Virginia Tech alumnus Frank Beamer has enjoyed great success in leading the Hokies to the upper level of college football, earning national coach of the year honors along the way.
Stability = Success

One of the keys to the continuing success of Virginia Tech football has been the stability of the program. That stability begins at the top with head coach Frank Beamer, whose 17 years at the Hokie helm have helped the program develop a sense of stability and consistency currently enjoyed by just a handful of other Division I-A schools. Only three of the 117 Division I-A head football coaches have been at their current school longer than Beamer. The Hokies’ head man and his current staff have a combined total of 106 years of full-time coaching experience at Virginia Tech ALONE.

“Stability means consistency and when you can be consistent in how you perform on Saturday, that's what gives you a chance to win. I feel that doesn't happen unless you keep basically the same coaching staff intact. I really feel good about our coaching staff. I feel good about their knowledge and I feel great about the way they treat the players. I think Virginia Tech is really fortunate to have what I think is the top staff in the country.”
— Coach Frank Beamer

More Than Just a Coach
Virginia Tech head football coach Frank Beamer was honored by The National Conference of Community and Justice in recognition of his contribution to fostering justice, equity and community in the Roanoke Valley. Beamer was one of four recipients of the 2004 NCCJ-Roanoke Region Humanitarian Award.

A Decade of Excellence
When BIG EAST Conference football celebrated its first 10 years of existence in 2000, Frank Beamer was voted the Coach of the Decade by the league’s media.

The Highest Compliment
A Bloomberg News survey of Division I-A football coaches in 2000 named Frank Beamer as the best coach a school could hire to run its football program.
Virginia Tech has the right man at the helm as it heads into the ACC

Virginia Tech couldn’t ask for anyone better than Frank Beamer to guide its football program into the Atlantic Coast Conference.

When Beamer accepted the head football coaching job at his alma mater in 1987, his goal was for the Virginia Tech football program to reach a consistent level of excellence. The Hokies have come a long way since that day, and along the way, Beamer has become one of the most respected and successful coaches on the college football scene.

Beamer begins preparation for his 18th season at Virginia Tech and his 24th year as a collegiate head coach ranked fourth among active Division I-A coaches in victories with 167. His Tech teams have posted a 101-34 record over the past 11 seasons and appeared in bowl games each year during that span, a feat equaled by just six other schools. He guided the Hokies to three BIG EAST Conference championships and in 1999 helped direct Tech to the national championship game.

Beamer’s Hokies have earned the highest national rankings in the program’s history, spending 57 weeks in the Top 10 of the Associated Press poll over the past five seasons. During one stretch that ended last season, Tech was ranked in 84 consecutive AP polls.

Winning has been just part of Frank Beamer’s success story. He and his staff have earned a reputation for getting the most out of their players.

In 2000, Beamer and his staff directed Tech to an 11-1 record after opening the season with eight new starters on defense and an all new lineup in the kicking game. During the 2001 season, the Hokies posted an 8-4 record and appeared in the Top 20 every week despite having to fill four offensive line spots, the quarterback job vacated by sensational underclassman Michael Vick and the tailback spot left open when All-America running back Lee Suggs was lost for the season with an injury. In 2002, the Hokies were 10-4 despite attacking one of their toughest schedules ever with a young team that featured all-new starters at the defensive tackle, inside linebacker and rover positions, as well as major questions at quarterback and wide receiver.

“Coach Beamer was really the only coach who was going to give me a shot at the college level, so everything that’s happened to me, I have to give credit to him. I wasn’t very big or highly recruited, but he saw something in me, so I owe him a lot. He’s a coach who demands a lot, but also gives a lot and takes care of his players. If you need something or have a problem, he’s going to do whatever he can to help you out, and as a player, you respect that.”

— Jake Grove, Oakland Raiders
A spot in the Nokia Sugar Bowl to play No. 1 Florida State for the national championship focused widespread attention on Virginia Tech and its football program following the 1999 season. And although the Hokies fell short in their bid for the national title, they proved that they belong among the top teams in the college ranks.

For his part in the Hokies' magical 1999 season, Beamer earned eight national coach of the year awards. He was named the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year, the GTE Coach of the Year, the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year, the Paul 'Bear' Bryant Coach of the Year, The Associated Press Coach of the Year, the Walter Camp Football Foundation/Street & Smith's Coach of the Year, the Maxwell Football Club Coach of the Year and the Woody Hayes Coach of the Year. He also was named the BIG EAST Conference Coach of the Year for the third time.

There have been plenty of other accolades for the Hokies' coach. In a survey of Division I-A football coaches conducted by Bloomberg News in the fall of 2000, Beamer was named the best coach a school could hire to run its football program. When BIG EAST Conference football celebrated its first 10 years of existence in 2000, Beamer was voted the Coach of the Decade by the league's media.

In January 2001, the Tech coach was honored as the NCAA Coach of the Year by The Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C. In May of that year, an on-line newspaper named him the best coach currently in the college football ranks because of his ability to place Tech among the nation's elite year in and year out.

Following consecutive 10-2 seasons in 1995 and 1996, Beamer was voted BIG EAST Conference Coach of the Year by the league coaches. He was one of five finalists in the voting for the 1995 National Coach of the Year. In 1996, The Sporting News queried writers from around the country and asked them to rate the coaches in various conferences. In the BIG EAST, those writers rated Frank Beamer the best coach on game day, the best in game preparation, the best as a motivator, the best as a teacher, the best in big games and the best overall.

In 1999, The Sporting News ranked the nation's top coaches in terms of their ability to get the most out of their players. Beamer was picked No. 9 in Division I-A. Four of the last six years TSN has rated the Tech coach tops among BIG EAST head coaches. The publication has also ranked the Hokies' football coaching staff as the best in the conference four times during that span. Street & Smith's College Football 2002 rated Beamer as the top recruiter in the BIG EAST.

The rise of the Tech football program has made Beamer a man in demand. It has opened doors to places he may never have dreamed of as a youngster growing up in Southwest Virginia.

In September 2000, Beamer was invited to the White House where he joined a select group that stood in the Rose Garden.
Coach Frank Beamer at a press conference prior to the 1995 Sugar Bowl in which the Hokies beat Texas, 28-10.
PERSONAL:
Born: 10/18/46, Mt. Airy, N.C.
Hometown: Hillsville, Va.
Wife: former Cheryl Oakley
Children: Shane, Casey

EDUCATION:
High School: Hillsville (1965)
College: Virginia Tech (1969)
Postgraduate: Radford University (1972)

PLAYING EXPERIENCE:
Virginia Tech (1966-68)

COACHING EXPERIENCE:
1972 Graduate Assistant, Maryland
1973-76 Assistant Coach, The Citadel
1977-78 Defensive Coordinator, The Citadel
1979-80 Defensive Coordinator, Murray State
1981-86 Head Coach, Murray State
  1981 (8-3)
  1982 (4-7)
  1983 (7-4)
  1984 (9-2)
  1985 (7-3-1)
  1986 (7-4-1) Ohio Valley co-champion
Record at Murray State: 42-23-2 (six years)
1987- Head Coach, Virginia Tech
  1987 (2-9)
  1988 (3-8)
  1989 (6-4-1)
  1990 (6-5)
  1991 (5-6)
  1992 (2-8-1)
  1993 (9-3) Independence Bowl champion
  1994 (8-4) Gator Bowl
  1995 (10-2) BIG EAST, Sugar Bowl champion
  1996 (10-2) BIG EAST co-champion, Orange Bowl
  1997 (7-5) Gator Bowl
  1998 (9-3) Music City Bowl champion
  1999 (11-1) BIG EAST champion, Sugar Bowl
  2000 (11-1) Gator Bowl champion
  2001 (8-4) Gator Bowl
  2002 (10-4) San Francisco Bowl champion
  2003 (8-6) Insight Bowl
Record at Virginia Tech: 125-74-2 (17 years)
Overall head coaching record: 167-97-4 (23 years)

BOWL EXPERIENCE:
Player
1966 Liberty (Virginia Tech vs. Miami)
1968 Liberty (Virginia Tech vs. Mississippi)
Coach
1993 Independence (Virginia Tech vs. Indiana)
1994 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee)
1995 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Texas)
1996 Orange (Virginia Tech vs. Nebraska)
1997 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina)
1998 Music City (Virginia Tech vs. Alabama)
1999 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2000 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Clemson)
2001 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2002 San Francisco (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
2003 Insight (Virginia Tech vs. California)

Commonwealth of Virginia. During the 1989 season, Tech knocked off ninth-ranked West Virginia and star quarterback Major Harris, 12-10, in Morgantown.

