We Remember

Ross Abdallah Alameddine • Christopher James Bishop • Brian Roy Bluhm
Ryan Christopher Clark • Austin Michelle Cloyd • Jocelyne Couture-Nowak
Kevin P. Granata • Matthew Gregory Gwaltney • Caitlin Millar Hammaren
Jeremy Michael Herbstritt • Rachael Elizabeth Hill • Emily Jane Hilscher
Jarrett Lee Lane • Matthew Joseph La Porte • Henry J. Lee • Liviu Librescu
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Lauren Ashley McCain • Daniel Patrick O’Neil • Juan Ramon Ortiz-Ortiz
Minal Hiralal Panchal • Daniel Alejandro Perez • Erin Nicole Peterson
Michael Steven Pohle, Jr. • Julia Kathleen Pryde • Mary Karen Read
Reema Joseph Samaha • Waleed Mohamed Shaalan
Leslie Geraldine Sherman • Maxine Shelly Turner • Nicole Regina White

We are Virginia Tech
Virginia Tech

2007 Football

The Hokies' 2007 Football Schedule

Day Date Opponent Location Time TV
Sat. Sept. 1 EAST CAROLINA Blacksburg, Va. Noon ESPN2
Sat. Sept. 8 at LSU Baton Rouge, La. 9:15 ESPN
Sat. Sept. 15 at Ohio Blacksburg, Va. 1:30 ESPN360
Sat. Sept. 22 at William & Mary Blacksburg, Va.
Sat. Nov. 10 at Florida State Blacksburg, Va.
Sat. Nov. 17 at Miami Blacksburg, Va.
Sat. Dec. 1 ACC Championship Blacksburg, Va. 1:00 ABC

Home games in BOLD CAPS; *ACC game;
Times listed are Eastern, TV to be announced

2007 Quick Facts
Location: Blacksburg, Va.
Founded: 1872
Enrollment: 28,000
President: Dr. Charles W. Steger
Athletic Director: Jim Weaver
Office Phone: (540) 231-3977
Faculty Chairman of Athletics: Dr. Larry Killough
Ticket Manager: Sandy Smith
Office Phone: (540) 231-6731
Nickname: Hokies
Colors: Chicago maroon and burnt orange
Conference: Atlantic Coast (Coastal Division)
Football Began: 1892
All-Time Football Record: 637-418-46 (113 seasons)
Stadium: Lane Stadium/Worsham Field
Capacity: 66,233
Turf: natural grass (Patriot Bermuda)
Head Coach: Frank Beamer (Virginia Tech, ’69)
Best Time To Contact: Through Athletics Communications Office
Record at VT: 156-82-2 (20 years)
Overall Record: 198-105-4 (26 years)
2006 Record: 10-3, including Chick-fil-A Bowl
Final Ranking: 19th AP; 18th Coaches
Conference Record (Finish): 6-2 (second Coastal Division)
Offensive System: Multiple
Defensive System: 4-3
Lettermen Returning: 42
Lettermen Lost: 19
Starters Returning: 8 off./8 def./0 ST
Starters Lost: 3 off./3 def./2 ST
Tech Athletics on the Internet: www.hokiesports.com

Virginia Tech’s official tribute ribbon logo remembering the victims of the April 16, 2007 tragedy comes from a student-inspired design. The logo consist of the well-known maroon VT athletic logo that symbolizes the innovative and dynamic nature of Virginia Tech, over an orange ribbon that is a recognition of the lives lost on April 16 and is a symbol of the victims’ prevailing Hokie spirit. The tribute ribbon appears on athletes’ jerseys as an inspiration and celebration of the victims’ lives and the unforgettable mark they left on the Virginia Tech community, the nation and the world.

What Is a Hokie?
That’s a frequently asked question in Virginia Tech athletics, and the answer leads all the way back to 1896 when Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College changed its name to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. With the change came the necessity for writing a new cheer, and a contest for that purpose was held by the student body. Senior O.M. Stull won first prize for his "Hokie" yell which is still used today. Later, when asked if “Hokie” had any special meaning, Stull explained the word was solely the product of his imagination and was used only as an attention-getter for his yell. It soon became a nickname for all Virginia Tech teams and those people loyal to Tech athletics. The official school colors — Chicago maroon and burnt orange — also were introduced in 1896. They were chosen because they made a “unique combination” not worn elsewhere at the time.

