

# A TRADITION OF

Widely regarded as not only one of the best mid-major programs in the country, but as one of the best programs on the East Coast, VCU boasts a rich tradition of winning.

The rise to greatness began in 1983 when legendary head coach Tony Guzzo took over the program and began a journey that brought about the school's first conference championship and NCAA Tournament appearance in 1988.

That year Guzzo led a star-studded roster to a school record 45 wins and its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament when the Rams battled against Georgia Tech and Towson in the Atlantic Regional hosted by the University of Miami.

Since that season, the Rams have been the superior baseball program in the Commonwealth of Virginia, boasting the most wins and highest winning percentage of any Division I baseball program with a mark of 674-457-1. The 674 wins over that 20-year span is 29 more wins than any other program with the University of Richmond having tallied 645 wins during those seasons.

Guzzo continued to build his program with another NCAA Tournament appearance in 1992 after capturing the Metro Conference regular season championship.

The Rams were sent to the Central Regional as the sixth-seed, blessed with the gift of taking on national power, the University of Texas. The Black & Gold did not back down, dropping a 2-0 decision in the opening game before reeling off three straight wins to face the Longhorns on Championship Sunday. The Rams had to beat Texas twice and they were on their way after defeating the Longhorns 4-2 in the opening game, but VCU finally ran out of gas in the finale and



# EXCELLENCE

dropped a tough 12-3 decision.

When Head Coach Paul Keyes took over the reins, the success kept building with a Colonial Athletic Association regular-season championship and the first-ever CAA Championship and yet another NCAA Tournament appearance in 1998.

The Rams NCAA Tournament magic appeared once again in 2001 when VCU headed to the Baton Rouge Regional, hosted by perennial power LSU.

The Black & Gold picked up a win over California in the opener, 9-7, before dropping a 13-9 decision to LSU. After eliminating California on Saturday, VCU headed to Championship Sunday with the daunting task of having to beat the

Bayou Bengals twice. Prior to that 2001 Regional, LSU had never lost a single game on Championship Sunday. VCU

changed that quickly as the Rams pounded Tiger pitching for a 10-7 victory in Game One. VCU continued that momentum in the second game and jumped on LSU early in Game Two, but the Tigers bounced back to pick up the 14-9 victory and head to the College World Series.

The NCAA Tournament quickly became a fixture with the VCU baseball program with appearances in 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2007 to go along with CAA Championships in all those seasons.

VCU Baseball, a Tradition of Excellence. A Tradition that does not appear to be slowing down any time soon.

## LAST 20 YEARS

**VCU:** 674-457-1 (.596)

**Richmond:** 645-452-4 (.587)

**Old Dominion:** 637-466-1 (.578)

**James Madison:** 642-495-1 (.565)

**Virginia Tech:** 613-497-6 (.552)

**Virginia:** 604-514-6 (.540)

**Liberty:** 570-503-6 (.531)

**George Mason:** 563-512-3 (.524)

**William & Mary:** 508-500-3 (.504)

**Radford:** 414-592-4 (.412)

**VMI:** 379-597-1 (.388)

## NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

### IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

**VCU - 6**

**Virginia - 5**

**Richmond - 3**

**James Madison - 2**

**Virginia Tech - 2**

**Liberty - 1**

**Old Dominion - 1**

**George Mason - 1**

**William & Mary - 1**