

# Virginia Tech FACILITIES



*Lane Stadium is once again being transformed, and with the completion of the west side expansion prior to this season, the facility will continue to be one of the nation's finest and loudest college football venues.*



**2000  
SUGAR**

7th bowl of  
12 in a row

# Lane Stadium

## *Home of the Hokies*



The Virginia Tech football team has enjoyed over a decade of success, going to 12 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 and west side additions, the Hokies compete in one of the best stadiums in the nation.

Now entering its 41st 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**

The third in a series of upgrades will be completed prior to this season. Following the completion of the 2004 season, the current press box was removed and the structure was filled in to match what was built up during the 2004 season.

A new press area on the west side, toward the south end zone with a dining area and improved overall facilities will be just the tip of the iceberg. In addition,

the fencing that surrounds the stadium will be removed and the area on the west side exterior of the newly renovated stadium will be landscaped with walkways and a weekday parking lot for ticket patrons as well as Hall of Fame and Hokie Club visitors.

Additional new luxury suites, a new President's area, four private club seating areas, new

concession stands, a new ticket office, new athletic fund offices, an Athletics Hall of Fame and a new student academic services area are also included in this project.

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 is another magnificent addition to the stadium. This project marked the third of a three-phase project at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Ground was broken in November of 2004 for the latest project and crews began building around the current press box, laying the above and below



*An artist's rendition of the new west side expansion shows the scope of the project that will replace the old press box visible in the picture at the top of the page.*

ground settings, as well as removing the two light towers on that side of the stadium.

This season, the inside of the stadium also has a new look as Hokie Stone was added to the walls in each of the end zones so there's no question as to where the game is being played for fans watching on television.

Also, new kicking nets have been installed in both end zones, a new video board — 1/3 larger — has replaced the old one on the existing scoreboard and new lights that will double the candlepower and reduce shadows on the field were added as part of the renovation.

With all of these additions and improvements, Lane Stadium will keep up its reputation as one of the best places for college football.

## The South End Zone

Last season was the third 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 for all seven games.

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, bench-back and club seats. The structure is enclosed, but has gaps between the existing structure and the new one. This is because of new building codes and a desire to get fans closer to the field.

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

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

The outside of the facility also received 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. In the winter of 2003-04, a heating system was installed to keep the Bermuda grass at an optimum temperature during the winter months.

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

## A Winning Tradition

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

On Nov. 1, 2003, Tech upset No. 2 Miami 31-7 to pick up its 150th win all-time at Lane Stadium, marking the highest-ranked opponent the Hokies have ever defeated.

Tech's overall record at Lane Stadium is 156 wins, 63 losses and six ties in 40 years of play. The Hokies are 82-26-1 at home during Coach Frank Beamer's tenure at Virginia Tech and more impressively, are 64-12 in Blacksburg the last 12 seasons.

Tech finished with an all-time record of 32-9 in BIG EAST

games played at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field and won 25 of its last 31 conference games at home.

Last season, Tech went 6-1 at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field, on its way to a 10-3 season and an ACC title. Highlights included a win over Duke in Tech's inaugural ACC game, a win over No. 6 West Virginia and Tech topping Virginia on Senior Day.

This season, Tech hopes to continue its home stadium tradition as a tough group of foes make the trip to Blacksburg.

Georgia Tech, North Carolina, Miami and Boston College will be the four Atlantic Coast Conference home games for Tech. Non-conference opponents Ohio and Marshall also visit Lane Stadium, providing fans with six great games this season.

## 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 66,233, ranks as one of the nation's finest collegiate football facilities.

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

## Lane Stadium Milestones

	Date	Opponent	Result	Score
First Win	Oct. 2, 1965	William & Mary	W	9-7
First Television Game	Oct. 29, 1966	Florida State	W	23-21
25th Win	Oct. 11, 1975	Florida State	W	13-10
50th Win	Oct. 3, 1981	Memphis State	W	17-13
First CBS Game	Sept. 18, 1982	Miami (Fla.)	L	8-14
First Night Game	Nov. 25, 1982	Virginia	W	21-14
First TBS Game	Nov. 25, 1982	Virginia	W	21-14
First Game Under Coach Beamer	Sept. 12, 1987	Clemson	L	10-22
First Win Under Coach Beamer	Oct. 3, 1987	Navy	W	31-11
75th Win	Oct. 3, 1987	Navy	W	31-11
First ESPN Game	Nov. 24, 1990	Virginia	W	38-13
First BIG EAST Game	Sept. 26, 1992	West Virginia	L	7-16
First BIG EAST Win	Oct. 16, 1993	Temple	W	55-7
100th Win	Sept. 22, 1994	West Virginia	W	34-6
First Thursday Night Game	Sept. 22, 1994	West Virginia	W	34-6
Program's 1,000th Game	Sept. 4, 1999	James Madison	W	47-0
125th Win	Sept. 23, 1999	Clemson	W	31-11
First ESPN GameDay Appearance	Oct. 16, 1999	Syracuse	W	62-0
Second ESPN GameDay Appearance	Nov. 13, 1999	Miami (Fla.)	W	43-10
Frank Beamer's 100th Win at Tech	Sept. 1, 2001	Connecticut	W	52-10
Virginia Tech's 600th win overall	Sept. 6, 2003	James Madison	W	43-0
150th win	Nov. 1, 2003	Miami	W	31-7
First ACC Game and Win	Sept. 18, 2004	Duke	W	41-17

