Media interest in Virginia Tech football and Coach Frank Beamer swelled during Tech’s 11-0 regular season in 1999 and the Hokies’ appearance in the Sugar Bowl national championship game.
What Is a Hokie?

That’s the most often-asked question in Virginia Tech athletics. The answer leads all the way back to 1896 when Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College changed its name to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. With the change came the necessity for writing a new cheer and a contest for such a purpose was held by the student body. Senior O.M. Stull won first prize for his “Hokie” yell which still is used today. Later, when asked if “Hokie” had any special meaning, Stull explained the word was solely the product of his imagination and was used only as an attention-getter for his yell. It soon became a nickname for all Tech teams and for those people loyal to Tech athletics. The official school colors — Chicago maroon and burnt orange — also were introduced in 1896. They were chosen because they made a “unique combination” not worn elsewhere at the time.

Spirit units at Virginia Tech include (clockwise, from top left) the HighTechs dance team; the Hokies’ lovable mascot, the HokieBird; the cheerleading squads; the Marching Virginians band, known as “the Spirit of Tech”; and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets regimental band, the Highty-Tighties. Tech and Texas A&M are the only two schools in the country with a full-time corps of cadets as part of a larger civilian student body.
The Press Box
The press box at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field is comprised of five levels. Newspaper and television reporters, the radio network crews and statisticians work on the eighth level. Space in other areas is assigned as follows: Sixth level-University President's box; Seventh level-Athletic Fund Box; Ninth level-Public address announcer, scoreboard operators, Tech coaches' phones, private boxes; Roof-Television broadcast booth, team coaches' show and film crews, phones for visiting team's coaches and overflow area for media and pro scouts. The press box is accessible by an elevator which is centrally located underneath the west stands and runs to levels six through nine. Steps from the ninth level provide access to the roof area. Admission to the press box is by credential only. Smoking is not allowed in the stands or in any enclosed area of Lane Stadium, including the press box and rest rooms.

Press Credentials
Requests for press credentials are screened with care due to the demand for credentials and to ensure a working press box. Traditional print, television and radio (media agency) regularly assigned to cover Virginia Tech and the visiting school will receive first priority, as well as national news-gathering agencies. Credentials for on-line Internet sites will be granted to Virginia Tech operated Web sites, the visiting team's official Web site and the BIG EAST Conference's official Web site.

Requests should be made in writing on company letterhead at least 10 days prior to the game to ensure consideration. Requests should be directed to Dave Smith, sports information director. Requests the week of the game will be honored on a space-available basis and will be left at the Will Call window at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field if they cannot be mailed.

Spouses, dates, children, equipment carriers and non-workers are restricted from the press box, sidelines and locker rooms. Any abuse of a working credential will result in the media agency losing credential privileges.

In some instances due to space limitations meeting the criteria identified below does not guarantee credentials for every game.

Accreditation Guidelines
• Only full-time, salaried employees intending to provide actual game coverage may receive a credential.
• A requesting media agency must represent a collective, organizational editorial voice, not simply the offerings of a single individual.
• Membership in a writer's association does not automatically qualify an agency for credentials.
• A media agency may assign one of its credentials to its on-line entity.
• An on-line entity, not associated with a traditional media agency, may qualify for one credential, subject to the following conditions:
  • An on-line entity may receive a credential only if its own full-time staff writes a majority percentage of that site's own material.
  • On-line entities that focus primarily on Virginia Tech Athletics and also sponsor message boards or chat rooms, may receive credentials provided they adhere to a policy that requires that a posted message or opinion is identified with the actual name and city of the individual.
  • Any on-line service that is recognized as an outlet intended primarily for the purpose of delivering news related to the recruitment of student-athletes will not qualify for credentials.
  • On-line entities will not receive photography credentials.
  • On-line entities (other than those identified above) registering 20,000 legitimate unique users per month in each of the past 12 months will be given first consideration. “Real-time” transmission of digital images, audio and data, including live game play-by-play and statistics, of any home game is the exclusive property of Virginia Tech and/or its rights holder(s). “Real-time” is defined as “live continual coverage or description of an event.”

