I think our leadership is good and that always is a big, big plus. It takes a lot of things to end up with a really good football team, but I believe leadership is a key one.

- Frank Beamer
Dressed For Success

Nathaniel Adibi and Browning Wynn
Nathaniel Adibi

83

Defensive End
6-3 • 233 • r-So. • 1VL
Hampton, Va.
Phoebeus H.S.

A first-team freshman All-America pick by The Sporting News following the 2000 season … Started every game at end for the Hokies’ young defensive unit … Averaged over 40 defensive plays a game … Also contributed on special teams … Tied for the team lead in sacks with five … Has added both weight and strength, while maintaining his speed and quickness … Averaged 4.55 seconds in the 40 during Tech’s pro timing day … Performed well during spring practice … Has become a better pass rusher and a more physical player … Is intelligent and focused on being successful both on and off the field … Will bring added experience to the end position this season … Works hard in practice … Possesses the qualities needed to be a leader …

2000: Earned Iron Hokie honors in preseason athletic performance tests … Got his first collegiate start against Akron and contributed five tackles, including a sack and another tackle for loss … Contributed two quarterback hurries against East Carolina and forced an interception … Was in on five tackles at Boston College and added another hurry … Had two tackles behind the line, including a sack, during a five-tackle outing versus West Virginia … Collected another sack and a season-high six tackles in the Pittsburgh game … Posted two sacks and returned a fumble 36 yards for a touchdown in Tech’s win at UCF … Was in on five tackles in wins against Syracuse and Virginia … Played a season-high 52 defensive snaps against the Orangemen … Saw action on over 75 plays as a starter on the punt and punt return teams … Finished the season with 45 total tackles … Had eight tackles for loss, including five sacks for minus 33 yards … Hurried the passer five times and knocked down a pass … Registered three tackles in Tech’s Toyota Gator Bowl win against Clemson … Won Iron Hokie honors again during winter workouts … Turned in career bests with a 400-pound bench press and 550-pound squat during spring testing … Had four sacks during the Hokies’ spring scrimmages … Also blocked a field goal …

1999: Was redshirted while working at defensive end … Added 16 pounds through his work in the strength and conditioning program … Earned Iron Hokie honors during spring testing … Bench pressed 380 pounds … Posted a 530-pound back squat and a 304-pound power clean … Returned a fumble 49 yards for a touchdown in one of the Hokies’ spring scrimmages … Fractured a bone in his right wrist during one of the scrimmages but returned to action … Contributed four tackles and forced a fumble in the annual spring game … Won the Paul Torgersen Award as the team’s top defensive newcomer …

High School: Played running back and defensive end for Coach Bill Dee at Phoebeus High … Listed as the No. 10 defensive lineman in the country by PrepStar and picked to its Dream Team … Listed as the No. 4 jumbo athlete in the nation by SuperPrep and the No. 8 athlete by The National Recruiting Advisor prior to his senior season … A first-team Group AAA all-state pick as a defensive lineman … Named the No. 6 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … Named district offensive and defensive player of the year as a senior … Posted 101 tackles in 1998, including a school single-season record 16 sacks … Finished with 35 career sacks … Led the district in rushing … Closed out his senior season with 855 yards and 10 touchdowns rushing … Had 207 yards rushing in a game against Henrico … Turned in 11 sacks as a junior … Holds the school record with a 300-pound power clean … Won the state Group AAA outdoor shot put championship as a junior and was second as a senior …

Personal: Nathaniel Barnell Adibi … Born 1/25/81 in Mississippi … Son of Abiodun and Leanne Adibi … Studying residential property management.

Ryan Angelo

30

Fullback
6-1 • 230 • r-So.
Spring Hill, Fla.
Springstead H.S.

Contributed as a member of the scout team last season … Also saw playing time in the Hokies’ two jayvee games … Has improved his strength through his work in the strength and conditioning program … Continued working to develop his overall skills during spring practice … His summer preparation and preseason work will play a role in his status for 2001 …

2000: Worked as a fullback on the scout and jayvee teams … Saw action in jayvee wins against Fork Union and Hargrave … Scored on an 8-yard run in a 23-15 victory over Hargrave … Posted a personal-best in the bench press during spring testing with a lift of 400 pounds … Added a 495-pound back squat … Suffered a sprained ankle during the spring and did not see action in the Maroon-White game …

1999: Practiced at fullback while being redshirted … Tied for the second-best bench press among the entering freshmen in August with a lift of 370 pounds … Increased his body weight through his work in the weight room …

High School: An all-conference pick as a fullback at Springstead High … Also played linebacker … Was a four-year letterman for Coach Pat McCoy … Rushed for 2,463 yards and scored 26 touchdowns during his career … Gained 695 yards on the ground as a senior, scoring seven TDs … Carried 177 times for 862 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior … Ranked the No. 90 player in the state of Florida by the ACC Area Sports Journal … Helped team to a 21-9 record and a district title during his varsity career … Excellled in weight lifting competition and set several school records …

Personal: Ryan C. Angelo … Born 10/23/80 in Chicago, IL … Son of Joe and Marca Angelo … Enrolled in science of food, nutrition and exercise.

2001 Virginia Tech Football 61
Larry Austin

Cornerback
5-9 • 187 • r-Sr. • 3VL
Norfolk, Va.
Norview H.S.

Will be looked to for a big year after missing most of the 2000 season with a knee injury ... Made a good recovery from surgery and enjoyed a great spring practice ... Worked at the field corner position after starting the fall at the boundary corner ... Adjusted quickly and is expected to start there this season ... Did a good job in coverage ... A tough, competitive player whose outstanding speed makes him good in the open field ... Took over the boundary cornerback position and started Tech's first four games last season ... Suffered a season-ending knee injury during the first quarter of the Boston College game ... Underwent surgery to repair a torn ACL in his left knee and missed the Gator Bowl ... Worked hard during his rehab ... Was a Super Iron Hokie during the off-season program ... Will be looked to for leadership in 2001 ...

2000: Earned Iron Hokie honors in preseason testing ... Saw action on 163 defensive plays during Tech's first three games ... Was in on 10 tackles and knocked down two passes during the season opener against Akron ... Posted six tackles and blocked a field goal at East Carolina ... Broke up two more passes and added five tackles against Rutgers ... Played just four plays at BC before his injury ... Totaled 22 tackles and four passes broken up during his injury-shortened season ... Made good progress in winter strength and conditioning workouts ... Bench pressed 340 pounds during spring tests and had a 475-pound back squat ... Showed no ill effects of his injury when spring drills got underway ... Had three tackles in one of the team's scrimmages ...

1999: Played in every game at cornerback ... Led the team in special teams plays, averaging 17 plays per game ... Was in for a career-high 58 defensive plays against Pittsburgh ... Got 34 snaps in the Rutgers game ... Contributed back-to-back six-tackle performances against Pittsburgh and West Virginia ... Recorded a sack for a 10-yard loss at Temple ... Also returned an interception 31 yards against the Owls for his first collegiate touchdown ...

A Talk With Larry Austin

What have you done to prepare yourself for this season after sitting out most of last season with a knee injury?

Basically, I've been working on my knee, trying to get it right. I have been working on getting stronger and trying to get back to where I used to be, or at least close to it. I had to prepare myself mentally to get back out there. I had to let myself know that my knee was strong enough, and that I will be fast enough to keep up with other college players.

Your position takes a lot of focus, because one mistake can mean a big play. What do you do to stay focused each time you go out on the field?

I try to take one play at a time. Even if they (opponents) catch a pass, I know that they are scholarship athletes, too. You just have to contain certain players and not let every little play get to you. I'm going to have my days when the person may get totally shut down. And someone might have a day when they get three or four catches, but we still win the game. As long as I contain that athlete from upsetting us and scoring three or four touchdowns, I feel like I did my job.

There have been so many changes in the athletic department and with Tech football since you arrived here as a freshman. What would you say has been the biggest change?

Other than the upgrade in facilities, it seems like we are starting to be well known. It is easier to get recruits to come here. At first it was like, 'Where is Blacksburg?' Now everybody knows where Blacksburg is. They know more about Blacksburg. The only question people still have is, 'What is a Hokie?' Every time we play a game, we show them what a Hokie is.

What is it like to know that 56,000 fans are screaming for you and your team when you are on Worsham Field in Lane Stadium?

It is a great feeling to have the fan support when we are out there. When I first got here, the stands were not as packed as they are now. They have added seating and people sit outside and camp for tickets for days now. It is a great feeling to see people wanting to see us. The majority of our games are televised, so parents do not have to travel four or five hours to come see you. They can sit at home and watch you on TV. It is just a great feeling to walk out there and know that you are going to be in front of a sellout crowd that has come to see what you are going to do.
tackles and knocked down a pass during the annual spring game. Shared the Frank O. Moseley Award for top defensive hustler in spring practice with Cory Bird. Ran a leg on the 4x100 relay team that won the Atlantic 10 Outdoor Track Championship.

1998: Started on Tech’s punt return/punt block team and on the kickoff team. Was a backup on two other units. 

Saw action in every game, including the Music City Bowl. Blocked punts against Pittsburgh and UAB. His block at UAB was recovered for a Tech touchdown. 

Posted two tackles on coverage against Miami and had five tackles during regular-season play. 

Got playing time at corner against East Carolina, Clemson, Pittsburgh, UAB and Rutgers. Benched pressed 320 pounds in fall testing and recorded a 500-pound back squat. Also turned in a 41-inch vertical jump. Won Iron Hokie honors in both the fall and the spring. Contributed eight tackles and broke up a pass during one spring scrimmage. 

Was in on five tackles during the spring game. Ran a leg on Tech’s winning 4x100-meter relay team at the Atlantic 10 Conference Outdoor Championships.

1997: Spent a redshirt year working at corner. 

Began fall practice on the boundary side, then moved to the field side prior to the season. 

Competed for Tech’s indoor track team during the winter. Set a school indoor record in the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.84 seconds. Also had the team’s best time in the 55-meter dash (6.37) and three of the squad’s top 10 times in the 200-meter dash. 

Finished sixth in the 200 meters at the Atlantic 10 Conference Indoor Championship. Performed well during spring strength and conditioning tests, improving in all four major lifts. Turned in a 40-inch vertical jump. Contributed a fumble recovery in the spring game.

High School: A PrepStar All-America pick who was selected to the ACC Region Super 26 team and listed as the No. 3 DB in the region. 

Letttered four years as a tailback and cornerback for Coach David Heath at Norview High. Earned all-district honors as a running back his senior year. Ran for 940 yards and 15 touchdowns. Had 214 yards on the ground and four TDs in a game against Wilson High. Contributed 50 tackles, five fumble recoveries, a pair of quarterback sacks and an interception on defense. 

Finished his career with over 1,600 yards rushing. Helped the school’s track team to an Eastern District championship. Won all-district honors as a sprinter and was voted the team’s MVP.

Personal: Larry Darrell Austin, Jr. 
Birth: 5/17/79 in Norfolk, VA. 

Son of Larry and Veronica Austin. 

Studying residenceal property management. 

Tackles: 

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Mikal Baaqee

Linebacker 

5-10 • 218 • r-Fr. 

Columbia, Md. 
DeMatha H.S.

One of the Hokies’ most promising defensive newcomers. Got a lot of reps at the backer position during spring practice. Came on strong during the last two weeks of those drills and showed as much improvement as anyone on defense. 

Became a more physical player. Plays hard. Possesses good speed and has gotten bigger. Combines a tremendous work ethic with the desire to be good. 

Is still learning, but will challenge for a spot on the two-deep roster if he continues to improve.

2000: Bench pressed 320 pounds when he reported in August. Was redshirted while he worked at the backer position. 

Was a personal record-breaker during winter workouts. 

Improved his bench to 355 pounds. 

Also posted a 530-pound back squat. Got extra work during the spring while starting backer Ben Taylor was rehabbing from fall surgery. 

Contributed a tackle in the spring game.

High School: A three-year starter as a linebacker for Coach Bill McGregor at DeMatha. A PrepStar All-American who was rated the No. 3 linebacker and No. 17 overall prospect in the Atlantic Region.

Ranked the No. 17 player in Maryland by SuperPrep. 

Posted 102 total tackles his senior season, including 65 solos. Had 11 quarterback sacks and 16 tackles for loss. 

Caused six fumbles and recovered two. 

Intercepted two passes in 1999 and blocked a punt. 

Contributed 12 tackles, two sacks, three passes broken up and two fumbles caused in a game against Paul VI. 

Earned all-county, all-conference and first-team all-state honors.

Was in on 117 solo tackles and 34 assists as a junior. 

Caused six fumbles that season and added eight sacks and five interceptions. 

Finished his prep career with 274 total tackles, 14 fumbles caused and seven interceptions. 

Helped the team to a 33-2-1 record during his three varsity seasons. 

Personal: Mikal Rahim Baaqee

Birth: 12/20/81 in Boston, MA. 

Son of Susanne Bilal and Shakir Baaqee. 

Enrolled in university studies.

Chad Beasley

Defensive Tackle 

6-3 • 292 • r-Sr. 3VL. 

Gate City, Va. 
Gate City H.S.

A returning starter with all-star ability. 

Is solid in all phases of the game. 

Brings size, strength, experience and athleticism to the tackle position. 

Works hard and plays hard. 

Entered the 2000 season as the only returning Tech defensive lineman to have started a collegiate game. 

Led the Hokies’ defensive linemen in tackles and was fifth among BIG EAST linemen in tackles.

Earned second-team All-BIG EAST honors. 

Started the first 10 games at tackle. 

Suffered a high ankle sprain during the UCF game and saw only limited action against Virginia. 

Returned to start in the Gator Bowl. Underwent foot surgery following the season.

Participated sparingly in spring practices due to classes and a strained groin muscle.

Comes from an excellent football background. 

Won Tech’s Ironman competition during the summer of ‘99. 

Has two career pass interceptions from the tackle position. 

Holds Tech’s position record for a defensive tackle in the push jerk with a lift of 361 pounds. 

Will be looked to for leadership and an outstanding senior season.

2000: Posted nine tackles in the season opener against Akron. 

Intercepted a pass and returned it 15 yards in the East Carolina game. 

Also contributed seven tackles against the Pirates. 

Registered two tackles behind the line against both Temple and West Virginia. 

Turned in back-to-back eight-tackle games against Syracuse and Pittsburgh. 

Recorded a sack and broke

Continued on next page
A Talk With Chad Beasley

What effects, if any, do you think your off-season surgery will have on this season?
I had a bone removed from the bottom of my foot — a seismoid bone — that had died. Hopefully it won’t have any effect. Maybe it will provide relief from the pain caused by the dead bone. Hopefully, if anything, it will help me run faster.

How has your father’s experience playing Virginia Tech football and professional football been an asset to you? What advice does he give you about the game?
It has been a big asset just because I knew what to expect as far as the level of competition coming into college. Some of the guys come in and get shell-shocked. His advice is technique-type things and more the mental aspect of the game than anything. He tries to help me out with some of the stuff. He is one of the guys who sits in the stands and watches and if he sees something that is really important, he will point it out to me. But he isn’t going to jump on me for making a bad play or anything.

Have you and your cousin, Jake Houseright, become closer by being members of the same team here at Tech?
Yes, definitely. We always will work out together. We have more of a friendship than anything. Now he is up here playing ball and we have been able to spend more time together and really develop that friendship.

How did it feel to win the Ironman Competition in 1999, and what was the biggest challenge for you in that event?
I was thrilled to win it, basically because of the competition that I was going up against. Browning Wynn was one of the guys who pushed me hard. I was in a pretty heated competition with those guys. The biggest challenge for me personally was the stadium run, but I would say the most exhausting event would be the truck push. After I was done with that, I could not find a comfortable position, whether I was sitting down or standing up. I thought my quads were going to cramp up or I was going to have a heart attack.

Beasley, continued

up two passes against Pittsburgh ... Was in for a season-high 52 defensive plays at Syracuse ... Had a tackle for loss, four total tackles and a pass broken up before injuring his ankle at Central Florida ... Did not start against Virginia and saw only limited action ... Was back in the lineup against Clemson in the Toyota Gator Bowl and contributed a sack ... Played on Tech’s extra point and field goal units and on the punt team ... Finished with 58 total tackles, including eight behind the line ... Contributed five quarterback hurries and five passes broken up ... Underwent foot surgery following the bowl game ... Saw limited work during the spring and did not play in the spring game ...

1999: Saw action in every game at tackle ... Also added over 100 plays as a starter on special teams ... Had a tackle for loss in the opening game against Virginia and saw only limited action ... Was back in the lineup against Clemson in the Toyota Gator Bowl and contributed a sack ... Played on Tech’s extra point and field goal units and on the punt team ... Finished with 58 total tackles, including eight behind the line ... Contributed five quarterback hurries and five passes broken up ... Underwent foot surgery following the bowl game ... Saw limited work during the spring and did not play in the spring game ...

1998: Saw action in all 11 games during the regular season ... Was in on six tackles against Pittsburgh, including a quarterback sack ... Also registered six tackles versus Syracuse, with one coming behind the line ... Showed his athleticism by intercepting a tipped pass at Boston College ... Added a tackle for loss and four total tackles in that game ... Had 28 tackles on the season ... Started on the punt team, as well as the extra point and field goal units ... Was credited with two tackles in the Music City Bowl, both behind the line of scrimmage ...

1997: Was redshirted while working at defensive tackle ... Bench pressed 340 pounds when he arrived for preseason practice ... Added a 383-pound push jerk, the eighth-best showing in team history ... Contributed a sack for a 10-yard loss and four total tackles during the annual spring game ...

High School: Lettered four seasons as a defensive end and offensive guard for Coach Nick Colobro at Gate City High School ... Earned first-team Group AA all-state honors at both positions ... Named the Group AA Defensive Player of the Year by the high school coaches in 1996 ... Was defensive player of the year in his district and conference and offensive
lineman of the year in his district … A first-
team All-ACC Region pick by PrepStar …
Posted 80 tackles and four quarterback
sacks his senior year … Had more than
100 tackles as a junior … Started on the
varsity as a freshman and played in a total
of 51 games during his career … Excelled
in track, winning state AA outdoor titles in
the shot put and discus as a senior …

Personal: Thomas Chad Beasley …
Born 11/13/78 in Upper St. Clair, PA …
Son of Tom and Margie Beasley … His
dad was a star defensive lineman for Tech
in the mid-1970s and played on two Super
Bowl championship teams with the
Pittsburgh Steelers … His sister, Kerri,
was a member of the Tech volleyball
team, while his cousin, Jake Houseright,
is a senior linebacker on the team …
Studying human services.

Tackles G UT AT Tot. Loss Sacks
1998 11 9 19 38 2- 4 1-2
1999 11 16 23 39 4- 6 2-19
2000 11 23 35 58 7-17 1-6
Career 33 48 77 125 13-27 4-27

Interceptions G No. Yds. Avg. TD LG
1998 11 1 0 0.0 0 0
1999 11 0 0 0.0 0 0
2000 11 1 15 15.0 0 15
Career 33 2 15 7.5 0 15

Wayne Briggs
47

Fullback
5-10 247 t-Sr. 4VL
Windsor, Va.
Windsor H.S.

A walk-on who has become a
valuable contributor … Is expected to
compete for the top backup duties at
fullback when practice opens in August …
Has made steady improvement during his
time at Tech … Lacks game experience
but has been around the offensive system

2000: A starter on Tech’s kickoff
return team … Saw action in seven
games at fullback … Rushed once for five
yards in Tech's win at East Carolina …
Caught a pass for a 17-yard gain against
Rutgers … Carried the football a total of
four times during the season for 11 yards …
Played in Tech's Gator Bowl win over
Clemson … Posted personal bests in the
bench press (425) and the back squat
(630) on the way to Super Iron Hokie
honors during spring testing … Turned in
two carries for seven yards in the spring
game …

1999: Played in five games, including
a career-high 19 snaps in the Temple
game … Was in for nine plays against

Continued on next page
Briggs, continued

Syracuse and eight versus Miami ... Also saw brief duty against Rutgers and Boston College ... Gained two yards against Syracuse in his only varsity carry of the season ... Played in two jayvee games, rushing for 58 yards and a touchdown against Fork Union ... Scored on a 4-yard run in one of Tech's spring scrimmages ... Had two carries for seven yards in the annual spring game ...

1998: Played on the jayvee and scout teams during the fall ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during both the fall and spring strength and conditioning periods ... Bench pressed 415 pounds during the spring — a team record for the fullback position ... Also set a position record with a 316-pound power clean ... Set the position record for the push jerk during the fall with a lift of 361 pounds ...

Caught an 8-yard touchdown pass during one of Tech's spring scrimmages and turned in a 24-yard run in another ...

1997: Did not practice with the team until November because of a knee injury ... Bench pressed 410 pounds when he first arrived at Tech ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during the winter strength and conditioning program ... Got a look at fullback during spring practice ... Caught a 12-yard pass in one of the Hokies' spring scrimmages and a 33-yard pass in another ... Carried the football twice for a total of nine yards in the spring game ...

Also caught a pass for a 12-yard gain ...

Prep School: Played running back for Coach Joe Freeland at Hargrave Military Academy ... Rushed for 300 yards in the team's first four games before suffering a knee injury ... Underwent reconstructive surgery and missed the rest of the season ...

High School: Rushed for over 2,300 yards and 40 touchdowns his senior year at Windsor High ... Also contributed more than 50 tackles and five sacks on defense ... Earned first-team all-district, all-region and all-state honors ... Scored six TDs and ran for 280 yards in a game against Essex County ... Helped Windsor to its first regional championship ... Gained 1,173 yards on the ground his junior year ...

1999: Averaged 7.4 yards per carry as a running back for Coach Joe Jones ... Finished his career with more than 3,800 yards rushing and 60 touchdowns ... Set school career and season marks for scoring and rushing yards ... Played in the state high school all-star game ...

Personal: Wayne Chissell Briggs ...

Born 1/24/78 in Suffolk, VA ... Son of Wayne and Sandra Briggs ... Enrolled in interdisciplinary studies.

Chris Buie

46

Linebacker 6-0 223 v-So. 4VL
Tampa, Fla.
Armwood H.S.

An up-and-coming young player with a lot of physical capabilities ... Is expected to battle for backup duties at the mike linebacker position ... Could earn some playing time if he continues to develop his skills ... Has a good work ethic to go with excellent strength and speed ... Saw his first action with the Hokies as a special teams starter last season ... Gained Super Iron Hokie honors during fall and spring strength and conditioning tests ... Will be watched closely when practice resumes ...

2000: Played in nine games with all of his action coming on special teams ... Started on the kickoff and kickoff return units ... Was in on two tackles on kickoffs against East Carolina ... Also posted tackles against Akron, Rutgers, Temple and Pittsburgh ... Finished with a total of six tackles ... Turned in a 400-pound bench press and 550-pound back squat during preseason testing ... Set personal bests in the clean (304), the push jerk (356) and the 40 (4.54) on the way to Super Iron Hokie honors in spring testing ...

Was in on four tackles and broke up a pass during the Hokies' second spring scrimmage ... Also contributed four tackles during the Maroon-White spring game ...

1999: His 370-pound bench press was second-best among the Hokies' new recruits when they reported in August ... Was redshirted while working at inside linebacker ... Spent the first month of the season working at the backer position ... Switched to the mike linebacker spot in October ...

Had the second-highest bench press on the scout team in November at 400 pounds ...

Turned in a 341-pound push jerk during spring training on the way to Iron Hokie honors ... Also turned in a 35 1/2-inch vertical jump ... Was in on six tackles, including one behind the line, in the Maroon-White spring game ...

High School: Posted 117 tackles, four fumble recoveries and three sacks to help his school to a 9-2 record in Class 5A in 1998 ... Played linebacker and some fullback for Coach Sean Callahan ...

A two-time, first-team all-conference pick ... Also earned second-team all-state honors his final two seasons ... Picked the No. 27 senior prospect in Florida by The Tampa Tribune ... Rated the No. 84 player in the state by SuperPrep and the No. 89 player in the state by ACC Area Sports Journal ...

Earned a spot on the PrepStar All-SEC Region team ... Won his high school team's body building contest ... Posted lifts of 350 pounds in the bench press and 525 in the squat ... Also competed on the track team ...

Personal: Jonathan Christopher Buie ...

Born 11/16/79 in Tampa, FL ... Son of Johnny and Barbara Buie ... Enrolled in sociology.

Keith Burnell

20

Tailback 6-0 202 v-Jr. 4VL
Chesapeake, Va.
Western Branch H.S.

Put himself in line for playing time with an outstanding spring ... Was named the team’s most improved offensive player ...

Selected the most valuable offensive player in the spring game after rushing for 182 yards and two touchdowns ...

Showed improvement in every phase of his game ... Developed consistency ...

Broke tackles and made more big plays ...

Played in nine of the Hokies’ 11 regular-season games last fall ... Got some work at tailback in six of those games, plus the Gator Bowl ...

Also contributed as a member of the punt return team ...

Turned in the longest run by a Tech tailback during the season with a 59-yard jaunt against Rutgers ...

Enters the fall as the Hokies’ No. 2 tailback ...

Will have to battle to maintain that spot, but has a chance to make his mark this season if he remains focused ...

2000: Saw action on 10 offensive snaps against Rutgers ... Carried the football six times for 70 yards against the Scarlet Knights ...

Scored his first collegiate touchdown on a 1-yard plunge ...

Gained 13 yards on three carries against Akron and 12 yards on two rushes in the East Carolina game ...

Was in on 10 special team plays in the Temple game ...

 Finished the season with 17 rushes for 111 yards ...