VIRGINIA TECH'S ALL-TIME RECORD AT LANE STADIUM: 156-63-6 (40 years)

LONGEST WINNING STREAK AT LANE STADIUM: 16 games (47-0, James Madison, 1999 - 34-20, Boston College, 2001)

## Through the Years

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

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

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

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

included replacing concrete risers and the addition of wheelchair seating.

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

In 2002, three more flags — those bearing the names and numbers of Frank Beamer, Michael Vick and Cornell Brown — were added, retiring their jerseys, but not their numbers.

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

In addition to the seats in the north end zone constructed before the 1999 season, the interior block walls and concourse tunnels were seal-coated to match the exterior of Cassell Coliseum and the Merryman Center.

Before the 2000 season, a new scoreboard, complete with "Hokievision" was installed behind the north end zone bleachers.

The south end zone construction project eliminated the old wooden bleachers in that

area. But the north end zone bleachers were expanded down to the field, adding close to 600 new, permanent seats to make the north end zone look similar to the new south end zone. This is where The Marching Virginians — one of Tech's two marching bands — sit. These moves cut the capacity to 53,662.

Prior to the 2000 season, approximately 3,000 permanent bleacher seats were added in the north end zone and prior to the 1999 season, 2,100 permanent seats were added in the same end zone. And in 2003, permacaps were installed over all the wooden seats to enhance fan comfort.

Last year, fans saw new conference logos around the stadium as the Hokies made the move to the ACC.

## Record Crowds

Enthusiastic crowds at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field have helped the Hokies to some big wins during their resurgence under Coach Frank Beamer. Tech set a single-season attendance record last season by averaging 65,115 spectators per contest for the second year in a row.

With the new additions, renovations and conference affiliation, as well as goals of being one of the top teams in the country, hopefully, the 2005 home schedule will be just as successful in drawing record-setting crowds to Lane Stadium/Worsham Field — home of the Hokies.

## Lane Stadium Series

Following is a list of the 56 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.

	W	L	T
Akron	4	0	0
Alabama	0	1	0
Alabama-Birmingham	2	0	0
Appalachian State	3	0	0
Arkansas State	3	0	0
Auburn	0	1	0
Boston College	3	2	0
Bowling Green	2	0	0
Buffalo	1	0	0
Central Florida	2	0	0
Cincinnati	2	2	0
Clemson	1	5	0
Connecticut	2	0	0
Duke	3	0	0
East Carolina	4	2	0
East Tennessee State	2	0	0
Florida A&M	1	0	0
Florida State	3	4	1
George Washington	1	0	0
Houston	0	1	1
James Madison	6	0	0
Kansas State	0	1	0
Kent State	1	0	0
Kentucky	2	3	0
Louisville	3	0	0
LSU	1	0	0
Marshall	1	0	0
Maryland	2	0	0
Memphis State	2	1	0
Miami (Fla.)	4	4	0
Miami (Ohio)	0	1	0
Navy	1	0	0
North Carolina State	1	1	1
Ohio University	1	0	0
Oklahoma State	1	0	0
Pittsburgh	4	1	0
Richmond	8	1	0
Rhode Island	1	0	0
Rutgers	6	0	0
South Carolina	1	4	1
SMU	1	0	0
Southern Mississippi	3	2	0
SW Louisiana	1	0	0
Syracuse	6	2	0
Temple	6	1	0
Texas A&M	1	1	0
Tulane	2	0	0
Tulsa	1	2	0
Vanderbilt	3	0	0
Villanova	3	0	0
Virginia	11	6	1
VMI	5	2	0
Wake Forest	4	4	0
West Virginia	11	6	1
Western Michigan	2	0	0
William & Mary	11	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>6</b>

## Hokies Turf a First for a College Football Stadium

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 in 2003 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., installed the modular turf system in 2001. It 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.