Media Will Call
In most cases, credentials will be mailed. Credentials may be picked up through Friday on a game week from secretary Donna Smith at the Sports Information Office. Credentials not mailed or picked up will be held at the Will Call window located a few steps from the main entrance to the west stands of Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Photo Credentials
The NCAA has established a control policy to keep the field free from congestion. Only photographers on assignment and members of the television media are given photo credentials. Freelance or amateur photographers will not be issued credentials. All photographers must work outside the 30-yard lines as prescribed by the NCAA. Photographers are not permitted in the bench area.

For those who need to transmit photos electronically, a work room for photographers, complete with phone lines, will be available. This room is located in the June Oblinger Shott Media Center, on the Continued …
The BIG EAST Conference
www.bigeast.org
Communications – (401) 453-0660
Switchboard – (401) 272-9108
Fax – (401) 751-8540

Arkansas State
Primary Football Contact: Gina Bowman
Office Phone: (870) 972-2541
Home Phone: (870) 932-6947
E-mail Address: wbowen@astate.edu
SID Fax: (870) 972-3367
School Website: www.ASUIndians.com

LSU
Primary Football Contact: Michael Bonnette
Office Phone: (225) 578-8226
Home Phone: (225) 923-2426
E-mail Address: mbonnette@lsu.edu
SID Fax: (225) 578-1861
School Website: www.LSUSports.net

Marshall
Primary Football Contact: Ricky Hazel
Office Phone: (304) 696-4660
Home Phone: (304) 429-8499
E-mail Address: hazel@marshall.edu
SID Fax: (304) 696-2325
School Website: www.HerdZone.com

Texas A&M
Primary Football Contact: Brad Marquardt
Office Phone: (979) 845-0096
Home Phone: (979) 696-5721
E-mail: bmarquardt@athletics.tamu.edu
SID Fax: (979) 845-0564
School Website: www.AggieAthletics.com

Western Michigan
Football SID: Daniel Jankowski
Office Phone: (616) 387-4122
Home Phone: (616) 760-5133
E-mail: daniel.jankowski@wmich.edu
SID Fax: (616) 387-4139
School Website: wmubroncos.com

Boston College
Primary Football Contact: Chris Cameron
Office Phone: (617) 552-3004
Home Phone: To be announced
E-mail Address: cameroch@bc.edu
SID Fax: (617) 552-4903
School Website: www.BCEagles.com

Opponents’ Sports Information Directory
Rutgers
Primary Football Contact: John Wooling
Office Phone: (732) 445-4200
Home Phone: (732) 548-7005
E-mail Address: jwooling@scarletknights.com
SID Fax: (732) 445-3063
School Website: www.scarletknights.com

Temple
Primary Football Contact: Kevin Lorincz
Office Phone: (215) 204-1608
Home Phone: (856) 854-0292
E-mail Address: lorinczkk@temple.edu
SID Fax: (215) 204-7499
School Website: www.owlsports.com

Pittsburgh
Primary Football Contact: E.J. Borghetti
Office Phone: (412) 648-8240
Home Phone: (412) 441-2431
E-mail Address: eborghini@athletics.pitt.edu
SID Fax: (412) 648-8248
School Website: www.pittsburghpanthers.com

Syracuse
Primary Football Contact: Sue Edson
Office Phone: (315) 443-2608
Home Phone: (315) 469-8007
E-mail Address: sedson@syr.edu
SID Fax: (315) 443-2076
School Website: www.suathletics.com

West Virginia
Primary Football Contact: Shelly Poe
Office Phone: (304) 293-2821
Home Phone: (304) 599-7259
E-mail Address: shelly.poe@mail.wvu.edu
SID Fax: (304) 293-4105
School Website: www.MSNsportsNET.com

Virginia
Primary Football Contact: Michael Colley
Office Phone: (434) 982-5525
Home Phone: (434) 975-5477
E-mail Address: mcc.7k@virginia.edu
Media Relations Fax: (434) 982-5525
School Website: www.virginiasports.com

Miami
Primary Football Contact: Doug Walker
Office Phone: (305) 284-3244
Home Phone: (305) 598-8527
E-mail Address: dwalker@miami.edu
SID Fax: (305) 284-2807
School Website: www.hurricanesports.com

Press Box Services
Complete team and individual statistics, a play-by-play drive chart, defensive stats and postgame coaches’ quotes will be provided. An inside public address announcer keeps the media abreast of play-by-play, records that are broken and game notes. A pregame meal is served, starting approximately one and one-half hours before kickoff and refreshments are available throughout the game. Postgame stats will be faxed upon request.

