The impressive south end zone expansion in Lane Stadium (above) was completed prior to the 2002 football season. The next possible phase of expansion involves the west side, depicted below in an architect’s drawing.
When it comes to athletic facilities, Virginia Tech's Director of Athletics, Jim Weaver has a simple philosophy — “as soon as you sit still in terms of facilities, you have taken a step backward.”

It has become clear that Virginia Tech has no intention of sitting still on the facilities front. There is a continuous stream of improvements underway or in the planning process in the athletics complex. A number of projects have recently concluded while several larger endeavors loom on the horizon.

The Virginia Tech athletics department is living up to Jim Weaver's challenge to constantly enhance its facilities. Here are a few examples:

- The recently completed Eddie Ferrell Memorial Training Room is a 4,300 square-foot facility that gives the athletic trainers a centralized area to provide physical therapy, chiropractic care and massage therapy to Tech student-athletes.

- The Lane Stadium south end zone expansion consists of 11,100 new seats, 15 luxury suites, two club areas, four television camera stations, a new visitors' locker room that can be split in half and used for the spring sports, new storage rooms and the new June Oblinger Shott Media Center.

- Cassell Coliseum's walkway and concession areas got a facelift prior to the 2002-2003 basketball season. The ceilings were raised and wood panels were added, as was Hokie Stone in some areas. Additionally, new lights and carpet were installed.

- McComas Field, an existing university field which has lights, was made regulation size and became the new game field for the men's and women's varsity soccer teams as well as women's lacrosse. The surrounding land has been converted into two full-size practice fields. A second phase, the installation of 1,000 permanent seats and rest room facilities, will be completed prior to this fall.

- The remodelling of Lane Stadium's west side is in the planning stages and will involve the removal of the fencing that surrounds the stadium and replacing it with an actual entrance, the construction of additional new luxury suites, a new President's area, two private club seating areas, an expanded press box, new concession stands, a new ticket office, new athletic fund offices, an Athletics Hall of Fame and a new student academic services area.

- Tech has plans for a new field house that will be wider and longer than Rector Field House and would be used for football, soccer and lacrosse. Underneath the new field house there will be batting cages for softball and baseball as well as additional storage areas.

- With a new field house in place, Rector Field House would become a permanent indoor facility for the track & field team.

- Lights were installed this summer at English Field, home of the Tech baseball team, allowing for fewer missed classes for the athletes.
The Virginia Tech football team has enjoyed a decade of success, going to 10 straight bowl games. A big part of that success is the home-field advantage the Hokies enjoy at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Billed as one of the toughest places to play, the Hokies play on not only one of the best playing surfaces in the nation, but with the new south end zone addition, the Hokies play in one of the best stadiums in the nation.

Now entering its 39th season as an arena of collegiate football competition, Lane Stadium/Worsham Field has gone through numerous changes, renovations and additions. But through it all, it has always been regarded as one of the finest places to watch — and toughest places for opponents to play — a college football game.

**A New Look**

Last season was marked by tough competition and record-setting crowds as the capacity rose to 65,115 when the second of what Virginia Tech hopes to be a three-phase project was completed at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Prior to last season, Tech added 11,120 seats in the south end zone to enclose that end of the stadium. The double-deck structure is similar to the Cleveland Browns’ “Dawg Pound” section and has bleacher, bench-back and club seats. The structure is enclosed, but has gaps between the existing structure and the new one. This is because of new building codes and a desire to get fans closer to the field.

Below the south end zone stands are several new features. There is a football visitor’s locker room which can be divided and used for other sports’ visiting teams in the winter and spring.

There is also the June Oblinger Shott Media Center, which houses a new press room, two press conference areas, three radio rooms, a dark room and several storage rooms.

The outside of the facility also has a new look, making the entrance more inviting. Walkways and landscaping give the south and west sides a more appealing entrance for fans and teams.

This past summer, $1.9 million was raised to fund the ongoing planning of the west side expansion. While nothing has been finalized or approved, the west side would be another magnificent addition to the stadium.

Given the process of capital funding approval, the athletics department has set forth a
FACILITIES

The finest playing fields around. Makes Worsham Field one of a handful of other places in just a handful of other months. Temperature during the winter. Bermuda grass at an optimum system was installed to keep the facility is the turf and improved overall facilities. This past winter, a heating drainage system that was replaced in the summer of 2001.