Turned in one carry for a 6-yard gain against Clemson in the Gator Bowl ...

Ran nine sub-4.4 forty times during Tech’s pro timing day ...

Posted personal bests in six categories on the way to

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<td>v-Jr.</td>
<td>4VL</td>
<td>Chesapeake, Va.</td>
<td>Western Branch H.S.</td>
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Super Iron Hokie honors during spring testing … Bench pressed 350 pounds … Scored three touchdowns in the red zone during one spring scrimmage … Turned in 122 yards rushing in another, capped by an 85-yard TD run … Had touchdown runs of 57 and 37 yards in the Maroon-White game on the way to 182 yards on 15 carries …

1999: Played six offensive snaps and one special teams play in the season opener against James Madison … Carried the football three times for two yards in that game … Got four carries in the Temple game and picked up 12 yards … Played in Tech’s two jayvee games … Rushed for 79 yards and scored a touchdown in a win over Fork Union … Added a pair of TD runs in a victory against Hargrave … Improved in all four major lifts during spring strength tests … Had the second-best 20-yard shuttle time among the running backs at 4.06 … Rushed for 32 yards on five carries during one spring scrimmage and contributed a 1-yard touchdown run in another … Carried twice for six yards during the Maroon-White game …

1998: Sat out the season as a redshirt … Improved in all four major lifts during the offseason strength and conditioning program … Carried seven times for 53 yards in one spring scrimmage and had eight rushes for 44 yards in another … Caught passes of 18 and 22 yards … Rushed nine times for 29 yards in the annual spring game …

High School: Was a running back and return specialist for Coach Lew Johnston at Western Branch High … Earned post-season All-America honors from SuperPrep and PrepStar … Was a pre-season A-A pick by PrepStar and Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report … Listed the No. 26 running back in the nation by SuperPrep and the No. 6 player in Virginia … Named the Metropolitan Male Athlete of the Year by the Norfolk Sports Club … Selected the Portsmouth Sports Club Most Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year … A two-time all-city, all-district, all-Tidewater and all-region pick … Earned second-team all-state honors from the coaches as a senior … Rushed for 1,224 yards and 25 touchdowns in 1997 despite being slowed by an ankle injury over the last four games of the season … Led the Tidewater area in touchdowns … Caught 11 passes for 145 yards … Rushed for 1,228 yards and 20 TDs on 146 carries as a junior … Led the area in scoring and was second in rushing that season … Set school career records for most rushing yards and most touchdowns … Won team MVP honors as a junior and senior … Helped team to a district title in ‘97 … Was a sprinter on the track team …


### Rushing

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Vinnie Burns

Punter

5-11 • 226 • r-Fr.

New Orleans, La.

St. Augustine H.S.

Came out of spring practice as the No. 1 punter … Showed the consistency needed to win the job during the final two weeks … Finished with an average hang time of 4.6 seconds and an average distance of over 46 yards per kick … Has a strong leg but must continue working on his operation time … A good athlete who was clocked at 4.34 in the 40 during spring testing … Shared Defensive MVP honors in the spring game after averaging 46.2 yards per punt … Will have to fend off challenges again in August when practice opens … His consistency will be the key to maintaining the top spot …

2000: Traveled with the team briefly during the early going, but was redshirted … Made strides in the off-season strength and conditioning program … Punted five times in the Maroon-White game for 231 yards, including punts of 59 and 53 yards …

High School: Was a four-year letterman as a punter/place-kicker for Coach Anthony Biagas … Named to the Coaches’ Class 5-A all-state team as a punter for his senior year at St. Augustine. … Averaged 43 yards per punt … Punted three times for a 53.3-yard average in one game his senior season … Twice pinned Airline High inside its own 10 in the bi-district playoffs … Named all-city, all-district and all-Metro as well as all-state … Earned All-America honors from PrepStar, which listed him as the No. 4 punter in the Southeast Region. … Averaged just under 40 yards per punt junior year and was an all-city selection … Captained the football and track teams his senior year … Helped the track team to a state championship … Competed in the long jump (23-2) and the 400 meters (50.2) … Served as the school’s student body president …

Personal: Ronald Vincent Burns, Jr. … Born 2/2/82 in New Orleans, LA … Son of Ronald and Sheila Burns … His dad serves on the Nokia Sugar Bowl committee … Enrolled in university studies.

Lamar Cobb

Defensive End

6-2 226 • r-Jr. • 1VL

Hurt, Va.

Gretna H.S.

Voted the top defensive hustler during 2001 spring workouts … A very active defender who is becoming more physical at the point of attack … Brings experience, athleticism and play-making ability to the end position … Started every game at that position last season … Tied for the team lead in quarterback hurries with 10 … Averaged 41 defensive plays per game … Also contributed on special teams … Topped the defensive ends with a 575-pound back squat in preseason testing … Turned in a personal-best 4.54 clocking in the 40 during the off-season … Heads into the fall topping the depth chart again at a highly-competitive position …

2000: Was in on six tackles in the season opener against Akron … Turned in two tackles behind the line, including a sack, against East Carolina … Also had three quarterback hurries in that game … Had a tackle for loss and two hurries against Boston College … Posted six tackles, a tackle for loss and two hurries at Syracuse … Added six more tackles in the Pittsburgh game … Blocked an extra point against West Virginia … Returned a fumble for a 20-yard gain at UCFC … Finished the regular season with 47 tackles, 10 quarterback hurries, five tackles for loss and two passes broken up … Contributed four tackles, including a sack, during Tech’s Gator Bowl win over Clemson … Was in on five tackles, two behind the line, in the team’s second spring scrimmage … Had a tackle for loss among his three total tackles in the Maroon-White spring game … Won the Frank O. Moseley Award as the top defensive hustler …

1999: Played six snaps on defense and six on special teams during the opener with James Madison … Had 12 plays on defense at Rutgers and contributed three tackles … Also was in

Continued on next page
Cobb, continued

on a tackle in the Syracuse game … Played in a total of five games … Got some extra work with the jayvee team … Contributed 14 total tackles, three tackles for loss, a sack and a fumble recovery in a jayvee win against Fork Union … Worked hard in the weight room during the winter program … Turned in a 570-pound back squat during spring testing — tops among the defensive ends … Contributed three sacks during spring scrimmages … Was in on one tackle in the Maroon-White game …

1998: Practiced at the whip linebacker position during the fall while redshirting … Showed improvement in strength and conditioning program … Moved to defensive end for spring practice … Contributed a tackle in the annual spring game …

High School: Played a number of positions for Coach Robert Pruntey at Gretna High, including defensive back, receiver and running back … Selected a preseason All-American by both SuperPrep and PrepStar … Ranked the No. 5 skilled athlete in the nation by SuperPrep … Named the No. 8 player in Virginia by SuperPrep and No. 23 by The Roanoke Times … Named the Lynchburg News & Advance Defensive Player of the Year … Picked first-team Group AA all-state by The Associated Press … Also a first-team all-district and all-region pick … Contributed a sack in the Maroon-White spring game …

1999: Contributed a tackle in the Hokies’ opening scrimmage … Also posted a sack in the Hokies’ opening scrimmage … Contributed over 200 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns on the ground … Contributed a tackle in the Hokies’ opening scrimmage …

2000: Saw playing time in 10 of the Hokies’ 11 games … Was in on two tackles against Akron in his first collegiate game … Contributed three tackles and a quarterback hurry against East Carolina … Turned in a personal-best four tackles in the Rutgers game … Contributed a sack in the Hokies’ opening scrimmage …

Is expected to push Lamar Cobb for the starting job at stud end … Showed excellent improvement during the spring … Continues to become a more instinctive player … Possesses an outstanding combination of speed and power … Runs a sub-45 forty and bench presses 400 pounds … Complements his athletic skills with a great attitude … Spent much of his high school career on the offensive side of the ball … Gained a lot of valuable experience on defense last season … Underwent hernia surgery in May … Should be fully recovered for preseason practice … Could have a big year if he continues to improve …

2000 Tackles Game-by-Game

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<th></th>
<th>Akron</th>
<th>At ECU</th>
<th>Rutgers</th>
<th>At BC</th>
<th>Temple</th>
<th>WVU</th>
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Cols Colas

Defensive End

6-0 239 v. So. IVL
South Plantation, Ha.

Colas Colas

1999: A redshirt who spent the fall working at outside linebacker … Earned

Iron Hokie honors during scout team testing in November … Improved his bench press from 300 pounds to 380 pounds by the time spring testing ended … Also added more than 20 pounds … Moved to defensive end when spring practice opened … Contributed a sack in the Hokies’ opening scrimmage … Also posted a sack in the Maroon-White spring game …

High School: Played several different positions for Coach Dan Margurite at South Plantation, including fullback and defensive end … Rushed for 1,064 yards and 11 TDs as a senior … Had 197 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries in a game during his senior season … Also saw action on defense, contributing 20 tackles, two sacks and two fumble recoveries … Helped team to a 9-3 record and the second round of the Class 5A playoffs … A preseason All-America pick by PrepStar, which named him the No. 15 running back in the SEC Region … Rated the No. 14 prospect in Broward County by The Miami Herald … Was in on 50 tackles, including four sacks, his junior year … Registered career totals of 1,268 yards and 16 touchdowns on the ground … Stars as a sprinter in track …

Finished third in the state in both the 100 and 200 meters his junior year … Turned in a best time of 10.49 in the 100 meters, 21.3 in the 200 meters and 41.2 in the 400 meters … Won the state 100-meter outdoor title as a senior …

Personal: Was in on two tackles against Akron in his first collegiate game … Contributed three tackles and a quarterback hurry against East Carolina … Turned in a personal-best four tackles in the Rutgers game … Contributed a sack in the Hokies’ opening scrimmage …

1999: A redshirt who spent the fall working at outside linebacker … Earned

2000 Tackles Game-by-Game

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Travis Conway

Center/Deep Snapper

6-1 269 v.Fr
Richmond, Va.

J.R. Tucker H.S.

A young lineman who is still adjusting to Tech’s offensive system and the responsibilities of the center position … Has added over 20 pounds since arriving, but needs continued exposure to the athletic performance program … Got some valuable reps at center during the spring … His opportunity for playing time should increase as he becomes more comfortable at the position … In the meantime, he could make an impact as a
Chad Cooper

33

Linebacker
6-2 205 r-Fr.
Herndon, Va.
Oakton H.S.

A tall, rangy newcomer who shows good promise for the future ... Is adjusting to inside linebacker after playing free safety in high school ... Showed a lot of improvement during his redshirt year ... Is still learning ... Combines athleticism with good speed ... Has put on nearly 20 pounds through the athletic performance program but must continue to get stronger ... Could get a shot at special teams action during the fall ... Needs to make a good summer preparation ... Exactly where he figures in for 2001 will be determined when practice opens in August ...

2000: Practiced as a center and snapper while redshirting ... His 340-pound bench press was second-best among Tech's newcomers in August ... Improved that lift to 360 by spring testing ...

High School: Lettered three seasons for Coach Rusty Curle at Tucker High ... Saw most of his action at center and defensive end ... Started three seasons at DE ... Played three games as a tight end his junior year before moving to center ... Earned additional attention as an accomplished deep snapper on special teams ... Named the team's most valuable player as a senior ... Rated the No. 18 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times ... Gained honorable-mention All-USA honors from USA Today ... Was first-team all-Metro, all-district and all-region as a center in 1999 ... Selected second-team all-district as a defensive end ... Earned second-team Associated Press Group AAA all-state honors at center ... An honorable-mention pick on the coaches' all-state squad ... Had five knockdown blocks in one game his senior season ... Contributed 95 tackles and two sacks on defense ... As a junior, he won the team's Tolley Award as the best defensive player "with leadership and skill" ... Was first-team all-district as a center and second-team all-region ... Also a second-team all-district choice at DE ...

Personal: Travis Scott Conway ... Born 6/3/82 in Richmond, VA ... Son of Doug and Suzanne Conway ... His uncle, Andy Hromyak, was the starting punter for Tech in 1971 and '72 ... Enrolled in physical education.

Mark Costen

92

Defensive Tackle
6-3 250 r-So.
Virginia Beach, Va.
Kempsville H.S.

A young defensive lineman who got his share of repetitions during the spring and showed overall improvement in his game ... Must continue to get bigger and stronger to make a move on the current depth chart ... Has the versatility to play either tackle position ... Moves well and possesses toughness ... Joined the team as a walk-on ... His off-season preparation will be extremely important ...

2000: Played on the scout team and saw action in Tech's two jayvee games ... Saw his only varsity action against Akron in the 2000 season opener ... Played seven defensive downs in that game ... Was in on a pair of tackles during Tech's first spring scrimmage ... Had a tackle for loss in another scrimmage ... Posted two sacks and five tackles in the Maroon-White game ...

1999: Worked at defensive tackle while taking a redshirt year ... Improved in six of seven categories during winter workouts ... Contributed four tackles in one spring scrimmage, including two quarterback sacks ... Registered three tackles in another scrimmage and posted a sack in the Maroon-White game ...

High School: Played linebacker and tight end for Coach John Bowles at Kempsville High ... Lettered four seasons, earning all-district and all-region honors at both positions as a senior ... Named all-area as a linebacker ... Helped the team to an 8-2 record and a district title as a sophomore in 1996 ... Posted 116 tackles his senior season, including 19 behind the line of scrimmage ... Contributed eight quarterback sacks and three fumble recoveries ... Registered 17 tackles and caught two passes for 49 yards in a game against Ocean Lakes in '98 ... Collected 98 tackles his junior year, 12 for losses ... Finished with 314 career tackles and 20 pass receptions ...

Personal: John Mark Costen ... Born 3/13/81 in Norfolk, VA ... Son of Nelson and Leslie Costen ... Studying finance.

2001 Virginia Tech Football 69
Crawford, continued

... contributed a tackle ... Played on special teams in eight of the team's last 10 games ... Was in on a personal-best 13 special teams plays in the Miami game ... Started on the kickoff team and also worked with the punt return unit ... Had one tackle in games against Akron, East Carolina, Rutgers and West Virginia ... Registered two hits in the Boston College game ... Finished with three unassisted tackles and three assists ... Set seven personal-bests during spring strength and conditioning tests ... Registered three sacks in spring scrimmages ... Added two more sacks during the annual Maroon-White game ...

1999: Practiced at the rover position while redshirting ... Showed improved speed and quickness during spring testing ... Broke up a pass in the Maroon-White spring game ...

High School: An All-Baltimore City/County running back-linebacker for Coach Roger Wrenn at Patterson High ... Scored 22 touchdowns to help team win the City East Division championship with a 10-1 record ... Rushed for 1,376 yards, averaging 20 yards per carry ... Posted seven touchdown runs of 70 yards or more ... In a game against Southwestern, he scored the first four TDs and rushed for 196 yards on nine carries ... Played linebacker on defense ... A PrepStar All-American ... Was rated the No. 23 player in the Maryland/D.C. area by ACC Area Sports Journal ... Played in the Baltimore County All-Star game ... A two-time MVP in football, indoor track and outdoor track at Patterson ... Won city and region high jump championships both indoor and outdoor ... Ran a 6.7 time in the 55 meters ...

Personal: Michael Antonio Crawford ... Born 2/20/81 in Baltimore, MD ... Son of Iantha Carrington ... Enrolled in university studies.

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Mike Daniels

31

Free Safety
6-0 187 r-Fr.
Fairfax, Va.
Fairfax H.S.

One of the most physical players in the Hokies' secondary ... Attacks people and does a good job finishing the tackle ... Worked at free safety during a redshirt season ... Has done a good job learning the Tech system ... Added some weight and improved his strength through his work in the athletic performance program ... Is still working to get stronger and faster ... A good summer preparation will help determine where he fits in this fall ...

2000: Spent a redshirt season working at free safety ... Improved in three of Tech's four major lifts during the off-season strength and conditioning workouts ... Was in on four tackles, including two behind the line in the Hokies' first spring scrimmage ... Intercepted a pass in the annual spring game and assisted on three tackles ...

High School: Set a school record with 18 career pass interceptions during his four varsity seasons at Fairfax ...

Personal: Michael William Daniels ... Born 9/18/81 in Germany ... Son of Fletcher, Jr., and Carolyn Daniels ... Studying management science and information technology.

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André Davis

88

Hanker
6-1 194 r-Sr. 3VL
Niskayuna NY.
Niskayuna H.S.

Has the potential to be one of the most dangerous players in the collegiate ranks ... Can create big plays as a receiver, runner and return man ... Possesses outstanding speed and athleticism ... Is striving to become the best player he can be ... Will be looked to for a big season after struggling with injuries late last year ... Saw limited work during the spring ... Focused on specific areas for improvement ... Should be quicker at the line versus man coverage this fall ... Has worked on catching the ball in quick underneath routes ... Should be ready to go when preseason practice rolls around ... Has already earned his degree in residential property management ... Saw some action in the 2001 Gator Bowl after being limited by injuries to just 15 plays during Tech's last four regular-season games ... Finished second in the Division I-A ranks in punt returns and earned first-team All-America honors as a return specialist on the 2000 American Football Coaches Association team ... Ranked second on the team in pass receptions despite the missed playing time ... Turned in an incredible scoring flurry against West Virginia by scoring three touchdowns in three different ways on consecutive Tech possessions ... Tied a Tech season record with three punt returns for touchdowns ... Named second-team All-Big East as a return man ... A three-time pick on the Big East All-Academic Football Team ... Enjoyed a breakthrough season in 1999 when he averaged 27.5 yards per reception ... Has three career touchdowns on reverses ...

2000: Prior to the season, he was ranked the sixth-best receiver in Division I-A by Lindy's and the eighth-best by The Sporting News ... Started Tech's first seven games ... Caught two passes for 41 yards and a touchdown in the opener against Akron ... Contributed four receptions and returned a punt 87 yards for a TD at East Carolina ... It was the
second-longest punt return ever by a Tech player ... Turned in a 71-yard touchdown return at Boston College and added a 76- yard return at home against West Virginia ... Caught six passes in the Temple game ... Had six catches for 127 yards versus WVU ... Showed just how dangerous he can be during the West Virginia game when he struck for three touchdowns in just over six minutes ... Took a reverse 30 yards for the first score, then on Tech's next offensive play after a punt he hauled in a 64-yard TD pass ... When the Mountaineers were forced to punt again, he returned the punt 76 yards for a touchdown ... Was injured at Syracuse ... Missed games against Pittsburgh and UCF and played just 11 snaps at Miami and only four versus Virginia ... Closed out the season with 18 punt returns for 396 yards, an average of 22 yards per return ... Added 24 pass receptions for 318 yards and three rushes for 51 yards ... Caught two passes for 110 yards against Wisconsin in the Gator Bowl game ... Got limited work in the off-season program ... Grabbed one pass for 13 yards in the Maroon-White spring game ...

1999: Started every game at flanker ... Led the team with 35 catches for 962 yards and nine touchdowns ... His 27.5- yards per catch average was tops in the BIG EAST ... Ran 22 yards for a touchdown on a reverse against James Madison ... Caught his first collegiate touchdown pass in the UAB game on a halfback pass from André Kendrick ... Turned in a 500-pound back squat ... Won A-10 Indoor Track titles in the 55- and 200-meter dashes, setting meet records in both events ... Was the A-10 Outstanding Performer ... Qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships in the 60 and 200 meters ... Turned in school-record times in both events ... Had a 25-yard TD reception in one of the Hokies’ spring scrimmages ... Returned a punt 84 yards for a touchdown in the Maroon-White game ... Took the 200 meters in record time (20.95) at the A-10 Outdoor Track Championships ... Also won the 100-meter title and anchored the winning 4x100 relay team ...

1998: Was in for 23 snaps in the season opener against East Carolina and made his first collegiate reception ... Contributed an outstanding 49-yard catch at Clemson ... Injured his thigh against the Tigers ... Saw limited action over Tech’s next three games, catching one pass against Pittsburgh ... Earned BIG EAST Special Teams Player of the Week recognition after blocking a punt and recovering it to set up a key touchdown at Boston College ... Missed games against

Continued on next page

A Talk With André Davis

You have become one of the nation’s top receivers over the last two years with Michael Vick and Dave Meyer throwing passes to you. What do you think this year will hold with a new quarterback?

It is going to be a different experience. We don’t have the same type of athlete that we had in Mike and Dave. It is a different type of athlete coming in and I think that as long as we get together and we are all on the same page, then we will be able to be as successful as we have in the past.

You have shared that you are a very religious person. What does God mean to you when you are out there playing?

He means everything to me. I am not out there playing for anybody else. I’m out there giving God a thank you performance for the ability that He has given me. I use that as motivation to go out there and work my hardest knowing that when I get out and I’m working for the Lord that I can’t go wrong.

What has it been like excelling in both football and track at Tech?

It has just been a blessing to be able to play both sports and I’m having so much fun doing both. A lot of people might think that it is hard to do sports year-round, but I’ve just had so much fun. Track was my first love before I started playing football and I have always wanted to keep that as part of my life.

You have played a part in this program becoming a national contender. What do you see for Virginia Tech football in the future?

The sky is the limit for us. We’ve got a lot of renovations going on right now where we are going to be able to recruit a lot of big-time players coming up now. I think that is something we have been able to do in the past couple of years with the success that we have had. We have been able to get a lot of big-time recruits in here, so hopefully this will continue to grow and we will be able to be in the top 10 year-in and year-out.

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Davie, continued

Temple, UAB and West Virginia … Returned to action at Syracuse and caught a pass for a 14-yard gain … Played a season-high 34 snaps against Rutgers and added another catch versus Virginia … Finished with five catches for 89 yards, an average of 15.8 yards per catch … Turned in the third-fastest 40 time on record for a Tech player with a clocking of 4.27 seconds during spring testing … Finished first in the 55 and 200-meter dashes at the Atlantic 10 Indoor Track & Field Championships … Caught a 38-yard touchdown pass during one of Tech’s spring scrimmages … Won both the 100 and 200 meters in record times at the A-10 Outdoor Championships … Also anchored the winning 4x100-meter relay team and was named the meet’s Most Outstanding Performer …

1997: Worked at split end, then flanker during a redshirt season … Competed for Tech’s indoor track team during the winter … Set a school indoor record in the 200 meters with a clocking of 21.43 seconds … Finished second in the 55-meter dash and third in the 200 at the Atlantic 10 Conference Indoor Championship … Turned in the top back squat among Tech’s receivers during spring testing with a lift of 485 pounds … Also turned in a 4.43 clocking in the 40 … Moved back to split end for spring practice … Caught a 49-yard touchdown pass in one spring scrimmage and made a 5-yard TD grab in another … Was on the receiving end of two passes for 31 yards in the spring game … Joined Tech’s outdoor track team after spring football ended … Practiced for just a week before winning both the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Atlantic 10 Conference Outdoor Championship … His winning time of 10.31 seconds in the 100 meters ranked third in the world for competitors 19 years old or younger … Also ran the last leg for the winning 4x100 relay team that set a meet record … Was named the A-10 Rookie of the Year for men’s outdoor track … Placed sixth in the 200 meters and seventh in the 100 meters at the United States Junior National Track and Field Championships in June to become a U.S. Junior All-American …

High School: Played soccer at Niskayuna High School until joining the football team as a junior … Lettered two years as a wide receiver and safety for Coach John Furey … Led the team with 10 touchdowns his senior season … Caught 26 passes for 471 yards and six touchdowns … Added two rushing touchdowns … Intercepted three passes as a free safety, returning one of them 95-yards for a score … Returned a kickoff 94 yards for a TD … Earned a first-team spot on the conference all-star team … Named first-team all-area as a kick returner by the Albany Times-Union … Helped his team to the Section II playoffs for the first time … Exelled in track, winning the state Class A 200-meter outdoor championship his senior year and finishing second in the 100 … A National Football Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete …

Personal: André N. Davis … Born 6/12/79 … Son of Clement and Marcia Davis … Is a cousin of former Tech football player Rich Bowen … Planning to take graduate courses.

Receiving

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2000 Game-by-Game

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*one TD on a recovered fumble

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Anthony Davis

57

Offensive Tackle

6-4 314 lb. 4.7

Virginia, Va.

Central-Lunenburg H.S.

Is ready to showcase his talent at left tackle after paying his dues as the top backup … A natural run-blocker who has matured in pass protection … Possesses outstanding size and good quickness … Understands what it takes to be successful on the offensive line as a unit and as an individual … Also a starter on special teams … Saw some practice time at left guard during the spring to add to his versatility … Will play an important role on this year’s offensive team …

2000: Saw action in all 12 games at left tackle … Played on the extra point and field goal teams … Played a season-high 29 offensive plays against Central Florida and turned in his best performance of the season … Also played well in the West Virginia and Pittsburgh games … Was in for 27 snaps against both Temple and Miami … Earned a winning grade in seven regular-season games … Trimmed his weight during the off-season program … Worked at guard and tackle in the spring …

1999: Played in 10 of Tech’s 11 regular-season games … Worked a season-high 37 snaps in the opener against James Madison … Played 20 snaps in games against UAB and Temple … Earned a spot in Tech’s Winner’s Circle twice as a reserve … Improved his strength and quickness during the winter … Turned in a 30-inch vertical jump and 5.16 in the 40 at 318 pounds … Made a push at left tackle during the spring and was named the team’s most improved offensive player …

Prep School: Started at offensive tackle for Coach Lonnie Messick at Hargrave in 1998 …

High School: Originally signed with Tech after his senior year of high school … An All-ACC Region pick by PreStar magazine following his senior season in 1997 … Rated the No. 28 player in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … Also a member of the top 35 list chosen by the Richmond Times-Dispatch … A first-team Group A all-state selection as an offensive lineman by the coaches and a second-team choice by AP … Voted the James River District Defensive Player of the Year as a junior and senior … Was first-team all-district and all-region on defense as a junior … Made the first-team all-district team on both offense and defense his senior year and was a first-team all-region choice on offense … Lettered three years as a two-way tackle for Coach Chippie Chappell … Started three years on defense and two on offense … Helped the team to a pair of district titles and a 26-6 record … Was in on 55 tackles as a senior … Intercepted a pass and blocked a punt … Finished with 198 career tackles … Intercepted a pass against Lakeland last year to seal a victory … Lettered three seasons as a center/forward in basketball and also was a shot putter on the track team …

Personal: Anthony Sherrod Davis … Born 3/27/80 in Paterson, NJ … Son of Paul and Dorothy Hite … Enrolled in physical education.
**Jason Davis**

Quarterback
6-1 200 r-Fr.
Sevierville, Tenn.
Seymour H.S.