Telephones
Long distance telephones will be located on the working press tables. These phones require collect calls or a credit card for billing and are designated for pool use. Media members desiring their own telephones should submit requests to Virginia Tech CNS (Shannon Hall at (540) 231-4350 or 4640, ehall@vt.edu). If you request your own phone, please notify the sports information office so we can give the phone company the proper location. Please make your requests well in advance of the game.

Postgame Interviews
With the construction of the south end zone addition, all postgame interviews will take place in the June Oblinger Shott Media Center, located on the ground level, beneath the new edifice. After a short cool-down period, Coach Frank Beamer and selected players will meet with the news media after each home game. A separate room, located directly across the hall from the Tech interview room, is available for interviews with the coaches and players from the visiting team. Directions to both interview areas will be available in the press box or through the SID Office. Media access to visiting players will be determined by the visiting SID.

Virginia Tech Web Site
Notes, releases, statistics and other pertinent information are available on Tech’s official Web site (hokiesports.com). Because of easy access to information on the Web site, members of the media no
longer receive weekly releases by mail. Tech's football statistics will be available on the same day of home games and the day after road games. Official defensive statistics are generally available by 6 p.m., the day after all games. Notes on the upcoming game will be updated late Monday afternoon.

BIG EAST on the Web
The BIG EAST site on the Internet is available at www.bigeast.org. The site contains current information on all facets of the BIG EAST Conference. In addition, in-game scores for football contests involving BIG EAST teams will be updated in-progress. Please contact Rob Carolla in the BIG EAST media relations department for more information.

Interview Policy
Virginia Tech's coaches and players will be available throughout the season for interviews with members of the news media. It is important, however, that all requests for interviews be made through the Tech Sports Information Office. All requests for players to appear at the press luncheons must be submitted to Bryan Johnston by noon on Monday of that week. You can call him at 540-231-3387 or e-mail him at blj@vt.edu. Any other requests for individual interviews, whether by phone or at practice, need to be submitted by noon on Monday as well. Player availability for the press luncheons is determined by the players' class and lifting schedules; some players may not be available. In that case, all efforts will be made to get the player at some point during the week.
Any media member wishing to attend practice and talk to a specific player or coach needs to contact the SID Office the day before to allow time to contact the desired people.
At no time will a player's phone number be given out and media are asked not to call the players at home or ask for their contact information.

Weekly Interview Session
On Tuesdays prior to each Tech game, Coach Frank Beamer and select members of the Tech team will be available to meet accredited media in the Bowman Room, located on the fourth floor of the Jamerson Athletic Center. A light lunch will be available at approximately 12:30 p.m. Coach Beamer will begin the interview session at 1 p.m., followed by player interviews at approximately 1:20. The interview session will conclude by 2:30 p.m.

The Tech Hotline
Coach Frank Beamer will be featured each week on The Tech Sports Hotline. These taped telephone reports will begin the Monday before the first game and will be updated each Monday afternoon during the season. The telephone number for these reports is (540) 232-3719.

Calling Coach Beamer
The best way to reach Coach Frank Beamer, other than on the BIG EAST Teleconference on Mondays or at his weekly press interview session on Tuesdays, is through the Sports Information Office at (540) 231-6726.

BIG EAST Teleconference
The BIG EAST football coaches will be featured on a weekly teleconference, beginning on Monday, Aug. 27 and continuing each Monday through Nov. 19. Each coach will be available for 10 minutes. The teleconference number will be mailed to media members who cover Virginia Tech football. Members of the media can also inquire about the number by contacting The BIG EAST Conference Office at (401) 453-0660.

Satellite Feed
Both Virginia Tech and the BIG EAST provide weekly satellite feeds with highlights and coaches interviews. Additional information is available through the SID office.
Media Outlets

Wire Service

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Hank Kurz, Jr.
Suite 1380
700 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 643-6223
Fax (804) 643-6223

Newspapers

hokiesports – the newspaper
Jimmy Robertson, Editor
367 Jamerson Ath. Center
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0546
(540) 231-4134
Fax (540) 231-6984

BLACKSBURG SENTINEL
Ron Evans, SE
PO Box 419
Christianburg, VA 24073
(540) 382-6171
Fax (540) 382-3009

BLUEFIELD DAILY
TELEGRAPH
Teddy Paynter, SE
PO Box 1399
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-2811
Fax (304) 327-6179