Eddie Royal and Sean Glennon celebrate another Hokie touchdown last season.
Contents and Credits

2006 Season Review
Season in Review ................................ 138-139
2006 Start Chart ..................................... 138
Tech in the 2006 NCAA Rankings ............... 139
Game-by-Game Box Scores ....................... 140-142
Chick-fil-A Bowl Story and Box Score .......... 143
2006 Statistics ................................ ...... 144-145
2006 Superlatives ..................................... 146

The ACC & Opponents
The Atlantic Coast Conference ................. 148-149
ACC Team Rankings ................................ 150
ACC Individual Honors ......................... 150
ACC/Opponents Composite Schedule ............ 151
Opponents’ Quick Facts & Media Info .......... 152
Series vs. 2007 Opponents ....................... 153
2007-2008 Bowl Information ...................... 154

History & The Record Book
Scoring ............................................... 156-157
Tech’s NCAA Marks ................................ 157
Rushing ............................................... 158-159
Passing ............................................... 160
Pass Receiving ...................................... 161
Total Defense ....................................... 162
Interceptions ....................................... 163
Punt Returns ....................................... 164
Kickoff Returns ..................................... 165
Punting & Place-kickers ......................... 166
Team Defense ....................................... 167
Individual Records ............................... 168
Team Records ....................................... 169
Season Records .................................... 170-171
Miscellaneous Records ........................... 171
Last Time/Longest Yards .......................... 172
Tech’s All-Americans .............................. 173-175
Tech’s National Award Winners ................. 175
Retired Numbers & Jerseys ..................... 176
Year-By-Year Scores ............................... 177-183
Tech Coaching Records ......................... 183
Tech and the AP Rankings ....................... 184
Record vs. All Opponents ........................ 185
Tech’s Bowl History ................................ 186-187
Tech’s Bowl Results ............................... 187
Football Team Awards ............................ 188

Hokies in the Pros
Hokies in the Pros .................................. 190-194
Tech Players in the NFL Draft ................. 195
Superbowl/Pro Bowl Hokies ..................... 196

Media Information
Media Information .................................. 198-202
Athletics Communications Staff ............... 199
Driving Directions .................................. 200
Campus Map ........................................ 202
Media Outlets ....................................... 203
President Charles Steger ......................... 204
Director of Athletics Jim Weaver ............... 205
Athletics Management Staff .................... 206
Athletics Staff Directory ......................... 207
Hokie Spirit .......................................... 208

Media Information
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Assistant Coaches ................................38-50
Associate Athletics Director John Ballein ...... 51
Assistant Coaches ....................... 118
Tech’s Web site: hokiesports.com ............ 126
Monogram Club ...................................... 127
Athletic Fund (Hokie Club) .................... 127
Sports Medicine ............................... 119-121
Student Life .................................... 111-112
Computer Services ................................. 110
Str
Student Life .................................... 111-112
Computer Services ................................. 110
Str

Pronunciation Guide .............................. 54
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Publications
The University ................................. 106-107
We Are Virginia Tech
The University ...................................... 106-107
Academic Support Services .................... 108-110
Computer Services ................................. 110
Student Life .................................... 111-112
Athletic Performance
Strength & Conditioning ......................... 113-116
Sport Psychology .................................... 117
Sports Nutrition .................................... 118
Sports Medicine ............................... 119-121
Videography Department ......................... 122-123
Radio Network, ISP ............................... 124-125
Tech’s Web site: hokiesports.com ............ 126
Hokies News the Newspaper ..................... 127
Athletic Fund (Hokie Club) .................... 127
Monogram Club ................................. 117
NCAA Compliance ......................... 118

Facilities
Lane Stadium/Worsham Field ................. 130-132
Lane Stadium Series ......................... 132
Lane Stadium Records ......................... 133
Hokie Football Facilities ..................... 134-135
Tech’s Building Boom ......................... 136

2007 Schedule, Quick Facts .................... 1

This Is Virginia Tech Football
A look at what makes up the success
story of the Hokies’ football program .... 3-18

2007 Outlook
2007 Outlook ....................................... 20-27
Rosters ........................................... 28-29
Depth Chart ...................................... 30
Lettermen/Returning Starters ................. 30

Meet the Coaches
Frank Beamer .................................... 32-37
BeamerBall ......................................... 36
Assistant Coaches ....................... 38-50
Associate Athletics Director John Ballein ...... 51
Football Support Staff ......................... 52