One of two returning players at the quarterback position ... Battled for the starting duties last spring after redshirting during the fall ... Had his moments ... Made some good throws in the spring game ... Needs to be more in charge and improve his consistency ... Entered Tech in January 2000, less than two months after finishing his senior football season at Seymour High School ... Went through the winter strength and conditioning program and spring practice ... Was redshirted last fall ... Made good strides in the 2001 off-season program earning Iron Hokie honors ... Took a lot of snaps during spring drills ... Will continue to compete for playing time when practice resumes ...

2000: Was redshirted in the fall ... Set personal highs in five categories during spring strength and conditioning tests ... Bench pressed 340 pounds and turned in a back squat of 430 ... Tossed an 89-yard touchdown pass to Richard Johnson in Tech's first spring scrimmage ... Was 6-for-14 passing for 91 yards in the second scrimmage and totaled 85 yards through the air in a third workout ... Completed eight of 17 passes in the second scrimmage and totaled 117 yards, but was intercepted twice two ...

1999: Graduated from high school early ... Entered Tech at mid-year following his senior football season ... Went through the winter strength and conditioning program ... Posted a 320-pound bench press and a 425-pound back squat ... Was 0-for-2 passing in the annual Maroon-White spring game ...

**High School:** Rated the No. 1 quarterback prospect in the nation by Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report ... Made PrepStar's All-Southeast Region team and was listed No. 1 quarterback prospect in Tennessee ... Named honorable mention All-USA by USA Today ... Also competed in track ... Holds the school triple-jump record ... Attended football camp at Kentucky and won a long-ball throwing contest with a record throw of 76 yards ...

**Personal:** Jason N. Davis ... Born 2/4/82 in Alcoa, TN ... Son of Jess and Linda Davis ... Enrolled in university studies.

**Jim Davis**

Defensive End
6-4 251 So. r-IVL
Highland Springs, Va.
Highland Springs H.S.

An extremely talented young player who has shown he can take over a game ... Was one of only three true freshmen to see action last season ... Worked his way up to the No. 2 spot behind Nathaniel Adibi at end ... Saw action in every game and finished third on the team in sacks ... Showed off his talents in Tech's Gator Bowl win over Clemson ... Possesses the size, quickness and skills to be an outstanding player ... Can get to the quarterback in a hurry ... Grew as both a person and a player during the course of the year ... Worked during the spring to improve his concentration and develop more consistency ... Scored a touchdown in the spring game ... Needs to get excited about playing every down ... Has the potential to make a major impact on defense this fall ...

2000: Played on 27 snaps against Akron in his first collegiate game and contributed two tackles ... Saw action on a season-high 30 plays at East Carolina ...Posted three tackles, two quarterback hurries and shared a sack in the win over the Pirates ... Knocked down a pass against Rutgers ... Registered a personal-best six tackles in the Temple game, including a pair of sacks for minus 16 yards ... Had two tackles for loss and two quarterback hurries against Syracuse ...

**Steve DeMasi**

Center
6-3 275 r-Sr. r-IVL
Virginia Beach, Va.
Cox H.S.

The only returning starter among Tech's offensive linemen ... Has worked his way up from a walk-on to a starter, handling every job along the way ... Took over the starting center duties last season and did a good job ... Started every game ... Continued on next page
How does it feel to go from a walk-on to a two-year starter?
It’s a great feeling and a sense of accomplishment to come in as a walk-on and then work your way up to become a two-year starter. I wasn’t highly recruited in high school, so it offered me a great sense of accomplishment.

What was your reaction when you were called on to start against Syracuse in 1999?
I was nervous at first because it was such a big game for us. I knew I had to just step in there for the team. I hadn’t had much playing time up until that point, so I just wanted to have a great week of practice and get ready for the game.

You are the only returning starter on the offensive line. Do the younger linemen look to you for advice?
Definitely. I try to help them and give them all the advice that I can. But we have a lot of experience even though I am the only returning starter. We are going to have a solid front line and solid back-ups, so I’m really not worrying about them.

You were a big factor in helping Virginia Tech and Lee Suggs lead the nation in touchdowns scored last season. How does that make you feel?
It was a great feeling knowing we had one of the top running backs in the nation running behind us. He helps make the offensive line look really good and he makes himself look good, so it is just an overall good feeling.
Josh Spence … Will be in the mix for six games … Started out at fullback for the travel squad and saw limited action in fullback prior to the 2000 season … Made plays smart … Moved from tailback to football coming out of the backfield … Has when practice begins in August … A fullback spot behind Jarrett Ferguson …

High School: Earned All-America honors from SuperPrep, PrepStar and Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report … Ranked the No. 35 offensive line prospect in the nation by SuperPrep and the No. 9 player in Virginia … Listed as the No. 20 offensive tackle prospect in the nation by Lemming … Picked the No. 1 offensive lineman in the state and the No. 7 overall prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … Lettered three seasons for Coach Thad Harold at Tallwood … Saw most of his action as an offensive tackle … Also got some playing time at defensive tackle and as a long snapper … Earned all-district honors his junior and senior seasons … Named All-Eastern Region as a senior … Had eight tackles and two sacks in limited defensive duty in 1999 …

Personal: Jonathan Paul Dunn … Born 12/12/81 in Norfolk, VA … Son of Paula and Willie Heggins … Enrolled in university studies.

Doug Easlick

Fullback
5-11 226 r-So.
Marlton, N.J.
Cherokee H.S.

Is expected to compete for the No. 2 fullback spot behind Jarrett Ferguson when practice begins in August … A tough, physical player who has a knack for picking up yardage … Can catch the football coming out of the backfield … Has worked at both tailback and fullback while at Tech … Understands leverage and plays smart … Moved from tailback to fullback prior to the 2000 season … Made the travel squad and saw limited action in six games … Started out at fullback for spring practice … Ended up getting more snaps at tailback because of an injury to Josh Spence … Will be in the mix for playing time when preseason practice rolls around …

2000: Worked at right tackle while redshirting … Made some strides during the off-season program … Got some work with the first team during spring practice … Won the Paul Torgersen Award as Tech’s top offensive newcomer …

High School: A star football player and wrestler at Cherokee High … Lettered three seasons as a tailback and safety for Coach John Scott … Rushed for over 1,500 yards and 17 touchdowns his senior season … Contributed 115 tackles and three interceptions on defense … Scored four touchdowns and rushed for 245 yards on eight carries in a 1998 game against Cherry Hill East … Ran for 200 yards and three touchdowns and registered 13 tackles against Willingboro that same season … Won all-conference, all-South Jersey and all-state honors … Was named an honorable mention All-American … Gained 1,400 yards on the ground his junior year and finished his career with 3,600 yards rushing, 43 touchdowns, eight interceptions and 240 tackles … Set school career and single-game records for rushing yards … Posted a 122-8 career wrestling record … Won the state championship his senior season and finished third at the high school nationals … Was a four-time district and two-time regional champ …

Sam Fatherly

Rover
5-10 203 r-Fr.
Williamsport, Pa.
Williamsport H.S.

A young player who is still adjusting to the Tech system … Entered school in January 2000 and has already gone through two spring practices and a redshirt year … Worked at free safety when he first arrived at Tech … Moved to the rover position last fall … Has made some progress in the strength and conditioning program but must continue to get stronger … Got some reps during the spring … Needs a good off-season preparation to move into contention for a spot on the depth chart …

2000: Moved to the rover position and was redshirted … Was clocked at 4.48 in the 40 during Tech’s pro timing day in the spring …

1999: Enrolled at Tech for the second semester … Worked at free safety during the spring …

High School: Played wide receiver and safety for Coach Tim Montgomery at Williamsport … Caught 45 passes for 820 yards and eight touchdowns his senior season … Contributed 75 tackles, four interceptions and six fumble recoveries on defense … Earned all-conference honors as both a receiver and a safety … Broke up 15 passes and intercepted three his junior year … Caught 31 passes for nearly 800 yards and nine TDs … Set school career records for receptions (83) and receiving yards (1,575) … Also had nine career interceptions … Was named to the school’s All-Century team … Played shooting guard in basketball, helping the team to a 31-2 record and the state 4A championship … Was rated one of the Top 20 players in the state …

Matt Felber
Place-kicker
5-8 • 182 • r-Sr.
McLean, Va.
Randolph-Macon Acad.

An extremely hard worker who has really improved during his time at Tech … Joined the team as a walk-on in 1997 … Has competed both duties off-and-on over the past four seasons … Has performed both duties as a member of the jayvee team during his career … Got a lot of work during 2001 spring practice with starter Carter Warley sidelined …

2000: Booted an extra point in a jayvee win against Fork Union … Punted four times for a 38.8-yard average for the JV team in a victory over Hargrave … Kicked field goals of 47 and 21 yards during one of Tech’s spring scrimmages … Contributed a 30-yard field goal and three PATs during the Maroon-White game …

1999: Was redshirted during the fall … Competed for the punting duties during spring practice … Averaged 41.7 yards on three punts during the spring game …

1998: Kicked a 41-yard field goal and three extra point kicks in a 24-21 jayvee win over Fork Union … Had two punts for a 32-yard average in the spring game …

1997: Handled the punting and kicking duties for the jayvee team … Punted three times for a 38.3-yard average during the Maroon-White spring game …

High School: Lettered two seasons as a punter and place-kicker for Coach Dick Allanson at Randolph-Macon Academy … Also lettered three seasons as a wrestler and was a goalie in soccer …

Personal: Matt Tony Felber … Born 10/25/79 in Fairfax, VA … Son of Dr. Melvin and Bette Felber … Majoring in management science.

Jarrett Ferguson
27
Fullback
5-9 • 222 • r-Sr. • 3VL
Goodview, Va.
Staunton River H.S.

One of the top fullbacks in the collegiate ranks … A complete player who excels as a runner, receiver and blocker … Also chips in on special teams … Has helped clear the way for record-breaking tailback Lee Suggs … His six rushing touchdowns last season were the most rushing TDs in a season for a Tech fullback since 1991 … A Super Iron Hokie in the strength and conditioning program … Was just the second player to attain the new Elite Level of Performance status in the Tech weight room … Set a Tech football record with a 351-pound power

A Talk With Jarrett Ferguson

Where do you look for inspiration when you are out on the field?

I look to my mother because I know everything I do is for her and the rest of my family. I want to do things for my mother. We have been through a lot and I go out on the field and work harder just for her.

What does Lee Suggs’ 2000 BIG EAST and school touchdown record mean to you knowing you were the man who got him into the endzone on many occasions?

We complement each other. When I go out there, I block for him and it makes me look good when he scores all those touchdowns. It means a lot to me when he goes out there and runs the ball hard every time he touches it. I just have to make sure I do my job to help him out and he will make me look good, too.

What are your goals as Tech’s fullback for the 2001 season?

I just want to go out there and play hard every game and block for Lee and try to get him at least 100 yards a game. I want to keep trying to get positive yards every time I get the ball.

What is the one thing you want the most during this, your final season of collegiate football?

I want to go out there and take one game at a time. I want to go undefeated and play better each time I go out there on the field as an offensive unit because I know our defense is going to be good.
clean when he reported for the 2000 season … Topped that with a 360-pound clean during spring testing … Won the George Preas Award as Tech’s most valuable offensive performer during 2001 spring practice … Gives 100 percent whenever he hits the field, whether its for practice or a game … Originally joined the team as a walk-on and went on to earn a scholarship … Is a leader by example … Will be looked to for a big senior season …

2000: Was rated the No. 10 fullback in Division I-A ranks prior to the season by The Sporting News … Turned in a 7-yard touchdown run against East Carolina … Rushed three times for 34 yards against West Virginia and scored on a 16-yard run … Carried the football a season-high six times in games against Boston College, Pittsburgh and UCF … Had a 26-yard run against UCF and finished that game with a season-high 35 yards rushing … Scored touchdowns on runs of 13 and 1 yard in Tech’s regular-season finale against Virginia … Gained 25 yards on a pass reception against the Cavaliers … Saw action on 443 offensive snaps and added over 60 plays as a starter on the extra point and field goal teams … Averaged 5.3 yards per carry for the season … Rushed for a total of 210 yards on 40 carries … Added three pass receptions for 40 yards … Scored on a 23-yard pass on Tech’s first offensive play of the 2001 Gator Bowl … He added a 5-yard touchdown run in third quarter of that 41-20 win over Clemson … Carried the football six times in the game for 26 yards … Earned Elite Athlete honors in August and again during the spring … Posted a 385-pound bench press, 630-pound back squat and a 385-pound push jerk — all personal bests — during spring max tests … Also ran a personal-best 4.46 time in the 40 … Rushed for a touchdown in one spring scrimmage and contributed a 33-yard run in another … Carried twice for 17 yards in the Maroon-White game …

1999: Started at fullback and on special teams in all 12 games … Hauled in a 24-yard pass against James Madison … Gained 24 yards rushing on five carries and caught two passes for 12 yards versus UAB … Had 28 yards on five rushes in the Clemson game … Scored on a 20-yard run at Rutgers and finished the game with 40 yards on five carries … Caught two passes for 12 yards against West Virginia … Closed out the regular season with four carries for 37 yards versus Boston College … Ranked fourth on the team in rushing with 173 yards on 34 carries, an average of 5.1 yards per carry … Added five pass receptions for 48 yards … Carried once for five yards and caught a 6-yard pass during the Sugar Bowl … Had the best back squat (605) and power clean (330) among the running backs during fall testing … Set position records with a 620-pound back squat and a 370-pound push jerk … Rushed for 30 yards on two carries during one spring scrimmage and scored on a 3-yard run in another …

1998: Played in every game, the last eight as a starter … Carried four times for 15 yards in the opener against East Carolina … Had 14 yards on four carries at Clemson … Saw action on 45 plays at Miami … Scored his first collegiate TD on a 26-yard pass against Temple … Played a season-high 63 downs in that game … Got Tech started at UAB with first-half touchdown runs of 23 and 6 yards … Finished that game with a season-best six carries for 40 yards … Posted the Hokies’ longest run from scrimmage of the season with a 76-yard scoring jaunt at Syracuse, outrunning the Orangemen despite losing a shoe near the line of scrimmage … Caught three passes for 38 yards against Rutgers and had an 18-yard reception in the Virginia game … Averaged 5.9 yards per carry for the season … Gained 199 yards on 34 rushing attempts and scored three TDs on the ground … Turned in seven pass receptions for 99 yards and another TD … Caught a 14-yard pass against Alabama in the Music City Bowl … Met all six of his goals and earned Iron Hokie honors in the weight room during the fall … Was a Super Iron Hokie in spring testing … Bench pressed 355 pounds and turned in a 605-pound back squat … Placed third in the triple jump at the Atlantic 10 Outdoor Championship meet … Scored a touchdown on a 1-yard run in the annual spring football game …

1997: Practiced at tailback during the fall while being redshirited … Gained Iron Hokie status during the winter … Was tried at fullback during spring practice … Scored touchdowns on runs of 5 and 6 yards during one spring scrimmage … Caught two passes for 29 yards in another scrimmage … Competed for the Tech indoor and outdoor track teams during the course of the year … Placed third in both the long jump and the triple jump at the Atlantic 10 Conference Indoor Championship … Won the A-10 long jump championship outdoors with a leap of 23-1 3/4 … Also finished second in the triple jump …

High School: A standout in football … Tracked at Staunton River High School … Lettered three seasons as a running back in football for Coach Bob Gray … Rushed for 1,571 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior … Added 10 pass receptions for 318 yards and four more TDs … Named district and region player of the year, as well as Lynchburg All-Area Player of the Year … Earned second-team Group AA all-state honors from The Associated Press and the coaches … Closed out his career with 2,682 yards rushing and 29 TDs … Helped the track team to a state championship … Played in the state high school all-star football game …


Matt Findley
Offensive Guard
6-1 284 r-So.
Woodbridge, Va.
C.D. Hylton H.S.

Provides versatility along the offensive front with his ability to play center as well as either guard position … Can always be counted on for great effort … Got some extra repetitions during spring practice … Joined the team last fall as a walk-on … Saw action on the jayvee team and did a great job on the development team … Must continue working to add strength … An intelligent player who knows the game and has a real desire to succeed … Will fill in wherever needed …

2000: Played on the jayvee and scout teams during the fall … Made progress in the strength and conditioning program … Set six personal bests during scout team max tests in November … Missed testing in the spring due to a strained knee … Saw action at several

Continued on next page
Findley, continued

different positions during the spring ...

1999: Spent time at center during the fall while redshirting ... Practiced at right guard during the spring ...

High School: Earned two letters as a center and defensive tackle for Coach Bill Brown at C.D. Hylton High ... Earned first-team honors as both a center and defensive tackle on the all-district and all-region teams as a senior ... Named area at both positions by the Potomac News ... Was a first-team Group AAA pick at center ... Helped team to a 14-0 record and the Group AAA Division 6 state championship his senior season ... Contributed 72 total tackles, six quarterback pressures, two sacks and an interception while playing defensive tackle in nine of the 14 games ... Named the MVP in the 1998 Art Monk Football Camp ...

Personal: John Matthew Findley II ... Born 11/11/80 in Ft. Belvoir, VA ... Son of John and Bonnie Findley ... Studying agriculture and applied economics.

Thenus Franklin

Offensive Tackle
6-3 • 285 • r-Jr.
Clewiston, Fla.
Clewiston H.S.

Moved from defensive tackle to the offensive line when practice opened last August ... Spent the year making the adjustment ... Worked almost exclusively at left tackle and is listed third on the depth chart ... Got some extra work during Tech’s jayvee games ... Made strides in the weight room during the off-season ... Showed good effort during spring workouts ... Still has some things to learn about his new position ... Should get better with added exposure to the system ... Works hard ... Got a brief taste of action in 1999 while providing depth at defensive tackle ... Needs to make a good summer preparation ...

2000: Opened practice on offense after spending his first two years in the program as a defensive lineman ... Briefly listed at left guard before settling at left tackle ... Gained Iron Hokie status during spring testing ... Posted personal bests in the bench press (380) and back squat (650) ... Continued to work at LT during spring drills ...

1999: Was in for eight plays at tackle against James Madison and contributed two tackles ... Caused and recovered a fumble in that game ... Added another tackle against Rutgers ... Played a personal-best 11 plays at tackle in the Syracuse game ... Saw action in a total of seven games ... Registered two tackles, a quarterback sack and a pass deflection during the Hokies’ first spring scrimmage ... Was in on three tackles in another spring scrimmage ...

1998: Redshirted as a true freshman ... Worked at defensive end during the first half of the season ... Spent the second half at tackle ... Ran a 4.81 in the 40 during spring testing ... Continued to work at tackle during spring practice ... Contributed two sacks in a scrimmage on two occasions during the spring ... Had two tackles and an interception in the spring game ...

High School: Played offensive tackle and defensive end for Coach Al Morrell at Clewiston High ... Named to PrepStar’s All-Southeast Region team ... Was first-team all-district and picked second team on the Class 3A all-state squad ... Registered 70 tackles, six sacks and two blocked punts his senior season ... Helped his team to a 13-2 record and a share of the state championship ...

Personal: Thenus Tirrell Franklin ... Born 2/2/79 in Clewiston, FL ... Son of Sarah Blaine and William Franklin ... Enrolled in sociology.

Vincent Fuller

Free Safety
6-2 • 210 • r-Fr.
Baltimore, Md.
Woodlawn H.S.

A talented young player with tons of potential ... Impressed Tech’s coaches during a redshirt year ... Put himself in a position for playing time at free safety with an excellent showing in spring practice ... Picked up some extra repetitions while starter Willie Pile sat out the spring with a shoulder injury ... Won the Paul Torgersen Award as the team’s top defensive newcomer ... Has great athletic ability and excellent range ... Mixes smarts with a desire to be good ... Worked some at corner as well as safety during the year ... Needs to get stronger ... Will push for playing time ... Has a bright future with the Hokies ...

2000: Turned in the second-best 40 time (4.53) and third-best vertical jump (34 inches) among Tech’s newcomers ... Got a look at cornerback during the preseason before moving to free safety ... Was redshirted ... Added 12 pounds by the time spring testing rolled around ... Improved his vertical to 36 1/2 and his 40 time to 4.43 ... Got work at corner and safety during spring practice ... Had three tackles and an interception during one spring practice ... Was also in on three tackles in the Maroon-White game ...

High School: Passed for a school single-season record 1,683 yards his senior year at Woodlawn ... Completed 78 of 109 passes, including 13 for touchdowns ... Added 390 yards rushing and scored six TDs on the ground ... Played quarterback, free safety and cornerback for Coach Reggie White during his three varsity seasons ... Posted 65 tackles and three interceptions on defense as a senior ...

Won all-county, all-Metro and consensus all-state honors ... Finished his prep career with 2,685 yards passing and over 1,000 yards rushing ... Compiled 28 touchdown passes and 20 rushing TDs ... Picked off 10 passes and collected over 100 career tackles on defense ... Ranked the No. 12 player in Maryland by SuperPrep ... Earned All-America honors from PrepStar, which rated him the No. 7 athlete in the Atlantic Region ... Selected honorable-mention All-USA by USA Today ... Named the MVP in football and track by his teammates as a senior ... Helped the track team to a state championship in 1998 ...

Turned in a time of 21.2 seconds in the 200 meters ... Won the Unsung Hero Award on his basketball team ...

Personal: Vincent Fuller II ... Born 8/3/82 in Baltimore, MD ... Son of Vincent Fuller and Renée Richardson ... A cousin of former Tech safety Damien Russell ... Studying management science and information technology.

Extra Point

Vincent Fuller and Richard Johnson were two of the Hokies’ most impressive young performers in spring practice, but that shouldn’t come as a surprise. Both Fuller and Johnson are from Baltimore, Md., and players from Baltimore seem to excel for the Hokies. Former stars Antonio Freeman, Vaughn Hebron, Keion Carpenter and Roger Brown are among the Hokies’ top Baltimore products. Freeman, Hebron and Brown have all earned Super Bowl Championship rings since finishing at Tech, and Carpenter is currently making his mark with the Buffalo Bills.
After a successful high school career, Jacob Gibson was redshirted during the fall 1999 and then worked his way into a backup role during the 2000 season. He made his presence felt in the secondary, registering his first collegiate interception and contributing to a sack while also making 11 tackles, including two assists during the spring Maroon-White game. Gibson was held out of contact arthroscopic knee surgery following the victory over Clemson and underwent arthroscopic surgery performed on his left knee after the 2000 season. Despite these injuries, he showed improvement and was selected as a second-team freshman All-America by The Sporting News.

Eric Green, a talented young cornerback whose coverage skills are as good as any on the team, was redshirted during the fall while practicing at right guard. He improved in six of seven categories during spring strength and conditioning tests and was third-best among offensive linemen in time among the O-linemen. Green broke his leg in the second day of spring practice and the team's MVP in 1999. He was named to Palm Tree's All-Region and second-team all-region honors. Green was also lettered in track and field and special teams.

High School: Played running back, tight end, offensive tackle and linebacker for Coach Jerry Little at Franklin County High. During his prep career, he was a key player in the overall defense and offense as a senior. He was first-team all-district and all-region on offense and defense and a member of the National Honor Society.

Personal: Jacob Edward Gibson was born in Rocky Mount, VA, on January 29, 1981. His father, Benny, played football for East Carolina University.

Offensive Guard 6-4 293 t-so.
Rocky Mount, VA.
Franklin County H.S.

Eric Green
Cornerback 5-11 177 6so. 1VL
Clewiston, Fla.
Clewiston H.S.

A talented young cornerback whose coverage skills are as good as any on the team, Green was redshirted during the fall while practicing at right guard. He improved in six of seven categories during spring strength and conditioning tests and was third-best among offensive linemen in time among the O-linemen. Green broke his leg in the second day of spring practice and the team's MVP in 1999. He was named to Palm Tree's All-Region and second-team all-region honors. Green was also lettered in track and field and special teams.

High School: Played running back, tight end, offensive tackle and linebacker for Coach Jerry Little at Franklin County High. During his prep career, he was a key player in the overall defense and offense as a senior. He was first-team all-district and all-region on offense and defense and a member of the National Honor Society.

Personal: Jacob Edward Gibson was born in Rocky Mount, VA, on January 29, 1981. His father, Benny, played football for East Carolina University.