Another recent addition to the facility is the turf and drainage system that was replaced in the summer of 2001. This past winter, a heating system was installed to keep the Bermuda grass at an optimum temperature during the winter months.

This innovative system is in place in just a handful of other stadiums in the world and makes Worsham Field one of the finest playing fields around.

A WINNING TRADITION

On Sept. 22, 1994, Tech won its 100th game in Lane Stadium in memorable fashion before a national television audience on ESPN with a 34-6 win over BIG EAST rival West Virginia.

Tech’s overall record at Lane Stadium is 144 wins, 61 losses and six ties in 38 years of play. The Hokies are 70-24-1 in Blacksburg the last 10 seasons. Tech has an all-time record of 30-6 in BIG EAST games played at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field and has won 23 of the last 28 conference games at home.

Last season, Tech went 6-2 at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field, on its way to a 10-4 season. This season, Tech hopes to continue its home stadium tradition as it hosts BIG EAST rivals Miami, Syracuse and Boston College along with non-conference foes Connecticut, Texas A&M, UCF and James Madison.

LANE AND WORSHAM

On Sept. 5, 1992, Worsham Field was officially dedicated in honor of Wes and Janet Worsham, longtime Hokie supporters from Kilmarnock, Va. The Worshams pledged $1 million to the university’s Second Century Campaign.

The Campaign raised over $18.6 million, almost $1.7 million more than the original goal, thanks to the support of people like the Worshams.

The stadium is named for the late Edward H. Lane, a graduate of the university and a former member of the Board of Visitors. Lane headed an educational foundation project which raised more than $3 million for the original construction. Lane’s personal donation was the first received by the fund.

FACILITIES

Virginia Tech’s continuing efforts to compete at the highest level produced another first for the Hokies. Two seasons ago, Tech became the first collegiate football team to have a new state-of-the-art GreenTech ITM natural grass sports field system. Lane Stadium was just the third playing venue to possess this type of playing surface, joining Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales and Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands.

GreenTech, Inc. of Richmond, Va., began installing the highly-sophisticated system shortly after Tech’s 2001 commencement ceremonies. The modular turf system features 4,600 4-by-4 foot trays sodded with a Bermuda grass surface and placed on pedestals two-to-three inches above an asphalt base.

The system also provides excellent drainage. Irrigation lines run through pockets underneath the trays and 22 air vents under the field are connected to a vacuum system which will draw water from the trays onto the asphalt. The water then flows into large drains on either side of Worsham Field. The trays, in combination with the vacuum system, can handle up to 16 inches of rain an hour.

In July of 2002, workers installed the playing surface in trays on top of pavement that was laid down in Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

LANE STADIUM MILESTONES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Win</td>
<td>Oct. 2, 1965</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>9-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First TV Game (ABC)</td>
<td>Oct. 2, 1965</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>9-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th Win</td>
<td>Oct. 11, 1975</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>13-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50th Win</td>
<td>Oct. 3, 1981</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>8-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First CBS Game</td>
<td>Sept. 18, 1982</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>21-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night Game</td>
<td>Nov. 25, 1982</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>21-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First TBS Game</td>
<td>Nov. 25, 1982</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>21-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Under Coach Beamer</td>
<td>Sept. 12, 1987</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>10-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th Win</td>
<td>Oct. 3, 1987</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>31-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First ESPN Game</td>
<td>Nov. 24, 1990</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>38-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First BIG EAST Game</td>
<td>Sept. 26, 1992</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>7-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First BIG EAST Win</td>
<td>Oct. 16, 1993</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>55-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100th Win</td>
<td>Sept. 22, 1994</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>34-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESPN Thursday Night Game</td>
<td>Sept. 22, 1994</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>34-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program’s 1,000th Game</td>
<td>Sept. 4, 1999</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>47-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125th Win</td>
<td>Sept. 23, 1999</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>31-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESPN GameDay Appearance</td>
<td>Oct. 16, 1999</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>62-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second ESPN GameDay Appearance</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 1999</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>43-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Beamer’s 100th Win at Tech</td>
<td>Sept. 1, 2001</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>52-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Virginia Tech’s All-Time Record at Lane Stadium: 144-61-6 (38 years)

Longest Winning Streak at Lane Stadium: 16 games (47-0, James Madison, 1999 — 34-20, Boston College, 2001)
The original cost was $3.5 million, compared with $3.2 million spent for the addition on top of the east stands. The stadium’s original capacity was 40,000, but the addition, completed in 1980, raised that number to 52,500. The relocation of bleacher seats dropped the total capacity to under 50,000.