Meet the Hokies
Player Profiles ..................................... 54-98
Pronunciation Guide .............................. 54
Hokie Newcomers ............................... 99-102
Walk-ons at Virginia Tech ...................... 103-104

We Are Virginia Tech
The University ...................................... 106-107
Academic Support Services .................... 108-110
Computer Services ................................. 110
Student Life .................................... 111-112
Athletic Performance
Strength & Conditioning ......................... 113-116
Sport Psychology .................................... 117
Sports Nutrition .................................... 118
Sports Medicine ............................... 119-121
Videography Department ......................... 122-123
Radio Network, ISP ............................... 124-125
Tech’s Web site: hokiesports.com ............ 126
Hokies News the Newspaper ..................... 127
Athletic Fund (Hokie Club) .................... 127
Monogram Club ................................. 117
NCAA Compliance ......................... 118

Facilities
Lane Stadium/Worsham Field ................. 130-132
Lane Stadium Series ......................... 132
Lane Stadium Records ......................... 133
Hokie Football Facilities ..................... 134-135
Tech’s Building Boom ......................... 136

2006 Statistics ................................ 170-171
Individual Records .................................. 168
Team Records ....................................... 169
Season Records .................................... 170-171
Miscellaneous Records ........................... 171
Last Time/Longest Yards .......................... 172
Tech’s All-Americans .............................. 173-175
Tech’s National Award Winners ................. 175
Retired Numbers & Jerseys ..................... 176
Year-By-Year Scores ............................... 177-183
Tech Coaching Records ......................... 183
Tech and the AP Rankings ....................... 184
Record vs. All Opponents ........................ 185
Tech’s Bowl History ................................ 186-187
Tech’s Bowl Results ............................... 187
Football Team Awards ............................ 188

Hokies in the Pros
Hokies in the Pros .................................. 190-194
Tech Players in the NFL Draft ................. 195
Superbowl/Pro Bowl Hokies ..................... 196

Media Information
Media Information .................................. 198-202
Athletics Communications Staff ............... 199
Driving Directions .................................. 200
Campus Map ........................................ 202
Media Outlets ....................................... 203
President Charles Steger ......................... 204
Director of Athletics Jim Weaver ............... 205
Athletics Management Staff .................... 206
Athletics Staff Directory ......................... 207
Hokie Spirit .......................................... 208
Under the guidance of Coach Frank Beamer, the Hokies’ program helps mold outstanding young men on and off the field.

This Is

VIRGINIA TECH FOOTBALL
Hokies Make Graduation a Priority – and a Reality!

AFCA Honors Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech was one of five ACC schools, and just 32 around the country, honored this past summer by the American Football Coaches Association for graduation rates. It marks the fourth time in the past six years Tech has been honored by the AFCA for graduating 70 percent or higher of its football class.

“The expectation when students come here is for them to graduate and we make it a priority that they take care of their academic responsibility,” said Chris Helms, director of Tech’s Student Athlete Academic Support Services. “You build that framework. You recruit to that. Then you support it with the services we have in place.”

The academic success is not limited to the football squad. This past spring, 18 of Tech’s 21 varsity squads had a team GPA of 3.0 or higher, the best semester ever across the board.
Student Athlete Academic Support Services provides all the tools student-athletes need to be able to succeed in the classroom, such as learning specialist Dr. Peggy Weiss, who helps Sam Wheeler in the SAASS offices in Lane Stadium.

Each year, the football team has numerous players graduate before their senior season even starts. Above, Carlton Weatherford receives his B.S. in sociology with a concentration in crime deviance. The fullback was on the Athletic Director’s honor roll for four years and the ACC honor roll for two years.

Excellence ... On and Off the Field

Virginia Tech takes great pride in the academic achievements of its student-athletes, and André Davis and Bryan Randall serve as great role models.

Randall (right) excelled as a record-breaking All-ACC quarterback and the ACC Player of the Year, but also got it done in the classroom. He was named to The National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Class of 2004 and received the Coach Eddie Robinson Scholar-Athlete Award.

Randall, who won the Dudley Award as the state’s top player, graduated with a degree in sociology in three years and spent his final season working toward a graduate degree while leading the Hokies to the ACC title.

