasons, received 71 points.

Winthrop received 126 points in being tabbed first, followed by Coastal Carolina, who received the other two first-place votes and 108 points. Defending tournament champion UNC Asheville and High Point tied for the third spot in the poll with 82 points. After Liberty, VMI was selected sixth (54), Charleston Southern was tabbed seventh (34) and Radford was eighth (19) in conference voting.

SEBaseball.com Picks Flames Third

The website South Eastern Baseball tabbed Liberty to finish third in its 2007 Big South Conference Preview. The Winthrop Eagles and Coastal Carolina Chanticleers were picked ahead of the Flames.

Liberty first baseman Aaron Grijalva and pitchers Ryan Page and Tim John were named to SEbaseball's Preseason All-Big South first team, while shortstop Patrick Gaillard, outfielder P.K. Keller and pitcher Michael Solbach were selected to the second

The Flames Leaders:**Batting Average**

30	John, Phil	.474
7	Giammaresi, David	.385
33	Young, Garrett	.361

Slugging Pct.

33	Young, Garrett	.611
30	John, Phil	.579
29	Hollinger, Errol	.520

On base Pct.

30	John, Phil	.522
29	Hollinger, Errol	.484
7	Giammaresi, David	.448

Runs Scored

33	Young, Garrett	10
10	Gaillard, Patrick	8

Hits

33	Young, Garrett	13
7	Giammaresi, David	10

RBI

30	John, Phil	10
27	Nanry, Tim	10

Doubles

33	Young, Garrett	3
7	Giammaresi, David	2
30	John, Phil	2

Triples

1	Negron, Kenneth	1
3	Bussey, Tommy	1

Home Runs

27	Nanry, Tim	3
33	Young, Garrett	2

Stolen Bases

1	Negron, Kenneth	4
30	John, Phil	3

ERA

34	Page, Ryan	0.90
17	Umberger, Dustin	1.50

Appearances

34	Page, Ryan	5
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Wins

17	Umberger, Dustin	1
42	Stokes, David	1

Saves

34	Page, Ryan	3
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Innings Pitched

17	Umberger, Dustin	11.0
42	Stokes, David	9.2

Opposing Batting Avg.

34	Page, Ryan	.061
31	Light, Tyler	.130

Strikeouts

42	Stokes, David	12
17	Umberger, Dustin	11
38	Solbach, Michael	11

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



team. The Flames and Eagles each placed the most players on the 30-man All-Big South team with six apiece.

The site also picked Liberty as one of the Southeastern 64, a list of the region's top teams. The Southeastern 64 includes teams from the ACC, SEC, Conference USA, Sun Belt, Atlantic Sun, Colonial, Big South, Southern, Southland, Ohio Valley, MEAC and SWAC, along with South Florida, Louisville, Louisiana Tech and Charlotte, who were included due to their geographic location.

Liberty was the list's 61st team. Also, making the list were 2007 Flames' opponents the Citadel (50), James Madison (40), East Carolina (38), Old Dominion (34), Coastal Carolina (32), VCU (31), Winthrop (19) and South Carolina (3).

Liberty Roster Breakdown

The 2007 edition of the Liberty Flames consists of players from 12 states. California (Aaron Grijalva, Errol Hollinger, Grady Ihnat, Tyler Light and Garrett Young), Florida (Cody Brown, Tommy Bussey, David Giammaresi, P. K. Keller, Jonathan Schneider and Shawn Teufel), New Jersey (Phil John and Tim John), New York (Tim Nanry), North Carolina (Nate Thompson and Andrew Wilson), Oklahoma (Aaron Phillips and David Stokes), Pennsylvania (Dane Beakler, David McCall, Ryan Page and Dustin Umberger), South Carolina (Patrick Gaillard), Virginia (Rusty Lajoie, Michael Solbach, and Andrew Weaver), Washington (Derek Bennion) and West Virginia (Doug Wallace) are the states represented on the Flames' roster.

In addition, the roster features an even distribution among the classes. Leading the way are five seniors (Derek Bennion, Patrick Gaillard, Phil John, Tim John and Tim Nanry) and eight juniors (David Giammaresi, Aaron Grijalva, P. K. Keller, Ryan Page, Aaron Phillips, Michael Solbach, David Stokes and Garrett Young). There are also 11 sophomores (Dane Beakler, Cody Brown, Tommy Bussey, Errol Hollinger, Tyler Light, David McCall, Kenneth Negron, Shawn Teufel, Dustin Umberger, Doug Wallace and Andrew Wilson) and seven freshmen (Grady Ihnat, Cory Johnson, Rusty Lajoie, Jonathan Schneider, Nate Thompson, Chase Vaden and Andrew Weaver).

2006 Flames Set School Division I Win Mark

With a 9-7 win over Winthrop in the first round of the Big South Championship on May 24, the 2006 Liberty squad recorded their 37th victory of the season, a new school record for Division I single-season wins. Head Coach Matt Royer's squad went on to collect two more victories for 39, one shy of the all-time school record of 40, set in 1983.

It was the second-straight year the Flames had reached the previous mark set in 2000. Liberty's win over Radford in the 2005 Big South Baseball Championship was their 36th victory of the season; tying the school mark. The Flames moved to NCAA Division I competition for the 1984 baseball season.

Liberty Reaches 30 Wins Again

With their 6-4 win over Coastal Carolina in the completion of a suspended game on April 23, the Flames reached 30 wins in a season for the 12th time in the program's 32-year history last season. Of the 12, eight have come at the Division I level.