During his undergraduate days at Tech, Beamer started three years as a cornerback and played on the Hokies' 1966 and 1968 Liberty Bowl teams. He received a B.S. in distributive education from Tech in 1969 and a master's in guidance from Radford in 1972. Then came the start of the Beamer coaching career.

He began as an assistant at Radford High School from 1969 through 1971. Then, after one season as a graduate assistant at the University of Maryland, he went to The Citadel where he worked five seasons under Bobby Ross and one year under Art Baker. His last two years at The Citadel, Beamer was the defensive coordinator.

In 1979, Beamer went to Murray State as the defensive coordinator under Mike Gottfried. He was named head coach at Murray State in 1981 and went on to compile a six-year record of 42 wins, 23 losses and two ties.

The Tech coach was born in Mt. Airy, N.C., and grew up in Hillsville, Va. At Hillsville High, he earned 11 varsity letters as a three-sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball. Beamer is married to the former Cheryl Oakley of Richmond, Va. They have two children, Shane, a former member of his dad's football team at Tech and now an assistant at Mississippi State; and daughter Casey, a 2003 graduate of Virginia Tech.
NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Under the direction of Frank Beamer and his staff, the Hokies have …

- earned a chance to play for the national championship for the first time in school football history.
- become one of only seven Division I schools to go to bowl games each of the last 11 seasons.
- compiled a school-record streak in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll at 84 consecutive weeks.
- posted 11 wins in a season for the first time.
- registered the program’s first back-to-back 11-win seasons.
- produced the school’s first 11-0 regular-season record in football.
- averaged nine wins a season over the last 11 seasons.
- become the first team in BIG EAST history to win all the league’s major awards in the same season.
- won three BIG EAST Championships and earned three invitations to the Bowl Championship Series in the past nine seasons.
- earned the highest national rankings in school football history, including three Top 10 finishes and back-to-back Top 6 finishes.
- finished in a final Top 25 poll nine times in the last 11 seasons.
- won more games (125) than under any other coaching staff.
- been to three times as many bowl games (11) than under any other coaching staff.
- won more bowl games (5) than under any other coaching staff.
- posted 11 straight seasons of seven or more wins for the first time in school history.
- had 80 of their last 99 games televised (81%).
- compiled a 64-23 record in televised games since the start of the 1995 season.
- blocked more kicks in the 1990s than any other Division I-A team.
- become one of only eight Division I-A schools ever to lead the nation in both scoring offense and defense in the same season.
- had at least one player from every defensive position score a touchdown.
- produced a No. 1 pick in the National Football League draft.
- had over 100 players sign with NFL teams.
- had two players who entered the program as walk-ons drafted in the top four rounds of the NFL draft.
- produced nine Associated Press All-Americans over the last five seasons.
- had players win eight major BIG EAST individual awards in the last six years.
A Talk With Coach
Frank Beamer

What was the most important thing that was accomplished during spring practice?

I think there were two things. I thought we had good chemistry during the spring. We worked well as a football team. What’s best for the team is that everybody is working full speed — everyone gets better that way. And then, I think the second was that we got our young players some experience. Seeing those young guys get in there and get some reps was important.

During the spring, you moved Jimmy Williams to corner and Vincent Fuller to free safety. How did that move work out?

I think it was a good switch. Vinnie is more comfortable and just looks better at free safety. That position fits him better. Jimmy Williams being isolated out there at corner certainly puts him in a position where he can use his athletic ability. I believe he likes the challenge of being out there one-on-one. It will be interesting to see how he handles that. I really think the move is going to work out well for both players and our football team, too.

How do you evaluate the quarterback position?

We are much better now than we were a year ago. We have a couple of young guys in Cory Holt and Sean Glennon who are both talented players. And of course, we have Bryan Randall and Marcus Vick who are two very capable quarterbacks. Bryan didn’t have quite the spring we thought he would have, but he is a mature guy who makes great decisions. He is going to be tough to beat out.

The wide receiver position was a point of emphasis during the spring. How does that position shape up now?

This might be the most talented group of receivers we’ve had. There are some kids there who can really play. What they do from spring practice to fall practice is critical. I go back and think about Ernest Wilford and how much improvement he made over the summer. If we have the same kind of individuals here now, we have a chance for that position to be very good.

Who will replace tailback Kevin Jones and fullback Doug Easlick?

I’d say that’s a question mark right now. Fullback-wise, John Kinzer needs to become a more consistent player. He’s a talented guy who has the capabilities, now he has to perform at a high level. The injury to freshman Carlton Weatherford was a tough injury. We were really looking forward to seeing him in spring practice. That may be one of those positions where we are just too young right now. It may cause us (formation-wise) to get into more one-back sets than we have been in recently. At tailback, I think Cedric Humes is a key guy if he can come back and pick up where he left off. He is a big, strong runner who has good speed. I think Mike Imoh is a player. George Bell and Justin Hamilton each give us something different. A freshman could figure in both places. I do think this … there is some good talent at both positions. The question now is who will step up?

With senior playmaker Jim Davis healthy, how do you rate the defensive ends?

I think our end position is the best it has been in a while. Jim Davis is a big-time player with a lot of ability. Darryl Tapp was very good during the spring, as was Noland Burchette. We saw Chris Ellis get better. He has some good talent. And then, we moved Jordan Trott over from linebacker, which, along with Bob Ruff, helps stabilize the position.

Last season, the defense closed on a disappointing note. Will this year’s defense be improved?

I think our end position is the best it has been in a while. Jim Davis is a big-time player with a lot of ability. Darryl Tapp was very good during the spring, as was Noland Burchette. We saw Chris Ellis get better. He has some good talent. And then, we moved Jordan Trott over from linebacker, which, along with Bob Ruff, helps stabilize the position.

What concerns you the most heading into preseason practice?

The thing I probably worry about the most is youth, and youth usually leads to inconsistency. When you are playing good teams early, inconsistency is not what you really want. But, you know, there isn’t any way around it other than to get out there and practice, get experience and keep getting better. And that will be our goal.
What does joining the Atlantic Coast Conference mean for Virginia Tech football?

As much excitement and as many accomplishments as we have had in the last few years, I truly believe our most exciting days are ahead of us ... because of who we are getting ready to play and the league we are getting ready to play in. For us, it is a perfect conference, especially from a geographic standpoint. Virginia Tech fans will see more of our games than ever before. They will come here and sell our place out, and they will go where we’re going and sell those stadiums out. With the addition of Miami, Virginia Tech, and eventually Boston College, I think the ACC will become the best football conference in the country.

What are your thoughts on the continued expansion of Lane Stadium?

I really like our stadium now, but I think when the expansion is complete we will have the best playing facility in the country. When you look at it, every seat is a good seat. The seats kind of go straight up and that keeps all the excitement and enthusiasm — all the noise — right there in the stadium. It will be a great home field advantage with that stadium filled with our fans screaming for the Hokies.

Three Virginia Tech players were among the first 45 players selected in the 2004 NFL Draft. What does that say about the Tech program?

I think there are two stories there. Number one, it makes the statement that we are able to recruit high-level guys like Kevin Jones and DeAngelo Hall, and help them achieve their goals. Then, it makes the statement that we can take players like Jake Grove, who aren’t highly recruited but are willing to put in the work, and help them develop into NFL players, too. I think it makes a good statement either way.

After a disappointing finish last season, do you feel this year’s team has a sense of purpose?

I think if you are competitive and have pride and you don’t achieve at the level you should, there is something about you that turns up the intensity a little bit. I think it shows in how we worked this spring and how these players worked in the weight room during the off-season. So far, everything has been very positive that we need to make sure everything is right about this football team.

Frank Beamer, the first Tech alumnus to guide the Hokies’ football program since the 1940s, has won more games at Tech than any other football coach. Prior to Beamer, no other grid coach in Virginia Tech history had served more than 10 seasons as head coach. Only three of the 117 Division I-A head coaches have been at their current school longer than Beamer’s 17 years. Those coaches are Joe Paterno (38 yrs., Penn State); Bobby Bowden (28 yrs., Florida State); and Fisher DeBerry (20 yrs., Air Force).
BEAMERBALL

During the Frank Beamer era at Virginia Tech, putting points on the scoreboard has always been a team effort — the offensive team, the defensive team and the special teams. It’s called BeamerBall, and it has helped propel the Hokies to new heights.