# Lane Stadium Records

Top Performances  
(1965-2004)

**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 yards, qb Tim Haselbeck to wr Dedrick Dewalt, Boston College, 1999  
**Longest Interception Return:** *Tech* — 98 yds., ilb Jamel Smith vs. Rutgers, 1998; *Opponent* — 99 yds., db Marcus Mauney of West Virginia, 1974  
**Longest Kickoff Return:** *Tech* — 99 yds., Eddie Hunter vs. South Carolina, 1986; *Opponent* — 100 yds., Jimmy Stewart of Tulsa, 1976  
**Longest Punt Return:** *Tech* — 95 yds., Frank Loria vs. Miami (Fla.), 1967; *Opponent* — 88 yds., Larry Carter of Kentucky, 1978  
**Longest Field Goal:** *Tech* — 61 yds., Wayne Latimer vs. Florida State, 1975; *Opponent* — 56 yds., Kenny Stadlin of Virginia, 1984  
**Most Yards Rushing by an Individual:** *Tech* — 223, Kenny Lewis vs. VMI, 1978; *Opponent* — 226, Wes McFadden of Clemson, 1987  
**Most Yards Rushing by a Team:** *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 Yards Passing by an Individual:** *Tech* — 527, Don Strock vs. Houston, 1972; *Opponent* — 498, Scott Milanovich of Maryland, 1993  
**Most Yards Passing by a Team:** *Tech* — 527, vs. Houston, 1972; *Opponent* — 498, Maryland, 1993  
**Fewest Yards Passing by a Team:** *Tech* — 11, vs. Richmond, 1975; *Opponent* — 15, Kentucky, 1974  
**Most Passing Attempts by an Individual:** *Tech* — 53, Don Strock vs. Houston, 1972; *Opponent* — 54, Dean May of Louisville, 1983  
**Most Passing Attempts by a Team:** *Tech* — 53, vs. Houston, 1972; *Opponent* — 57, Appalachian State, 1982 & Maryland, 1993  
**Most Pass Completions by an Individual:** *Tech* — 34, Don Strock vs. Houston, 1972; *Opponent* — 31, Byron Leftwich of Marshall, 2002  
**Most Pass Completions by a Team:** *Tech* — 34, vs. Houston, 1972; *Opponent* — 36, Marshall, 2002  
**Most Pass Receptions by an Individual:** *Tech* — 13, Nick Cullen vs. Southern Miss, 1990; *Opponent* — 13, Ron Sellers of Florida State, 1966  
**Most Yards on Pass Receptions by an Individual:** *Tech* — 194, Antonio Freeman vs. Temple, 1993; *Opponent* — 180, Herman Moore of Virginia, 1990  
**Most Total Offense by an Individual:** *Tech* — 516 yds., Don Strock vs. Houston, 1972; *Opponent* — 516 yds., Scott Milanovich of Maryland, 1993  
**Most Total Offense by a Team:** *Tech* — 641 yds., vs. Maryland, 1993; *Opponent* — 649 yds., Maryland, 1993  
**Most Combined Total Offense:** 1,290 yds., *Tech* (641 yds.) vs. Maryland (649 yds.), 1993  
**Most Touchdowns by a Team:** *Tech* — 11, vs. Akron, 1995; *Opponent* — 7, Houston, 1974  
**Most Points Scored by an Individual:** *Tech* — 26, fb George Constantinides vs. Richmond, 1967; *Opponent* — 24, rb Mike Dingle of South Carolina, 1990  
**Most Rushing Touchdowns by an Individual:** *Tech* — 4, four times (most recent: tb Lee Suggs vs. Rutgers, 2000);  
*Opponent* — 3, three times (most recent: rb Terrell Willis of Rutgers, 1993)  