BRISTOL HERALD-COURIER
Michael White, SE
Bucky Dent, SW
320 Morrison Blvd.
Bristol, VA 24201
(276) 669-2181
Fax (276) 669-3696

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS
Jerry Ratcliffe, SE
PO Box 9030
Charlottesville, VA 22906
(434) 978-7246
Fax (434) 975-7104

COLLEGIATE TIMES
Sports Editor
363 Squires Student Center
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0546
(540) 231-9865
Fax (540) 231-5057

DANVILLE REGISTER & BEE
Evan Jones, SE
700 Monument Street
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 797-2311
Fax (434) 797-2299

FREEDOM TIMES NEWS
& DAILY ADVANCE
Kelly Villiers, SE
Mary Crockett, SW
101 Wyndale Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501
(434) 385-5554
Fax (434) 385-5538

MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN
Brian Root, SE
PO Box 3711
Martinsville, VA 24115
(276) 638-8801
Fax (276) 638-4153

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS
Doug Robertson, SE
Norm Wood, SW
David Teel, Columnist
7505 Warwick Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23607
(757) 247-4637
Fax (757) 247-9420

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT
Charles Riebel, SE
Paul White, Sportswriter
Bob Molinaro, Columnist
Tom Robinson, Columnist
150 W. Brambleton Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23510
1-800-446-2012
(757) 446-2630
Fax (757) 533-9004

PETERSBURG PROGRESS-INDEX
John Coscia, SE
15 Franklin Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
(804) 732-3456
Fax (804) 861-9452

PULASKI TIMES NEWS
Ron Bliss, SE
George Thwaites, SW
701 Lynn Garden Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501
(434) 385-5554
Fax (434) 385-5538

STANTON DAILY NEWS LEADER
Hubert Grimm, SE
PO Box 59
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 885-7281
Fax (540) 885-1904

WAVY-TV
Bruce Rader, SD
VT: Greg Burton
300 Wavy St.
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 393-1010
Fax (757) 397-8279

WAVA-TV
Scot Cash, SD
VT: Scot Cash, Brian Smith
613 Woodis Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 625-1313
Fax (757) 628-5885

WVEC-TV
Scott Cash, SD
VT: Scot Cash, Brian Smith
613 Woodis Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 625-1313
Fax (757) 628-5885

WBFN-TV
Bill Lindsey, SE
325 Squires Student Center
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-9881

WBTU-TV
Ben Hamlin, SD
PO Box 12
Richmond, VA 23218
(804) 230-5461
Fax (804) 230-2789

WNCN-TV
Chip Tarkenton, SD
301 Arborneut Place
Richmond, VA 23236
(804) 330-8888
Fax (804) 330-8888

WVAR-TV
Josh Lewis, SD
PO Box 1930
Bluefield, WV 24701-1930
(304) 325-3547
Fax (304) 327-5586

WWSB-TV
Dennis Carter, SD
2320 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501
(434) 528-1315
Fax (434) 847-8800

WYCB-TV
Paul Johnson, SD
101 Lee Street
Bristol, VA 24201-4355
(276) 645-1555
Fax (276) 645-1554

WTVB-TV
Lane Casadonte, SD
VT: Greg Burton
300 Wavy St.
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 393-1010
Fax (757) 397-8279

WTVK-TV
Ted Alexander, SD
720 Boush Street
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 446-1000
Fax (757) 446-1376

WWEW-TV
Scott Cash, SD
VT: Scot Cash, Brian Smith
613 Woodis Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 625-1313
Fax (757) 628-5885

WDBJ-TV
Mike Stevens, SE
PO Box 7
Roanoke, VA 24022
(540) 985-3623
Fax (540) 343-7269

WSG-TV
Justin Ditmore, SD
PO Box 10
Roanoke, VA 24022
(540) 981-9126
Fax (540) 343-2059

WHSV-TV
Jim Gordon
544 W. Main Street
Waynesboro, VA 22980
(540) 949-8213
Fax (540) 942-4542

WLBK-TV
Ben Brooks, SE
2 N. Kent Street
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 667-3200
Fax (540) 667-0012
Dave Smith
Sports Information Director

Dave Smith is beginning his 28th year with the Virginia Tech Athletics Department and his 12th full-time season with the Hokie football team. He has been involved with the football team each of his 27 years at Tech. Smith deals with head coach Frank Beamer and the rest of the Virginia Tech coaching staff, as well as overseeing the day-to-day working of the sports information office. Smith also travels with the team to road games.