Nine of the top 10 highest scoring grid squads in school history have come during the Beamer era. What sets BeamerBall apart are the contributions made by the defense and special teams. Since the start of the 1993 season, a player at every position on the defensive unit has produced at least one touchdown. And 26 different players have scored touchdowns while playing on Tech’s special teams.

TOUCHDOWNS BY DEFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS UNDER BEAMER

1987: Jon Jeffries, 92-yd. kickoff return vs. Clemson; Don Stokes, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Syracuse; Randy Cockrell (lib), 90-yd. interception return vs. Navy.

1988: Don Stokes, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Southern Miss; Jock Jones, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. West Virginia; Roger Brown (cb), 55-yd. interception return vs. South Carolina; Leslie Bailey (lib), 19-yd. interception return vs. South Carolina.


1990: The ’90 season marked the first and only season to date during Beamer’s tenure that Tech failed to score at least one TD on either defense or special teams.


1993: William Ferrell, 7-yd. blocked punt return vs. Rutgers; DeWayne Knight (ob), 23-yd. fumble return vs. Syracuse; Jeff Holland (dt), 8-yd. fumble return vs. Virginia; Lawrence Lewis (de), 20-yd. fumble return vs. Indiana; Antonio Banks, 80-yd. blocked field goal return vs. Indiana.

1994: Torrian Gray (rov), 66-yd. interception return vs. Boston College; Stacy Henley, 25-yd. blocked punt return vs. Temple; Lawrence Lewis (de), 60-yd. fumble return vs. East Carolina; Antonio Freeman, 80-yd. punt return vs. Pittsburgh.

1995: Jermaine Holmes, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Akron; Hank Coleman (de), 51-yd. fumble return vs. Rutgers; Myron Newsome (lib), 71-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; Larry Green (cb), 37-yd. interception return vs. West Virginia; Jim Baron (dt), 46-yd. fumble return vs. Temple; J.C. Price (dt), 19-yd. interception return vs. Temple; Antonio Banks (cb), 65-yd. interception return vs. Virginia; Bryan Still, 60-yd. punt return vs. Texas; Jim Baron (dt), 20-yd. fumble return vs. Texas.

1996: Cornelius White, 60-yd. blocked punt return vs. Syracuse; Keion Carpenter (fs), 100-yd. interception return vs. Miami.

1997: Carl Bradley (dt), recovered fumble in end zone vs. Rutgers; Pierson Prioleau (rov), 43-yd. fumble return vs. Rutgers; Lorenzo Ferguson (fs), 84-yd. interception return vs. Arkansas St.; Anthony Midget (cb), 22-yd. fumble return vs. Pittsburgh.

1998: Keion Carpenter (fs), 16-yd. interception return vs. Pittsburgh; Pierson Prioleau (rov), 85-yd. interception return vs. Boston College; Marcus Gildersleeve, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. UAB; Ricky Hall, 17-yd. blocked punt return vs. West Virginia; Ricky Hall, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Syracuse; Loren Johnson (cb), 76-yd. fumble return vs. Syracuse; Ike Charlton (cb), 26-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; Jamel Smith (lb), 98-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; Anthony Midget (cb), 27-yd. interception return vs. Alabama.

1999: Ike Charlton (cb), 34-yd. interception return vs. Clemson; Corey Moore (de), 32-yard fumble return vs. Clemson; Cory Bird (rov), 26-yd. fumble return vs. Syracuse; Phillip Summers (rov), 43-yd. interception return vs. Syracuse; Tee Butler, recovered fumble by punter in end zone vs. Syracuse; Ricky Hall, 64-yd. punt return vs. Miami; Ike Charlton (cb), 51-yd. fumble return vs. Miami; Larry Austin (cb), 31-yd. interception return vs. Temple.

2000: Willie Pike (fs), 11-yd. interception return vs. Akron; Cory Bird, 9-yd. blocked punt return vs. East Carolina; André Davis, 87-yd. punt return vs. East Carolina; André Davis, 71-yd. punt return vs. Boston College; André Davis, 76-yd. punt return vs. WVU; Nathaniel Adibi (de), 36-yd. fumble return vs. UCF.

2001: Channing Reed (dt), 8-yd. fumble return vs. Rutgers; Kevin McCadam (rov), 69-yd. interception return vs. UCF; André Davis, 55-yd. punt return vs. UCF; Jim Davis (de), 27-yd. interception return vs. WVU; Kevin McCadam (rov), 9-yd. fumble return vs. BC; Ronnel Whitaker, 71-yd. blocked field goal return vs. Pittsburgh; Brandon Manning, 22-yd. blocked punt return vs. Miami.

2002: DeAngelo Hall, 69-yd. punt return vs. Arkansas State; DeAngelo Hall (cb), 49-yd. interception return vs. Arkansas State; Jason Lallis (dt), 59-yd. fumble return vs. Arkansas State; Alex Markogiannakis (lb), 25-yd. fumble return vs. Western Michigan; DeAngelo Hall, 51-yd. punt return vs. Rutgers; Darryl Tapp, 11-yd. blocked punt return vs. Virginia; Willie Pike (fs), 96-yd. interception return vs. Miami.

2003: Jason Lallis (dt), 45-yd. interception return vs. UCF; Eric Green (cb), 84-yd. interception return vs. UConn; Mike Imoh, 91-yd. kickoff return vs. UConn; Chris Clifton, 16-yd. blocked punt return vs. UConn; Jimmy Williams (fs), 55-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; DeAngelo Hall, 58-yd. punt return vs. Syracuse; DeAngelo Hall, 60-yd. punt return vs. Syracuse; Vincent Fuller (cb), 50-yd. fumble return vs. WVU; DeAngelo Hall (cb), 28-yd. fumble return vs. Miami; Eric Green (cb), 51-yd. interception return vs. Miami; DeAngelo Hall, 52-yd. punt return vs. California.

2004: Vincent Fuller (cb), 50-yd. fumble return vs. WVU; DeAngelo Hall (cb), 28-yd. fumble return vs. Miami; Eric Green (cb), 51-yd. interception return vs. Miami; DeAngelo Hall, 52-yd. punt return vs. California.

No. 2 Miami

Hokies beat

2001: Channing Reed (dt), 8-yd. fumble return vs. Rutgers; Kevin McCadam (rov), 69-yd. interception return vs. UCF; André Davis, 55-yd. punt return vs. UCF; Jim Davis (de), 27-yd. interception return vs. WVU; Kevin McCadam (rov), 9-yd. fumble return vs. BC; Ronnel Whitaker, 71-yd. blocked field goal return vs. Pittsburgh; Brandon Manning, 22-yd. blocked punt return vs. Miami.

2002: DeAngelo Hall, 69-yd. punt return vs. Arkansas State; DeAngelo Hall (cb), 49-yd. interception return vs. Arkansas State; Jason Lallis (dt), 59-yd. fumble return vs. Arkansas State; Alex Markogiannakis (lb), 25-yd. fumble return vs. Western Michigan; DeAngelo Hall, 51-yd. punt return vs. Rutgers; Darryl Tapp, 11-yd. blocked punt return vs. Virginia; Willie Pike (fs), 96-yd. interception return vs. Miami.

2003: Jason Lallis (dt), 45-yd. interception return vs. UCF; Eric Green (cb), 84-yd. interception return vs. UConn; Mike Imoh, 91-yd. kickoff return vs. UConn; Chris Clifton, 16-yd. blocked punt return vs. UConn; Jimmy Williams (fs), 55-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; DeAngelo Hall, 58-yd. punt return vs. Syracuse; DeAngelo Hall, 60-yd. punt return vs. Syracuse; Vincent Fuller (cb), 50-yd. fumble return vs. WVU; DeAngelo Hall (cb), 28-yd. fumble return vs. Miami; Eric Green (cb), 51-yd. interception return vs. Miami; DeAngelo Hall, 52-yd. punt return vs. California.

07 3-17 last season.
under Beamer, and it was scored on special teams.

Since the start of the ’87 season, a total of 61 different players on Tech’s defense and special teams units have scored touchdowns. Fourteen of those players — Don Stokes, Jock Jones, Roger Brown, Lawrence Lewis, Antonio Banks, Jim Baron, Keion Carpenter, Pierson Prioleau, Anthony Midget, Cory Bird, Kevin McCadam Willie Pile, Jason Lallis and Eric Green — scored twice. Ike Charlton and Ricky Hall, scored three times each, while André Davis posted four touchdowns and DeAngelo Hall seven.