Though honored as an All-BIG EAST wide receiver and All-America punt returner, Davis collected most of his accolades for his academic achievements. He accepted the NCAA’s Top VIII Award, which recognizes the student-athlete for athletics, academic achievement, character and leadership. Davis went to the NCAA Honors Dinner held in Indianapolis (below) and was chosen by the other seven winners to speak to the audience on their behalf.

He earned an $18,000 postgraduate scholarship which is handed out by the National Football Foundation to all 16 winners. Davis, a four-time member of the All-BIG EAST football academic team, was drafted in the second round of the NFL Draft by the Cleveland Browns in 2002.
A Success Story

Virginia Tech hasn’t missed a beat since joining the Atlantic Coast Conference three seasons ago. In that span, the Hokies have won a league title, run their consecutive bowl streak to 14 seasons, won several conference and national awards, and have continued to establish themselves as one of the premier programs in the country.
Virginia Tech on Television

Overall Television Record ........................................ 118-59
Last Nine Seasons .................................................. 69-23
Under Coach Beamer ................................................. 104-47
Home Television Record ........................................... 65-19
On ESPN Family ...................................................... 53-17

The Hokies in the Polls

- Virginia Tech has been a regular in the national polls, winning an average of 9.43 games per year during the current streak of 14 consecutive seasons capped by bowl appearances.
- The Hokies have been ranked a total of 189 voting periods by The Associated Press since the beginning of the 1993 season. When Frank Beamer took over in 1987, Tech had been ranked a total of 12 weeks during the first 49 years of the AP poll.
- Tech has been ranked in 134 of the last 151 AP polls.
- The Hokies have been ranked 10th or higher in 11 of the past 14 seasons.
- Tech has finished in the Top 25 during 12 of the past 14 seasons.
- The Hokies have been in the Top 10 four times and finished No.2 in 1999.

With their win over Virginia last year, the Hokies joined some elite company by picking up their 10th win for the third consecutive year. Only Virginia Tech, USC and Texas can currently make that claim.
A Great Place to Learn and Grow

The university provides excellent academic opportunities and Blacksburg and the surrounding area is a wonderful setting for a terrific college experience.

Torgersen Hall (above and below), home to Virginia Tech’s Advanced Communications and Information Technology Center, provides a high-tech environment in which researchers, teachers and students can interact in innovative and effective ways. The building includes high-tech auditoriums, observational booths for watching and taping experimental teaching techniques; the CAVE, Tech’s sophisticated virtual reality environment for advanced research and learning; and an electronic reading room occupying the arch that spans the Mall.
A true college town, Blacksburg combines a laid-back lifestyle with the amenities one would expect to find around a major center of higher education. The nearly 42,000 residents enjoy a close proximity to a variety of recreation areas including the Cascades (right), in the nearby Jefferson National Forest.

Nestled on a plateau between the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains, the Virginia Tech campus is always growing and changing to meet the challenges of the future.
Home Field Advantage!

Lane Stadium/Worsham Field has earned a reputation as one of the top collegiate football venues in the country and it is widely recognized as one of the toughest places for an opponent to play due to its frenzied sell-out crowds and deafening noise.
While there are almost always fireworks on the field at Lane Stadium, there are frequently fireworks in the sky, too, for night games.
Our State-of-the-Art Football Complex Has it All!

The Hokies have a multitude of facilities, technologies and luxuries at their fingertips in the adjoining trio of the Merryman Center, Jamerson Athletic Center and Cassell Coliseum.
Rector Field House (left) features a full-size football field and serves as the Hokies’ indoor practice facility.

In addition to individual position meeting rooms, the entire squad can gather in the Merryman Center’s auditorium.

Members of the coaching staff utilize top-of-the-line video equipment – the same technology used by many NFL teams.

Virginia Tech’s training and medical staffs and facilities are second-to-none, and student-athletes have every opportunity to receive professional treatment.
Ike Whitaker (above) works to make himself among the strongest quarterbacks in college football.

The Athletic Performance program at Virginia Tech encompasses not only strength and conditioning, but also sport psychology and sports nutrition to help make the Hokies stronger both physically and mentally.

Assistant A.D. for Athletic Performance Dr. Mike Gentry has a reputation as one of the finest strength and conditioning coaches in the nation.
Under the umbrella of Athletic Performance, Amy Freel (above) develops dietary and nutritional plans for student-athletes, while Dr. Gary Bennett (below) offers psychological and mental enhancement services.