All interview requests for Coach Beamer or assistant coaches should be made through Smith by calling (540) 231-6726.

Smith is a 1970 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in English.

Bryan Johnston
Assistant Sports Information Director

Bryan Johnston is in his fourth year with the Virginia Tech Athletics Department and his third with the Hokie football team. Johnston's main duties with the football team include acting as the liaison between the media and the Tech football players and setting up the weekly press conferences. He also travels with the team to road games.

All interview requests for Coach Beamer or assistant coaches should be made through Smith by calling (540) 231-3387 or e-mailing him at bjl@vt.edu.

Johnston is a native of Chesapeake, Va., and is a 1999 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in sport administration.

David Knachel
Assistant Sports Information Director

David Knachel is in his sixth year as an assistant SID at Virginia Tech, and has been photographing Hokie sports since he came to the university as a student in 1981.

Knachel is responsible for photographic coverage of all 21 sports at Tech and designing athletic department publications as well.

Media requests for images of Tech players, coaches and administrators should be made to Knachel by calling (540) 231-1838 or e-mailing him at allsport@vt.edu.

Bryan Johnston is in his fourth year with the Virginia Tech Athletics Department and his third with the Hokie football team. Johnston's main duties with the football team include acting as the liaison between the media and the Tech football players and setting up the weekly press conferences. He also travels with the team to road games.

All interview requests for Coach Beamer or assistant coaches should be made through Smith by calling (540) 231-6726.

Smith is a 1970 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in English.

About Our Name

While the full name of the school is Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the school is commonly referred to as just “Virginia Tech.” Founded in 1872, as Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, the university changed its name to Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1896. Fans of the athletic department, as well as media covering the Hokies, shortened the name to VPI, and it eventually became Virginia Tech. The “State University” was added in 1970 to make the official title what it is today.

Those covering Hokie athletics are asked to refer to the university as simply “Virginia Tech.” Virginia Tech University, VPI and SU, VPI&SU, VT or VA Tech are not recognized names and should not be used.

2002 Tech Travel Headquarters

Texas A&M
Del Lago Resort Hotel
600 Del Lago Blvd.,
Montgomery, Texas  77356-5349
Phone: (936) 582-7418
Fax: (936) 582-4918

Western Michigan
McCamy Plaza Hotel
50 Capital Ave. SW,
Battle Creek, Mich.  49017
Phone: (616) 963-7050
Fax: (616) 963-3880

Boston College
The Westin Waltham-Boston
70 Third Ave.,
Waltham, Mass.  02154
Phone: (781) 290-5600
Fax: (781) 890-5959

Syracuse
Wyndham Syracuse
6301 Route 298,
East Syracuse, N.Y.  13057
Phone: (315) 432-0200
Fax: (315) 433-1210

Miami
Marriott
1201 NW LeJeune Rd.,
Miami, Fla.  33172
Telephone: (305) 644-5780
Fax: (305) 644-5775

2002 VIRGINIA TECH FOOTBALL 319

Jamerson Athletic Center

The Virginia Tech Sports Information Office is located on the fourth floor of the Jamerson Athletic Center, behind Cassell Coliseum.

Getting To Campus

The campus is located in Blacksburg, Va., about 40 miles southwest of Roanoke, Va. To reach the campus from Interstate 81, take Exit 118-B (Christiansburg) onto U.S. Route 460 West. Follow the 460 Blacksburg Bypass and turn right onto Rt. 314.

By Air
Roanoke Regional Airport in Roanoke, Va., is served by major domestic airlines. Limousine services provide transportation between the airport and campus. Private planes may land at the Virginia Tech Airport, near campus.

Game Day Media Parking (media parking pass required)

When entering from Southgate Drive, turn right onto Tech Center Drive. Media parking is located on the right as you drive up the hill.

Visitor Parking (non-game days)

Visitor parking permits are available at the Information/Visitors Center on Southgate Drive (Rt. 314) just off the 460 Blacksburg Bypass.
REACHING FOR EXCELLENCE

There is no better example of Virginia Tech’s commitment to excellence in facilities than Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. With more than 11,000 new seats in place for the 2002 season, the next step calls for an expansion and stunning new look for the West side. Surrounding the stadium is an outstanding array of facilities, including indoor and outdoor practice fields, as well as spacious athletic performance, academic support and training areas.