BeamerBall’s emphasis on special teams produces more than touchdowns. During the 1990s, Tech blocked more kicks than any other Division I-A team. In 1998, the Hokies ranked eighth nationally in punting and in 1999, they were ninth nationally in kickoff returns. During the 2000 season, Tech led the nation in punt returns. In 2001 and 2002, the Hokies finished tied for 10th and 16th, respectively, in punt returns. During the 2003 season, Tech ranked fifth in punt returns as a team, while DeAngelo Hall finished fifth among individuals in punt returns and Mike Imoh finished third nationally in kickoff returns.

Tech’s tradition for blocking kicks during the Beamer era has produced 101 blocks in his 201 games as the head coach. The Hokies have blocked 52 punts (15 for TDs), 28 field goals and 21 extra points.

In 1998, the Hokies set a school record when they blocked 10 kicks during the regular season and two more in their Music City Bowl game against Alabama. While in the BIG EAST Conference, the Hokies posted at least three blocked kicks against every team in the league. During that span, Tech blocked 10 kicks against Pittsburgh, nine versus Miami, seven against West Virginia, six versus Rutgers, four against Boston College and Syracuse and three versus Temple.

In the Beamer era, Tech has blocked two kicks in a game 17 times, including two during its 2002 game with No. 14 LSU. The most prolific kick blockers under Beamer have been defensive lineman Bernard Basham and safety Keion Carpenter who each posted six blocks during their Tech careers. Basham blocked three field goals and three PATs, while Carpenter blocked six punts.

BeamerBall has been a major factor in Tech’s 101-34 record over the past 11 seasons. During that span, the Hokies are 45-8 in games when they score at least one defensive or special teams touchdown and 44-13 when they block at least one kick.

### VIRGINIA TECH’S BLOCKED KICKS UNDER BEAMER

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>FG+</td>
<td>Akron</td>
<td>4 (Corey Bird)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>FG+</td>
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<td>2 Punts, 2 FGs</td>
<td>FG+</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>2 (Michael Williams)</td>
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<td>2 Punts, 2 FGs</td>
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<td>Rutgers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>FG+</td>
<td>Temple</td>
<td>2 (Wayne Ward)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 Punts, 2 FGs</td>
<td>FG+</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>2 (Lee Suggs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2 Punts, 2 FGs</td>
<td>FG+</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>2 (Wayne Ward)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2 Punts, 2 FGs</td>
<td>FG+</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>2 (David Pugh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2 Punts, 2 FGs</td>
<td>FG+</td>
<td>Rutgers</td>
<td>2 (Eric Green)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2 Punts, 2 FGs</td>
<td>FG+</td>
<td>Temple</td>
<td>2 (Wayne Ward)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MEET THE COACHES

Victor Fuller’s block of a Syracuse field goal attempt last season was the 100th block by the Hokies under Coach Frank Beamer.

**Inaugural Season in the ACC**

**41**
Billy Hite
Associate Head Coach and Running Backs Coach

Billy Hite, who has helped develop 22 running backs who have gone on to sign with NFL teams, is entering his 27th season on the Tech coaching staff and his fourth year as the Hokies’ associate head coach.

While at Tech, Hite has helped produce eight of Virginia Tech’s top 10 career rushing leaders. He has been on the sidelines for more Virginia Tech football games than any other coach.

Hite came to Blacksburg as a member of Bill Dooley’s football staff in 1978. He served as a recruiter and head jayvee coach his first two years, then took over as the offensive backfield coach in charge of tailbacks and fullbacks in 1980. He has been coaching Tech’s running backs ever since.

Hite remained at Tech when Frank Beamer took over in 1987 and was elevated to the position of assistant head coach by Beamer the following year. He was promoted to the new position of associate head coach in December 2000.

In 1989, Hite filled in as the acting head coach when Beamer was sidelined following coronary angioplasty surgery and had to miss a home game versus Tulane. Hite didn’t let the Tech faithful down as he led the Hokies to an emotional 30-13 victory.

Hite’s first tailback in 1980, Cyrus Lawrence, went on to establish Tech season and career marks for rushing yards. During the mid-1980s, Hite was credited with the development of Tech’s famed “Stallions” backfield that featured Maurice Williams and Eddie Hunter.

In 2000, tailback Lee Suggs shattered school and BIG EAST Conference scoring records on the way to leading the nation in touchdowns and scoring. Suggs, who also led the conference in rushing, was selected the Co-BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year.

During the 2001 season, with Suggs sidelined by an injury, true freshman tailback Kevin Jones came on to lead the team in rushing and set a Tech record for rushing yards by a freshman. Jones was named the BIG EAST Rookie of the Year.

Bowl Experience:
Player
1971 Sun (North Carolina vs. Texas Tech)
1972 Gator (North Carolina vs. Georgia)
Coach
1974 Sun (North Carolina vs. Mississippi State)
1976 Peach (North Carolina vs. Kentucky)
1977 Liberty (North Carolina vs. Nebraska)
1980 Peach (Virginia Tech vs. Miami)
1984 Independence (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
1986 New Peach (Virginia Tech vs. N.C. State)
1993 Independence (Virginia Tech vs. Indiana)
1994 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee)
1995 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Texas)
1996 Orange (Virginia Tech vs. Nebraska)
1997 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina)
1998 Music City (Virginia Tech vs. Alabama)
1999 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2000 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Clemson)
2001 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2002 San Francisco (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
2003 Insight (Virginia Tech vs. California)

Hite’s Profile

Personal:
Hometown: Hyattsville, Md.
Wife: former Anne Heen
Children: Kirsten Marie, Bryn Elizabeth Louise, Griffin William

Education:
High School: DeMatha High School (1969)
College: University of North Carolina (1974)

Playing Experience:
North Carolina (1970-73)

Coaching Experience:
1974-77 North Carolina (running backs)
1978-87 Virginia Tech (running backs)
1988-00 Virginia Tech (assistant head coach and running backs)
2001- Virginia Tech (associate head coach and running backs)

Bowl Experience:
Player
1971 Sun (North Carolina vs. Texas Tech)
1972 Gator (North Carolina vs. Georgia)
Coach
1974 Sun (North Carolina vs. Mississippi State)
1976 Peach (North Carolina vs. Kentucky)
1977 Liberty (North Carolina vs. Nebraska)
1980 Peach (Virginia Tech vs. Miami)
1984 Independence (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
1986 New Peach (Virginia Tech vs. N.C. State)
1993 Independence (Virginia Tech vs. Indiana)
1994 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee)
1995 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Texas)
1996 Orange (Virginia Tech vs. Nebraska)
1997 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina)
1998 Music City (Virginia Tech vs. Alabama)
1999 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2000 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Clemson)
2001 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2002 San Francisco (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
2003 Insight (Virginia Tech vs. California)
**VIRGINIA TECH’S RUNNING GAME**

Under the direction of Coach Billy Hite, in 2003 ... 

- tailback Kevin Jones earned consensus All-America honors and became Tech’s first finalist for the Doak Walker Award.

- the Hokies ranked No. 17 nationally as a team in rushing offense, while Kevin Jones ranked eighth individually in rushing and sixth in scoring.

- Kevin Jones set school single-season records for rushing yards and 100-yard games and broke a 25-year old record for rushing yards in a game.

**During Billy Hite’s tenure at Virginia Tech ...**

- the Hokies have rushed for over 59,000 yards - an average of more than 200 yards per game (202.9) over a 291-game period.

- he has had a back rush for 100 yards or more in a game 135 times.

- the Hokies have had an average of 145 yards rushing per game from the tailback position.

- he has coached eight of Virginia Tech’s top 10 career rushing leaders.

- he has worked with seven of the nine Tech players who have turned in 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

- he has coached six different running backs who rushed for over 100 yards in a bowl game.

- a total of 22 running backs have gone on to sign with NFL teams.

- the Hokies have been ranked among the top 20 rushing teams in Division I-A seven of the past 11 seasons.

“I tell all my players to be the best back on the field — to be complete football players. I want them to take the attitude that one man cannot bring them down. I want them to be physical and nasty when blocking; to run good pass routes and catch the football; and to be good actors and carry out their fakes. Once a back touches the ball, they make the decision where to run. I will never second guess a running back with the ball in his arms. If each back protects the football, makes the big play and plays with intensity, we will win.”