Offensive Guard 6-4 293 t-so.
Rocky Mount, VA.
Franklin County H.S.
Will be a key figure on the offensive line this fall if he can stay away from nagging back problems … is slated to start at right guard … Proved during the spring he could fill the void left by the departure of All-Big East performer Matt Lehr … A fierce competitor who brings a tremendous football mentality to the game … Combines size with outstanding strength … Is physical and aggressive … Plays with great leverage … Averaged 25 plays a game at center despite having trouble with his back … Moved to guard during the spring … Struggled at first, then adapted rapidly … Will continue to be the Hokies’ No. 2 center … Has a chance to be a major contributor if he stays healthy …

2000: Saw action in every game … Worked a season-high 46 snaps against Temple and played 35 downs in the Miami game … Earned a winning grade in seven of the 11 regular season games … Also played against Clemson in the Gator Bowl … Moved from center to guard during the spring … Finished spring workouts as the starter at right guard …

1999: Made the most of a redshirt year, adding strength and gaining familiarity with the center position … Set a position record with a 376-pound power clean during spring testing … Tied for the team’s top push jerk at 375 pounds … Bench pressed 420 pounds during the fall … Made a big push for the center duties during spring practice …

1998: Enrolled at Tech in January … Made an immediate impact in the weight room … Bench pressed 380 pounds during spring testing … Set a record for the best power clean by a Tech center with a lift of 360 pounds … Also set a position mark in the vertical jump at 32.5 … Made a strong challenge for the starting center duties during spring practice …

High School: Lettered two years as a center and defensive tackle for Coach Bob Christmas at Jefferson Forest High … Played his senior year at guard and defensive tackle for Coach Ed Landis … A postseason first-team All-America pick by PrepStar … Rated the No. 20 player in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … Named the Region III and Seminole District defensive player of the year in 1997 … Was an all-district and all-region pick on both offense and defense … Picked first-team all-state as a defensive tackle by both the coaches and AP … Helped the team to the state Group AA championship game in ’97 … Registered 48 solo tackles and 53 assists for the season … Added nine sacks and three fumble recoveries … Had three sacks, caused two fumbles and made 13 tackles in a game against Appomattox … Grew two inches and added 40 pounds between his junior and senior seasons …

Personal: Charles Jacob Grove … Born 1/22/80 in Johnson City, TN … Son of Chuck and Ruth Grove … His dad is a Tech graduate … Enrolled in residential property management.

A versatile performer who has been a valuable addition to the secondary … Is scheduled to work at rover when practice opens in August … Saw playing time at cornerback and free safety last season … Started three games, including the Hokies’ Gator Bowl game against Clemson … Likes to play a physical brand of football … Knows his limitations and overcomes them by out-working people … Comes from a good football background — his father, Billy, Jr., was a standout for the Hokies in the mid-1970s … Transferred to Tech from Florida Southern College where he played soccer … Worked mainly at free safety during spring testing … Had one of the team’s best times in the NFL shuttle run at 4.0 seconds … Worked mainly at free safety during spring practice … Had five tackles, including one behind the line, during one of Tech’s spring scrimmages … Turned in three tackles in the Maroon-White game …

1999: Was redshirted while working at free safety … Bench pressed 310 pounds and turned in a 450-pound back squat during spring testing … Posted six tackles in one scrimmage and four in another … Intercepted a pass and returned it seven yards during the annual Maroon-White game … Also contributed four tackles, including a quarterback sack in that game …

Florida Southern College: Attended Florida Southern and played soccer during the 1998-99 school year …

High School: Excellled in football, soccer and track at Winter Haven High … Lettered three seasons in football as a strong safety and kicker for Coach Flip Farienalla … Earned first-team all-county and all-area honors … Led the team in tackles every game … Posted two interceptions against Lake Region as a junior … Was the leading tackler again his senior year … MVP of the soccer team … Ranked in the top 15 in the state in the 400 meters … Finished first in the district and third in the region in that event … Also a member of one of the state’s top 800-meter relay teams … A member of the National Honor Society … Vice-president of the Student Council …

Personal: Abraham Bill Hardee III … Born 6/30/80 in Christiansburg, VA … Son of Bill, Jr., and Debi Hardee … His dad still ranks among Tech’s top 10 career leaders in pass interceptions, punt returns and kickoff returns … Studying science of food, nutrition and exercise.
2001 Virginia Tech Football

Jake Houseright

41

Linebacker
6-3 237 Sr. 8VL
Gate City, Va.
Gate City H.S.

Is ready to return to his starting mike linebacker position after rehabilitation from reconstructive knee surgery in January ... Did not participate in spring drills, but has been completely cleared to work out during the off-season ... Will concentrate on getting back into shape during the summer ... Will be watched closely when practice resumes in August ... Appeared right at home last season in his first year as the starter at mike linebacker ... Saw action on over 70 percent of the Hokies’ defensive plays ... Finished second on the team in tackles with 75 ... Also contributed as a starter on the extra point and field goal block teams ... Got better every game and was playing his best football at the end of the year ... Suffered a torn ACL in his left knee during Tech’s Gator Bowl win against Clemson ... A tall, rangy player who is both smart and athletic ... Mixes aggressiveness with a physical style of play ... Is expected to be an important contributor again this season if he returns to form ...

2000: Shared the lead among linebackers with a 331-pound power clean and 341-pound jerk during preseason testing ... Also turned in a 410-pound bench press ... Made his first start against Akron and posted a team-high 11 tackles ... Shared a sack in that game and played a total of 52 defensive snaps ... Played a season-high 66 plays at East Carolina ... Was in on seven tackles in that game, broke up a pass and contributed a quarterback hurry ... Had a tackle for loss among his eight tackles at Boston College ... Broke up a pair of passes against Temple ... Also posted eight tackles in games against Syracuse and Miami ... Returned a fumble 11 yards to help set up Tech’s go-ahead touchdown at Syracuse ... Turned in a personal-best 12 tackles during the win over West Virginia ... Finished with 35 primary tackles and 40 assists ... Registered five tackles behind the line, five passes broken up and six hurries ... Posted three tackles and broke up a pass before injuring his knee against Clemson in the Gator Bowl ... Underwent reconstructive surgery to his left knee ... Was limited to rehabbing during the winter and did not participate in contact work during the spring ...

1999: Did not play in the opener against James Madison due to a preseason knee injury ... Only played eight defensive snaps and 12 special teams plays over the next three games ... Got a personal-best 31 defensive plays against Rutgers and responded with seven tackles, including four primary hits ... Was in for 25 plays against Syracuse and made three tackles ... Assisted on four tackles at West Virginia and in on a total of five hits in the Temple game ... Finished the regular season with 22 total tackles ... Turned in a personal-best 380-pound bench press during the fall ... Posted five tackles in one spring scrimmage and finished with four tackles in the annual spring game ...

1998: Had a portion of torn cartilage removed from his right knee before the season ... Saw his first action on the kickoff team at Miami ... Made his first appearance at fullback against Boston College ... Got his first carry in the Temple game for a 1-yard gain ... Turned in 5-yard runs against UAB and West Virginia ... Played a season-high 28 offensive 

Continued on next page

A Talk With Jake Houseright

Having had knee injuries and surgeries in the past, how is this going to affect your final season here at Tech?

Hopefully, it won’t affect my last season at all. After this last surgery, my knee feels good and I will be 100 percent for the fall.

Being highly recruited from high school, what made you become a Hokie?

I just loved the atmosphere here at Tech. I really liked the players and coaches and it was just the best fit for me both academically and athletically.

Playing on the team as a true freshman, was there one player who you really looked up to?

Not really one particular player, but I watched players like John Engelberger and Corey Moore who were great players with great work ethics. I tried to model my own work ethic to be like theirs after watching them.

What goals have you set for yourself and the team for the upcoming season?

I just want to be the best player I can be every day in practice and help the team out the best that I can. I want to be able to do my share in helping this team to a great season.

Who motivates you the most at practice?

Definitely Coach Foster. He is a good motivator and will let you know if you are slacking. He stays after me and keeps me working hard.

Continued on next page
Houseright, continued

snaps in the Rutgers game ... Finished regular-season play with a total of seven carries for 16 yards ... Averaged 11 plays a game on special teams ... Led the linebackers with a 341-pound push jerk during spring testing ... Bench pressed 370 pounds ... Posted three tackles and a sack in one of the team's spring scrimmages ... Was in on six tackles during the annual spring game ... High School: Started all four years in football at Gate City High for Coach Nick Colobro, a former tight end at Tech ... Played safety, outside and inside linebacker, tailback, fullback and tight end during his career ... Also returned punts and kickoffs and handled the punting duties ... Rated the No. 12 strong-side linebacker in the nation by The National Recruiting Advisor, the No. 23 inside linebacker in the country by Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report and the No. 31 linebacker in the nation by SuperPrep ... Garnered postseason A-A and kickoffs and handled the punting during his career ... Also returned punts in football at Gate City High for Coach during the annual spring game and scrimmages ... Was in on six tackles in one of the team's spring scrimmages ... Was redshirted while working 2000: Was all-league, all-Cincinnati legend Moeller High for Coach Steve Klonne ... Was all-league, all-Cincinnati and all-Southwest Ohio as a junior and senior ... Named team captain in 1999 ... Contributed 60 career receptions and nine touchdown catches ... Fourteen of his 17 catches as a junior resulted in first downs ... Earned the team's Big Moe award for his toughness ... Was named the team's most improved junior in 1998 ... Was the state runner-up at 209 pounds in Greco Roman wrestling as a sophomore ... Turned in the fastest 800-meter time by a freshman in Cincinnati during the 1996-97 school year ...

T.J. Jackson

Linebacker

6-1 241 r-Jr. 4VL
Delray Beach, Fla.
Olympic Heights HS.

Saw his experience pay off during the spring ... Moved into the No. 1 spot at the whip linebacker position ... Missed the spring game with a sprained MCL in his left knee, but will be ready to go when practice opens in August ... Possesses good athletic ability and speed ... Picked up some valuable confidence during his showing in the spring ... Was one of the team's most improved players during the spring up to the point of his injury ... A starter on the kickoff team in 2000 ... Also provided depth at the whip position ... Will be the leading candidate for the starting duties there this fall ...

2000: Saw action in nine of the Hokies' 11 regular-season games, plus the Gator Bowl ... Posted eight tackles on kickoff coverage during the season ... Was in on three tackles against West Virginia and two versus Virginia ... Also had tackles against East Carolina, Syracuse and Central Florida ... Saw his only defensive action in the opening game against Akron ... Played offense and defense in two Tech jayvee games, rushing for 61 yards and contributing an interception ... Had two tackles on kickoff coverage against Clemson in the Gator Bowl ... Registered two tackles and a fumble recovery in one spring scrimmage and two tackles and a sack in another ... Injured his left knee but did not require surgery ... Did not play in the Maroon-White game ...

1999: Remained at the whip linebacker position ... Played seven plays at linebacker and one play on special teams in the season-opener against James Madison ... His only other varsity action of the season came on seven special teams plays against Pittsburgh ... Played in two jayvee games ... Turned in personal bests in three of the four major lifts during spring strength and conditioning tests ... Also turned in a 37-inch vertical jump and a 4.36 clocking in the 40-yard dash ... Posted three tackles, including a pair of quarterback sacks,
during Tech's first spring scrimmage …

Had a tackle for loss and five total tackles in another scrimmage … Was in on one tackle during the spring Maroon-White game …

1998: Worked at free safety during the fall while redshirting … Showed improvement during the winter strength and conditioning program … Moved to outside linebacker for spring practice … Contributed four tackles during one spring scrimmage and posted two tackles and a fumble recovery in another … Was in on four tackles in the annual spring game …

High School: Played quarterback, wide receiver and safety for Coach Willie Dadaro at Olympic Heights High … Was named The Boca Raton News Offensive Player of the Year … Listed as the No. 2 strong safety in Florida by The Jacksonville Times-Union, which also listed him among the top 75 recruits in the state … Earned post-season All-American honors from SuperPrep and Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report …

Gained second-team all-state recognition in Class 6A … A first-team all-area and all-county pick … Team MVP his senior and junior years … Accounted for 789 yards rushing and 637 yards passing as a senior … Ran for 10 touchdowns and passed for seven … Contributed 91 tackles, seven interceptions, three fumble recoveries and two blocked field goals … Scored on two kickoff returns and a punt return … Posted five touchdowns in a game against Spanish River, including one on a 78-yard punt return … Compiled 94 tackles and eight interceptions his junior season … Returned two punts and a kickoff for TDs and blocked three field goals and a punt … Finished his career with 21 interceptions … As a senior, helped his team advance to the second round of the state playoffs for the first time ever … Selected for the North-South All-State game, the Outback All-Star game and the Palm Beach County All-Star game …

Personal: Tavarius Mariques Jackson … Born 10/10/79 in Delray Beach, FL … Son of Larry and Charlotte Jackson … Goes by T.J. … Enrolled in residential property management.

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Tavarius Mariques
18

Split End
6-3 206 Sr. OVL
Chesapeake, Va.
Western Branch H.S.

Returns for his second season as the Hokies’ starting split end … Will be looked to for added production following a successful spring … Concentrated on areas where he needed work and made a conscious effort to improve … Became a better student of the game … Made some tough catches and played full speed … Combines outstanding size with excellent athletic ability … Turned in a 41-inch vertical jump during spring athletic performance testing and ran 4.36 in the 40 … Was Tech’s primary pass receiver last season … Started all 12 games and was the only Tech player to catch a pass in every game … Led the team in receiving with 34 catches and averaged 16.9 yards per catch for the season … Ranked eighth in the BIG EAST in receiving yards per game (52.2) … Needs to pick up where he left off in the spring during his summer preparation and be ready to take on a leadership role this fall …

2000: Earned Iron Hokie honors in preseason strength and conditioning tests … Hauled in two passes for 77 yards and ran a reverse for 19 yards in the season opener against Akron … Scored on a 59-yard pass in that game … Caught three passes for 46 yards and one touchdown during the Rutgers game … Posted a career-high seven catches against Pittsburgh for 79 yards … Turned in a personal-best 69-yard touchdown reception against Miami … Finished that game with two catches for 97 yards … Gained 16 yards on a reverse against Temple … Had six receptions for 71 yards in the Virginia game … Registered 34 catches on the season for 574 yards and three TDs … Rushed four times for 29 yards … Caught a 7-yard pass and ran 5

Continued on next page

A Talk With Emmett Johnson

You had a terrific season last year, how did it feel to be able to step right in when André Davis got hurt?

I didn’t want to see André go down, but when he did, all I saw was opportunity and a chance to show what I could do.

Do you have any pregame rituals?

I pray and I hit the Hokie Stone when we come out of the tunnel. That’s about it.

How differently do you look at games now than when you were a freshman?

When I was a freshman, I wasn’t redshirted, so I was fresh out of high school and it was like, ‘Man I am out here playing college football.’ It is a whole different feeling. Now I have the chance to show what my abilities are.

What will you miss most about playing for Tech, and what will you miss least?

I will miss the most is Lane Stadium and the crowds. What I will miss least is 6 a.m., workouts.

What did it feel like to be such a major part of the come-back win over Pittsburgh last year?

That felt good. It was just a chance to show what I could do. It was a big opportunity and I had to cash in on it.
yours on a reverse during Tech’s Gator Bowl win over Clemson … Led the receivers with a 500-pound back squat and a 305-pound power clean during spring testing … Compiled five catches for 69 yards during spring scrimmages … Hauled in a 30-yard touchdown pass in the annual Maroon-White game …

1999: Saw action in every game on both offense and special teams … Earned his first collegiate start against James Madison and caught one pass for nine yards … Had three catches for 62 yards in the UAB game … Hauled in a 41-yard pass in that game for his first touchdown at Tech … Also had three catches against West Virginia for 44 yards … Played a career-high 38 offensive snaps against the Mountaineers … Finished third on the squad in receptions with 10 for 147 yards …

Posted personal bests in the vertical jump (37 1/2 inches) and the 40 (4.33 seconds) during the off-season … Caught a 23-yard pass against Florida State in the Sugar Bowl and gained 12 yards on a reverse … His 515-pound back squat was tops among the receivers during the spring … Hauled in a 35-yard TD pass in Tech’s first spring scrimmage of the spring … Had five catches for 31 yards in another outing … Led all receivers in the Maroon-White game with six catches for 49 yards …

High School: A prep All-American who was listed the No. 5 wide receiver and the No. 28 overall prospect in the nation by SuperPrep … Saw action at quarterback, running back, wide receiver, free safety, strong safety and cornerback for Coach Reggie Brooks during his varsity career at Milford Mill … Also returned kicks … Accumulated nearly 6,000 yards of total offense during his career, passing for 3,343 yards and rushing for 2,430 yards … Threw for 1,109 yards and 18 touchdowns as a starting quarterback his senior year … Added 1,138 yards and 10 TDs on the ground … Returned three kickoffs for touchdowns …

Postseason honors … Earned SuperPrep and PrepStar All-America honors … Ranked No. 77 on the National Recruiting Center’s list of Top 100 Players … Rated the Mid-Atlantic Defensive Player of the Year by SuperPrep … An honorable mention All-USA pick by USA Today … Listed as the No. 1 player in Maryland and No. 2 player in the Mid-Atlantic Region by PrepStar … Picked the No. 4 receiver in the Atlantic Region by PrepStar … Named the No. 25 safety in the nation by Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report … Averaged nearly 10 points a game as the starting point guard on the basketball team …


Richard Johnson

Flanker
5-10 189 f-Br.
Baltimore, Md.
Milford Mill Academy

An extremely gifted young player with a bright future … Is still learning how to be a receiver after excelling at quarterback in high school … An exceptionally quick and elusive runner … Possesses outstanding hands … Has confidence handling the football thanks to his experience as a QB … Knows the game and is mentally tough … Is starting to learn all the intangibles that go with being a receiver, including how to create space and how to be able to control the game … Good things will come to him if he’s patient … A leading candidate to return kickoffs … Has a chance to earn some playing time as a receiver … How much time depends on how he continues to progress during the summer and preseason …
Ken Keister
55
Deep Snapper
6-1 • 229 • Jr. • dVL
Radford, Va.
Radford H.S.

Returns as the Hokies’ deep snapper on special teams ... Could be challenged for a portion of his duties when practice opens ... Won the snapping duties for punts, extra points and field goals prior to the 2000 season ... Did an outstanding job handling all three duties for the entire season ... Underwent arthroscopic knee surgery following the season ... Still snapped during spring practices, but did not play in the Maroon-White game ... Has also seen practice time at both defensive end positions during his time at Tech ... A team player and consistent performer ... Can always be counted on for top effort ... Brings experience and a steady hand to the Hokies’ special teams ... 2000: Took over all the snapping duties after serving as a backup in 1999 ... Started every game ... Handled 114 snaps during the regular season ... 1999: Was a member of the travel squad as a backup snapper ... Did not see action and was redshirted ... Bench pressed 330 pounds during fall testing ... Improved his back squat to 500 pounds ... Registered quarterback sacks in two of Tech’s spring scrimmages and added three tackles, including one behind the line, in another ... 1998: Joined the team as a walk-on when school started ... Practiced at defensive end ... Recovered a fumble in a jayvee win over Fork Union Military Academy ... Improved in all four major lifts during spring strength and conditioning tests ... Got some work as a deep snapper during the spring ... High School: Earned three letters as a defensive end, linebacker and running back for Coach Norm Lineburg at Radford ... Was first-team all-district, all-region and all-state as a defensive end his senior season ... Earned second-team all-district honors as a running back ... Helped team to a region championship in ’97 ... Contributed 153 tackles, seven sacks and three fumble recoveries as a senior ... Missed his junior year due to an injury ... Lettered two years in basketball and soccer ... Personal: Kenneth Robert Keister ... Born 8/13/80 in Radford, VA ... Son of Robert Keister and Judy Harris ... Studying physical education.

Chris Krebs
37
Rover
6-1 • 215 • Sr. • 3VL
Burke, Va.
Robinson H.S.

Has been a mainstay on Tech’s special teams for three seasons ... Also provides depth at the rover position ... Suffered a broken bone in his forearm during the Virginia game and underwent surgery ... Missed the Gator Bowl game ... An intelligent player who works hard ... Tech’s Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year ... Continued on next page

A Talk With Chris Krebs

How difficult has it been for you to balance football with excelling academically?
It’s been very difficult. I’ve spent a lot of sleepless nights working, but I always had the goal of graduating at the top of my class while doing well in football. It’s been very hard. I think one of my best skills is time management and that has enabled me to excel both on and off the field.

Do you have any rituals, superstitions, or routines you go through before games?
I don’t tape my ankles on game day. I taped my ankles twice — once against Florida State, and the second time against Miami. After that, I stopped taping my ankles for games.

With a change at quarterback this season, what are your predictions for the team?
I believe in Grant Noel, and I’ve been saying that since I came to school here. People would not be on the team if they were not supposed to be here. Grant is an excellent athlete and quarterback. I expect him to become a leader on the field. I think the team will do great.

What is it like being part of a team that has, for the past couple of years, been thrust into the national spotlight?
The reason I came to Tech was because I saw Tech had beaten the University of Texas Longhorns in the Sugar Bowl my junior year of high school. I wanted to be a part of that. Coming in when it was sort of on the ground floor and watching the whole thing get kicked off has been awesome. I think football has been a great way for Tech to get exposure and I think it also helps with enrollment. I think national recognition has helped the university on other levels besides athletics.

2001 Virginia Tech Football 85
Krebs, continued
for the 1999-2000 school year ... A two-
time member of the BIG EAST All-
Academic Football Team ... Will be looked to
for senior leadership ...

2000: Started on the kickoff and
kickoff return teams ... Posted eight
tackles on kickoff coverage during the
season ... Saw special teams action in
every game ... Got brief action at rover
against Akron and West Virginia ... Posted
the third best time among the
defensive backs in the NFL shuttle run
with a 4.03 clocking during the spring ...
Was in on three tackles during one of the
Hokies' spring scrimmages ...

1999: Played 11 snaps at rover
against James Madison in the season
opener and was in on one tackle ... Also
had 11 tackles in defense at Rutgers and
contributed two tackles ... Saw brief
defensive action against Syracuse and
Temple ... Posted 17 plays on special
teams against both Rutgers and Boston
College ... Collected seven tackles during the
season ... Turned in one of the best
times on the team in the 20-yard shuttle
run during the spring with a timing of 4.07
seconds ... Continued to work at the rover
spot in spring practice ...

1998: Contributed as a starter on the
kickoff return team and a backup on two
other special teams ... Played in a total of
10 games ... Worked at rover, but only
saw brief action on defense during the
Clemson game ... Got some playing time
in Tech's Music City Bowl win against
Alabama ... Turned in one of the best
back squats among the defensive backs with
a 500-pound squats during spring
testing ... Was in on a tackle during the
annual spring game ...

1997: Redshirted during the fall while
working at the rover position ... Tied for
the top back squat among the defensive
backs during spring testing with a lift of
510 pounds ... Turned in a vertical jump of
36 inches ... Continued to work at rover
during spring practice ... Added 12
pounds during the course of the year ...

High School: Earned three letters as
a free safety and receiver for Coach Nick
Hilgert at James W. Robinson High ... Only
played in five games his senior year
due to an injury ... Still managed over 50
tackles ... Earned all-district honors his
junior year when he posted 59 tackles and
a pair of interceptions ... Was named the
team's most valuable defensive player ...
Earned the nickname "Captain Crunch"
for his hard-hitting style ... Played in the
Chesapeake Football Classic following his
senior year ... A member of the National
Honor Society ... Valedictorian of his
class ...

Personal: John Christopher Krebs ...
Born 1/5/79 in Alexandria, LA ... Son of
John and Mitzi Krebs ... Studying
management science and information
technology.

Jason Lallis
91
Defensive End
6-0 244 v. Fr.
Mitchellville, Md.
DeMatha H.S.

A young player who showed good
ability while being redshirted last year ...
Impressed Tech's coaches with his
determination and style of play ... Has a
great motor ... Plays hard and pursues
the football ... Got some valuable reps at
the stud end position during spring
practice and finished third on the depth
chart ... Should get better and better as
he gains additional experience and
strength ... Will be a candidate for special
teams duty ... Could contend for some
duty at end with a good summer
preparation and preseason showing ...

2000: Practiced at the end position
while redshirting in the fall ... Posted a
530-pound back squat during spring
testing ... Finished spring practice at the
stud end position ...

High School: Helped DeMatha to a
33-2-1 record during his varsity career ...
Played tight end and defensive end for
Coach Bill McGregor ... Caught six
passes for 76 yards and one touchdown ...
Also grabbed a two-point conversion
pass ... Posted 105 tackles on defense,
including 82 solos ... Recorded 12
quarterback sacks, three fumble
recoveries and an interception ... Had
four sacks in a game against McNamara ...
Voted the team's MVP by his
teammates ... Named first-team on The
Washington Post All-Metro squad ... Also
earned all-county, all-conference and
consensus all-state honors ... Named to
George Michael's Golden 11 team ... A
SuperPrep and PrepStar All-American ...
Ranked the No. 2 tight end and No. 16
player in the Atlantic Region by PrepStar ...
Listed the No. 43 defensive lineman in
the nation by SuperPrep ... An honorable-
mention All-USA pick by USA Today ...
Listed in Who's Who Among American
High School Students ...

Personal: Jason Christopher Lallis ...
Born 2/4/82 in Washington, DC ... Son of
Everett, Jr., and Martha Lallis ...
Studying marketing.

Kevin Lewis
70
Defensive Tackle
6-1 280 So. 4VL
Richmond, Va.
Varina H.S.

Figures to see a good share of the
action this season at defensive tackle ...
Gained some valuable experience last
year as a true freshman ... Was one of
the team's most improved players during the
spring ... Has shown an outstanding
ability to make plays ... A physical,
aggressive player who runs well ... Is
working to become a better pass rusher ...
Has benefited from the athletic
performance program ... May not be as
big as some defensive tackles, but can
hold his own at the point of attack ...
Should help make the defensive line one
of the Hokies' strong points ...