Lane Stadium, featuring a modern lighting system and a seating capacity of 65,115, ranks as one of the nation’s finest collegiate football facilities.

Before moving to Lane Stadium, Tech played its home games in Miles Stadium, which had a seating capacity of 17,000. The late Stuart K. Cassell proposed the new stadium as a part of a general plan for a number of new facilities for the university.

THROUGH THE YEARS

Original construction of Lane Stadium began in April, 1964, and was completed four years later. The Hokies did not wait for completion, playing their first game in the stadium on Oct. 2, 1965. Tech defeated William and Mary, 9-7 that day with only the west stands and the center section of the east bleachers completed. Official dedication ceremonies took place Oct. 23 before a 22-14 win over Virginia.

Through the years, the stadium has seen several changes and renovations. In 1982, the lighting system was added to the facility. The system was first used in Tech’s nationally-televisioned 21-14 Thanksgiving Day victory over Virginia that season. The game was broadcast on WTBS and was the first-ever nationally-televisioned game from Lane Stadium.

Prior to the 1989 season, Lane Stadium underwent further improvements. Tech received a donation of 16 flags with the “VT” logo for the stadium. Lane Stadium also received a new paint job which included the addition of maroon and orange stripes around the inner walls of the facility.

In 1991, a new scoreboard bearing BIG EAST Conference logos replaced the old scoreboard at the south end of the stadium while a new auxiliary scoreboard was placed at the north end. In the spring of 1994, renovations were completed on seven lower sections of the east stands. Renovations included replacing concrete risers and the addition of wheelchair seating.

Before the 1994 season, plaques bearing retired jerseys of Tech heroes Bruce Smith, Carroll Dale, the late Frank Loria and Jim Pyne were added to the wall in the north end zone. With the additional of the north end zone seats, the four retired numbers now fly on flag poles above those stands.

Last season, three more flags — those bearing the names and numbers of Frank Beamer, Michael Vick and Cornell Brown — were added, retiring their jerseys, but not their numbers.

Prior to the 1998 season, the oldest bleachers were replaced with new locust wood and the stands were waterproofed and top coated. On the east side, the roof on the visitors’ locker room was replaced along with the wooden bleachers in the three sections above the dressing room. Also, additional handicapped seating was added.

In addition to the seats in the north end zone constructed before the 1999 season, the interior block walls and concourse tunnels were sealed and painted maroon and orange stripes.

In 1999, additional improvements included the addition of wheelchair seating.

Prior to the 2000 season, additional 3,000 permanent bleacher seats were added in the north end zone and prior to the 1999 season, 2,100 permanent seats were added in the same end zone.

RECORD CROWDS

BIG EAST Conference affiliation has benefited Hokie football and enthusiastic crowds at Lane Stadium/ Worsham Field have helped the Hokies to some big wins during their resurgence under Coach Frank Beamer. Tech set a single-season attendance record last year by averaging 63,344 spectators per contest.

With the new additions and renovations, as well as one of the top teams in the country, hopefully, the 2003 home schedule will be just as successful in drawing record-setting crowds to Lane Stadium/Worsham Field — home of the Hokies.