— Billy Hite

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**Season Rushing Leaders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Yards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Jones</td>
<td>1,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyrus Lawrence</td>
<td>1,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Suggs</td>
<td>1,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyrus Lawrence</td>
<td>1,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Suggs</td>
<td>1,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwayne Thomas</td>
<td>1,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shyrone Stith</td>
<td>1,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscoe Coles</td>
<td>1,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscoe Coles</td>
<td>1,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Rogers</td>
<td>1,036</td>
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</table>

**Career Rushing Leaders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cyrus Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Jones</td>
<td>3,475</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roscoe Coles</td>
<td>3,459</td>
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<td>Maurice Williams</td>
<td>3,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Suggs</td>
<td>2,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwayne Thomas</td>
<td>2,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Oxendine</td>
<td>2,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Hunter</td>
<td>2,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Rogers</td>
<td>2,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughn Hebron</td>
<td>2,327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Bold signifies player coached by Hite)
Foster's Profile

Personal:
Born: 7/28/59, Somerset, Ky.
Hometown: Nokomis, Ill.
Wife: former Jacqueline Travis
Children: Ammie, Grant, Hillary

Education:
High School: Nokomis (Ill.) High School (1977)
College: Murray State University (1981)

Playing Experience:
Murray State (1977-80)

Coaching Experience:
1981-82 Murray State (graduate assistant)
1983-85 Murray State (outside linebackers)
1986 Murray State (linebackers/special teams)
1987 Virginia Tech (inside linebackers)
1988-92 Virginia Tech (outside linebackers)
1993 Virginia Tech (linebackers/special teams)
1994 Virginia Tech (inside and outside linebackers)
1995- Virginia Tech (defensive coordinator/inside linebackers/special teams)

Bowl Experience:
Player
1979 Division I-AA Playoff semifinals
(Murray State vs. Lehigh)

Coach
1986 Division I-AA Playoff quarterfinals
(Murray State vs. Eastern Illinois)
1993 Independence (Virginia Tech vs. Indiana)
1994 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee)
1995 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Texas)
1996 Orange (Virginia Tech vs. Nebraska)
1997 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina)
1998 Music City (Virginia Tech vs. Alabama)
1999 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2000 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Clemson)
2001 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2002 San Francisco (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
2003 Insight (Virginia Tech vs. California)

Bud Foster has gained a well-deserved reputation as one of the nation's most respected young defensive coaches while serving on Frank Beamer's football staff at Virginia Tech.

Foster, who is entering his 18th season at Tech, has helped mold nationally ranked defenses on a yearly basis during his nine years as a coordinator. His success made him a finalist for the coveted Broyles Award in both 1999 and 2001. The award is presented annually to the nation's top assistant football coach.

Tech's young 2002 defense was ranked among the national leaders in scoring defense, interceptions and turnovers gained. Under Foster's guidance, Tech's 2001 defense proved to be one of the nation's best, ranking among the top eight teams in Division I-A in six different categories and leading the way in shutouts with four.

In 2000, Foster took a defense that returned just three starters and turned it into a unit that led the BIG EAST in rushing defense, placed 16th nationally against the run and tied for third nationally in interceptions.

After helping Tech to the national championship game in 1999, Foster was recognized as the 2000 Division I-A Defensive Coordinator of the Year by American Football Coach magazine. Tech's 1999 defensive unit led Division I-A in scoring defense and ranked third in both total and rushing defense.

Following the 1998 season, Foster was pursued by the University of Florida for its defensive coordinator position, but he opted to continue his long-standing football association with Beamer. That association dates back to 1979 when Foster was a strong safety and defensive end at Murray State and Beamer was the defensive coordinator.

Foster began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at MSU in 1981, Beamer's first season as the head coach.

Since coming to Tech in 1987, Foster has helped build the Hokies into one of the hardest-hitting defensive units in college football. During that time, he has worn several coaching hats. Foster coached the inside linebackers for one year in 1987, then tutored the outside linebackers for the next five seasons. He assumed responsibility for both sets of linebackers prior to the 1993 season and also took over special-teams coaching that year. The following year, he coached the inside linebackers and special teams. Foster assumed the position of co-defensive coordinator in 1995 and took over as the sole defensive coordinator in '96. The inside linebackers continue to be his primary responsibility.

During his tenure at Tech, Foster has coached All-Americans Ben Taylor and Jamel Smith and six other linebackers who have earned All-BIG EAST Conference honors.

A 1981 graduate of Murray State, Foster was an outstanding strong safety and outside linebacker from 1977 to 1980. After two years as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, Foster was elevated to a full-time staff position. The Nokomis, Ill., native, coached outside linebackers for three seasons before taking over the inside and outside linebackers in 1986. He also served as the Racers' recruiting coordinator and worked with special teams.

Foster and his wife Jacqueline have three children: Ammie, 25; Grant, 18; and Hillary, 16. In his spare time, Foster enjoys spending time with his family.
VIRGINIA TECH’S DEFENSE

Under the direction of Bud Foster in 2003, the Hokies’ defense ...

- ranked second in the BIG EAST in quarterback sacks.
- produced a semifinalist for the Thorpe Award.
- tied a school season record for interception returns for touchdowns with four.
- had 11 different players record interceptions.
- scored six touchdowns.

During Bud Foster’s one year as co-defensive coordinator and eight seasons as defensive coordinator, Tech has ...

- produced two BIG EAST defensive players of the year — Corey Moore, who earned the honor in both 1998 and 1999, and Cornell Brown, who won it in 1995.
- had at least one defensive player earn All-America honors every year. Four players gained A-A recognition in 1999 and three in 2001.
- had 32 different defensive players score touchdowns.
- produced its first Lombardi Award winner and its first Nagurski Trophy winner in Corey Moore.
- held opponents to an average of 102.8 yards rushing and 16.8 points per game over a 103-game span.

Tech’s National Defensive Rankings Under Coach Bud Foster

1995*
1st Rushing Defense (77.36 ypg)
5th Scoring Defense (14.09 ppg)
10th Total Defense (285.9 ypg)
23rd Pass Efficiency Defense (104.25 rating)

1996
Tied-9th Scoring Defense (15.27 ppg)
16th Pass Efficiency Defense (99.37 rating)
19th Rushing Defense (112.0 ypg)
24th Total Defense (316.09 ypg)

1997
13th Scoring Defense (16.82 ppg)

1998
2nd Interceptions (23)
4th Scoring Defense (12.9 ppg)
7th Total Defense (284.9 ypg)
11th Rushing Defense (102.2 ypg)
11th Pass Efficiency Defense (103.4 rating)

1999
1st Scoring Defense (10.5 ppg)
3rd Total Defense (247.3 ypg)
3rd Rushing Defense (75.9 ypg)
7th Pass Efficiency Defense (98.1 rating)

2000
Tied-3rd Interceptions (23)
16th Rushing Defense (99.3 ypg)

2001
2nd Total Defense (237.81 ypg)
2nd Rushing Defense (71.6 ypg)
2nd Scoring Defense (13.4 ppg)
3rd Pass Efficiency Defense (85.62 rating)
Tied-7th Interceptions (19)
8th Pass Defense (166.27 ypg)

2002
1st Interceptions (24)
5th Turnovers Gained (37)
21st Scoring Defense (18.79 ppg)

*co-coordinator in 1995

“I believe in an attacking, aggressive style of defense. We want to put speed and athleticism on the field and use that to attack and pressure opposing offenses.”
— Bud Foster

Jason Lallis returns a UCF interception for one of the six TDs the Tech defense scored last season.
first-team All-BIG EAST honors and led a line that paved the way for Jones to establish three new school rushing marks.

Prior to taking over his current duties, Stinespring coached Tech's tight ends and assisted with the offensive line for five seasons. He was the Hokies' recruiting coordinator for eight years (1994-2001) and continues to be instrumental in helping attract top high school talent to campus. In 2001, he served as Tech's assistant head coach along with his other duties.

Stinespring initially joined the Tech staff in 1990 as a graduate assistant coach and spent two seasons in that capacity helping with the offensive line. After serving as the director of sports programs in 1992, he was elevated to a full-time coaching position prior to the 1993 season.

During his tenure as tight ends coach, two of his players earned all-conference honors. John Burke was a second-team pick in 1993, while Bryan Jennings earned first-team honors in 1996.