2000: Was in for 21 plays in Tech's
opener against Akron and contributed
a pair of tackles ... Had two tackles and two
quarterback hurries at East Carolina ...
Posted tackles behind the line in back-to-
back games against Temple and West
Virginia ... Did not play against Boston
College, Syracuse and Pittsburgh ... Was
in on two tackles during the Miami game ...
Played 26 plays at UCF and registered
two tackles, including one for loss ... Had
a season-best three tackles against
Virginia ... Compiled 15 total tackles
during the regular season with three
coming behind the line ... Contributed a
tackle in the Hokies' win over Clemson in
the Gator Bowl ... Improved his bench
press to 390 pounds during the off-season
and ran the 40 in 4.86 seconds ... Got a
lot of reps during spring practice ... Had
three tackles behind the line in Tech's first
spring scrimmage and two more in the
second scrimmage ... Blocked a field goal
during another scrimmage ... Posted five
tackles, including a sack, in the Maroon-
White game ... Shared the Dr. Richard
Bullock Award for the Hokies' most
improved defensive player with fellow
tackle Channing Reed ...

1999: Enrolled in school for the
second semester ... Bench pressed 370
pounds during spring strength and
conditioning tests ... Also turned in a 550-
pound back squat and a 316-pound power
clean ... Got a lot of repetitions in spring
practice at tackle when starter Chad
Beasley was sidelined by an injury ... Was
in on six tackles during the Hokies' first

86 2001 Virginia Tech Football
Brandon Manning

**Linebacker**

6-0 211 ½ Jr.

Harrisburg, Pa.

Central Dauphin H.S.

Has been a pleasant surprise since joining the team as an invited walk-on last fall. Got a chance to get some extra reps at the whip linebacker position during the spring and made the most of his opportunity. Proved to be a quick learner. Is tough and physical. Deals well with adversity. Made strides during the winter strength and conditioning program. A candidate for special teams action. Will enter preseason practice No. 3 at whip and expected to vie for some playing time.

2000: Redshirted while working at whip linebacker. Bench pressed 360 pounds during spring testing. Also had a 34 1/2-inch vertical jump and ran the 40 in 4.47. Posted seven tackles in the Maroon-White spring game. Also intercepted a pass and returned it 31 yards.

Prep School: Attended the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School in Colorado Springs for one year. Was the defensive captain on the football team.

High School: A four-year starter at fullback and defensive end for Coach Ed Buellherr. Earned first-team Group AAA all-state honors as a defensive lineman. Named the No. 22 prospect in the state by The Roanoke Times and was rated No. 22 by SuperPrep. Picked the No. 11 linebacker in the ACC Region by PrepStar. Shared Richmond Times-Dispatch Player of the Year honors for the Richmond area with Matt Farrior. Carried the football 138 times his senior year for 989 yards and 14 touchdowns. Contributed 123 tackles on defense, including 11 sacks and 25 total tackles behind the line. Collected 13 tackles in a game against Hopewell. Was a first-team all-district and all-region selection. Turned in 64 tackles and five sacks as a junior. Helped the team to 41 wins and three regional championships. Threw the shot put for the track team and also played basketball.


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<th>AT</th>
<th>Tot.</th>
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Alex Markogiannakis

**Linebacker**

5-9 208 ½ Jr.

Chantilly, Va.

Robinson H.S.

Put himself in position to see some playing time with his work during the winter and spring. Is committed to being a good football player. Has worked hard to learn the Tech system. An instinctive player with great vision. Has a knack of making plays. Is solid against both the run and the pass. Helped provide depth at the mike linebacker position last season. Saw limited action in four games. Also worked with the kickoff team. Could figure into Tech’s plans this fall.

2000: Got a taste of action at linebacker against Akron and Virginia. Was in on a tackle in the opener against the Zips. Also saw brief special teams action against Rutgers and West Virginia. Posted three tackles, including a sack and another tackle behind the line, during the annual Maroon-White spring game. Also broke up a pass in that game.

1999: Joined the varsity squad for the Rutgers game and saw action on 11 snaps. Contributed two tackles against the Scarlet Knights. Also was in on two tackles in games against Syracuse and Temple. Posted a total of seven tackles in his four appearances. Showed marked improvement in the strength and conditioning program during the year. Had a pair of tackles in two different spring scrimmages. Also contributed a tackle in the annual spring game.

1998: Joined the team as a walk-on when school started. Was sidelined the first part of the fall with hamstring and foot injuries. Worked at Mike linebacker when he returned. Was redshirted. Intercepted a pass during one of Tech’s spring scrimmages. Contributed a pair of tackles during the spring game.

High School: Helped Robinson High to a 1-14 record and the state Division 6 championship as a senior. Was a four-year lettermen at linebacker for Coach Mark Bendorf. Named the Northern Region Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. Also picked first-team all-state. Picked to The Washington Post All-Metro team. Was in on over 200 tackles as a senior, including 24 in the regional championship game. Also contributed 12 sacks, three fumble recoveries and two interceptions during the season. Earned first-team all-district and all-region honors as a junior. Runner up to Ronald Curry as the top Group AAA defensive player in the state. Finished his career as Robinson’s all-time leading tackler. Played in the high school all-star game and the Chesapeake Classic All-Star game.

Personal: Alex Markogiannakis. Born 1/22/80 in Fairfax, VA. Son of Chris and Helen Markogiannakis. Enrolled in human services.

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Jared Mazzetta

**Tight End**

6-1 245 ½ Fr.

Flemington, N.J.

Hunterdon Central H.S.

Benefited from a redshirt year in 2000. Showed good progress at tight end. Possesses a good frame. Added some strength and bulk. Must continue to get stronger. Got some extra reps during the spring and was a steady performer. Has a chance to contribute in some fashion this fall. Needs to make a good summer preparation and come back ready to compete. Could have a shot at playing time on special teams.

Continued on next page...
Mazzetta, continued

2000: Worked at tight end and was redshirted ... Added 10 pounds and increased his bench press 60 pounds during the fall ... Caught an 18-yard pass in one of the Hokies' spring scrimmages ...

High School: Rated the No. 11 tight end in the nation by SuperPrep ... Earned All-America honors from SuperPrep and PrepStar ... Selected the No. 2 tight end in the East by PrepStar ... Listed the No. 8 prospect in New Jersey by SuperPrep ... A three-year letterman as a tight end and defensive lineman for Coach Jim Meert ... Hauled in 21 passes for 300 yards and three TDs as a senior ... Contributed over 70 tackles and seven quarterback sacks on defense ... Blocked two punts and a field goal ... Returned his blocked field goal for a touchdown to give Hunterdon Central a victory in the state semifinals ... Was all-county, all-area and all-state ... Caught 27 passes for more than 400 yards during his junior season ... Added 50 tackles, six sacks, an interception and a blocked punt ... Posted career totals of 67 receptions for 1,019 yards and nine TDs ... Compiled 17 sacks and over 200 tackles ... Set a school career mark for most receptions by a tight end ... Helped his team to back-to-back state championships in 1998 and 1999 ...

Personal: Jared Albert Mazzetta ... Born 6/4/81 in Plainfield, NJ ... Son of Mary Mazzetta and Anthony Mazzetta ... Enrolled in university studies.

Kevin McCadam

Rover
6-1 219 Sr. 4VL
Lakeside, Calif.
El Capitan H.S.

Moved from free safety to rover during the spring ... Made an excellent transition ... Benefited from adding 10 pounds during the winter off-season program ... Became a more physical player during the spring ... Learned to make quicker decisions ... A solid pass defender with good speed ... Should be a good leader ... Made some valuable contributions on defense and special teams last season after transferring to Tech from Grossmont College in California ... Made a run for the starting free safety duties in 2000 before injuring his ankle in preseason practice ... Returned to see action in nine games as the top backup to Willie Pile ... Practiced briefly at corner and saw action at that position in one game

2000: Set free safety position records for the push jerk (316), power clean (294) and vertical jump (37 1/2) during preseason strength and conditioning tests ... Missed the first two games with an ankle injury ... Averaged 20 defensive plays a game after returning to the lineup ... Saw his first action against Rutgers ... Played 32 plays, contributing three assisted tackles and breaking up a pass ... Had three primary tackles in the Boston College game ... Played 22 downs in the secondary and 16 plays on special teams versus Temple ... Turned in a season-high seven tackles, including one for a 4-yard loss, against Miami ... Contributed a quarterback hurry at UCF ... Was in on six tackles in the regular-season finale against Virginia ... Finished with a total of 28 tackles ... Started on the kickoff coverage team ... Registered three tackles versus Tech's Gator Bowl win over Clemson ... Bench pressed 340 during spring testing and posted a 450-pound back squat ... Moved to rover during spring practice ... Returned an interception 90 yards for a touchdown in one of the spring scrimmages ... Also had a sack and

You are a long way from your home in California. What brought you to the campus of Virginia Tech?
It was really one of the only scholarship offers I had and it was a great opportunity for me to come play for a national championship contender. I couldn’t ask for anything more.

What was the cross-country trip like?
It was a long drive, and it took 40 hours to get here. We drove all day and all night. We rested a little bit, but I didn’t take any time to stop.

How is the position change from free safety to rover going to affect the way you approach the game?
I like it. It was a definite adjustment in the spring when I moved to rover, but I am starting to pick it up. I think it suits me a little better than free safety, so I’m looking forward to it.

What lessons have you learned on the football field that you can apply to everyday life?
Just being accountable for things. That’s because on the football field, you have to do that all the time. There are 11 guys out there and if you don’t do your job, then everything is going to go down hill. So you have to be accountable and trust everybody else.

If you were on Survivor what would be your one luxury item?
I would say my guitar but that would probably get me kicked off because I am not very good.
Kevin McCadam (5)

James Miller
Offensive Guard
6-5 291 fr.
Pompano Beach, Fla.
P. Lauderdale H.S.

Jon Mollerup
Place-kicker
5-11 202 r-Jr.
Lyndhurst, Va.
Stuarts Draft H.S.

A promising newcomer who has made a big impression in a short time … Enter...
Mollerup, continued

earned letters in soccer, golf, tennis and basketball ... Helped the soccer team to the state finals ... A member of the National Honor Society ... Taught English as a second language in Slovakia through a church missions trip ... A registered U.S. soccer referee for community soccer leagues and clubs ... U.S. Army National Scholar Athlete ...

Personal: Jonathan Richard Mollerup ... Born 11/15/79 in Wilmington, DE ... Son of Richard and Donna Mollerup ... Studying civil engineering.

Ronald Moody

Split End
6-1 190 v-So.
Chesapeake, Va.
Great Bridge H.S.

Has some ground to make up after missing the second half of spring practice due to a high ankle sprain ... Got some exposure to the split end position in his first varsity year ... Saw most of his action during the second half of the season ... Picked up some valuable experience ... Joined the team as a walk-on and worked his way up the depth chart with steady improvement ... Showed good effort and looked comfortable at split end prior to his injury in the spring ... Needs a good summer preparation and continued effort in preseason practice to get back on track ...

2000: Worked six plays on offense during the season opener against Akron ... Got seven total plays in the Rutgers game ... Turned in his first pass reception against Pittsburgh for a 12-yard gain ... Caught an 8-yard pass at Miami ... Played a season-high 17 snaps against Virginia ... Saw action in a total of seven games, catching three passes for 21 yards ... Worked on several special team units as a backup ... Also played in Tech's two jayvee games ... Caught six passes for 73 yards during the two outings ... Posted a 4.32 time in the 40 during spring testing ... Injured his ankle midway through spring practice and did not play in the Maroon-White game ...

1999: Spent a redshirt year working at split end ... Turned in a 450-pound bench press during spring testing ... Improved his 40 time to 4.45 seconds, third best among the receivers ... Gained 21 yards on a pass reception in Tech's first spring scrimmage ... Added an 8-yard catch in another scrimmage ...

Did not have a catch in the annual spring game ...

High School: Saw action at seven different positions during three varsity seasons at Great Bridge ... Got some playing time at quarterback, running back, wide receiver and tight end on offense ... Worked at free safety, defensive end and linebacker during his time on defense ...

Was named the team's MVP his senior season ... Rushed for over 400 yards and three touchdowns his senior season ... Also caught nine passes for 200 yards and a TD ... Blocked two punts, including one for a touchdown against Lakeland ...

Contributed 42 tackles and three fumble recoveries on defense ... Saw action as a return man, averaging 25 yards on kickoff returns and 15.6 yards on punt returns ...

Hauled in 12 passes for 232 yards and three touchdowns his junior season ...

Two of those TD catches came in Great Bridge's Homecoming game in 1997 ...

Personal: Ronald Francis Moody, Jr. ... Born 10/26/81 in Portsmouth, VA ... Son of Ronald, Sr., and Barbara Moody ... Enrolled in university studies.

Receiving

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Anthony Nelson

Offensive Guard
6-4 613 v-So.
Kingsport, Tenn.
Sullivan South H.S.

Really stood out in pass protection during spring practice ... Has a good center of gravity, strong hands and can lock people out ... His size and tremendous strength also make him solid as a run blocker ... Got a lot of reps during the spring at left guard ... Was one of just four players to reach all six of his goals during 2000 summer strength and conditioning tests ... Saw action in two varsity games last season ... Picked up some extra experience by playing in both of the Hokies' jayvee games ... Has a chance to earn some major playing time this fall if he stays in playing shape and continues working to improve his quickness ...

2000: Turned in a 425-pound bench press, a 610-pound back squat and a 371-pound push jerk on the way to Super Iron Hokie honors prior to the season ...

Saw action on nine total plays against Akron ... Played a season-best 15 snaps in the Rutgers game ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors again in the spring when he improved his back squat to 650 pounds and notched a 316-pound power clean ...

1999: Missed almost a month of practice while recovering from a partially-torn Achilles tendon suffered prior to arriving on campus ... Worked at left guard when he was cleared for practice ... Was redshirted ... Earned Iron Hokie honors in the weight room during spring testing ... Bench pressed 420 pounds ...

Added a 600-pound back squat — second best among the offensive linemen — and a 351-pound push jerk ... Dropped nearly 20 pounds by the end of the winter off-season program ...

Prep School: Originally signed with Tech out of high school ... Prepaped at Hargrave, where he started at offensive tackle for Coach Lonnie Messick ...

High School: Lettered four years as a two-way tackle for Coach Greg Jordan ... Listed as the No. 2 offensive line prospect in Tennessee and the No. 14 player overall by The Kingsport Times-News after his senior season at Sullivan South ... Gained prep All-America honors from Max Emfinger ... An honorable mention selection on USA Today's All-USA team ... A consensus first-team Class 4A all-state pick on defense as a junior and on offense as a senior ...

Earned All-Northeast Tennessee Defensive Player of the Year honors as a junior ... Named the Bristol Herald Courier Defensive Lineman of the Year in 1997 ... Had 82 pancake blocks his senior season on offense and over 80 tackles on defense ... Added two sacks, five fumble recoveries, three blocked field goals, two safeties and a blocked punt ... Graded 85 percent blocking on offense ... Registered 18 sacks and over
120 tackles his junior year ... Posted 290 career tackles and 120 pancake blocks ... A weight man and four-year letterman in track ... Played first base and lettered three times in baseball ... Has bench pressed 460 pounds ... 

**Personal:** Anthony Matthew Nelson ... Born 2/18/79 in Kingsport, TN ... Son of Ralph and Sue Nelson ... Studying physical education.

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**Grant Noel**

**Quarterback**

6-1 224 v-Jr.

Ridgeley, W.Va.

Frankfort H.S.

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Is expected to open the season as the Hokies’ starting quarterback after moving into the No. 1 spot at the end of spring practice ... Showed good poise and competitiveness ... A good athlete who can run the option ... Does not have a wealth of game experience, but does have the benefit of three years in the Tech system ... Was in the thick of the battle for the No. 2 quarterback spot each of the last two seasons ... Has shown improvement in his decision making ... Can execute the passing game ... Possesses toughness and a great desire to succeed ... Must continue working during the off-season to improve his passing accuracy ... Played an important role in Tech’s win at Central Florida last season ... Worked hard during the winter preparing for the new challenge ... Stepped into a leadership role during the spring and did a lot of good things ... Has enough positives to win football games ... 

**2000:** Saw action in three games ... Took 20 snaps in the opening game against Akron ... Completed 2 of 5 passes for 28 yards ... Had a career-best 21-yard completion to tight end Keith Willis in that game ... Also went 2-for-5 passing in the Rutgers game for 21 yards ... Ran four yards for a TD in another spring outing ... Completed just 3 of 11 passes in the annual Maroon-White game for 44 yards ... Led the victorious White team in rushing with 27 yards on six carries ... Set up his team’s winning touchdown with a 29-yard pass ... 

**1998:** Redshirted as a freshman ... Was slowed briefly by an injured left shoulder during the fall ... Made strides in the winter strength and conditioning program ... Was 4-for-4 passing for 47 yards in one of Tech’s spring scrimmages ... Went 2-for-2 in another scrimmage with a 25-yard touchdown pass ... Did not complete a pass in his two attempts during the annual spring game but picked up 18 yards on the ground on a pair of runs ... 

**High School:** Lettered four seasons for Coach Greg Phillips at Frankfort High ... Played quarterback in a run-oriented offense ... Passed for 597 yards and four touchdowns his senior season ... Added 267 yards and eight TDs on the ground ... Completed 8 of 11 passes for 157 yards and two touchdowns against Moorefield ... Was a preseason and post-season All-America pick by PrepStar ... Rated the No. 2 quarterback in the Eastern Region by that publication ... Passed for over 1,000 yards and 13 TDs as a junior ... Was only intercepted three times that season ... Connected on 11 of 17 passes for 236 yards and a pair of touchdowns versus Jefferson County High ... Helped the football team to a 29-4 record during his career ... Also lettered in basketball and baseball ... 

**Personal:** David Grant Noel ... Born 6/11/80 in Low Moor, VA ... Son of David and Lori Noel ... Enrolled in communication studies.

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**Luke Owens**

**Offensive Guard**

6-3 310 v-Jr. 2VL

Grundy, Va.

Grundy H.S.

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Is expected to challenge for the starting left guard duties ... Sat out spring practice while recovering from arthroscopic ankle surgery in March ... Has been cleared to resume work during the summer ... Is the Hokies’ most experienced player at the guard position ... Was the No. 2 man at right guard last season ... Also served as a starter on special teams ... Saw increased playing time in 2000 despite a sore knee ... Underwent reconstructive knee surgery in January ... Has great balance to go with his knowledge of the game ... Is expected to back up at right guard as well as contribute on the left side ... How much of a contribution he is able to make will be a matter of keeping healthy and staying in good playing shape ... 

**2000:** Got playing time at guard in 10 of 11 games ... Worked a season-high 26 offensive snaps in the Rutgers game ... Also had seven special teams plays against the Scarlet Knights ... Played 18 downs at guard at Miami ... Started every game as a member of the extra point and field goal units ... Saw some action in the Gator Bowl ... Underwent surgery to his right knee after the season and had ankle surgery in March ... Did not participate in spring contact work ... 

**1999:** Was in for 10 offensive plays against James Madison and 12 versus Rutgers ... Also got playing time at guard against Virginia, Syracuse, Miami and Boston College ... Spent most of his time working at right guard ... Moved to the left side the week before the BC game ... Underwent arthroscopic knee surgery prior to the bowl ... Returned to right guard for the bowl game and spring practice ... 

**1998:** Worked at offensive guard while redshirting ... Showed improvement during winter strength and conditioning workouts ... Moved from left guard to right guard for spring practice ... 

**High School:** Earned All-America honors as both a football player and a wrestler at Grundy High School ... The No. 1 ranked heavyweight wrestler in the nation as a junior and senior ... A six-time ... 

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Continued on next page
Junior National All-American ... 1997
Junior National Freestyle champion ... Also a PrepStar preseason and post-season A-A lineman in football ... Rated the No. 4 offensive lineman in the ACC Region by that publication ... A first-team Group AA pick on offense by both the coaches and the AP ... Also a second-team defensive pick by the state coaches ... Played along the offensive and defensive lines for Coach Greg Rowe ... Even saw action at linebacker during his career ... Posted over 80 tackles on defense as a senior and added two sacks ... Was in on 111 tackles his junior year and contributed four interceptions and three sacks ... Recorded 15 tackles in a state semi-final game against Salem that season ...

**Personal:** Joshua Luke Owens ...
Born 5/12/79 in Pikeville, KY ... Son of Harry and Kim Owens ... Studying physical education.

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### Terrell Parham

**Flanker**

6-0 • 196 • r-Jr. • 1VL

Bartow, Fla.

Bartow H.S.

Is one of the Hokies’ most talented receivers ... Possesses outstanding body control and athletic ability ... Played as well as any receiver during early spring practices ... Did what was asked and made a big improvement ... Worked and concentrated on a lot of little things ... Was able to react better ... Saw limited action at split end during the 2000 season ... Helped the team to a district title in ’97 ... Rushed for 45 yards on the ground in the title game against Lake Wales and added 85 yards during the year ... Was a Super Iron Hokie again in the spring ... Moved to split end in the spring ...

**1998:** Worked at flanker during a redshirt year ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors in November ... Bench pressed 320 pounds and had a 450-pound back squat ... Caught two passes for 35 yards in one spring scrimmage, including a 27-yard touchdown pass ... Also hauled in a 19-yard touchdown reception during the Hokies’ annual spring game ...

**High School:** Played running back, wide receiver and defensive back for Coach Kenny Wells at Bartow ... Also returned kicks ... Started on the Bartow team that went 14-1 and won the state Class 4-A championship in 1996 ...

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### Robert Peaslee

**Punter**

6-0 • 201 • r-So. • 1VL

Pulaski, Va.

Pulaski County H.S.

Will challenge Vinnie Burns for the punting duties when practice opens in August ... Served as the Hokies’ starting punter during the 2000 season ... Showed potential, but struggled at times with his consistency ... Finished behind Burns in competition for the starting job during spring practice ... Is expected to continue his job as the holder on Tech’s field goal and extra point teams ... Will get another shot at the punting duties ...

**2000:** Saw action on over 100 special team plays ... Punted 44 times on the season for 1,555 yards, an average of 35.3 yards per punt ... Put at least one punt inside the opposing team’s 20-yard line in 10 of Tech’s 11 regular-season games ... Had a total of 14 punts downed inside the 20 ... Suffered one blocked kick at Syracuse ... Averaged 45.7 yards on three punts in the Rutgers game ... Carried a 42.8-yard average on four kicks in the Syracuse game ... Had season-best 51-yard punts against Syracuse and Virginia ... Punted five times for a 40-yard average versus UVa ... Had two punts for a 32-yard average in the Gator Bowl ...

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**High School:** Lettered three seasons as a punter for Coach Joel Hicks at Pulaski Country ... Earned first-team all-state honors as a senior ... Averaged 42.8 yards per punt for the season ... Punted five times for a 46.3-yard average in one game ... Carried a 41.9-yard average his junior year ... Was named first-team all-district and all-region and second-team...
John F. Kennedy H.S.

A young player who is expected to push for the No. 1 job at whip linebacker ... Got a great deal of work at the position during spring practice ... Showed excellent potential ... Is very athletic ... Hits hard and plays with a great motor ... Contributed to Tech’s success as a starter on special teams last season ... Worked at wide receiver when he first came to Tech ... Moved to defense during 2000 spring drills and practiced at free safety ... Switched to whip linebacker last fall ... Needs to gain experience ... Should have a chance to gain plenty this fall ...

2000: Played in all 11 games as a starter on the punt return and kickoff teams ... Was in for 16 special teams plays against both Rutgers and West Virginia ... Posted two tackles in games against East Carolina, Rutgers, and Central Florida ... Saw action on 130 plays ... Finished with eight total tackles ... Also practiced at the whip linebacker position, but did not see game action on

Continued on next page
Defense ... Improved in seven of nine categories during spring athletic performance tests ... Combined a 37 1/2-inch vertical jump with a 4.42 time in the 40 ... Registered seven tackles in one of the Hokies’ spring scrimmages, including one behind the line ... Posted a sack and four tackles in the Maroon-White game ... 1999: Began his redshirt season working at flanker ... Was moved to split end in mid-September ... Recorded a 450-pound back squat during spring testing ... Moved to defense for spring practice ... Worked at free safety ... Contributed two tackles during the Maroon-White spring game ...

High School: Rated the No. 75 prospect in the Midwest by SuperPrep ... Picked as the No. 89 player on Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report All-Midwest team ... Named to PrepStar’s All-Midwest Region squad ... A preseason All-America pick by Lemming ... Earned first-team all-county, All-Northeast Ohio and all-state as a defensive back ... Also saw action at quarterback, running back ... and receiver for Coach Tony Napolet ... Helped his team to a regional title his senior year ... Caught 21 passes for 396 yards and six touchdowns in 1998 ... Added 125 yards rushing on 11 carries ... Talled 69 tackles on defense and intercepted two passes, returning one 82 yards for a touchdown ... Returned six kickoffs for 248 yards and had 12 punt returns for 97 yards ... Also earned letters in basketball, track and baseball during his prep career at JFK and Warren Harding high schools ...

Personal: Deon Leonard Provitt ... Born 10/22/80 in Warren, Ohio ... Son of Virginia Hall ... Enrolled in university studies.

