

Having earned a NCAA record 24 consecutive winning seasons entering last year, it was expected that William and Mary would continue building upon the program's proud tradition. The Tribe did not disappoint the W&M faithful, as the team finished 2006 with a school-record 17-match unbeaten streak and ranked eighth nationally in the final RPI released by the NCAA. Additionally, the College posted the best winning percentage in the program's history (.857) with a 16-1-4 mark, went 10-0-1 in conference play and garnered a NCAA Tournament bid for the 14th time in the last 15 years. While the Tribe enters this season without the services of five seniors from a year ago, eight starters return to the fold and are a source of great optimism as the team embarks upon the 2007 campaign.

While talent played an integral role in the Tribe's success last season, team chemistry and leadership were equally important. The College will rely heavily upon its captains – **Brittany Bode**, **Danielle Collins** and **Mary MacKenzie Grier** – to provide excellent leadership in the coming year. Seniors **Emily Kittleson**, **Donna Mataya** and **Anne Sprinkel** will also be instrumental leading the team as it sets out to achieve its goals.

### Goalkeepers

Perhaps the Tribe's greatest strength this season will be its goalkeepers, a unit Head Coach John Daly cites as perhaps the best in the program's history. After starting all 21 contests last season, junior **Meghan Walker** returns as the squad's most experienced goalie. A second-team All-CAA selection and first-team all-state honoree in '06, she recorded a conference-best 10 shutouts, which ranks as the second-best single-season mark in school history. Additionally, she led the CAA with an impressive goals-against average of just 0.68.

Also in the mix for playing time are sophomores **Jackie Bowman** and **Mary Jo Loos**, as well as heralded freshman **Grace Barnard**. While neither Bowman nor Loos saw significant action last year, both possess the ability to contribute. Barnard comes to the College with impressive credentials, as she was one of the nation's best prep



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net-minders and served as a captain of the Region I ODP team. She also garnered All-America accolades by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) and was ranked among the top 100 high school players by *Soccer Buzz*.

### Defenders

Another key component of the Tribe's success last season was its defensive corps, and the group returns a number of talented players. Junior **Abby Lauer**, a second-team all-state selection in 2006, anchors the unit and has cemented her starting role at the right back position after starting all 41 matches of her career. A second-team Academic All-District III honoree, Lauer helped the Tribe hold opponents to just 0.68 goals per match last year while posting 11 shutouts.

Though the loss of seniors Lauren Bowers and all-conference selection Anna Young will be felt, Grier and junior **Meredith Brown** have earned significant playing time as starters during their careers and will provide leadership and stability in the backfield. While she did not see significant playing time last year, sophomore **Juli Valls** was impressive at left back during the spring. All four players will face challenges from freshmen **Kaitlin O'Connor** and **Katy Winsper**, who both had impressive prep careers. Senior **Amanda Brodeur** and sophomore **Annie Macomber**, who is also a member of the W&M lacrosse team, will also vie for playing time.

### Midfielders

With a bevy of gifted midfielders returning to the pitch, Daly expects the position to be another area of strength. Leading the unit is Collins, who is a 2007 Preseason Hermann Trophy Watch List Honoree. The Cream Ridge, N.J., native was chosen to participate in the U.S. U-21 Women's National Team Training Camp in February and was a member of the U.S. U-21 National Team at the Futbol International Tournament in April. Last season, she was selected to the NSCAA All-Mid-Atlantic First Team and was a first-team All-CAA honoree.

Kittleson and sophomore **Krissy Vornadore** earned playing time in all 21 matches last year and will continue to be staples in the midfield. Kittleson finished last season with six points on two goals and a pair of assists, while Vornadore was named to the CAA All-Freshman Team and the *Soccer Buzz* Mid-Atlantic Region All-Freshman Team.

Bode, a CAA All-Rookie Team honoree in 2004, and fellow senior Sprinkel both had impressive showings during the spring and should see increased playing time this year. Sophomores **Kim Sunada** and **Kendall Stone** also should vie for increased action, while freshmen **Danielle Axenfeld**, **Emily DeNardis**, **Brittany Lane** and **Mary Carter Jacocks** will push the returnees for time on the pitch.

### Forwards

Leading the Tribe's scoring attack is one of the nation's premier forwards in junior **Claire Zimmeck**. A 2007 Preseason Hermann Trophy Watch List Honoree, she was one of college soccer's most prolific goal scorers last season, ranking 15th nationally in goals per match (0.74) and 18th in points per match (1.68). The Fairfax, Va., native's success did not go unrecognized as she was honored as an All-American by *Soccer Buzz* and Top Drawer Soccer. Additionally, she earned CAA Player of the Year distinction, marking the ninth time a W&M player has won the award.



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Joining Zimmeck up front is Mataya, who finished last season ranked fourth in the CAA in goals (11) and points (24). A second-team all-state selection and a 2006 CAA All-Tournament Team member, Mataya should once again be among the conference's top scorers.

Sophomores **Kellie Jenkins** and **Sarah Quinlan** earned valuable experience during their rookie campaigns, which should translate into even greater success in the coming season. Freshman **Anna Kayes** should also compete for time as an attacker.

### Schedule

While W&M consistently plays a challenging schedule, this season's ledger is particularly imposing with 19 regular-season contests against teams from across the country. Highlighting the non-conference portion of the schedule is a match against defending national champion North Carolina (Sept. 16). Additionally, the Tribe will take on 2006 NCAA participants Navy (Sept. 14), Old Dominion (Nov. 1), UNC Greensboro (Aug. 31) and Virginia (Sept. 23).

The Green and Gold will once again host the annual Tribe Invitational, which features contests against Oklahoma (Sept. 7) and Maine (Sept. 9). Other non-conference dates include a trip to N.C. State (Sept. 2) and a home affair with Albany (Sept. 19).

After going unbeaten in conference play and claiming the CAA regular-season championship in 2006, the Tribe can expect the opposition's best this season in league play. W&M's home CAA matches include: Drexel (Sept. 28), Delaware (Sept. 30), Towson (Oct. 19), George Mason (Oct. 21) and Georgia State (Oct. 26). Conference road contests include: Hofstra (Oct. 5), Northeastern (Oct. 7), James Madison (Oct. 12), Virginia Commonwealth (Oct. 14), UNC Wilmington (Oct. 28) and Old Dominion (Nov. 1).

The opening round of the CAA Championship is scheduled for Nov. 6 and will be at the higher seeds' home sites. The semifinals and finals will be held on Nov. 9 and 11 in Virginia Beach.