A native of Clifton Forge, Va., Stinespring was a walk-on player for James Madison University in the early 1980s. He served as a teacher and coach at Lexington High School and helped the football squad win its lone state championship in 1988. He also helped coach the Patrick Henry High School football team before joining the Tech program in 1990.

Stinespring is married to the former Shelley Franklin of Richmond, Va. Bryan and Shelley have a son, Daniel, 10; twin daughters, Caroline and Olivia, who are 6 years old, and another daughter, Ella Grace, who will be 1 year old in August 2004.

Coach Bryan Stinespring and his wife, Shelley, with Ella Grace, Olivia, Caroline and Daniel.
VIRGINIA TECH’S OFFENSE

During Bryan Stinespring’s second season as offensive coordinator, the Virginia Tech offense ...

- produced two first-team All-Americans in center Jake Grove and tailback Kevin Jones.
- produced the program’s first Rimington Trophy winner in Jake Grove.
- set Tech all-time season records for points and total offense.
- posted a school single-game record for first downs with 36 against UCF.
- led the BIG EAST in scoring and tied for 12th nationally.
- established the highest rushing average per play for a Tech team at 5.28 yards.

During Bryan Stinespring’s 11 full-time seasons at Tech, the Hokies’ offensive line ...

- produced 17 different players (including three tight ends) who earned All-BIG EAST honors, including four repeat performers.
- cleared the way for an average of 201.3 yards rushing per game over a 135-game span.
- helped the team set new BIG EAST season rushing marks back-to-back years in 1999 and 2000.
- had 17 players sign with NFL teams.

“...We want, and expect, to attack both the defense and the field of play in a concerted, aggressive approach. We want to be able to use schemes and formations that utilize our talents while placing pressure on the opponent to adjust and defend. Our goal is to set the tempo of the game and dictate the style of play that is indicative of Virginia Tech football.”

— Bryan Stinespring
Jim Cavanaugh

Strong Safety and Outside Linebackers Coach and Recruiting Coordinator

Coach Jim Cavanaugh and his wife, Marsha, with Ryan and his wife, Melissa, and Lauren and her husband, Rob.

Jim Cavanaugh has played a major role in Virginia Tech's success since joining Frank Beamer's coaching staff in 1996. Cavanaugh is beginning his ninth season as the Hokies' strong safety and outside linebackers coach and his third year as Tech's recruiting coordinator.

No one has been more instrumental in bringing top-notch talent to the Tech program than Cavanaugh. Over the past six years, his recruiting skills have helped the Hokies attract, among others, prep All-Americans Michael Vick, Nathaniel Adibi, Bryan Randall, Jonathan Lewis, Marcus Vick, Xavier Adibi and Chris Ellis.

Along with his success in attracting talent, Cavanaugh has also been instrumental in helping players develop their talent once they join the Tech program. During his first season on the job in 1996, outside linebacker Brandon Semones led the team in tackles and earned second-team All-BIG EAST honors.

Cavanaugh has since helped in the development of highly successful safeties Pierson Prioleau, Cory Bird, Kevin McCadam and Michael Crawford. Prioleau was a first-team All-BIG EAST pick in 1997 and 1998 and earned third-team All-America recognition from The Sporting News in '97. He was a fourth-round draft pick of the San Francisco 49ers in 1999. Bird was tabbed a second-team All-BIG EAST pick following the 2000 season and was selected in the third-round of the NFL draft by the Indianapolis Colts. McCadam was one of the keys to Tech's success in 2001 and was a fifth-round NFL selection by the Atlanta Falcons. Crawford set a position record for tackles with 131 last season and was a second-team All-BIG EAST selection.

Tech's appearance in the 2003 Insight Bowl marked Cavanaugh's 20th postseason game as a coach. A former star receiver at William & Mary, he is a veteran of 34 years coaching, including 30 as a full-time coach on the collegiate level. He has worked at two other Virginia schools — VMI and the University of Virginia — during his career and has been on the staff of four other ACC schools — North Carolina State, Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

Cavanaugh coached at the University of North Carolina for eight years and from 1982 through 1987, he worked under Bobby Ross and Joe Krivak at Maryland. He served two years at North Carolina State, three years under coach Bob Thalman at VMI, one year at Virginia and two years at Marshall. Cavanaugh began his collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant at North Carolina State in 1972.

During his years as a receiver at William & Mary, Cavanaugh surpassed the Tribe career record in receiving with 117 catches and over 1,600 yards. He also earned honorable-mention All-America honors in 1967 and was co-captain of his team in 1969. Cavanaugh was inducted into the William & Mary Sports Hall of Fame in April 2001.

Married to the former Marsha Carnell, he has two children — Ryan, an Appalachian State graduate who works for the Indianapolis Colts and is married to the former Melissa Sears, and Lauren Reddick, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 2002 and is married to Rob Reddick.

PERSONAL:
Born: 8/4/48, Queens, N.Y.
Hometown: Queens, N.Y.
Wife: former Marsha Carnell
Children: Ryan, Lauren

EDUCATION:
High School: Chaminade High School (1966)
College: The College of William & Mary (1970)
Postgraduate: North Carolina State University (1974)

PLAYING EXPERIENCE:
William & Mary (1967-69)

COACHING EXPERIENCE:
1970 Newport News (Va.) High School
1971 Denbigh (Va.) High School
1972-73 North Carolina State (graduate assistant)
1974-75 VMI (receivers)
1976 VMI (running backs)
1977-78 North Carolina State (receivers)
1979-80 Marshall (off. coordinator/quarterbacks)
1981 Virginia (receivers)
1982-86 Maryland (running backs)
1987 Maryland (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks)
1988-95 North Carolina (receivers)
1996-01 Virginia Tech (strong safety, outside linebackers)
2002- Virginia Tech (recruiting coordinator/strong safety, outside linebackers)

BOWL EXPERIENCE:
Coach
1972 Peach (N.C. State vs. West Virginia)
1973 Liberty (N.C. State vs. Kansas)
1977 Peach (N.C. State vs. Iowa State)
1978 Tangerine (N.C. State vs. Pittsburgh)
1982 Aloha (Maryland vs. Washington)
1983 Citrus (Maryland vs. Tennessee)
1984 Sun (Maryland vs. Tennessee)
1985 Cherry (Maryland vs. Syracuse)
1992 Peach (North Carolina vs. Mississippi State)
1993 Gator (North Carolina vs. Alabama)
1994 Sun (North Carolina vs. Texas)
1995 Orange (Virginia Tech vs. Arkansas)
1996 Carquest (North Carolina vs. Arkansas)
1997 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina)
1998 Music City (Virginia Tech vs. Alabama)
1999 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2000 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Clemson)
2001 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2002 San Francisco (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
2003 Insight (Virginia Tech vs. California)
“The state of Virginia is, and always will be, the primary focus of our recruiting. In recent years, a number of outstanding players from outside the state have also expressed great interest in Virginia Tech. If you get the best players from the state of Virginia and put them together with some talented players from out-of-state, you’ve got a really good combination.”
— Coach Frank Beamer

“Having coached high school football in Newport News and having spent most of my professional recruiting life in the state of Virginia, I am fully aware of the outstanding quality of the players and coaches within our state. Our objective is to recruit as many of the great players in the state as possible with the goal of winning the national championship.”
— Coach Jim Cavanaugh
Tony Ball
Wide Receivers Coach

In between, Ball coached the running backs at East Tennessee State in 1989.

During the summers of 1996 and 1997, Ball participated in the National Football League’s Minority Internship Program with the Baltimore Ravens.

Ball began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Austin Peay in 1985 and 1986. While at Austin Peay, he earned a master’s in health and nutrition. He served as restricted earnings coach at the University of South Carolina in 1987, working with the running backs and helping the Gamecocks to the Gator Bowl. His first full-time coaching position came at UTC the following year.

Ball played football for the late Joe Morrison at UT-Chattanooga. He was a standout running back who set numerous school kickoff return records and was recently named to the school’s All-Century Football Team. He finished with a degree in criminal justice.

Ball is married to the former Maria Ann Slayden. They have two children: Anthony, 13, and Keshea, 12.

Tony Ball, who has 17 years of experience as a full-time collegiate season coach, is beginning his seventh season as Virginia Tech’s receivers coach. Ball’s attention to detail and enthusiastic approach to the game of football have helped Tech to a 57-18 record, three bowl championships and an appearance in the national championship game over the past seven seasons.