**Most Rushing Touchdowns by a Team:** *Tech* — 8, vs. Akron, 1995; *Opponent* — 5, Kentucky, 1974  
**Most Touchdown Passes by an Individual:** *Tech* — 4, three times (most recent: **Bryan Randall vs. Florida A&M, 2004**)  
*Opponent* — 4, three times (most recent: John Turman of Pittsburgh, 2000)  
**Most Touchdown Passes by a Team:** *Tech* — 5, vs. Temple, 1993; *Opponent* — 4, four times (most recent: Pittsburgh, 2000)  
**Most Touchdown Receptions 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 Points Kicking by an Individual:** *Tech* — 18, Mickey Thomas vs. Vanderbilt, 1989; *Opponent* — 18, Rafael Garcia of Virginia, 1994  
**Most Interceptions by an Individual:** *Tech* — 3, seven times (most recent: cb Anthony Midget vs. Miami, 1999);  
*Opponent* — 3, Aaron Beasley of West Virginia, 1994  
**Most Interceptions by a Team:** *Tech* — 6, vs. Rutgers, 1998; *Opponent* — 5, Virginia, 1992 & 1994  
**Most Interception Yardage by an Individual:** *Tech* — 182, fs Ashley Lee vs. Vanderbilt, 1983; *Opponent* — 99, db Marcus Mauney of West Virginia, 1974  
**Most Interception Yardage by a Team:** *Tech* — 182, vs. Vanderbilt, 1983; *Opponent* — 107, by East Carolina, 1991  
**Most Punts by an Individual:** *Tech* — 12, two times (most recent: Gene Fisher vs. Miami, 1967); *Opponent* — 13, Bill Rudison of Akron, 1989  
**Most Punt Returns by an Individual:** *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 an Individual:** *Tech* — 164, Antonio Freeman vs. Pittsburgh, 1994;  
*Opponent* — 127, Larry Carter of Kentucky, 1978  
**Most Punt Return Yardage by a Team:** *Tech* — 154, vs. Richmond, 1967;  
*Opponent* — 127, Kentucky, 1978  
**Most Kickoff Returns by an Individual:** *Tech* — 6, Marcus Mickel vs. Clemson, 1989;  
*Opponent* — 6, four times (most recent: **Tyrone Walker of Western Michigan, 2004**)  
**Most Kickoff Returns by a Team:** *Tech* — 8, vs. Houston, 1974 & vs. Virginia, 1994;  
*Opponent* — 9, George Washington, 1966 & Maryland, 1993  
**Most Kickoff Return Yardage by an Individual:** *Tech* — 214, Marcus Mickel vs. Clemson, 1989;  
*Opponent* — 142, Phil Mosser of William & Mary, 1971  
**Most Kickoff Return Yardage by a Team:** *Tech* — 245, vs. South Carolina, 1973;  
*Opponent* — 189, Rutgers, 1993  
**Most First Downs:** *Tech* — 34, vs. Akron, 1991; *Opponent* — 34, William & Mary, 1971  
**Fewest First Downs:** *Tech* — 3, vs. Miami (Fla.), 1967; *Opponent* — 6, West Virginia, 1966  
**Most Fumbles:** *Tech* — 11, vs. Tulsa, 1976; *Opponent* — 8, Richmond, 1975  
**Most Fumbles Lost:** *Tech* — 5 vs. Tulsa, 1976; *Opponent* — 5, two times (most recent: Clemson, 1985)  
**Most Combined Fumbles:** 17, *Tech* (11) vs. Tulsa (6), 1976  
**Most Combined Fumbles 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, 14 times (most recent: vs. Virginia, 2004)  
**Smallest Crowd:** 10,000, vs. VMI, 1977