Tackles G UT AT Tot. Loss Sacks
2000 11 3 5 8 0 0 0

Extra Point

Virginia Tech is one of only seven teams to go to a bowl game each of the last eight years. The other six teams are Florida, Florida State, Kansas State, Michigan, Nebraska and Tennessee.
David Pugh

Preseason by Lindy’s \ldots Started all 12 tackles on the Division I-A level during the season. Looked to for leadership and a great senior strength when practice resumes \ldots Will be sprained knee \ldots Should be at full surgery during the winter \ldots Was held out rushing defense \ldots Underwent ankle of the reasons Tech led the BIG EAST in an extra point against Pittsburgh \ldots One \ldots Also played on special teams and blocked two tackles on the season, including four tackles, three quarterback hurries and a sack during the spring. Contributed a total of 34 tackles, forced a fumble and recovered a fumble during the Maroon-White game \ldots **1998:** Averaged over 20 plays a game in his first collegiate season \ldots Played in every game \ldots Contributed two tackles in the opener against East Carolina and three versus Clemson \ldots Was in on five tackles against Pittsburgh, UAB and Syracuse \ldots Had two tackles behind the line in the UAB game \ldots Registered a sack for a 12-yard loss against WVU \ldots Credited with two quarterback hurries against Pittsburgh \ldots Saw playing time on a season-high 30 snaps against both Pittsburgh and Syracuse \ldots Finished with a total of 29 tackles, including one sack and three other tackles behind the line \ldots Hurled opposing quarterbacks four times \ldots Bench pressed 390 pounds and ran a 4.69 in the 40 during spring testing \ldots Missed some time in the spring with an ankle injury \ldots Was in on a pair of tackles during the spring game \ldots **1997:** Took a redshirt year while working at defensive tackle \ldots Turned in the best time among the defensive tackles in the 20-yard shuttle run with a time of 4.41 seconds \ldots Collected four sacks and two other tackles behind the line during Tech’s five spring scrimmages \ldots Was voted one of the team’s top newcomers following spring practice \ldots

**High School:** Earned All-America honors from PrepStar, which named him to its ACC Region Super 26 team and listed him as the No. 3 OL in the ACC Region \ldots A three-time all-area, all-district and all-region pick for Coach Mickey Crouch at Amherst County \ldots Earned first-team Group AAA all-state honors as a senior in ’96 \ldots Was second-team All-Group AA his junior year \ldots Played offensive guard and defensive tackle \ldots Played on three district championship teams and two regional title-holders \ldots Helped team to a Group AA championship as a junior \ldots Saw team move to AAA level his senior season \ldots Was in on over 100 tackles in ’96, including 16 against Pulaski County \ldots Had three sacks in that game and 12 for the season \ldots Posted 95 tackles and 11 sacks as a junior \ldots

**Personal:** David Winston Pugh, Jr. \ldots Born 7/24/79 in Madison Heights, VA \ldots Son of Dave and Susan Pugh \ldots Enrolled in human services.
A Talk With Channing Reed

After transferring from Montgomery College, how have you found Division I football different than the junior college level?
The D-I game is much faster and most of the players are bigger and stronger. You can’t get away with just being an athlete because it comes down to technique, fundamentals and coaching points.

Did the amount of snaps you saw this past season surprise you?
It kind of did because a lot of people from junior college redshirt or do not get a lot of playing time. So that’s why it surprised me, and that’s why I was upset when I got hurt early in the season.

Do your teammates ever get on you about your dreadlocks?
All of the time. Them and everyone else on campus. They want me to cut them and I might do it this year.

How did it make you feel to have a big game on national television when Virginia Tech beat East Carolina on ESPN last season?
It felt really good. It was my first time playing on national television and I got to show what I had, so it made me very happy.

You did some kicking in high school. When are Hokie fans going to see you line up for a winning field goal?
Never. Those days are behind me now!

Channing Reed

53

Defensive Tackle
G-2 ½11 Sr. • VL
Trenton, N.J.
Trenton Central H.S.

Is coming off a good spring practice … Was named one of the team’s most improved players … Understands the Tech system more … A big body who gets a good push inside … Helped the Hokies lead the BIG EAST in rushing defense … Also has some pass rush skills … Will try to drop some weight during the summer to gain more quickness and a chance to play more reps … Provided solid support along the defensive line in 2000 after transferring to Tech from junior college … Saw action as the No. 2 man behind David Pugh … Is expected to be an important contributor along the defensive front again this fall …

2000: Turned in the best bench press among Tech’s newcomers during the preseason with a lift of 360 pounds … Enjoyed his best performance at East Carolina with six tackles, a quarterback sack for minus-10 yards and a quarterhury … Was in on three tackles in games against Akron and Miami … Played a season-best 27 defensive plays against ECU … Had two tackles and a hurry in the UCF game … Missed the Temple game … Finished the season with 21 total tackles … Played in the Gator Bowl game … Posted personal bests in all four major lifts during spring testing, including a 340-pound push jerk … Had three sacks and another tackle for loss in one of Tech’s spring scrimmages … Turned in a tackle for loss in the Maroon-White game … Shared the Dr. Richard Bullock Award as Tech’s most improved defensive player with Kevin Lewis …

Junior College: Posted 104 tackles and 12.5 quarterback sacks to help Montgomery College to the junior college playoffs … Hurried the quarterback six times during the ’99 season and forced two fumbles … Also had two fumble returns for a total of 43 yards … Was one of the team’s captains … Ranked the No. 46 junior college prospect in the nation by Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report … Named second-team All-America by the NJCAA … An honorable-mention All-America pick by JC Grid-Wire … Voted the team’s defensive MVP …

High School: Played linebacker during his prep career at Trenton Central High … Also contributed as a kicker … Lettered three seasons for Coach Lawrence Parker … Posted 90 tackles in his senior season, including six sacks … Added three fumble recoveries and two interceptions … Blocked three kicks … Registered 16 tackles during one game to go with a blocked field goal, two fumble recoveries and a fumble caused … Earned first-team all-county and all-area honors as a junior and senior … Had 65 tackles, nine sacks and six forced fumbles his junior season … Finished his career with 225 tackles, 21 sacks and six interceptions …

Personal: Channing Ajaye Reed … Born 9/19/78 in Trenton, NJ … Son of Denise Reed … Studying sociology.

Tackles
2000 10 11 10 21 0-0 1-0 1-10

Vegas Robinson

6

Linebacker
G-2 433 Jr.-So.
Chesapeake, Va.
Deep Creek H.S.

A promising young player who could be a valuable contributor this season … Got his first taste of collegiate action in...
2000 ... Provided depth at the backer position ... Saw limited action on special teams ... Got a lot of reps during spring practice and performed well ... With starter Ben Taylor sidelined for the spring, he worked mainly with the first team ... Is still learning, but has lots of potential ... Combines speed with good power and explosiveness ... Steady against both the run and the pass ... Has a chance to help the Hokies this fall ... 

2000: Turned in personal bests in all four major lifts during preseason strength and conditioning tests ... Saw his only action at linebacker during the season opener with Akron ... Contributed two tackles in that game ... Appeared in five other games, all on special teams ... Worked with the kickoff and kickoff return teams ... Played a season-best eight plays in the Boston College and Pittsburgh games ... Was in on two tackles at BC ... Finished with four total tackles ... Saw action in the Gator Bowl ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during spring testing ... Led the inside linebackers with a 570-pound back squat, a 38-inch vertical jump and a 4.46 time in the 40 ... Posted five tackles, including two behind the line, during the annual Maroon-White game ... 

1999: Got a brief look at outside linebacker before moving inside to the backer position ... Turned in the best time among the incoming freshmen in the 20-yard shuttle run (4.13 seconds) ... Posted three tackles in one spring scrimmage ... Contributed a sack in another spring outing ... 

High School: Played tailback and linebacker and handled the punt duties for Coach David Cox at Deep Creek ... Named the No. 12 defensive back in the ACC Area by PrepStar ... Listed as the No. 15 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times ... Picked the No. 16 prospect in the state by SuperPrep ... Played briefly as an offensive guard during his junior year ... Carried 82 times for 564 yards and 13 touchdowns as a junior ... Played briefly on the jayvee teams as a right tackle ... Met five of his six goals during preseason strength and conditioning tests ... Had a personal-best 331-pound push jerk during spring testing ... Got work at the left tackle position during spring practice ... 

1999: Continued to work at the right tackle position ... Did not see action in a varsity game but did play in both junior varsity contests ... Met five of his six goals during strength and conditioning tests in August ... Made some additional strides during winter workouts and spring practice ... 

1998: Was redshirted during the fall while working at defensive tackle ... Made strides in the strength and conditioning program during the winter ... Switched to offense and worked at right tackle during spring practice ... 

1997: Entered school in January and went through the winter strength and conditioning program ... Worked at tackle during spring practice ... Registered a sack in one of Tech’s spring scrimmages ... Was in on a tackle in the spring game ... 

High School: A first-team all-state prep school pick at defensive end for the Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ ... Helped Coach John Mackey’s team to an 8-2 record and the state playoffs ... Set a school record for sacks in a game with three and finished the ’96 season with 87 tackles, 10 sacks and four fumble recoveries ... Lettered four seasons for Coach Keith Hartbauer as an offensive tackle and defensive end at Hamilton High ... 

Tim Selmon

Offensive Tackle
6-5 287 r-Jr.
Trenton, NJ
Hamilton West H.S.

Enters preseason practice as the No. 2 man at left tackle ... Has shown he is ready to help the Hokies’ O-line ... Lacks game experience, but has logged a lot of practice time in the Tech system ... Finished spring practice with a better understanding of the offense ... Is benefiting from his work in the athletic performance program ... Practiced at defensive tackle when he first came to Tech ... Moved to offense during the spring of 1999 ... Worked at right tackle until switching to the left side during 2001 spring drills ... His off-season preparation will help determine how big a role he plays this fall ... 

2000: Worked with the scout and jayvee teams as a right tackle ... Met five of his six goals during preseason strength and conditioning tests ... Had a personal-best 331-pound push jerk during spring testing ... Got work at the left tackle position during spring practice ... 

1999: Continued to work at the right tackle position ... Did not see action in a varsity game but did play in both junior varsity contests ... Met five of his six goals during strength and conditioning tests in August ... Made some additional strides during winter workouts and spring practice ... 

1998: Was redshirted during the fall while working at defensive tackle ... Made strides in the strength and conditioning program during the winter ... Switched to offense and worked at right tackle during spring practice ... 

1997: Entered school in January and went through the winter strength and conditioning program ... Worked at tackle during spring practice ... Registered a sack in one of Tech’s spring scrimmages ... Was in on a tackle in the spring game ... 

High School: A first-team all-state prep school pick at defensive end for the Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ ... Helped Coach John Mackey’s team to an 8-2 record and the state playoffs ... Set a school record for sacks in a game with three and finished the ’96 season with 87 tackles, 10 sacks and four fumble recoveries ... Lettered four seasons for Coach Keith Hartbauer as an offensive tackle and defensive end at Hamilton High ... 

Chris Shreve

Split End
5-11 192 r-So.
Mount of Wilson, Va.
Grayson County H.S.

A hard-working young player who could get a chance to help the Hokies in some capacity this season ... Loves the game and is extremely coachable ... Possesses good speed ... Has made strides learning to run routes ... Got some playing time on the jayvee team ... Has made progress in the athletic performance program ... Needs more exposure to the receiver positions ... Could be a candidate for special teams ... 

2000: Joined the team as a walk-on and worked at split end during the fall ... Played on both sides of the ball in the jayvee games ... Intercepted a pass in a win over Hargrave ... Registered personal bests in seven areas during spring strength and conditioning tests ... Posted a 35 1/2-inch vertical jump ... Turned in a 17-yard reception in one spring scrimmage and a 3-yard catch in another ... Contributed a 6-yard reception during the Maroon-White game ... 

1999: Named the No. 16 prospect in the state by SuperPrep ... Listed as the No. 15 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times ... Picked the No. 16 prospect in the state by SuperPrep ... Played briefly as an offensive guard during his junior year ... Carried 82 times for 564 yards and 13 touchdowns as a junior ... Played briefly on the jayvee teams as a right tackle ... Met five of his six goals during preseason strength and conditioning tests ... Had a personal-best 331-pound push jerk during spring testing ... Got work at the left tackle position during spring practice ... 

1999: Continued to work at the right tackle position ... Did not see action in a varsity game but did play in both junior varsity contests ... Met five of his six goals during strength and conditioning tests in August ... Made some additional strides during winter workouts and spring practice ... 

1998: Was redshirted during the fall while working at defensive tackle ... Made strides in the strength and conditioning program during the winter ... Switched to offense and worked at right tackle during spring practice ... 

1997: Entered school in January and went through the winter strength and conditioning program ... Worked at tackle during spring practice ... Registered a sack in one of Tech’s spring scrimmages ... Was in on a tackle in the spring game ... 

High School: A first-team all-state prep school pick at defensive end for the Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ ... Helped Coach John Mackey’s team to an 8-2 record and the state playoffs ... Set a school record for sacks in a game with three and finished the ’96 season with 87 tackles, 10 sacks and four fumble recoveries ... Lettered four seasons for Coach Keith Hartbauer as an offensive tackle and defensive end at Hamilton High ... 

West ... Broke his collarbone his senior season and only played in four games ... 

Personal: Timothy Peter Selmon ... Born 8/7/78 in Trenton, NJ ... Son of Peter and Carolyn Selmon ... Majoring in physical education.

2001 Virginia Tech Football 97
What was it like sharing playing time with Browning Wynn and Derek Carter at the tight end position?

It was good because it is hard to play an entire game by yourself and knowing that you are splitting time with two guys who are just as good as you helps. The only bad thing is that it is sometimes hard to get into the swing of things when you only play one series a quarter.

How did it feel to make that long touchdown catch against WVU last year?

It was really exciting. I just feel fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. Michael made a great pass. I had never caught a pass that long. We were fortunate that it happened at the time it did, because we were losing 14-7 and to tie the game up felt great.

What game are you most looking forward to playing this season?

I would say the Miami game, because last year that was our only loss. It is always a tough game to play against them. The other game that I think of a lot is the Pittsburgh game, because I’m from Pittsburgh and the last two times we played them it was on my birthday. When we played at Pittsburgh two years ago it was on my birthday and after the game our flight got delayed so I got to go home.

A lot of underclassmen look up to seniors throughout their football careers. Now you have players looking to you for guidance. How does that make you feel?

I really like it because I have coached midget football for 4 or 5 years. Coaching the younger tight ends brings a greater responsibility because you know that they watch everything you do on and off the field.

Bob Slowikowski
Tight End
6-5 247 r-Sr. 3VL
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Central Catholic H.S.

Has developed into a good all-around player … Is scheduled to share the starting tight end duties with Browning Wynn for the second straight year … Saw his share of action last season and performed well … Made his first collegiate start against West Virginia and caught a 72-yard touchdown pass — the longest on record for a Tech tight end … Played in every game at tight end and also contributed 150 plays on special teams … A big target and excellent receiver … Moves well for his size … Has made steady improvement as a blocker … Showed leadership during the spring … Will be expected to continue a leadership role this fall …

2000: Played over 300 snaps at tight end during the season … Started games against WVU and Syracuse … Was in for a season-best 46 snaps against Boston College … Haule in a 19-yard reception in that game … Contributed 21 special teams plays in Tech’s win at East Carolina … Grabbed two passes for 82 yards in the West Virginia game, scoring his first collegiate touchdown … Started on the punt team and the extra point and field goal units … Registered a tackle against UCF … Haule in two passes for 20 yards, including an 11-yard TD pass, in one of Tech’s spring scrimmages … Had a 23-yard reception in another scrimmage …

1999: Averaged 18 offensive plays in the 10 games in which he played … Started on the field goal and extra-point teams … Caught passes against Rutgers, Pittsburgh and Temple … His 24-yard grab at Temple set up a Tech touchdown … Played a season-high 31 offensive snaps against the Owls … Was in on 24 offensive plays against Syracuse and 23 versus James Madison … Contributed a total of three pass receptions for 47 yards … Posted personal bests in the bench press (340) and push jerk (300) during the off-season … Also posted a personal-best 4.61 timing in the 40 during spring testing … Hauled in a 14-yard reception during the annual Maroon-White spring game …

1998: Saw action in all 11 regular-season games and graded a winning percentage in seven of those outings … Was in on a total of 297 offensive snaps during the season, including a season-high 41 against Rutgers … Caught a 16-yard pass in the Pittsburgh game … Hauled in a 24-yard reception versus Rutgers …

1997: Practiced at tight end while redshirting … Improved on all four major lifts during the winter strength and conditioning program … Turned in the best times in the 40 (4.78) and 20-yard shuttle run (4.39) among the tight ends during spring testing … Caught a 5-yard touchdown pass in one of the Hokies’ spring scrimmages …

High School: Led Central Catholic in receptions as a junior and senior while playing for Coach John Fiscetti … Caught 24 passes for 556 yards and six TDs his senior year as a tight end … Had 18 catches for 421 yards while playing split end his junior year … Blocked five kicks as a senior … Also contributed 85...
tackles and four sacks ... Contributed 14 tackles, a blocked kick and four receptions for 150 yards and two touchdows in a game against Plum ... Had six receptions for 127 yards and two TDs versus Shaler ... Also had 10 tackles and a blocked kick in that game ... Earned first-team Quad A all-conference honors ... Posted 45 catches for 1,091 yards and 12 TDs during his career ... Was nominated for the “Big 33” game ... Personal: Robert Joseph Slowikowski ... Born 10/30/79 in Pittsburgh, PA ... Son of Robert and Jean Slowikowski ... Enrolled in finance.

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Josh Spence
Fullback
6-1 221 "Fr.
Riner, Va.
Floyd County H.S.

An outstanding runner who will take his tailback skills to the fullback position when practice resumes in August ... Worked at tailback during the fall and early spring ... Put on bulk and increased his strength through the athletic performance program ... Earned Super Iron Hokie status during spring testing ... Injured his elbow in the early stages of spring practice and missed the remainder of contact work ... Is a tough, durable runner with good speed for the fullback position ... Must continue working to become a better receiver out of the backfield ... His summer preparation will be extremely important ... Has a chance to battle for playing time behind senior starter Jarrett Ferguson ... 2000: Worked at tailback during a redshirt season ... Increased his bench press from 320 pounds to 380 between preseason tests and spring testing ... Posted a 550-pound back squat and 37 1/2-inch vertical jump on the way to Super Iron Hokie status in the spring ... Hyper-extended his right elbow early in spring practice ... Did not return to contact drills ...

High School: Enjoyed a record-setting football career for Coach Winfred Beale at Floyd County ... Lettered four years while seeing action as a running back, fullback and linebacker ... Started on both sides of the ball all four seasons ... Set school career records for rushing yards and tackles ... Posted season records for touchdowns, points scored and rushing yards ... Ran for 2,631 yards and 31 touchdowns during his senior season ... Also contributed 153 tackles on defense, including 17 sacks ... Helped team to the state finals ... Named The Associated Press Group A Player of the Year ... A first-team all-state pick on offense and defense ... Rated the No. 10 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times ... A PrepStar All-American who was ranked the No. 5 linebacker in the Mid-Atlantic Region ... Started at fullback his first three varsity seasons ... Only played in eight games as a junior but still managed to gain 1,329 yards and score 17 touchdowns ... Posted 109 tackles and seven sacks as a junior ... Earned first-team all-district and all-region honors and was a second-team all-state pick ... Finished his career with 4,630 yards rushing and 62 touchdowns ... Compiled 439 career tackles and four interceptions ... Won district individual track titles in the 100, 200, discus, long jump and triple jump his junior year ... Was the region champ in the 200, discus, long jump and triple jump that same season ... Won the Group A discus championship as a sophomore ... Led the track team to the state Group A outdoor championship as a senior ... Won the discus and had top-four finishes in four other events ...

Personal: Joshua Wesley Spence ... Born 12/8/81 in Radford, VA ... Son of Robert and Melissa Spence ... Enrolled in university studies.

Lee Suggs
Tailback
6-0 204 "Jr.
Roanoke, Va.
William Fleming H.S.

Has rapidly established himself as one of the top running backs in the nation ... Made a real impact last year in his first season as a starter ... Led the Division I-A ranks in scoring and touchdowns with an average of 15.27 points per game and 28 TDs ... Named the co-BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year ... A unanimous pick for first-team All-BIG EAST ... A third-team All-America pick by The Associated Press and Football News

... Received all 15 first-place votes in winning the Dudley Award as Virginia’s best college football player ... Shattered Tech’s single-season records for rushing touchdowns (27), total touchdowns (28) and scoring (168 points) ... Holds six BIG EAST Conference records, including single-season records for rushing touchdowns, total touchdowns and points ... Set BIG EAST single-game marks for rushing touchdowns (5), total touchdowns (5) and points (30) against UCF ... Scored at least one touchdown in every regular-season game ... Added three more TDs that don’t count on his total during a Gator Bowl win over Clemson ... Has six 100-yard games tied a Tech single-season record ... Led the BIG EAST in rushing at 109.7 yards per game ... Turned in the best single-season rushing mark under Coach Frank Beamer and the third-best in school history with 1,207 yards ... Carried the football 222 times without a fumble ... Is already tied for the Tech career record for total touchdowns with 30 ... Saw some action on special teams and blocked a punt against West Virginia ... A Super Iron Hokie in the weight room ... Spent most of his time in the spring working with Tech’s younger players ... Hits the field ready to work hard and compete ... Has power to go with his outstanding speed ... Breaks tackles ... Can catch the ball out of the backfield ... Has become a solid blocker ... Will be looked to for leadership ...

2000: One of four players to make all six of his goals during preseason strength and conditioning tests ... Made his first start against Akron and rushed for 90 yards and two touchdowns ... Posted his longest run of the season on a 56-yard touchdown scamper at East Carolina ... Finished that game with 122 yards rushing ... Set up Tech’s first score at ECU when he tackled the Pirates’ punter for a 6-yard loss after a bobbled snap ... Rushed for four TDs in the Rutgers game ... Gained 145 yards and scored twice at Boston College ... Posted a career-high 164 yards rushing against Pittsburgh and scored three TDs ... Also caught two passes for 21 yards against the Panthers ... Posted the most rushing yards by an individual against Miami all season with 121 yards ... Ran for 143 yards and five touchdowns at UCF ... Turned in his fourth-straight 100-yard game with 116 versus Virginia ... Ran for three TDs and caught a 23-yard TD pass during that win ... Compiled a total of 1,207 yards on 222 carries, an average of 5.4 yards a carry ... Lost a total of just 17 yards rushing during the course of the season ... Picked up 73 yards on the ground in the Gator Bowl against Clemson and scored three touchdowns ... Improved in all four major **Continued on next page**
Suggs, continued

lifts during spring testing and won Super Iron Hokie honors … Posted a 350-pound bench press, 550-pound back squat and 300-pound power clean … Tied for the top 40 in the spring at 4.28 seconds … Scored twice on goal-line situations during one spring scrimmage and registered a 39-yard run in another … Only carried the football twice for 11 yards in the Maroon-White game … Added two pass receptions for 5 yards …

1999: Got his first taste of action against James Madison and contributed 22 yards rushing on eight carries … Scored his first collegiate touchdown on a 1-yard run against UAB … Missed games against Pittsburgh and West Virginia after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery … Returned against Miami and carried eight times for 30 yards … Played a season-high 12 offensive downs at Temple and rushed for 34 yards on nine carries, including a 2-yard TD run … Had a total of 44 carries on the season for 136 yards and two touchdowns … Gained Iron Hokie status in the weight room during spring testing … Rushed for 69 yards on six carries in one spring scrimmage, turning in a 39-yard TD run … Added touchdown runs of 5 and 8 yards in another scrimmage … Led all rushers in the spring game with 72 yards on 12 carries …

1998: Redshirted while practicing at tailback … Improved in all four major lifts in the strength and condition winter program … Turned in the second-best 40 time on the team during spring testing with a clocking of 4.32 seconds … Missed the majority of spring practice after breaking his hand …

High School: Rushed for 2,918 yards and 30 touchdowns as a senior for Coach George Miller at William Fleming High … Earned postseason All-America honors from both SuperPrep and PrepStar … Ranked the No. 4 player in the nation by SuperPrep … An honorable mention choice on the USA Today All-USA team … A first-team Group AAA all-state pick by both the coaches and AP … Stood fourth on the all-time list of single-season rushers in the state when he graduated … The Northwest Region Player of the Year and the Timesland Offensive Player of the Year … Helped team to the state championship game as a senior … Rushed for 350 yards and three touchdowns in a game against Cave Spring his senior year … Scored five TDs in a win over G.W. of Danville … Finished his career with 5,056 yards rushing on 646 carries … Scored 50 career touchdowns … Also excelled in track as a sprinter and jumper … Ran the anchor leg on Fleming’s state championship 4x100 relay team … Helped that relay team to a fifth-place finish at the National Scholastic Outdoor Track Championships in Raleigh, N.C. … Was clocked a 10.4 in the 100 meters and a 6.2 in the 55-meter dash …

Personal: Lee Ernest Suggs, Jr. … Born 8/11/80 in Roanoke, VA … Son of Lee, Sr., and Juanita Suggs … Majoring in residential property management …

Rushing | G | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | LG |
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Career | 20 | 2066 | 1343 | 5.0 | 29 | 56 |

2000 Game-by-Game

AKRON | 1 | 14 | 90 | 6.4 | 2 | 14 |
At ECU | 1 | 11 | 122 | 11.1 | 1 | 56 |
RUTGERS | 1 | 16 | 76 | 4.8 | 4 | 11 |
At BC | 1 | 22 | 145 | 6.6 | 2 | 24 |
TEMPLE | 1 | 17 | 56 | 3.3 | 2 | 9 |
WVU | 1 | 18 | 83 | 4.6 | 1 | 16 |
At SYR | 1 | 21 | 91 | 4.3 | 2 | 17 |
PITTSBURGH | 1 | 28 | 164 | 5.9 | 3 | 26 |
At Miami | 1 | 23 | 121 | 5.3 | 2 | 39 |
At UCF | 1 | 30 | 143 | 4.8 | 5 | 29 |
VIRGINIA | 1 | 22 | 116 | 5.3 | 3 | 30 |

Receiving | G | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | LG |
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<th></th>
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<td>106</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22</td>
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</table>

Career | 20 | 266 | 1343 | 5.0 | 29 | 56 |

Ben Taylor

40

Linebacker

6-2 235 Sr. 3VL

Bellaire, Ohio

Bellaire H.S.