Lane Stadium at night in 2000 — before the south end zone (foreground) expansion and additional bleachers in the north end zone were completed.
Facilities

Top Single Performances (1965-2002)

Records set in 2002 in bold

Top 15 Lane Stadium Crowds

- 65,097 Virginia ....................... 2002
- 65,049 LSU .......................... 2002
- 65,049 Marshall ....................... 2002
- 64,971 Pittsburgh .................... 2002
- 64,937 Temple .................................. 2002
- 64,907 Rutgers .......................... 2002
- 62,723 West Virginia .................. 2002
- 56,272 Virginia .......................... 2000
- 56,272 Pittsburgh ....................... 2000
- 56,272 West Virginia .................... 2000
- 56,272 Temple .................................. 2000
- 56,272 Rutgers .......................... 2000
- 54,157 Virginia .......................... 2000
- 54,016 Arkansas State ................... 2002

Best Record: 7-0, 1996
Worst Record: 0-3-1, 1969
Most Points Scored: Tech — 77 vs. Akron, 1995;
Opponent — 49, Houston, 1974
Highest Combined Score: 104 pts., 77-27 win against Akron, 1995
Lowest Combined Score: 3 pts., 3-0 win against Villanova, 1967
Longest Run from Scrimmage: Tech — 82 yds., vs. Temple, 1993;
Opponent — 15, Kentucky, 1974
Most Total Offense by a Team: Tech — 1,290 yds., Tech (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 1993
Most Rushing Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 24, rb Mike Dingle of South Carolina, 1990;
Opponent — 2, seven times (most recent: fb Lee Suggs vs. Rutgers, 2000);
Most Rushing Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 12, Nick Cullen vs. Southern Miss, 1990;
Opponent — 5, Rafael Garcia of Virginia, 1994
Most Total Offense by an Individual: Tech — 561 yds., vs. Temple, 1993;
Opponent — 54, Don McFadden of Florida State, 1993
Most Combined Total Offense: 1,290 yds., Tech (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 1993
Most Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 7, Houston, 1992;
Opponent — 4, Maurice DeShazo vs. Maryland & Temple, 1993;
Opponent — 3, three times (most recent: John Turman of Pittsburgh, 2000)
Most Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 107, by East Carolina, 1991;
Opponent — 5, Antonio Freeman vs. Temple, 1993;
Most Combined Total Yards: 1,290 yds., Tech (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 1993
Most Rushing Yards by an Individual: Tech — 516 yds., vs. Maryland, 1993;
Opponent — 223, Kenny Lewis vs. Virginia, 1994
Most Rushing Yards by a Team: Tech — 1,290 yds., Tech (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 1993
Most Total Yards Passing: 65,097, vs. Virginia, 2002;
Opponent — 223, Kenny Lewis vs. Virginia, 1994
Most Combined Total Touchdowns: 1,290, Tech vs. Maryland, 1993
Most Combined Total Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 24, rb Mike Dingle of South Carolina, 1990;
Opponent — 2, seven times (most recent: fb Lee Suggs vs. Rutgers, 2000)
Most Combined Total Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 1,290, Tech (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 1993
Most Combined Total Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 24, rb Mike Dingle of South Carolina, 1990;
Opponent — 2, seven times (most recent: fb Lee Suggs vs. Rutgers, 2000)
Most Combined Total Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 1,290, Tech (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 1993
Most Combined Total Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 24, rb Mike Dingle of South Carolina, 1990;
Opponent — 2, seven times (most recent: fb Lee Suggs vs. Rutgers, 2000)
Most Combined Total Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 1,290, Tech (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 158 2003 Virginia Tech Football
The Merryman Center, the centerpiece for Virginia Tech athletics, is a $10.6 million all-purpose building that ranks as one of the finest facilities of its kind in college athletics — and it’s only getting better.

Located just a good punt from Lane Stadium/Worsham Field, Merryman opened its doors to athletes in 1997 and officially was dedicated Sept. 26, 1998 in a university ceremony.

The facility is named for the F.W. (Sonny) Merryman family of Rustburg, Va., which presented the university with a major gift, kicking off a fund-raising campaign that saw Tech supporters dig deep into their pockets.

The result is a streamlined 40,000-square-foot facility that includes ...

On the first floor: A spacious sports rehabilitation complex where athletes can go to help them get back on the playing field quicker; a strength and conditioning complex that is magnificent; a speed and agility gym; and a football coaches’ locker room.

And on the second floor: Michael Vick Hallway, which includes a 130-seat auditorium and nine position meeting rooms for use by the football team; the new Hall of Legends, which is a showcase of Virginia Tech football; spacious offices for Coach Frank Beamer and his top assistant, John Ballein; the video department, complete with brand new, state-of-the-art equipment; and the women’s basketball offices.