Ball has shown an ability to motivate and prepare young players and was instrumental in the development and success of split end Ernie Wilford who has etched his name in the Tech record books. Wilford became the Hokies’ all-time receptions leader and was the first Tech player ever to post two 50-catch seasons. The was picked in the fourth round of the 2004 NFL Draft by Jacksonville.

Under Ball’s watchful eye, Andre Davis became one of the nation’s top big-play threats. Davis closed out his Tech career in 2001 ranked among the Hokies’ top three in career catches, receiving yards and touchdown receptions. He was selected in the second round of the 2002 NFL Draft by the Cleveland Browns.

Ball came to Tech in 1998 after serving three seasons as an assistant at the University of Louisville, where he coached the receivers. Prior to his stint with the Cardinals, Ball worked with the running backs at Holy Cross for three seasons. He coached the receivers at his alma mater, UT-Chattanooga, on two different occasions - once in 1988 and for two seasons in 1990-91.
Danny Pearman

Tight Ends and Offensive Tackles Coach

Danny Pearman, who has coached in Division I-A national championship games at two different schools, is beginning his 13th season as a full-time collegiate assistant.

Pearman, who is opening his seventh season as the Hokies’ tight ends and offensive tackles coach, brought experience and a sound football background to the Tech staff in 1998. He arrived just in time to help the Hokies to a surprising 8-3 regular season record and a 38-7 victory over Alabama in the Music City Bowl.

Pearman helped bring along an inexperienced group of tight ends and also aided in the development of All-BIG EAST tackle Derek Smith, who was drafted by the Washington Redskins following the season. He has since worked with two other all-conference tackles—Dave Kadela and Anthony Davis.

Under Pearman’s tutelage, Tech’s tight ends caught 17 passes, 16 of which went for first downs, during Tech’s march to the national championship game in 1999. The Tech offense led the nation in scoring that year and ranked eighth nationally in rushing.

Pearman’s experience and hard work have continued to pay dividends in recent seasons. In 2000, former walk-on Browning Wynn earned second-team All-BIG EAST honors at tight end, while teammate Bob Slowikowski caught a key 72-yard touchdown pass against West Virginia. Following the 2001 season, both players signed with NFL teams after contributing valuable senior leadership to a rebuilding offensive unit. In 2002, Keith Willis caught an 87-yard pass against Syracuse — the longest reception ever by a Tech tight end. Last season, Willis became the first Tech player ever to catch two touchdown passes in a bowl game. Sixty-one of the tight ends’ last 70 receptions have resulted in first downs.

Prior to becoming a collegiate assistant, Pearman helped coach the University of Alabama to six bowls and a national championship between 1990 and 1997. After helping guide the Crimson Tide to the national championship in 1992, he contributed to the Tide winning Southeastern Conference Western Division championships the next four years.

Pearman was a graduate assistant at Alabama for two years, then served as coach of the offensive tackles from 1991 to 1996. He coached the defensive tackles and special teams in 1997.

A native of Charlotte, N.C., Pearman won three letters as a tight end at Clemson from 1983 through 1987. In his playing days, he was named a strength and conditioning All-American. He helped the Tigers win two ACC championships.

Following graduation, Pearman began his coaching career as a graduate assistant with the Tigers in 1988 and 1989. The Tigers won the ACC championship again in ‘88 and went to bowl games both of Pearman’s seasons as a grad assistant.

Pearman has a bachelor’s degree in finance and a master’s in business administration, both from Clemson. He is married to the former Kristy Sewell of Birmingham, Ala., and they have a daughter, Taylor Brooke, and a son Tanner Ryan, and a new arrival this year with Trent Joseph, who was born in February.
Kevin Rogers

Quarterbacks Coach

Kevin Rogers, who played a major role in the development of quarterback Donovan McNabb at Syracuse, is entering his third season as the quarterbacks coach at Virginia Tech.

The 2004 season marks Rogers’ 26th year as a full-time coach on the collegiate level. He served as an offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at both Syracuse and Notre Dame before joining the Tech staff in January 2001. Under Rogers’ watchful eye, Tech quarterback Bryan Randall has matured into an outstanding signal-caller who is on the verge of becoming the Hokies’ all-time leader in passing yards and total offense. In 2002, Randall set a school season record for completion percentage (63.7) and ranked 10th nationally in passing efficiency (143.09). He also compiled the most total offense by a Tech player since 1972. He continued to progress in 2003 when he was one of only two BIG EAST quarterbacks to earn league offensive player of the week honors twice.

Prior to a three-year stint at Notre Dame (1999-01), Rogers served as the quarterbacks coach for eight seasons at Syracuse under head coach Paul Pasqualoni. His final two years at SU, Rogers was the offensive coordinator, as well as the quarterbacks coach.

Rogers’ star pupil at Syracuse was McNabb, the BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year three straight seasons (he shared the award in ’96). McNabb broke most of Syracuse’s passing records which had been held by another of Rogers’ proteges, Marvin Graves, who ranked second nationally in passing in 1992. McNabb was the second overall pick in the 1999 NFL Draft by the Philadelphia Eagles.

Rogers first joined the Syracuse staff in 1991 as quarterbacks coach, was named assistant head coach in 1995, served as recruiting coordinator from 1995-97 and was named offensive coordinator in ’97. While at Syracuse, Rogers saw the Orange finish in the final Associated Press Top 25 on six occasions.

Rogers’ other college coaching credits include running backs coach at William & Mary from 1980-82 and defensive line coach at Ohio State in 1977-78 under Woody Hayes.

In 1999, Rogers coached a Notre Dame offense that broke the school single-season record for total passing yards, completions and attempts. Rogers helped quarterback Jarious Jackson set school single-season records for passing attempts, completions and passing yardage.

Rogers has been involved in 11 postseason bowl games as an assistant coach and has coached a number of All-Americans and National Football League players in his career, including McNabb, Qadry Ismail, Aaron Brown and Napoleon McCallum.

Rogers is no stranger to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Brooklyn, N.Y., native is a 1974 graduate of the College of William & Mary and began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Bayside High School in Virginia Beach from 1974-76. At William & Mary, he was a three-year letterman as a linebacker and earned a degree in physical education. He earned a master’s in physical education from Ohio State in 1978.

Rogers and his wife Betty are parents of three children — Kevin, a former quarterback at Villanova and now a scouting assistant for the Indianapolis Colts; Megan, a Notre Dame graduate who is currently an intern with the New York Jets; and Ryan, a senior at Notre Dame.

Before his tenure at Syracuse, Rogers spent eight seasons on the Navy staff coaching a variety of positions. Rogers’ other college coaching credits include running backs coach at William & Mary from 1980-82 and defensive line coach at Ohio State in 1977-78 under Woody Hayes.

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Coach Kevin Rogers and his wife, Betty, with Megan, Ryan (l) and Kevin.
Lorenzo Ward

Defensive Backfield Coach

Lorenzo Ward’s reputation as an outstanding coach and recruiter continues to grow as he begins his sixth season on Frank Beamer’s football staff at Virginia Tech. Ward oversees Tech’s cornerbacks and free safeties.

In his previous five seasons with the Hokies, Ward coached five all-BIG EAST players, produced a secondary that helped Tech finish among the national defensive leaders four of the last five seasons and spearheaded the recruiting of the nation’s top high school football player.

His work with the secondary in 1999 contributed to the Hokies finishing No. 3 in total defense and No. 7 in pass efficiency defense. In 2000, Tech tied for third nationally in interceptions and during the 2001 season, the Hokies ranked second in total defense, third in pass efficiency defense, eighth in pass defense and tied for seventh in interceptions. In 2002, Tech led the Division I-A ranks in interceptions with 24.

Ward was instrumental in Tech’s signing of Pennsylvania running back Kevin Jones in February 2000. Jones, the most highly touted player ever to sign with the Hokies, was rated the top high school football player in the country. Following the 2001 season, Jones was named the BIG EAST Conference Rookie of the Year after leading Tech in rushing. Last season, he broke three Tech rushing records on the way to become a consensus All-American and a first-round pick in the NFL Draft.

