Lane Stadium, with its new west side expansion, is one of the top college football stadiums in the country, and a centerpiece for the Hokies’ outstanding athletic complex.
The Virginia Tech football team has enjoyed over a decade of success, going to 13 straight bowl games. A big part of that success is the home-field advantage the Hokies enjoy at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Billed as the toughest place in college football for opponents to play by Rivals.com, 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 42nd 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 was completed prior to this season. Following the completion of the 2004 season, the old 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 is just the tip of the iceberg. In addition, the fencing that surrounds the stadium was removed and the area on the west side exterior of the newly renovated stadium was landscaped with walkways and a weekday parking lot for ticket patrons as well as Hall of Fame and Hokie Club visitors.

Additional 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 planning of the west side expansion. That money allowed for the groundbreaking of the west side project — another magnificent addition to the stadium. This project marked the third part 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 existing press box, laying the above and below-ground settings, as well as removing the two light towers on that side of the stadium.

Last season, the inside of the stadium was also given 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.
The South End Zone

Last season was the fourth 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 six 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, 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 press room, a press conference area, three radio rooms, a darkroom and several storage rooms.

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 161 wins, 64 losses and six ties in 41 years of play. The Hokies are 87-27-1 at home during Coach Frank Beamer’s tenure at Virginia Tech and more impressively, are 69-13 in Blacksburg the last 13 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 5-1 at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field on its way to an 11-2 season and a Gator Bowl title. Highlights included a win over No. 15 Georgia Tech, a win over No. 13 Boston College on a Thursday night ESPN broadcast and Tech topping North Carolina 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, Duke, Virginia and Clemson will be the four Atlantic Coast Conference home games for Tech. Non-conference opponents Northeastern, Cincinnati, Southern Miss and Kent State also visit Lane Stadium, providing fans with eight 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 for this season, 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.

continued
Through the Years

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

Through the years, the stadium has seen several changes and renovations. In 1982, the lighting system was added to the facility. The system was first used in Tech’s nationally-televisioned 21-14 Thanksgiving Day victory over Virginia that season. The game was broadcast on WTBS and was the first-ever nationally 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 after retiring their jerseys, but not their numbers. Last year, a banner for center Jake Grove was added to that collection.

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 south 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.

The past two years, 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 tied a single-season attendance record last season by averaging 65,115 spectators per contest for the third 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 2006 home schedule will be just as successful in drawing record-setting crowds to Lane Stadium/Worsham Field — home of the Hokies.

Lane Stadium Series Records

Following is a list of the 58 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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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. Four seasons ago, Tech became the first collegiate football team to have a new state-of-the-art GreenTech ITM natural grass sports field system.

That system in Lane Stadium 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., 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 draws 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.

Prior to this season, the turf was upgraded to a cold-weather tolerant Patriot Bermuda grass.
Lane Stadium Records

Top Performances (1965-2005)

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 Pass from Scrimmage: Tech — 82 yds., Phil Rogers vs. VMI, 1975; Opponent — 89 yds., Wes McFadden of Clemson, 1987
Longest Interception Return: Tech — 98 yds., tib Jamei Smith vs. Rutgers, 1998; Opponent — 99 yds., db Marcus Mauney of West Virginia, 1974
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 Rush Receptions by an Individual: Tech — 13, Nick Cullen vs. Southern Miss, 1990; Opponent — 13, Korn Sellers of Florida State, 1986
Most Rush Receptions by a Team: 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 a Team: Tech — 26, fb George Constantindis 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 Touchdowns by an Individual: Tech — 4, three times (most recent: Bryan Randall vs. Florida A&M, 2004);
Opponent — 4, three times (most recent: John Iurman 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 — 5, 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 — 7, seven times (most recent: cb Anthony Midget vs. Miami, 1999);
Opponent — 5, 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, Is Ashley Lee vs. Vanderbilt, 1983; Opponent — 99, db Marcus Mauney of West Virginia, 1974
Most Punts by an Individual: Tech — 12, two times (most recent: Gene Fisher vs. Miami, 1967); Opponent — 13, Bill Rusdon 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 — 164, Antonio Freeman vs. Pittsburgh, 1994;
Opponent — 127, Kentucky, 1978
Most Kickoff Returns by an Individual: Tech — 6, Marcus Mickel vs. Clemson, 1989;
Opponent — 6, four times (most recent: Tyronie Walker of Western Michigan, 2004)
Most Kickoff Returns by a Team: Tech — 8, vs. Houston, 1974 & Virginia, 1996;
Opponent — 9, George Washington, 1966 & Maryland, 1993
Most Kickoff Return Yardage by an Individual: Tech — 214, Marcus Mickel vs. Clemson, 1989;
Opponent — 142, Phil Masser of William & Mary, 1971
Most Kickoff Return Yardage by a Team: Tech — 245, vs. South Carolina, 1973;
Opponent — 188, Rutgers, 1993
Most First Downs: Sex — 34, vs. Akron, 1991; Opponent — 34, William & Mary, 1971
Fewest First Downs: Tech — 3, vs. Miami (Fla.), 1967;
Opponent — 6, two times (most recent: Georgia Tech, 2005)
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
Smallest Crowd: 10,000, vs. VMI, 1977

The Virginia Tech defense held Georgia Tech to just six first downs in the Hokies’ 51-7 victory 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.
The Hokies have a full-sized indoor practice facility in Rector Field House.

The Merryman Center houses the football meeting rooms, weightroom, and many other support offices.

66,233-seat Lane Stadium is an imposing venue.

The west side expansion of Lane Stadium is a magnificent new structure.
The Hokies train in the spacious Merryman Center weight room and the adjacent speed and agility room.

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

Michael Vick Hall and McConnell Auditorium provide for a great working environment for players and staff in the Merryman Center.
Student Athlete Academic Support Services has moved into a spectacular area in the new west side addition to Lane Stadium.

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

Tech’s Eddie Ferrell Memorial Training Room is second to none.
When it comes to athletic facilities, Virginia Tech 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 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 several entrances, the construction of additional new luxury suites, a new President’s area, four private club seating areas, a new ticket office, new athletic fund offices, an Athletics Hall of Fame and a new student academic services area. In addition, a new satellite truck staging area will be constructed on the west site for local television stations to use.

- The student ticket gates will be redone this season, and a new gate will be built along the east side, to alleviate the pressure on the student gates on game days.

- A new video board was installed on the existing scoreboard prior to last season, enhancing the fans’ experience at Lane Stadium. The new board is one-third larger and makes HokieVision one of the best video experiences around.

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

- 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 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.

- The baseball and softball fields were torn up and replaced, complete with modern drainage systems, last fall.

- An existing university field 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 last fall. An additional 1,000 permanent bleachers were added, bringing the capacity up to 2,028. Two new practice fields — one synthetic field and one natural grass field — were redone to give the three teams a great practice facility.

- A new restroom facility that serves the soccer, lacrosse and softball crowds was completed last fall.

- The wrestling team got a new practice facility. An existing gym was turned into a permanent practice room. New mats were ordered to utilize the back gym for the Hokies and a new competition mat was also purchased last year.

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

- 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. A space underneath the new field house will contain 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.

- A new basketball practice facility is in the pre-planning stages. The tentative plans call for the facility to connect the proposed new field house to the existing back gym in Cassell Coliseum.

- With several groups moving to the west side of Lane Stadium, the areas they are vacating will be renovated during the 2006-07 school year. These areas will eventually be converted to new coaching offices, providing more space for several sports.