An outstanding football player … Has a chance to be one of the top linebackers in the country if he bounces back from ankle surgery … Is expected to be ready to go when practice opens after missing spring practice … Took the time away from contact work to improve his upper body strength … Returned to some drills near the end of spring practice … Possesses great range and a nose for the football … Works extremely hard and hits even harder … Played a leading role on a young defense that led the BIG EAST Conference in rushing defense last season … Took over the starting backer position prior to the 2000 season and led the team in tackles with 103 … Saw action on 89 percent of the Hokies’ defensive plays … Also started on the extra point and field goal block teams … Was called on three times to punt … Named third-team All-America by The Associated Press … Earned first-team All-BIG EAST honors and was one of 11 semi-finalists for the Butkus Award … Placed sixth overall in the BIG EAST in tackles with an average of 9.4 per game … Rates as one of the hardest hitters on the squad … Ranked the No. 18 inside linebacker in the Division I-A ranks prior to the 1999 season by Lindy’s … Started every game at outside linebacker in ‘99 … is expected to be a key team leader in 2001 …

2000: Played 651 plays at linebacker and nearly 100 more on special teams … Collected 103 total tackles, 59 unassisted … Posted seven tackles behind the line, including 1.5 sacks … Hurried the quarterback nine times, broke up five passes and intercepted two … Registered a career-high 18 tackles during Tech’s win at East Carolina … Added 15 tackles in the Hokies’ road win at Syracuse … Shrugged off an ankle injury to make 13 tackles against Miami … Was in on 12 tackles versus West Virginia … Intercepted passes against Rutgers and UCF … Caused a fumble that was returned for a TD against UCF and set up another touchdown with a 42-yard interception return … Saw brief action as a punter … Turned in a 42-yard punt against Temple … Punted twice at Syracuse … Was credited with seven tackles, including a sack, against Clemson in the Gator Bowl … Underwent reconstructive surgery to his right ankle after the season … Was held out of spring contact work … Returned to some individual drills during the final week of practice …

1999: Made his first collegiate start against James Madison … Was in on eight tackles against the Dukes … Had six tackles and a quarterback hurry in the Clemson game … Posted a personal-best 10 tackles at Virginia … Registered nine tackles in games against Pittsburgh and Temple … Had one tackle for loss against the Panthers and two versus the Owls … Collected a quarterback sack in the Miami game … Contributed a total of 71 tackles, including one sack and five other tackles for loss … Hurried the quarterback four times … Played over 30 defensive plays in every game with a career-high 82 at Pittsburgh … Added 50 plays on special teams … Registered seven tackles against Florida State in the Sugar Bowl … Set a position record for inside linebackers with a 326-pound power clean during spring testing … Also set a position mark in the 40 with a time of 4.48 …Posted five tackles in the Maroon-White spring game … Won the George Preas Award as Tech’s most valuable defensive player of spring practice …

1998: Reached the most goals among the inside linebackers during preseason strength and conditioning tests … Posted four tackles, including one

1998: Reached the most goals among the inside linebackers during preseason strength and conditioning tests … Posted four tackles, including one...
behind the line, in the opening game against East Carolina … Played a season-high 29 snaps at linebacker against Clemson and had five tackles and a quarterback hurry … Broke up two passes in the UAB game … Saw playing time in all 11 games on special teams as a starter on the kickoff, kickoff return and punt return teams … Got some action on defense in nine games … Contributed a total of 23 tackles, two passes broken up and one hurry … Saw action in the Music City Bowl and posted a tackle … Turned in a 36-inch vertical jump and a 4.54 forty during spring testing … Played at the backer position during spring practice … Had three sacks and three other tackles for losses during spring scrimmages … Registered five tackles, including a sack in the annual spring game … Was one of the winners of the Richard Bullock Award for most improved players in the spring …

1997: Underwent shoulder surgery following his senior season in high school … Waited until he was fully recovered before entering Tech in January … Ran the best time among the inside linebackers in the 20-yard shuttle run during spring testing at 4.30 seconds … Worked at the backer position during spring practice …

High School: One of six finalists for ‘Mr. Football’ honors in Ohio … Named first-team All-Ohio in Division 4 … A two-time all-district and all-conference pick for Coach John Magistro at Bellaire High … Saw action as a free safety, outside linebacker, flanker, quarterback and punter during his career … Named Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year in 1996 … Made honorable mention All-USA team named by USA Today … Helped team win three district titles, two regional championships and appear in the state championship game twice on the way to a 35-3 record … Caught 59 passes for 817 yards and eight touchdowns his senior season … Also registered 192 tackles and four interceptions … Posted 23 tackles and an interception in a win over Brooke (W.Va.) High … Also had nine catches for 90 yards in that game … Had 70 receptions as a junior for 824 yards … Intercepted seven passes that season and finished with 85 tackles … Career totals include 348 tackles, 12 interceptions and 130 receptions for 1,679 yards … Made 12 career touchdown receptions and grabbed 11 two-point conversion passes … Set school records for pass receptions in a game (14), season (70) and career (130) …

Personal: Benjamin Frazier Taylor, Jr. … Born 8/31/78 in Bellaire, Ohio … Son of Ben and Jennifer Taylor … Studying interdisciplinary studies.

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A Talk With Ben Taylor

How do you want to be remembered after you leave Virginia Tech?
I’d like to be remembered as one of the toughest players to come through Virginia Tech. It is kind of a Virginia Tech thing that you come in and you work up and earn your spot and then you earn that respect.

What motivates you when you are on the field?
I think competition. I never want to lose. I strive not to lose. Everybody wants to win, but I am the person who doesn’t want to lose and I’ll do whatever it takes not to lose.

What role do you think you will play this year as a leader on the team?
I’m not your vocal leader. I try to lead by example. I think that if you can do that, and if one of your hardest workers is one of your leaders, then that is the best type of leader you can have for your team.

You were a third-team All-American last year and a semifinalist for the Butkus Award. What are you going to have to do this year to improve on those honors?
You have to go through spring practice and then fall practice and try to get better with each practice. That goes back to film study and getting stronger in the weight room, doing anything you possibly can to get better for the next season.
**Dirk Taylor**  
Linebacker  
6-0 • 217 Sr.  
Penn Laird, Va.  
Spotswood H.S.

Dressed for several varsity games during the 2000 season ... Worked at the whip linebacker position after spending last season at corner ... Also helped provide depth on several special team units ... Played in Tech's two jayvee games ... Is expected to contribute depth at whip and challenge for special teams action again this season ...

---

**2000:** Saw brief varsity action in the Rutgers game ... Practiced with the punt return and kickoff teams ... Saw action in jayvee games against Fork Union and Hargrave ... Contributed an interception in both games ... Posted personal bests in the back squat (410 pounds) and vertical jump (36 inches) during spring testing ... Contributed three tackles in the annual Maroon-White game ...

---

**1999:** Practiced at the field corner position during the fall ... Intercepted a pass and returned it 43 yards in a jayvee win against Hargrave ... Improved in three of the four major lifts during spring strength and conditioning tests ... Moved to outside linebacker for spring practice ... Collected a tackle for loss in one of the spring scrimmages ... Was in on a tackle in the annual spring game ...

---

**1998:** Joined the team as a walk-on after school started ... Played on the scout team and jayvee teams during the fall ... Worked at free safety during the fall and spring ...

---

**High School:** A four-year football letterman for Coach Eric Baylor at Spotswood High ... Played quarterback and defensive back ... Completed 124 of 220 passes for 1,718 yards and 20 touchdowns in his senior season ... Also rushed for over 800 yards and eight TDs ... Contributed 77 tackles, six interceptions and a pair of fumble recoveries ... Earned first-team Group AA All-State honors ... Threw for 2,843 yards and 35 touchdowns during his career ...

---

Set school seasons marks for passing yards in a season, touchdown passes in a season and completion percentage in a season (60.2) ... Had a career-record 15 100-yard passing games ... Also set a season defensive mark with six interceptions ... Named all-region as a point guard in basketball ...

---

**Personal:** Dirk Patrick Taylor ... Born 12/25/79 in Harrisonburg, VA ... Son of Terry and Lorri Taylor ... Majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

---

**Jeff Thompson**  
Defensive End  
6-4 • 245 r-So.  
Midlothian, Va.  
Clover Hill H.S.

A hard worker who is expected to help provide depth at defensive end ... Worked at tight end when he first came to Tech ... Moved to defensive end prior to 2000 spring practice ... Has benefited from his work on the scout and jayvee teams ... Can always be counted on for top effort ...

---

**2000:** Worked at the tight end position ... Contributed as a member of the scout team ... Got playing time in Tech's two jayvee games ... Worked at the other end position during the spring ...

---

**1999:** Redshirted while working at tight end during the fall ... Turned in a 351-pound hang clean and 340-pound push jerk during scout team testing in November ... Moved to defensive end for spring practice ...

---

**High School:** Played two seasons for Coach Ted Salmon at Clover Hill High ... Earned two letters while seeing action at defensive end, tight end and fullback ... Named the team's MVP as a senior ... Won first-team all-district and second-team all-region honors ... Contributed 65 tackles, 10 quarterback sacks, three fumble recoveries and two interceptions on defense ... Caught 15 passes for 400 yards and two touchdowns ... Played fullback for half the season, rushing for 325 yards and four TDs ... Had five sacks and 150 yards rushing in a game against George Wythe ... Caught three passes for 129 yards versus Prince George ... Tipped seven passes in a game his junior season with three being intercepted, including one for a touchdown ... Grabbed two TD passes in a game that year ... Helped wrestling and track teams to district titles ... Made the all-district academic team in all three sports and was all-region in football and track ... Won the Army Scholar Athlete Award for his school ...

---

**Personal:** Jeffrey Barrett Thompson ... Born 5/26/80 in Monroe, LA ... Son of Dean and Georgie Thompson ... Enrolled in mechanical engineering.

---

**Marvin Urquhart**  
Fullback  
5-11 • 265 r-So.  
Chesapeake, Va.  
Western Branch H.S.

A hard worker who got some extra reps at fullback during the spring ... Showed improvement, but continues to battle weight problems ... Combines strength with good footwork ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during spring testing ... Rates as an excellent blocker ... Needs a good summer preparation ... Has the ability to be a contributor at the position if he can trim down ...

---

**2000:** Worked on the scout and jayvee teams ... Rushed six times for 25 yards in a jayvee win over Fork Union ... Carried 15 times for 58 yards in a win against Hargrave ... Had a 385-pound bench press and 605-pound back squat on the way to Super Iron Hokie honors in the spring ... Caught two passes for 6 yards and added a 9-yard run in a spring scrimmage ... Added a 14-yard catch and a 6-yard run in another scrimmage ... Had a 10-yard run and a 2-yard pass reception in the Maroon-White game ...

---

**1999:** Practiced at fullback during a redshirt year ... Earned Iron Hokie honors during scout team testing in November, turning in a 550-pound back squat and a 351-pound push jerk ... Became a Super Iron Hokie in the spring ... Improved his bench press to 365 pounds ... Competed for Tech in the discus at the Atlantic 10 Outdoor Track and Field Championships and placed fourth ...

---

**High School:** Selected the No. 14 running back in the ACC Region by PrepStar ... Ranked the No. 22 player in Virginia by The Roanoke Times and the No. 23 prospect in the state by SuperPrep ... Played fullback for Coach Lew Johnston ... Rushed for 350 yards and nine touchdowns his senior season ... Played in parts of just seven games because of injuries ... Named honorable mention all-district ... A three-time state champion in wrestling ... Went undefeated as a heavyweight his senior year ... Won the state Group AAA outdoor discus championship in 1999 and was third in the shot put ...

---

**Personal:** Marvin Urquhart IV ... Born 8/16/80 in Chesapeake, VA ... Son of Marvin Urquhart, Sr. ... Enrolled in university studies.
Wayne Ward 32

Tailback 5-11 209 r-Sr. 4VL
Plant City, Fla. Plant City H.S.

A physical running back who doubles as one of the top special teams players in the collegiate ranks. Contributed in a number of ways last season. Blocked two punts during the regular season. Posted 26 tackles on coverage. Cleared the way for a 76-yard punt return with a block that made the national highlight films. Won BIG EAST Special Teams Player of the Week honors twice. Gained 82 yards on 25 carries and caught four passes for 54 yards when called on as a running back. Is an Iron Hokie in the weight room with a 620-pound back squat. May be the hardest back in the Tech stable to bring down. A good athlete who also has played fullback. Will have to battle his way back up the depth chart at tailback after missing spring practice and undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery in June.

2000: Played nearly 200 plays on special teams. Started on the kickoff and kickoff return teams and the punt and punt return units. Also worked with the onside prevent unit and the extra point and field goal teams. Blocked a punt against East Carolina that was scooped up and returned for a touchdown by teammate Cory Bird. Set up a TD against Temple with another blocked punt. Contributed three or more tackles on coverage six times. Posted four tackles against Rutgers. Returned a kickoff 29 yards at Boston College. Saw action on offense in six games. Carried the football five times for 25 yards against Akron. Added 26 yards on eight carries versus Rutgers. Caught two passes for 28 yards against the Scarlet Knights. Had also two receptions for 26 yards in the Miami game. Rushed for a total of 82 yards on 25 carries and had four pass receptions for 54 yards. Did not attend school during spring semester.

1999: Played in four games as a starter on special teams, posting a pair of tackles. Saw action in three games at fullback. Rushed for a 2-yard gain against James Madison in his only carry of the season. Registered a tackle on kickoff coverage against Florida State in the Sugar Bowl. Moved back to tailback following the season. Earned Iron Hokie status in the weight room during spring testing. Bench pressed 380 pounds. Set a position record with a 620-pound back squat. Rushed for 22 yards on seven carries in one of Tech’s spring scrimmages and contributed touchdown runs of 8 and 2 yards in another. Scored the lone offensive touchdown in the Maroon-White spring game on a 1-yard run. Also caught a pass for a 9-yard gain.

1998: A starter on three different special teams units during the course of the season. Played on the kickoff, kickoff return and punt return units. Saw limited action at tailback in four games. Carried twice for eight yards at Clemson and four times for 16 yards against UAB. Scored his first collegiate touchdown on a 20-yard run versus Rutgers. Rushed 10 times for a total of 52 yards during the season. Also contributed nine tackles on special teams. Carried the football twice for four yards against Alabama in the Music City Bowl. Was switched to fullback for spring practice. Set a position record with a 615-pound back squat during spring strength and conditioning tests. Added a 355-pound bench press on the way to Iron Hokie honors. Received the Richard Bullock Award as one of the team’s most improved players during the spring.

High School: Named the player of the year for the Tampa area. Earned first-team all-district, all-region and all-state Group 6A honors after rushing for 1,660 yards and 20 touchdowns his senior season at Plant City. Added 17 pass receptions for 221 yards. Rushed for 150 yards against Hillsborough High, a team that played in the state 6A championship game. Gained over 1,100 yards on the ground his junior year. Played for Coach Todd Long. Set school records for career rushing yards (3,226) and most yards rushing in a single season (1,660). Rated the No. 43 player in Florida by The Tampa Tribune. Turned in times of 10.6 in the 100-meter dash and 22.5 in the 200-meter dash as a sprinter on the track team.

goals of 40 or more yards with a long of 49 ... His three misses came from 55, 51 and 49 yards ... Booted a 35-yard field goal and an extra point during the Maroon-White game ...

High School: Kicked for Coach Mickey Sullivan at Fork Union Prep ... Established a school single-season record for points by kicking with 72 ... Was named to the prep league all-state team ... Helped his team to a state championship in 1998 ... Also an all-state soccer player while at Fork Union ...

Personal: Carter Warley ... Born 2/14/80 in Newport News, VA ... Son of John and Barbara Warley ... Enrolled in residential property management.

### Scoring

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Field Goals

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### Scoring

- **2000:** Bench pressed 420 pounds during preseason tests ... Contributed eight total tackles and a quarterback hurry in the season opener against Akron ... Posted a sack, a tackle for loss, a hurry and six total tackles in the Hokies’ win against Rutgers ... Turned in five tackles in games against East Carolina, Temple and UCF ... Also broke up a pass and hurried the passer while playing a season-best 33 defensive plays at UCF ... Had a tackle for loss and three total hits during the Virginia game ... Started on the punt team and worked with the extra point and field goal block units ... Finished with 42 tackles, three tackles behind the line and three hurries ... Tied for the team lead with seven tackles against Clemson in the Gator Bowl ... Gained Super Iron Hokie honors in spring testing ... Had a sack and broke up a pass in Tech’s first spring scrimmage ... Collected four tackles, including one for a loss, during the Maroon-White game ... Shared the Frank O. Moseley Award with end Lamar Cobb as the top defensive hustlers of spring practice ...

- **1999:** Played 19 downs at linebacker and nine on special teams in the season opener against James Madison ... Was in on three tackles before suffering a torn ACL in his right knee ... Underwent reconstructive surgery ... Participated in parts of the off-season strength and conditioning program ... Returned to full contact work during the later stages of spring practice ... Contributed three tackles in the annual Maroon-White game ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during the winter ... Topped the inside linebackers with a 300-pound power clean and a 336-pound push jerk during spring testing ... Also had the best time at the position in the 20-yard shuttle run (4.47 seconds) ... Posted six tackles and a sack in one spring scrimmage ... Had a sack and four tackles in another scrimmage ... Contributed four tackles, a tackle for loss and a pass deflection during the spring game ...

High School: Led Oakton High School in tackles three consecutive years while playing for Coach Pete Bendorf ... Compiled a school-record 346 career tackles from his middle linebacker position ...

### Personal:

- **2001 Virginia Tech Football Team:** Was redshirted while working at the mine linebacker position ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during the winter ...
- **2000:** Topped the inside linebackers with a 300-pound power clean and a 336-pound push jerk during spring testing ... Also had the best time at the position in the 20-yard shuttle run (4.47 seconds) ... Posted six tackles and a sack in one spring scrimmage ... Had a sack and four tackles in another scrimmage ... Contributed four tackles, a tackle for loss and a pass deflection during the spring game ...

### Personal:

- **2000:** Was redshirted while working at the mine linebacker position ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during the winter ...

### Personal:

- **2000:** Topped the inside linebackers with a 300-pound power clean and a 336-pound push jerk during spring testing ... Also had the best time at the position in the 20-yard shuttle run (4.47 seconds) ... Posted six tackles and a sack in one spring scrimmage ... Had a sack and four tackles in another scrimmage ... Contributed four tackles, a tackle for loss and a pass deflection during the spring game ...

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### Personal:

- **2000:** Was redshirted while working at the mine linebacker position ... Earned Super Iron Hokie honors during the winter ...

- **1999:** Contributed as a member of the scout team ... Showed progress in the athletic performance program ... Turned in a good solid
showing during spring practice ... Can play either guard position or center ... Doesn’t have ideal size, but has proven to be a tough run-blocker ... Could put himself in the running for some playing time at guard or center with a good preparation over the summer ...

2000: Played on the scout and jayvee teams during the fall ... Practiced at both guard positions during the year ... Bench pressed 380 pounds during spring testing and added a 550-pound back squat ... His 31 1/2-inch vertical jump was the best among Tech’s offensive linemen ...

High School: Lettered as a guard and tackle for Coach Mike Elko at Pennsylania High ... Named first-team on the Bucks County Courier Times Golden Team ... First team all-area and second-team all-conference ... Led the team in pancake blocks two years in a row ... A member of the National Honor Society ...

Personal: Jeffrey Adam Werner ... Born 5/10/82 in Somerset, NJ ... Son of Mike and Joan Werner ... Studying human nutrition, foods and exercise.

Ronyell Whitaker
Cornerback
5-9 192 ｿ- Jr. 2VL
Norfolk, Va.
Lake Taylor H.S.

A returning starter at the boundary cornerback position ... Named the Hokies’ most valuable defensive performer of the spring ... Has the potential to be a dominating corner ... Is tough and physical ... Studies the game and opponents ... Has learned to make good decisions ... Gained added confidence with a strong performance against first-round draft choice Rod Gardner of Clemson at the Gator Bowl ... Was Tech’s busiest player last season with over 750 plays to his credit on defense and special teams ... Opened the season as the Hokies’ starting field corner ... Moved to the boundary cornerback position when teammate Larry Austin suffered a season-ending injury at Boston College ... Moved back to the field side for the final two games ... Was asked to take over the punt return duties fulltime when André Davis was sidelined at Syracuse in the seventh game of the year ... Responded by finishing third in the BIG EAST and 16th in the nation ... Ranked fourth on the team in tackles, second in interceptions and third in passes broken up ... A second-team All-BIG EAST selection ...

1998: Practiced at the field cornerback position while redshirting ...

1999: Saw playing time in all 12 games ... Contributed just two tackles in his first four appearances ... Played 37 defensive downs at Rutgers ...

Career

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Turned in a 475-pound back squat during spring training ... Will be counted on for a big season in 2001 ...

2000: Started seven games at the field corner position and five at boundary corner ... Broke up two passes at East Carolina ... Registered his first interception in the Rutgers game ...

Contributed seven tackles in back-to-back games against Boston College and Temple ... Added a 22-yard interception return against the Owls ... Was in on a career-high 11 tackles during the West Virginia game ... Also had two interceptions versus the Mountaineers ...

Had 10 total hits during Tech’s win over Pittsburgh ... Picked off his fifth pass at UCF ... Posted a 50-yard punt return against UCF and a personal-best 61-yard return in the Virginia game ... Compiled 61 total tackles, including 37 unassisted ...

Turned in two tackles behind the line and nine passes broken up ... Averaged 14.4 yards on 17 punt returns ...

Intercepted a pass and returned it 27 yards during a Gator Bowl win over Clemson ... Added three tackles and broke up a pass ... Ran a personal-best 4.44 in the 40 during spring testing ...

Returned an interception 18 yards for a touchdown in one spring scrimmage and posted four tackles and a pick in another scrimmage ... Was in on six tackles and broke up two passes in the Maroon-White game ... Returned three punts for 29 yards ... Won the George Preas Award as the defensive MVP of the spring ...

1999: Saw playing time in all 12 games ... Contributed just two tackles in his first four appearances ... Played 37 defensive downs at Rutgers ...

Contributed three tackles and broke up a pass ... Also returned a blocked extra point kick for a two-point defensive extra point for the Hokies ... Had three tackles in a win over Syracuse, including two on special teams ... Made six defensive stops and one special teams tackle in the Pittsburgh game ...

Was called on to play 71 downs at West Virginia ... Responded with six tackles, including one for a loss, and a pass broken up ... Turned in a season-best eight tackles against Miami and another tackle for loss ... Contributed a total of 29 tackles, 22 of which were primary hits ... Broke up four passes ...

Met all six goals in the strength and conditioning program during fall testing ... Posted a 500-pound back squat and 35 1/2-inch vertical jump ... Turned in a personal-best bench press of 330 during spring testing ...

Contributed two punts for 18 yards during the Maroon-White spring game ... Added a tackle and a pass broken up ...

Career

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Contributed three tackles and broke up a pass ...

Also returned a blocked extra point kick versus Maury ...

Posted 84 tackles, three sacks and five interceptions his junior year ...

Rushed for over 1,000 yards ...

Added two punt returns for touchdowns and one kickoff return ...

Had 18 career interceptions and over 35 touchdowns ...

Personal: Ronyell Deshawn Whitaker ... Born 3/19/79 in Norfolk, VA ...

Son of Sylvia Whitaker ... Nephew of pro boxer Pernell “Sweet Pea” Whitaker ...

Enrolled in physical education.
Garnell Wilds
17
Cornerback
5-11 • 193 • r-So. • 1VL
Tampa, Fla.
Hillsborough H.S.

Has come back nicely from a knee injury that sidelined him for much of the 2000 season ... Had a good spring practice ... Concentrated on his coverage skills ... Is working to become a more physical player ... Served as a key backup at both corner positions early last season ... Saw action in each of the Hokies' first five games ... Suffered a season-ending knee injury against Temple in the fifth game ... Underwent reconstructive surgery ... Missed the Gator Bowl ... Turned in a personal-best 330-pound bench press during spring athletic performance tests ... Will give the Hokies quality depth behind Ronyell Whitaker at the boundary corner ...

2000: Played 10 downs on defense against Akron and was in on a tackle ... Intercepted a pass and returned it five yards in the Hokies' win at East Carolina ... Was in on a season-high 15 defensive plays against Rutgers ... Got some brief special teams duty in the Boston College and Temple games ... Posted four total tackles in his five games ... Had surgery to repair a torn ACL in his left knee ... Returned to competition in the spring ... Contributed three tackles and an interception during the spring game ...

1999: Turned in a 35-inch vertical jump when he reported in August ... Worked briefly at the field cornerback position ... Switched to the boundary corner and was redshirted ... Improved his vertical jump to 37 1/2 inches by November scout team testing and to 40 inches during spring testing ... Had a personal-best 475-pound back squat during the spring and bench pressed 300 pounds ... Moved back to field corner for spring practice ... Contributed two tackles, including one for a loss, during one of the Hokies' spring scrimmages ... Was in on a tackle during the Maroon-White spring game ...