Whether it is Josh Hyman (above) running the stands in Lane Stadium, or teammates motivating each other, members of the Hokie football squad are devoted to working to become one of the most physical teams in the nation.
Virginia Tech took a chance on lightly recruited Jake Grove and he turned into a unanimous All-American, a Rimington Trophy winner and starter for the Oakland Raiders.

Virginia Tech is known for “BeamerBall,” a brand of aggressive and successful special teams play. Shayne Graham (right) was a standout kicker for the Hokies in the 1990s and now makes his living as the starter for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Each year, scouts and coaches from every NFL team flock to Blacksburg and Rector Field House for Pro Timing Day.

Anthony Davis went from the small town of Victoria, Va., to the big time — starting for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL.

Michael Vick has been one of the NFL’s most exciting players since heading from Blacksburg to Atlanta in 2001.

The Virginia Tech football program has a reputation for turning out NFL-caliber players on a regular basis.
John Engelberger went from a walk-on to a long and prosperous career in the NFL thanks in part to the Virginia Tech coaching staff and the Hokies’ strength and conditioning program.

During each home football game, a former NFL Player from Virginia Tech is honored as part of Tech’s “NFL Flashback.” Above, former Green Bay Packer and Tech standout Antonio Freeman was honored last year. He was also inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame last fall.

Darryl Tapp got it done on and off the field at Virginia Tech, earning All-America honors while becoming a finalist for the Lott Trophy. He was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks and enjoyed a successful rookie season in the NFL last year.

NFL stars like Kevin Jones come back to Virginia Tech to catch their Hokies in action.
Hokies Bring Home the Hardware

Jake Grove won the Rimington Trophy for 2003

Jake Grove arrived on the Virginia Tech campus as a lightly recruited guard from Forest, Va. He left as a unanimous All-American, winner of the Rimington Trophy as the nation’s top center, and a second-round draft pick of the Oakland Raiders.

Heading into his junior season, Grove made the switch over to the center position and became a natural fit. By the time he headed into his final season, he was gaining headlines and recognition for his play. He was rewarded by being named to all five major All-America first teams. He was awarded the Dave Rimington Trophy, given to the nation’s top collegiate center.

Corey Moore earned the Lombardi and Nagurski awards in 1999

In three years on campus, Corey Moore amassed 35.0 sacks for losses totaling 292 yards. He left Tech as the most decorated player ever to put on the Hokie uniform. He won the 1999 Bronko Nagurski Award as college football’s defensive player of the year. Moore also won the 1999 Lombardi Award as college football’s lineman of the year. He became Tech’s second-ever unanimous All-American, joining Jim Pyne. Moore won the Dudley Award as the top college player in Virginia, the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year award again and was selected as Football News’ Defensive Player of the Year.

Bruce Smith won the Outland Trophy as the top lineman in 1984

Bruce Smith, “The Sack Man” of Virginia Tech football, capped his sensational college career in 1984 by winning the Outland Trophy as America’s top lineman.

The big announcement was made by Wilt Browning at a press luncheon in Tech’s Bowman Room. Browning, a sports columnist of The Greensboro Daily News and a committee member of the Football Writers’ Association of America, began by reading a long list of former Outland Trophy winners. He then said, “Add to that list today, the 1984 winner — Bruce Smith of Virginia Tech.”

“The one thing though, that stuck in my mind was the statistic on his tackles for losses,” Browning said. “In four years at Virginia Tech, he accounted for losses totaling more than five times the length of a football field (504 yards). That’s amazing.”

Smith was a consensus All-American and was the first Virginian to win one of the national awards (including the Heisman and the Lombardi).

Michael Vick won an ESPY as the national player of the year for 1999

When Michael Vick took to the field against James Madison on Sept. 4, 1999, little did people in attendance or watching on television realize they would be watching the beginning of the most exciting two years in Virginia Tech football history.

In 1999, Vick led the Hokies to a perfect 11-0 regular season and a berth in the national championship game, both firsts in school history. The Hokies lost that game to Florida State, but all the talk was about the performance the redshirt freshman put on in that game.

For his accomplishments that year, he was awarded an ESPY by ESPN, given to the nation’s top college football player. Vick was awarded the trophy at the ESPY ceremonies on Feb. 14, 2000, in Las Vegas as he mingled with some of sports’ all-time greats.