Lane Stadium has undergone major expansion and renovation over the past few years, and with the completion of the new west side in 2005, it will be one of the nation’s best college football arenas.
Virginia Tech’s Building Boom

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 (below) consists of 11,100 new seats, 15 luxury suites, two club areas, four television camera stations, a new visitor’s locker room that can be split in half and used for the spring sports, new storage rooms and new media interview rooms.

- The remodelling of Lane Stadium’s west side (above) is underway. It involves the removal of the fencing that surrounds the stadium which will be replaced by 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. The project will go on throughout the 2004 season and is scheduled to be completed prior to next fall.

- 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.

- 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.

- Phase two of the Cassell renovation project will begin soon. This phase calls for the replacing of bathroom fixtures throughout the Coliseum.

- 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 a press box, was completed prior to last season.

- Lights were installed at English Field (right), home of the Tech baseball team, last fall, allowing for fewer missed classes for the athletes.
The Virginia Tech football team has enjoyed over a decade of success, going to 11 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 40th 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.

**Another New Look**

In the summer of 2003, $1.9 million was raised to fund the ongoing planning of the west side expansion. That money allowed for the ground breaking of the west side project, which will be another magnificent addition to the stadium. This project marks the third of a three-phase project at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Given the process of capital funding approval, the athletics department has set forth a tentative schedule for stage three of the project.

Ground was broken in November and crews began building around the current press box, laying the above and below ground settings, as well as removing the two light towers on that side of the stadium.

This will continue through this season, meaning fans will be cheering on the Hokies in a construction site this year. For Tech’s home night games, portable lights will be brought in.

Following the completion of the 2004 season,
The New South End Zone

Last season was the second played by the Hokies with the intimidating South End Zone facility capturing the noise at Lane Stadium. The season was marked by tough competition and record-setting crowds as fans filled all 65,115 seats.

Prior to the 2002 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, benchback 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, a press conference area, 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. 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.

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 34-20 win over Boston College. 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.

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.

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.

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

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Through the Years

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Virginia Tech's continuing efforts to compete at the highest level produced another first for the Hokies. Three 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.

That system got its greatest test on national television this past year when Tech took on Texas A&M in the midst of Hurricane Isabel. Despite pouring rain and high winds, the field held up magnificently, drawing rave reviews from players, coaches and media members covering the game.

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.

Placing the field on mobile grays gives Tech the ability to move sections of the field. It also gives Tech the possibility of hosting events such as concerts in Lane Stadium without damaging the field.

Hokies turf a first for a college football stadium

FACILITIES

INAUGURAL SEASON IN THE ACC

STADIUM SERIES

Following is a list of the 55 schools that Virginia Tech has faced in Lane Stadium and a breakdown of the Hokies' home record against those teams since the stadium opened in 1965.