Four of Ward’s cornerbacks at Tech — Anthony Midget, Ike Charlton, Ronyell Whitaker and DeAngelo Hall — have earned BIG EAST honors, along with free safety Willie Pile. Midget was a first-team pick and Charlton a second-team selection in 1999, while Whitaker was second team in 2000 and first team in 2001. Hall and Pile were second-team picks in 2002. Hall became a first-team All-BIG EAST selection and a second-team All-America pick in 2003 and was the eighth overall player taken in the NFL Draft. Hall and Pile were semi-finalists for the Jim Thorpe Award in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Prior to joining the Tech coaching staff, Ward was a coach at UT-Chattanooga and Alabama. He was named the defensive coordinator at UT-Chattanooga in 1998 after serving as the Mocs’ running backs coach in 1997. Prior to working with the running backs, Ward was the defensive backs coach. He coached strong safety Ron Faugue, who earned both second- and third-team All-America honors in 1996.

An Alabama native, Ward starred for the Crimson Tide from 1986-90. He helped lead Alabama to a 33-15 record and a Southeastern Conference Championship during his career. He was also tabbed Special Teams Player of the Year by The Sporting News in 1990 as the Tide’s unit ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Ward played on four bowl teams, helping lead ‘Bama to two Sun Bowl wins.

Ward served two seasons as a graduate assistant at Alabama before spending one season as an assistant coach at Newman High in Newman, Ga. While a graduate assistant, Ward helped coach the Tide to victories in the 1991 Blockbuster Bowl and the 1993 Gator Bowl. He joined the UTC staff as the secondary coach in 1994.

Nicknamed “Whammy” because of his fierce tackles, Ward graduated from Alabama in 1990 with a bachelor’s in physical education. He is married to the former Tara Tubbs. The couple has one son, Lorenzo Donovan Ward, Jr., who is 8.

WARD’S PROFILE

PERSONAL:
Hometown: Greensboro, Ala.
Wife: former Tara Tubbs
Child: Lorenzo Donovan Ward, Jr.

EDUCATION:
High School: Greensboro Public School — West Campus (1986)
College: University of Alabama (1990)

PLAYING EXPERIENCE:
Alabama (1986-90)

COACHING EXPERIENCE:
1991-93 Alabama (graduate assistant)
1993 Newnan High (assistant coach)
1994-98 UT-Chattanooga (secondary/running backs)
1999- Virginia Tech (defensive backfield)

BOWL EXPERIENCE:
Player
1986 Sun (Alabama vs. Washington)
1988 Hall of Fame (Alabama vs. Michigan)
1988 Sun (Alabama vs. Army)
1990 Sugar (Alabama vs. Miami)

Coach
1991 Blockbuster (Alabama vs. Colorado)
1993 Gator (Alabama vs. North Carolina)
1999 Sugar (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2000 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Clemson)
2001 Gator (Virginia Tech vs. Florida State)
2002 San Francisco (Virginia Tech vs. Air Force)
2003 Insight (Virginia Tech vs. California)
Charley Wiles
Defensive Line Coach

Award as the best lineman. He also became Tech's second unanimous All-American and was chosen the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year two consecutive years. Brown was a two-time All-America pick, taking consensus honors as a junior in 1995 when he was also named the National Defensive Player of the Year by Football News and the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year.

Wiles also coached John Engelberger, who was named second-team on The Associated Press All-America team and was selected first-team All-BIG EAST in 1999 after earning second-team honors in 1998 and 1997. Standouts David Pugh and Chad Beasley earned first- and second-team All-BIG EAST honors, respectively, in both 2000 and 2001. Pugh was also a third-team All-America pick by The Sporting News and both players were selected in the NFL Draft.

In all, nine of Wiles' players have won All-BIG EAST honors. The others were tackle Kerwin Hairston in 1997, tackle Nathaniel Williams in 1999, end Nathaniel Adibi in 2002 and 2003, and end Cols Colas last season.

During the 1999 season, Wiles coached a veteran line that he helped mold into what The Sporting News rated as the best Division I-A defensive line in the college ranks prior to the season. That line helped the Hokies finish first in the nation in scoring defense and third in rushing defense and total defense. Tech's 2001 defensive line was rated as the fourth-best in the Division I-A ranks by The Sporting News.

Wiles is on his second tour of duty at Tech. He originally joined Beamer's Tech staff as a graduate assistant in 1987 and worked in that capacity for two years.

Wiles first had a player-coach relationship with Beamer, when Beamer was the head man at Murray State. Wiles was a Kodak Division I-AA All-American as an offensive lineman in 1986.

When he left Tech after the 1988 season, Wiles spent a year on the staff at East Tennessee State. He then returned to Murray State for a six-year coaching tenure, winding up as the Racers' co-defensive coordinator. In 1995, he helped coach the Racers to an 11-0 regular-season mark and a berth in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Wiles also served as Murray State's recruiting coordinator, helping land many of the Racers' top players.

When Wiles rejoined Beamer at Tech in 1996, he fulfilled a goal he had set during his first stint in Blacksburg. The Hokies have competed in bowl games during each season since he rejoined the staff.

A native of De Land, Fla., and a three-sport star at De Land High School, he is married to the former Andrea Wilder of Booneville, Ind. They have a daughter, Kendell, 8, and a son, Eric, 5.
John Ballein
Associate Director of Athletics for Football Operations

John Ballein holds one of the most important positions in Virginia Tech athletics as associate athletics director for football operations. He was promoted to the position during the summer of 2000 in recognition of his excellent work for Coach Frank Beamer and his program.

Called “the No. 1 administrative assistant in the country” by former Tech AD Dave Braine, Ballein is responsible for all operations dealing with the football program. He continues to serve as assistant to head coach Frank Beamer and as departmental recruiting coordinator, jobs he performed prior to his promotion.

“You name it and John Ballein does it,” Beamer said in a Dec. 18, 1999 article on Ballein in The Roanoke Times. “Just everything that goes on around here — our travel, our recruiting, our camps, our clinics. He is absolutely the best.”

A native of Bentleyville, Pa., Ballein was a linebacker at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and graduated from there with a degree in health and physical education in 1983. He later earned a master’s in education from Old Dominion University in 1987. He has nearly completed his Ed.D in health promotions from Virginia Tech.

Ballein was a teacher and football coach in 1983-84 at Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth, Va., and at Western Branch High in Chesapeake, Va., in 1985-86.

Ballein served on Beamer’s first Virginia Tech staff in 1987 as a graduate assistant coach. In 1988, he accepted a position as running backs coach at Western Kentucky University. He returned to Tech a year later as recruiting coordinator.

With his office adjacent to Coach Beamer’s, he is often considered Beamer’s right-hand man. He deals mostly with the administrative side of the football program, but is one of the favorites among players. His office is a preferred hangout of Tech players, and he is one of the most beloved and respected members of the staff.

“I don’t think [Coach] Beamer could operate without Ballein,” said former Tech standout Corey Moore. “Ballein’s a guy on the ball. Plus, he’s kind of a favorite among the players, too.”

Ballein is married to the former Stephanie Green, who was a basketball player at Tech in her undergraduate days. They have two daughters, Jordan Gray, 8, and Jalyn Ann, 6.
Football Support Staff

Bruce Garnes
Administrative Assistant

Bruce Garnes, a 1994 graduate of Virginia Tech, is in his sixth year as an administrative assistant in the Hokies’ football office.

For five years, he has served as the liaison between the academic community and football and has helped the Hokies with their recruiting efforts. Garnes also assists John Ballein, the associate athletic director for football operations, with Tech’s football camps and coaching clinics.

A native of Martinsville, Va., Garnes graduated from Tech with a bachelor’s in health and physical education. From 1971 to 1973, he served as Tommy Rapier Graduate Assistant Manager.

Lester Karlin
Equipment Manager

Lester Karlin, a veteran of 26 years as the Hokies’ equipment manager, is one of the most popular people on the Virginia Tech athletic staff.

Karlin is a certified equipment manager and a member of the Athletic Equipment Managers Association. In addition to ordering equipment for the football team, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the equipment room.

A native of Norfolk, Va., Karlin graduated from Tech in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education. From 1971 to 1973, he served as the student assistant in the football equipment room.

Karlin worked for two years in the World Football League, serving as the equipment manager for teams in Houston, Texas, and Shreveport, La. He returned to Blacksburg and his alma mater in 1978.

Lester Karlin and his wife, Suzie, with daughters Sarah and Rachel and their dog, Maggie.

Karlin, his wife, Suzie, and their daughters Sarah and Rachel live in Blacksburg. Karlin is a life member of the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and currently serves as a lieutenant. He spends his spare time either working in his yard or at the rescue squad.