Bryan Randall threw for a Lane Stadium-record four touchdown passes against Florida A&M last season.

# 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 to the athletics department.*



*66,233-seat Lane Stadium is an imposing venue that really comes alive on game days.*



*This view of the old press box and the back of the west side stands has been replaced by a magnificent new structure that will be completed just prior to the 2005 home opener.*



*The Hokies have a full-sized indoor practice facility in Rector Field House.*

*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 will move into a spectacular area in the new west side addition to Lane Stadium following the 2005 football season.*

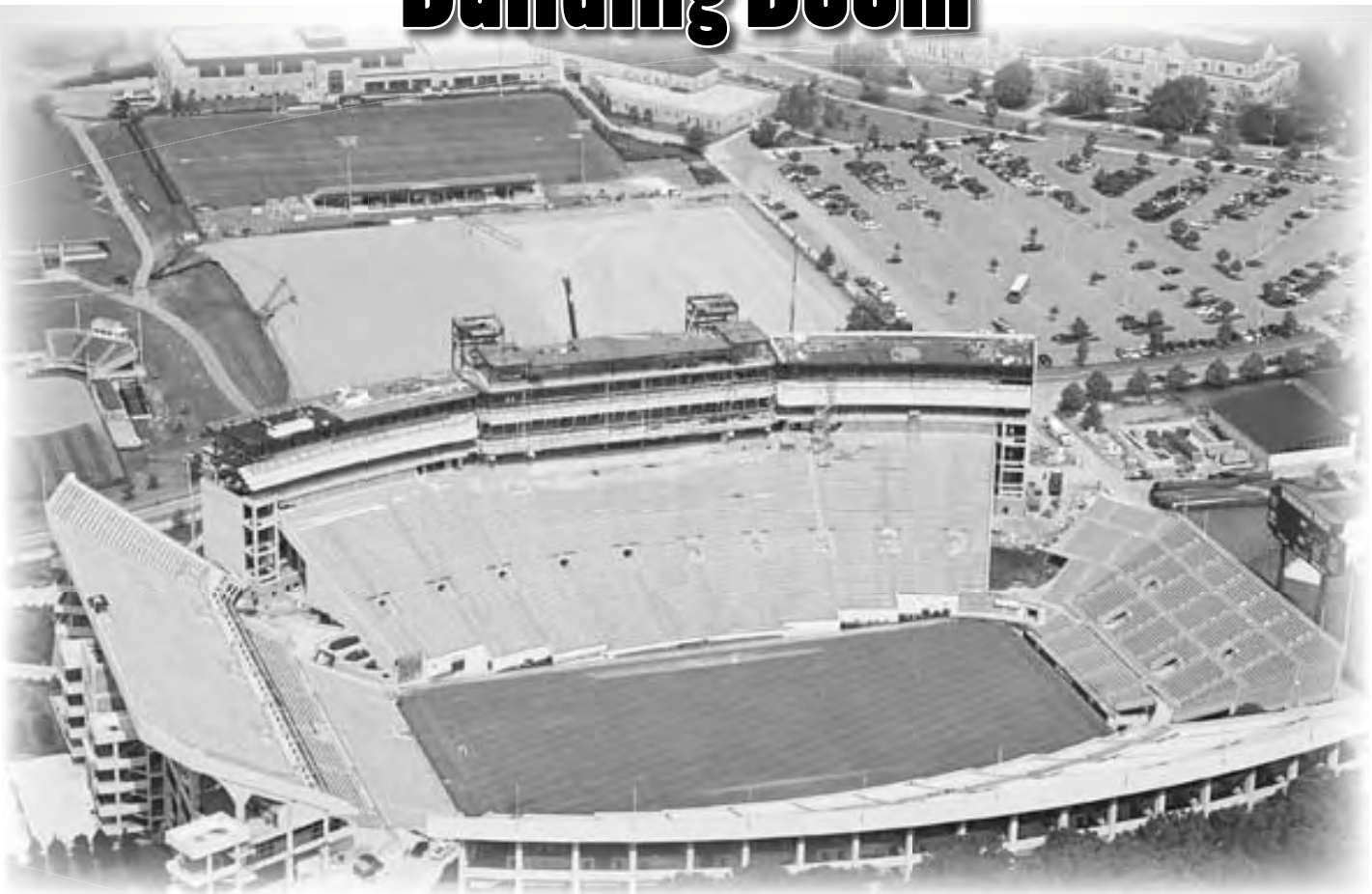


*The Hokies enjoy a spacious and well-equipped locker room and adjacent players' lounge.*



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

# 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 remodelling of Lane Stadium's west side (*above*) will be completed by the end of summer and in time for Tech's home opener. 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, four 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.

- A new video board was installed on the existing scoreboard, enhancing the fans' experience at Lane Stadium. The new board will be 1/3 larger and will make HokieVision one of the best video experiences around.

- Cassell Coliseum's walkway and concession areas got a face lift 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 was completed last season as all bathroom fixtures throughout the Coliseum were replaced.

- Phase three will be completed prior to this basketball season. This phase puts an emphasis on the north and south concourses, blending them in with the new look of the east and west concourses.

- An existing university field (*top, above*) 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. A second phase, the installation of 1,000 permanent seats and a press box, was completed prior to the 2003 season.

- The third phase of the Soccer-Lacrosse Field project was completed this summer. An additional 1,000 permanent bleachers were added, bringing the capacity up to 2,028. Additionally, two new practice fields (*clearing in the middle, above*) — one synthetic field and one natural grass field — were redone to give the three teams a great practice facility.

- A new rest room facility that will serve the soccer, lacrosse and softball crowds will be finished by October.

- The wrestling team will get a new practice facility, turning an existing back gym into a permanent practice room. For now, new mats are being ordered to utilize the back gym for the Hokies, yet it will still maintain its current use as a practice gym for volleyball, the cheerleaders and other teams.

- In the equipment room, a new storage capacity system was installed this past summer.

- New kicking nets were installed in both end zones of Lane Stadium, providing a safety barrier for fans.

- 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.