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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., Phil Rogers vs. VMI, 1975; Opponent — 89 yds., Wes McFadden of Clemson, 1987
Longest Pass Completion: Tech — 91 yds., qb Steve Casey to wb Sidney Snell vs. VMI, 1979;
   Opponent — 97 yds, qb Tim Haslebeck to wr Dedrick Hunter vs. Georgia Tech, 1999
Longest Interception Return: Tech — 98 yds., lb Jamel Smith vs. Rutgers, 1998; Opponent — 99 yds., db Marcus Mauney of West Virginia, 1974
Most Yards Rushing by an Individual: Tech — 467, vs. William & Mary, 1985; Opponent — 441, Kentucky, 1974
Fewest Yards Rushing by a Team: Tech — minus 1, vs. Syracuse, 1987; Opponent — minus 28, Arkansas St., 1997
Most Passes Attempted by a Team: Tech — 3, seven times (most recent: cb Anthony Midget vs. Miami, 1999);
   Opponent — 6, three times (most recent: rb Terrell Willis of Rutgers, 1993)
Most Points Kicking by an Individual: Tech — 3, seven times (most recent: cb Anthony Midget vs. Miami, 1999);
   Opponent — 3, three times (most recent: rb Terrell Willis of Rutgers, 1993)
Most Passing Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 4, four times (most recent: qb Lee Suggs vs. Rutgers, 2000);
   Opponent — 3, three times (most recent: qb Lee Suggs vs. Rutgers, 2000)
Most Passing Attempts by a Team: Tech — 34, vs. Houston, 1972; Opponent — 31, Byron Leftwich of Marshall, 2002
Most Passing Attempts by an Individual: Tech — 34, vs. Houston, 1972; Opponent — 36, Marshall, 2002
Most Touchdown Passes by a Team: Tech — 11, vs. Akron, 1995; Opponent — 5, Richmond, 1975
Most Touchdown Passes by an Individual: Tech — 4, Maurice DeShazo vs. Maryland & Temple, 1993;
   Opponent — 4, three times (most recent: John Turman of Pittsburgh, 2000)
Most Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 5, vs. Temple, 1993; Opponent — 4, four times (most recent: Pittsburgh, 2000)
Most Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 3, Antonio Freeman vs. Maryland, 1993;
   Opponent — 3, two times (most recent: Larry Fitzgerald of Pittsburgh, 2002)
Most Field Goals Made by an Individual: Tech — 6, Mickey Thomas vs. Vanderbilt, 1989; Opponent — 5, Rafael Garcia of Virginia, 1994
Most Field Goals Made by a Team: Tech — 182, 441 yds. vs. Temple, 1993; Opponent — 498, Scott Milanovich of Maryland, 1993
Most Combined Field Goals Attempted: 1,290 yds., Tech (12) vs. Temple, 1993
Most Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 11, vs. Akron, 1995; Opponent — 7, Houston, 1974
Most Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 26, fb George Constantine vs. Richmond, 1967; Opponent — 24, rb Mike Dingle of South Carolina, 1990
Most Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 4, 498, vs. Temple, 1993; Opponent — 57, Appalachian State, 1982 & Maryland, 1993
Most Passing Attempts by a Team: Tech — 53, vs. Houston, 1972; Opponent — 54, Dean May of Louisville, 1983
Most Passing Attempts by an Individual: Tech — 53, vs. Houston, 1972; Opponent — 57, Appalachian State, 1982 & Maryland, 1993
Most Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 10, two times (most recent: Bo Campbell vs. Akron, 1989);
   Opponent — 8, Houston, 1974
Most Touchdowns by a Team: Tech — 154, vs. Richmond, 1967;
   Opponent — 127, Kentucky, 1978
Most Kickoffs by an Individual: Tech — 6, Marcus Mickel vs. Clemson, 1989;
   Opponent — 6, three times (most recent: John Gutter of James Madison, 1988)
Most Kickoffs by a Team: Tech — 8, vs. Houston, 1974 & vs. Virginia, 1994;
   Opponent — 107, by East Carolina, 1991
Most Punt Returns by an Individual: Tech — 12, two times (most recent: Gene Fisher vs. Miami, 1967);
   Opponent — 9, qb Marcus Mauney of West Virginia, 1974
Most Punt Returns by a Team: Tech — 10, two times (most recent: Bo Campbell vs. Akron, 1989);
   Opponent — 7, Rahsaan Vanterpool of West Virginia, 1994
Most Punt Returns by a Team: Tech — 10, two times (most recent: vs. Akron, 1989);
   Opponent — 8, Houston, 1974
Most Punt Return Yardage by a Team: Tech — 154, vs. Richmond, 1967;
   Opponent — 127, Kentucky, 1978
Most Kickoffs by a Team: Tech — 6, Marcus Mickel vs. Clemson, 1989;
   Opponent — 6, three times (most recent: John Gutter of James Madison, 1988)
Most Kickoffs by a Team: Tech — 5, vs. Houston, 1974;
   Opponent — 498, Scott Milanovich of Maryland, 1993
Most Combined Kickoffs Attempted: 1,290 yds., Tech (12) vs. Temple, 1993
Most Kickoffs by an Individual: Tech — 5, two times (most recent: Clemson, 1985)
Most Combined Kickoffs Attempted: 17, Tech (11) vs. Tulsa (6), 1976
Most Combined Kickoffs Lost: 10, Tech (5) vs. Tulsa (5), 1976
Most Yards Penalized: Tech — 163 vs. Wake Forest, 1983; Opponent — 160, Miami (Fla.), 1992
Largest Crowd: 65,115, 7 times, 2003
Smallest Crowd: 10,000, vs. VMI, 1977
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,” associate 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’ Excellent Athletic Complex

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

The Hall of Legends in the Merryman Center serves as a grand entrance into the athletic department.
The Hokies have a full-sized indoor practice facility in Rector Field House.

65,115-seat Lane Stadium is an imposing venue that really comes alive on game days.
Michael Vick Hall and McConnell Auditorium provide for a great working environment for players and staff in the Merryman Center.

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

The Hokies train in the spacious Merryman Center weight room and the adjacent speed and agility room.
Student Athlete Academic Support Services already has nice facilities, but will move to an area as nice as any in the country when the new west side addition to Lane Stadium is completed in 2005.

The Hokies enjoy a spacious and well-equipped locker room and adjacent players' lounge.

Tech's Eddie Ferrell Memorial Training Room and medical facilities are second to none.
Touring Tech’s Venues

A look at the Hokies’ other sports 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. 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.

Rector Field House (on the right of the photo above) is the site of the Hokies’ full-sized indoor practice field, and is also home to one of the nation’s finest indoor tracks (left) in the winter. Plans are being considered for a new indoor football practice facility to be located on the other side of Cassell Coliseum.
The Virginia Tech men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams compete at the War Memorial Pool.

Tech’s softball program has only been in existence for nine 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.

The Burrows-Burleson Tennis Center (above) 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. This past fall, the Hokies began play in a brand-new soccer and lacrosse stadium (left) in the middle of the athletic complex.