It was the first time under head coach Matt Royer and the fourth time in Liberty history the Flames have posted back-to-back 30-win seasons.

Liberty reached the milestone 30-victory mark for the first time under head coach Matt Royer in 2005. The Flames won their 30th game of the season in a 10-2 triumph over Richmond on May 17 at Worthington Stadium in their 47th game of the year. Liberty captured their 30th win in their 40th game of the 2006 campaign.

The 2006 and 2005 teams joined the 2002 and 2001, the 2001 and 2000 and the 1980

MISCELLANEOUS STATS

MULTIPLE HIT GAMES

	2	3	4	5+	Tot
33 YOUNG, Garrett	2	1	1	-	4
29 HOLLINGER, Errol	3	-	-	-	3
7 GIAMMARESI, David	2	1	-	-	3
30 JOHN, Phil	2	1	-	-	3
6 PHILLIPS, Aaron	2	-	-	-	2
10 GAILLARD, Patrick	2	-	-	-	2
19 KELLER, P. K.	2	-	-	-	2
1 NEGRON, Kenneth	1	1	-	-	2
3 BUSSEY, Tommy	2	-	-	-	2
27 NANRY, Tim	-	-	-	1	1
23 THOMPSON, Nate	1	-	-	-	1
4 BROWN, Cody	1	-	-	-	1
12 TEUFEL, Shawn	1	-	-	-	1
5 GRIJALVA, Aaron	1	-	-	-	1
TEAM	22	4	1	1	28

MULTIPLE RBI GAMES

	2	3	4	5+	Tot
7 GIAMMARESI, David	2	-	-	-	2
30 JOHN, Phil	1	-	-	1	2
29 HOLLINGER, Errol	1	-	1	-	2
27 NANRY, Tim	1	-	-	1	2
6 PHILLIPS, Aaron	1	-	-	-	1
19 KELLER, P.K.	1	-	-	-	1
10 GAILLARD, Patrick	1	-	-	-	1
33 YOUNG, Garrett	-	-	1	-	1
1 NEGRON, Kenneth	1	-	-	-	-
TEAM	6	0	2	2	10

HITTING STREAKS

	Longest	Current
30 JOHN, Phil	5	5
29 HOLLINGER, Errol	4	4
7 GIAMMARESI, David	4	4
6 PHILLIPS, Aaron	4	4
4 BROWN, Cody	3	3
3 BUSSEY, Tommy	3	2
33 YOUNG, Garrett	3	-
1 NEGRON, Kenneth	3	-
5 GRIJALVA, Aaron	3	-
27 NANRY, Tim	3	-
12 TEUFEL, Shawn	2	2
19 KELLER, P. K.	2	1
23 THOMPSON, Nate	2	-
10 GAILLARD, Patrick	2	-
9 MCCALL, David	1	1

2007 Liberty University Baseball Game Notes



and 1981 squads as back-to-back 30-win season teams. Liberty has also had three straight 30-win seasons once in program history as the 2002, 2001 and 2000 teams all won over 30 games.

Off and Running

Liberty led the Big South with 104 stolen bases in 2006. In addition, the Flames ranked 30th in the country among Division I programs in stolen bases per game as they have averaged 1.73 steals per contest, marking stark contrast to 2005.

Last season, the Flames swiped 39 more stolen bases in 60 contests than they had in 55 the previous year. Liberty averaged 1.73 steals per game as they have swiped 104 bases in 127 attempts, an 82 percent success rate.

In 2005, Liberty finished the season with a 77 percent success rate, as they stole 63 bases in 81 attempts (less than 1.15 per game).

Third baseman Chad Miller finished fourth in the Big South with 24 steals in his final season with Flames. Aaron Grijalva ranked fifth in the conference with 23 stolen bases. The first baseman was caught stealing only once in 2006. Shortstop Patrick Gaillard was also among the Big South leaders with 16 thefts, ranking ninth. The shortstop also was only caught once last season, too.

2006 - A Record Breaking Year

Besides the Flames setting a new benchmark for Division I wins, several other Liberty team and individual records were tied or broken in 2006.

Twice during the year, the Flames won nine-consecutive games to tie the program mark for consecutive wins (March 4-March 15 and March 29-April 11) and made 1,610 putouts, a single-season record.

Individually, several marks were surpassed led by senior Phillip Laurent. The left fielder's 280 career hits eclipsed the previous mark of 262 safeties set by Larry Wayne York in 2002. He also set new school career standards for doubles with 68 and at bats with 816. Laurent left his mark on the single-season record book as well with 27 doubles in his last season at Liberty.

He was joined in the record book by Michael Just and Chad Miller as the two infielders broke single-season marks in their final year as Flames. Just set new standards with 94 hits in seasons and 248 at bats, while Miller took over the top of the Liberty single-season run list with 68.

Royer Gets Milestone Victories

Liberty head coach Matt Royer reached two career milestones in guiding the Flames to a 39-21 record last year.

On Feb. 21, the Liberty skipper won the 400th game of his 16-year coaching career as the Flames defeated Longwood, 4-3, in Farmville, Va.

Later in the season, Royer picked up his 100th victory in his four-year tenure as the head coach of his alma mater with a 15-4 Liberty win at William & Mary on April 5.

Looking Ahead

Liberty returns home on the weekend for a three-game series with Manhattan. The Jaspers made the NCAA tournament last season. The Flames will host Manhattan with a single contest on Friday at 2:30 p.m. and single games also on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

The Flames then travel to Norfolk, Va. for a midweek afternoon game at Old Dominion on March 6. Game time is scheduled for 3 p.m.