The Hall of Legends, the new entranceway to the athletics department, provides visitors with a brilliant display of Hokie football memorabilia. The area highlights memorabilia from past Virginia Tech football squads with special emphasis on the Outland Trophy, won by Tech’s Bruce Smith as the best college football lineman in 1984, as well as the numerous awards won by Corey Moore following the 1999 season.

Other memorabilia highlights are items from Tech’s Sugar Bowl football victory over Texas in 1995 — as well as Tech’s other bowl appearances — and former Hokies in the NFL.

The area also has a conference room, as well as videos, game balls and other awards handed out.

“The room was designed to provide us with an ideal place for individual meetings with football prospects and their parents,” assistant athletics director for football operations John Ballein said. “In our opinion, it is quite a showplace for recruiting.”

The exterior of the building is streamlined, too, and has a definite Hokie motif. Even the roof, the only maroon one on the Virginia Tech campus, adds a touch of school spirit. The outside walls of the Merryman Center are a combination of Hokie stone and a more simplified white stone that matches that on Cassell Coliseum, the building next door.

“This is a facility that is really special in every way,” says Tech A.D. Jim Weaver. “There is no doubt in my mind that the Merryman Center ranks right at the very top among the great buildings in college athletics.”

Beamer, too, is ecstatic over the facility. “The building, to me, represents a commitment on behalf of the university,” the coach says. “The construction of Merryman clearly demonstrates the university’s determination to maintain a top athletic program year in and year out. All of us connected with football are extremely proud of that.”

Another area of interest is Tech’s first-rate video area, something Ballein is especially proud of.

“The complex has more coaching stations than any other facility of its kind in college football or in the National Football League,” he said.

Beamer’s office is special, too. The 22-by-30-foot room is enclosed by glass on two sides, providing a beautiful view of Lane Stadium/Worsham Field and other parts of the Merryman Center. Beamer also has a great view of the new practice fields installed prior to the 2001 season. The new fields are less than 100 feet from the football locker room.
The Hokies’ Great Athletic Complex

Tech’s spacious lighted practice field is located just outside the locker room and Merryman Center.

The Hall of Legends, in the Merryman Center serves as the “front door” of the Athletic Department.
65,115-seat Lane Stadium is an imposing venue that really comes alive on game days.

“It’s an atmosphere like no other! It’s the loudest place I’ve ever played in, and that includes Syracuse’s Carrier Dome.”

— WVU OT Lance Nimmo
FACILITIES

The Merryman Center’s Michael Vick Hall and McConnell Auditorium

Tech’s videography department utilizes state-of-the-art equipment

The Hokies train in the spacious Merryman Center weight room and adjacent speed and agility room
Virginia Tech provides ample computer lab space to help student-athletes reach their full potential.

The Hokies’ spacious locker room and players’ lounge.

Tech’s Eddie Ferrell Memorial Training Room and medical facilities are second to none.
A look at the Hokies’ other athletic facilities

Hokie fans heading into Lane Stadium/Worsham Field pass the Merryman Center (right) and Cassell Coliseum, with its distinctive flying buttresses. Cassell Coliseum, (pictured above during a basketball game) is the site of Tech’s men’s and women’s hoops contests as well as wrestling and women’s volleyball matches.
One of the great things about Virginia Tech’s athletic complex is the proximity of all the venues to each other and the rest of the campus. Not far from the Merryman Center, beautiful English Field (right, and below) is the home of Tech’s baseball team, the “Hammerin’ Hokies.” Also pictured below are Tech’s outdoor track and Rector Field House. The Johnson-Miller Outdoor track complex has an eight-lane Mondo track with 10 dash lanes and multiple jumping and throwing areas.
The Burrows-Burleson Tennis Center (above and left) boasts six indoor courts as well as six outdoor courts. The facility, which has been honored by the USTA, has been the site of both men's and women's NCAA Tournament matches in recent years.

The Virginia Tech men's and women's swimming and diving teams compete at the War Memorial Pool.

Tech's relatively-young softball program has only been in existence for eight years, but — like many Tech athletic teams — it has already built a reputation for winning. New bleachers and a press box have been added to their facility over the last few years.