High School: Lettered three seasons as a defensive back for Coach Earl Garcia, Jr., at Hillsborough ... Rated the No. 12 prospect in Florida and No. 48 nationally by The Tampa Tribune ... Picked as the No. 48 player in Florida by SuperPrep ... A postseason All-America selection by PrepStar ... Listed as the No. 96 player in the Southeast Region by Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report ...

Picked the No. 28 defensive back in the ACC Region by ACC Area Sports Journal ... A preseason All-America pick by Lemming ... Named to the All-Southeast Region team by The National Recruiting Advisor ... Helped the team to a 28-8 record during his varsity career ... Was in on 69 tackles as a senior and intercepted four passes ... Also recovered a pair of fumbles ... Averaged 25 yards on punt returns and set a school record for best kickoff return average for a season at 42.5 yards ... Saw some action as a receiver, contributing 10 pass receptions for 200 yards and one touchdown ... Had 10 tackles, an interception, two punt returns for over 50 yards and five pass receptions for 120 yards in a game against Leto High ...

Earned first-team all-conference and second-team All-Suncoast honors ...

Finished his junior year with 65 tackles and two interceptions ... Helped team to the state 6A championship game as a sophomore ...

Personal: Garnell Wayman Wilds ...
Born 6/8/81 in Tampa, FL ... Son of George and Jacqueline Wilds ... Studying residential property management.

Ernest Wilford
19
Split End
6-5 • 211 • r-So. • 1VL
Richmond, Va.
Armstrong/Franklin H.S.

Is scheduled to move to split end after seeing playing time at flanker in 2000 ... Made the most strides of any receiver during the fall while working at flanker ... Put together a solid season, but had to sit out spring contact work following surgery for tendonitis in his right knee ... Was very conscientious in the spring despite the injury ... Participated in meetings and limited group work ... Has a passion for the game and is determined to be the best player possible ... Brings outstanding athletic ability and size to the position ... A Super Iron Hokie in the weight room ... Found himself starting Tech's last four games at flanker last season after André Davis developed ankle problems ... Gained some valuable on-the-job experience ... Saw action on 176 offensive snaps during Tech's first seven games and 213 during the last four ...

Finished third on the team in receptions ... Started his Tech career as a defensive end ... Needs a strong summer preparation in order to make up ground and put himself in position to contribute this fall ...

2000: Was one of just four players to meet all six goals during preseason strength and conditioning tests ... Led the receivers with a 500-pound back squat ... Played in every game, averaging 35 snaps ... Saw some brief action on special teams during the first half of the season ... His first collegiate reception was an 11-yard catch at East Carolina ... Grabbed three passes for 35 yards in the Rutgers game ... Moved into the starting lineup against Pittsburgh and played 72 offensive snaps ... Caught two passes for 25 yards in that game ... Added two more receptions at Miami for 21 yards ... Also had two catches in the Virginia game for a total of 33 yards ... Had 12 catches for 141 yards during the regular season ...

Posted a 9-yard reception during the Gator Bowl ... Underwent surgery in early February ... Sat out all spring contact work ...

1999: Registered the best vertical jump among the incoming freshmen with a leap of 37 inches ... Began his redshirt year working at defensive end ... Asked to be moved to wide receiver in September ...

Spent the rest of the school year at flanker ... Finished first in the triple jump and third in the high jump at the A-10 Indoor Track Championships ... Earned Iron Hokie honors during the spring ...

Bench pressed 310 pounds and posted a back squat of 450 pounds ... Suffered an ankle injury during the early stages of spring practice and did not take part in contact work for the remainder of the spring ...

Was held out of the annual Maroon-White game ... Bounced back from his injury to set a meet record in winning the A-10 outdoor triple jump title ...

Prep School: Saw action at split end and tight end for Coach John Shuman at Fork Union Military Academy ... Also got a look at defensive end ... Caught 25 passes for 297 yards and seven touchdowns during the 1998 season ...

High School: Grabbed 15 passes for 247 yards and three TDs his senior year at Franklin Military High, where he played wide receiver for Coach Otis Brayboy ...

Contributed four sacks on defense ... Has only been playing football for a short time ...

Earned all-state honors in track and was named to the All-National team ...

Posted a school-record triple jump of 49 feet, 9 inches ... Also had a 23-6 long jump and high jumped 6 feet, 8 inches ...
**Personal:** Ernest Lee Wilford, Jr. ... Born 1/14/79 in Richmond, VA ... Son of Ernest, Sr., and Janice Wilford ... Enrolled in sociology.

### Dan Wilkinson

**54**

**Defensive Tackle**  
6-1 258 r-Sr. 1VL  
West Palm Beach, Fla.  
Palm Beach Lakes H.S.

Is expected to contribute again this season as a member of Tech's five-man rotation at defensive tackle ... An extremely hard worker who can make plays ... Is a little undersized for a tackle, but is athletic and strong ... Operates well in space ... Has a knack for finding the football ... Saw action in every game last season ... Made his first collegiate start against Virginia ... Has already graduated with a degree in residential property management ...

**2000:** Was in on 23 tackles during the season, including four behind the line ... Posted a personal-best six tackles at East Carolina and shared a quarterback sack ... Battled down a pass against Rutgers ... Recorded a sack during Tech's win over Temple ... Was in on five tackles, including one behind the line, at UCF ... Played a season-high 36 plays in that game ... Got another sack during his start against Virginia ... Was in on three tackles during Tech's Gator Bowl win over Clemson ... Had the top bench press (400) and back squat (600) among the defensive tackles during spring max tests ... Shared defensive MVP honors in the spring game ...

**1999:** Took part in 11 plays during the season opener against James Madison ... Was in on four tackles against the Dukes ... Registered two tackles at Rutgers, including a quarterback sack for a 7-yard loss ... Had a tackle for loss and three total tackles against Syracuse ... Contributed a tackle in each of the Hokies' last three games ... Collected a total of 12 tackles for the season ... Met five of his six goals during fall strength and conditioning tests ... Had personal-bests in the back squat (600 pounds) and the push jerk (321) during spring testing ... Contributed two tackles and a tackle for loss during one spring scrimmage and had a sack in another scrimmage ... Was in on three tackles and forced a fumble in the spring game ...

**1998:** Injured his knee in preseason practice ... Underwent reconstructive surgery and was sidelined for the entire season ... Bench pressed 410 pounds and posted a 535-pound back squat during spring testing ... Returned to the field for spring practice and worked at end ...

**1997:** Took a redshirt year while working at defensive end ... Bench pressed 385 pounds during spring testing ... Also had a 530-pound back squat ... Registered two sacks and tackle for loss during spring scrimmages ... Added another sack in the spring game ...

Continued on next page

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### A Talk With Dan Wilkinson

**How did having knee surgery three years ago affect your game?**

It affected me more mentally than physically. It was hard coming back, but I feel like if you can make it through rehab, that is the hardest part. I knew I could do anything I put my mind to. The surgery slowed me down, but I was able to come back and persevere.

**Has there been anyone on or off the field who you have looked up to?**

I’d say André Davis, because he illustrates how to keep a spiritual balance with everything that is happening. He always keeps God No. 1, as well as balancing that with everything else that is going on.

**Tech has had a great pipeline of recruits from Florida. Why is the talent in that state so good year-in and year-out and why have so many Floridians chosen to play at Virginia Tech?**

I think the ties between Virginia Tech and Florida have something to do with the fact that football is No. 1 year-round in Florida. It’s what we do. You play football all through school, and that makes for more competition. Also, Tech is a great football institution with a great academic program and people want to come here.

**What is your most memorable bowl experience?**

The national championship game in New Orleans. How many people can say that they played for a national championship? Especially when I walked out on the field. I stopped and absorbed the atmosphere. It was like ‘Wow, I’m here. All that hard work paid off.’

**What motivates you on the field?**

Knowing that it could be my last opportunity to play. I’m lucky that I wasn’t done playing after I got injured. You have to play every snap like it will be your last.
Wilkinson, continued

High School: Played defensive end, linebacker and fullback during his three varsity seasons for Coach Bill Bolinder at Palm Beach Lakes High ... Named all-area, all-conference and team MVP his senior year when he posted 89 tackles and 14 sacks ... Rushed for 138 yards and four touchdowns and caught five passes for 247 yards ... Compiled 210 tackles and over 30 sacks while helping the team to a three-year record of 31-7-1 ... Played in the Outback Steakhouse All-Star game, which included the top 40 players in the Palm Beach area ... Personal: Daniel Alfred Wilkinson ... Born 11/14/78 in West Palm Beach, FL ... Son of Erwin and Heather Wilkinson ... Has already earned his undergraduate degree.

Keith Willis 86

Tight End
6-5 240 r-So. 4VL
Norfolk, Va.
Norview H.S.

A young player who has shown steady improvement ... Got the majority of snaps at the tight end spot during the spring ... Needs to capitalize on that this coming season ... Has added bulk and improved his speed and quickness ... Gives the Hokies a big, athletic target in the middle ... Possesses solid receiving skills but must continue to become more physical ... Contributed as a reserve tight end and a part-time starter on special teams in 2000 ... Saw action in 10 of the Hokies' 11 regular-season games ... His summer preparation will have a major bearing on his playing time this fall ... 2000: Played on offense in seven games ... Caught a pass for a 21-yard gain in the season opener against Akron ... Was in for a season-high 31 offensive snaps against Rutgers ... Moved into a starting spot on the kickoff return team as the season progressed ... Took time out for one jayvee game, catching a 19-yard touchdown pass in a win over Fork Union ... Saw 23 varsity snaps on offense at UCF ... Led the tight ends with a 350-pound bench press during spring max testing ... Also had the fastest time in the 40 at 4.58 ... Caught four passes for 30 yards and one touchdown during spring scrimmages ... 1999: Worked at tight end during a redshirt year ... Joined Tech's basketball team in October and split practice time with football ... Played briefly in three regular-season basketball games before returning to football full-time ... Went through the Hokies' winter workouts ... Improved in three of the four major lifts during strength and conditioning tests ...

High School: A two-time all-district, all-region and all-state Group AAA choice at tight end for Coach Carleton Thomas ... Lettered three seasons as a tight end, defensive end and punter ... A prep All-American ... Listed as the No. 7 tight end in the nation by SuperPrep ... Named the No. 1 TE in the ACC Region by PrepStar ... Rated the No. 5 prospect in Virginia by SuperPrep and the No. 7 player in the state by The Roanoke Times ... Was on the receiving end of 21 passes for 475 yards and four touchdowns as a senior ... Also contributed 60 tackles, 11 sacks and five fumble recoveries on defense ... Against Bethel his senior year, he contributed three catches for 95 yards and one touchdown, along with two sacks, two pass breakups, a fumble caused and four tackles ... In two seasons as a tight end, he caught 35 passes for 745 yards ... Had 24 career sacks in three seasons as a DE ... A three-time all-district and All-Tidewater pick in basketball ... Also gained all-region honors as a junior and senior ... Averaged 27 points and 12.7 rebounds a game as a forward his senior season ... Finished his career with over 1,000 points and was a first-team AAA all-state pick ... Also competed in track ... Personal: Keith Tyrone Willis ... Born 12/14/80 in Oceanside, CA ... Son of Keith and Mara Willis ... Lived in Japan for more than three years ... Enrolled in science of food, nutrition and exercise.

Joe Wilson 44

Fullback
6-1 261 r-So.
Newport News, Va.
Warwick H.S.

A young player who showed progress during spring practice ... Has gotten bigger and stronger through the Hokies' athletic performance program, but may benefit from dropping some of the extra weight ... Brings a great work ethic and attitude to the field ... Has shown promise in flashes and is currently working to become a more consistent player ... 2000: Contributed as a member of the scout team ... Played for the jayvee team ... Rushed for 56 yards and a touchdown on five carries against Fork Union Military Academy ... Gained 18 yards on three carries in a win over Hargrave ... Reached the Super Iron Hokie level during spring strength and conditioning tests ... Bench pressed 400 pounds ... Added a 570-pound back squat ... Rushed four times for 21 yards during one spring scrimmage ... Had four pass receptions for 12 yards during scrimmages ... Carried eight times for nine yards in the Maroon-White game ... 1999: His 375-pound bench press was the tops among incoming freshmen in August ... Practiced at fullback while redshirting ... Posted a 331-pound push press during scout team testing in November ... Gained 17 yards on three carries and caught a pass for 7 yards in one of the Hokies' spring scrimmages ... Contributed an 18-yard touchdown run in another scrimmage ...

High School: Rushed for 722 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior for Coach Tommy Reamon at Warwick ... Listed as the No. 30 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times ... First-team All-Peninsula District as a linebacker and second team as a running back ... Added 85 tackles, 11 sacks, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries on defense ... Ran for 132 yards and two TDs and posted 11 tackles and two sacks in a game against Menchville ... Named his team's offensive back of the year ... Finished his career with 2,807 yards rushing on 248 carries ... Scored 29 career touchdowns and registered 183 career tackles and 29 sacks ... Caused 19 fumbles and had three fumble recoveries for TDs ... Also lettered in basketball and track ... Personal: Joseph Rydell Wilson ... Born 7/22/81 in Hollandale, MS ... Son of Joseph and JoAnn Wilson ... Spent the early part of his childhood in Guam ... Was president of his high school freshman class ... Enrolled in university studies.

Extra Point

Only five other active Division I-A head coaches have coached more football games than Frank Beamer. Beamer has coached a total of 229 games during his 20 seasons as a head coach. He enters his 15th season at Virginia Tech with the longest tenure among active Division I-A coaches currently at their alma mater. Tech's first victory of the 2001 football season will give Beamer his 100th win as the Hokies' head coach.
Matt Wincek
58
Offensive Tackle
6-5 284 Sr. 3VL
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Coughlin H.S.

Is ready to take over the starting right tackle position after paying his dues the past two seasons as the No. 2 man. Settled into the spot during spring practice and worked hard on technique and fundamentals. Was named one of the team’s top offensive hustlers. Knows the Tech offense. Has played in big games. Combines size with athletic ability and toughness. Possesses a good approach to the game. Has worked at both tackle positions in the past. Concentrated only on the right side last season. Will be looked to for leadership. Should help stabilize the Hokies’ new-look offensive line. An important player in Tech’s offensive plans for 2001.

2000: Played in nine games. Saw action on 28 snaps against Rutgers and 25 in the season opener versus Akron. Chipped in 21 plays in the Miami game. Did not play against Syracuse and Pittsburgh. Worked with the extra point and field goal teams and saw limited action. Had a 380-pound bench press and 331-pound jerk during spring testing. Shared the Frank O. Mosely Award for top offensive hustler with receiver Shawn Witten.

1999: Saw action on over 30 snaps in games against James Madison, Syracuse and Temple. Posted four knockdown blocks against Boston College. Also graded a season-best 86 percent against the Eagles. Turned in personal bests in the bench press (370), back squat (505) and push jerk (316) during spring strength and conditioning tests.

1998: Worked at right tackle during preseason practice. Played 11 snaps in the season opener against East Carolina. Moved to the left side prior to the Clemson game. Was in for a season-high 32 plays in the UAB game. Saw playing time in nine of the team’s 11 regular-season games. Also got a taste of action against Alabama in the Music City Bowl. Spent the spring working at the left tackle position.

1997: Suffered a broken left ankle during the summer while playing in the Pennsylvania “Big 33” game. Underwent surgery for appendicitis in December. Entered Tech for the second semester. Took part in the winter strength and conditioning program. Worked at right tackle during spring practice.

High School: Earned second-team Big School (3A & 4A) all-state honors as a defensive tackle at Coughlin High. Named to all-star teams selected by The Citizen’s Voice and Times Leader his last two seasons. Also played guard on the offensive line for Coach John Joseph. Team won three district titles and a regional championship. Was in on 71 tackles as a senior, including six quarterback sacks and 16 total tackles behind the line. Registered 13 tackles in a game against Downingtown. Lettered as a weight man in track. Played basketball for the first time his senior year and led the team in rebounds and blocked shots.

Challenges and is constantly working to become a better player. Got quicker during the off-season and is better at getting in and out of breaks. Was challenged during the spring to become more physical in the running game and to go beyond being a possession receiver. Worked hard at rising to those challenges. Was named one of the team’s top hustlers of the spring. Has improved his running ability after a catch and is using the field better. Must continue to develop his confidence in beating man-to-man press techniques. Is capable of playing either receiver position.

Enters the preseason listed No. 2 at flanker. A real asset on both offense and special teams. Is generally one of the first players downfield on kick coverage. Can always be counted on for top effort. His versatility will make him a valuable man in the receiving corps again this fall.

2000: Played in all 12 games. Opened the season playing at split end. Moved to the No. 2 spot at flanker when Andre Davis was injured. Started on the kickoff and kickoff return teams and was a backup on three other special team units. Caught two passes for 17 yards against Akron. Added an 11-yard reception in the East Carolina game. Saw action on 30 offensive snaps and 17 special teams plays against Temple. Posted two tackles against the Owls and caught a 15-yard pass. Contributed a career-best four catches for 39 yards in Tech’s win over Virginia. Turned in nine catches overall for 88 yards. Finished with seven total tackles on coverage. Caught four passes for 38 yards during spring scrimmages. Contributed a pair of catches in the Maroon-White game for 61 yards. His 40-yard reception in that game was the longest of the day. Shared the Frank O. Moseley Award as top offensive hustler during spring practice with tackle Matt Wincek.

1999: Caught three passes for 25 yards against James Madison in his first collegiate game. Contributed three tackles on kickoff returns during Tech’s win at Virginia. Hauled in three more passes for 30 yards at Rutgers. Posted two tackles against Syracuse and two versus Miami. Played on special teams in all 11 games, contributing a total of 10 tackles. Saw action at receiver in six games, including 24 plays against JMU and 20 at Rutgers. Caught six passes for 55 yards. Posted a 450-pound back squat during the off-season. Collected an 11-yard reception in one spring scrimmage and a 2-yard catch in another.

High School: Compiled 7,156 all-purpose yards during his high school career while playing quarterback, split end and free safety for Coach Dave Rider. Was rated the No. 14 prospect in Tennessee by the Knoxville News Sentinel. Named the state’s offensive player of the year by the Tennessee Sports Writers’ Association in 1998. An honorable mention All-SEC Region pick by PrepStar. Passed for 1,601 yards and 21 touchdowns in his senior season. Also rushed for 512 yards and 19 TDs. Registered 74 tackles on defense and intercepted 12 passes. Added 225 yards and a pair of TDs on punt returns. During one game his senior year, he scored touchdowns on a run, a pass reception, a punt return and an interception.

Finished his career with 3,839 yards passing, 997 yards rushing, 1,147 yards receiving, 901 yards on kick returns and 273 yards on interception returns. Returned four interceptions and nine punts for TDs during his career. Averaged 35.1 yards on punt returns over a three-year period. Posted a career total of 28 interceptions and 86 touchdowns. A four-time all-conference pick and a three-time Class 4A all-state selection. Helped his team to a 40-10 record, four conference titles and a pair of state semifinal appearances during his four varsity seasons. A four-year letterman and three-time all-conference pick in basketball. Also lettered three years in baseball.


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Career: 22 15 143 9.5 0 15

One of Tech’s real success stories. Started his career as a walk-on and went on to become the Hokies’ starting tight end last season. Earned second-team All-BIG EAST honors for his play. Became the first Tech player to earn the Elite Level of Performance award in the strength and conditioning program. Won Tech’s Iron Man competition during the summers of 2000 and 2001. His outstanding work ethic and toughness have helped him develop into an outstanding blocker and clutch receiver. Fifteen of his 16 career receptions have gone for first downs, including seven last season. Averaged 43 offensive snaps and 14 special teams plays a game during the 2000 season. Underwent shoulder surgery following the season. Was given a light work load during the spring. Needs to make a good summer preparation. Is expected to share the starting duties with Bob Slowikowski again this fall.

2000: Played in all 11 games, including nine as a starter. Started on three special teams and is a backup on two others. Hauled in two passes for 58 yards in the Akron game. Caught his first career touchdown pass with a 23-yard grab against East Carolina. Turned in a 29-yard reception in the Pittsburgh game. Had a personal-best four catches for 58 yards at Miami. Finished with eight catches for 167 yards, an average of 20.9 yards per catch. Caught two passes for 27 yards in the Gator Bowl.

1999: Played 88 downs at tight end during the Hokies’ first three games. Caught his first pass — good for 14 yards — in game four against Virginia. His 13-yard reception at Rutgers was his shortest of the season. Grabbed a key 30-yard pass against Syracuse and made a big 35-yard reception in the Pittsburgh game. Contributed a 29-yard catch against West Virginia and a 21-yarder in the Boston College game. Finished with seven receptions for 157 yards, an average of 22.4 yards per catch. Also posted a 7-yard catch during the Hokies’ Sugar Bowl game against Florida State. Was named Tech’s first-ever Elite Hokie during spring testing.
personal-bests in the back squat (585), power clean (356) and push jerk (361) … Also turned in a career-best 4.59 timing in the 40 … Won the Frank O. Moseley Award as the top offensive hustler in spring practice …

1998: Worked at tight end and on special teams … Saw playing time in all 11 regular-season games as a member of the kickoff return and punting teams … Had a tackle against Syracuse … Played 18 snaps at tight end in the UAB game and six in the Rutgers game … Caught a pass for a 14-yard gain against the Scarlet Knights … Set position records for Tech tight ends in the power clean (321 pounds), vertical jump (36 1/2 inches) and the 40 (4.62 seconds) on the way to Iron Hoe status in the spring …

1997: Worked at defensive end during the fall while being redshirted … Turned in the best push jerk among the defensive ends during spring testing with a lift of 331 pounds … Was tried at tight end during spring practice …

High School: Set a school record with 131 tackles his senior season at Lee High School … Also posted nine sacks, three fumble recoveries and an interception on the way to second-team Group AA all-state honors … Was a first-team all-district and all-region pick as a senior … Contributed a school single-game record 19 tackles in a game against Grundy … Lettered four years as a linebacker for Coach Allen Kinser … Also competed in basketball, baseball and track … Played in the state high school all-star game …

Personal: Browning Wynn II … Born 12/3/78 in Kingsport, TN … Son of John and Patricia Wynn … Studying finance.

Receiving

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What goals have you set for yourself heading into your senior season?

Obviously, I want to have a good senior year. Not only is it my last year, but you only get one senior year. More importantly, I want the team to have a great year and I think we have the potential to be a great team.

What are your thoughts on winning the prestigious Ironman Competition and becoming the first Tech football player ever to earn the Elite Level of Performance Award in the weight room?

Winning the Ironman Competition and becoming an Elite Athlete were both things I wanted to accomplish before I left Virginia Tech. The Ironman Competition is a very competitive and demanding contest and I like events like that. Becoming an Elite Athlete was really special to me because the criteria needed to become one is pretty tough. You have to really train hard, which I like to do. So it’s something I really wanted.

Talk about the tight end rotation between you and Bob Slowikowski.

It’s a great rotation and a great relationship, both on and off the field. Bob and I are really good friends. By rotating, I think it helps both of us. I don’t know if a lot of guys would like rotating, but I feel like it’s a good situation. We can feed off each other, and if one of us sees something the other doesn’t, we let each other know. From that standpoint, I think it’s been a good situation.

What are going to be some of the differences this year between the new quarterback and Michael Vick?

I honestly think whoever the new quarterback is going to be, whether it’s Grant, Jason or one of the new guys, he is going to have to be a leader right away. Michael was a leader for us, and that’s expected from the QB position. Michael was also a great scrambler, so you had to always be ready for the ball. But the new guy is going to be out there trying his best to help the team win ballgames. So, while you’re obviously going to miss someone the caliber of Michael, I would expect nothing less from the new guy and I don’t think there’s going to be too much of a difference.
James Anderson
Linebacker, 6-2, 210
Deep Creek H.S., Chesapeake, Va.

A PrepStar All-American who was rated the No. 8 linebacker in the Atlantic Region … Posted 41 tackles, five sacks, four fumble recoveries and an interception as a senior for Coach David Cox … Named second-team Group AAA all-state as a linebacker by both the coaches and The Associated Press. … Also named first-team All-Tidewater by the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. … Ranked the No. 26 prospect in Virginia by SuperPrep and The Roanoke Times … Also competes in basketball and track. … Has high jumped 6-6 … Finished sixth in state shot put as a senior. … Attended Virginia Tech’s summer football camp in 2000. …

Personal: James Nathaniel Anderson … Born 9/26/83 in Roanoke Rapids, NC … Son of James, Sr., and Brenda Anderson … His father played basketball at North Carolina A&T … Has an interest in computer engineering.

Curtis Bradley
Offensive Lineman, 6-3, 285
Summerville H.S., Summerville, S.C.

Was rated one of the top offensive linemen in the Atlantic region following his senior season for Coach John McKissick at Summerville … Named to the PrepStar Dream Team … Listed by that publication as the No. 7 offensive lineman in the nation, the No. 1 OL in the Atlantic Region and the No. 14 overall prospect in the Atlantic Region … Also earned All-America honors from Student Sports … Picked the No. 27 player in South Carolina by SuperPrep and the No. 20 player in South Carolina by ACC Area Sports Journal … Rated by PrepAtlantic as the No. 15 recruit in South Carolina … Listed by College Football News as one of the top 100 prospects in the nation … Rated as the top OL in South Carolina by South Carolina Prep Football … A three-year starter at tackle … Helped his school to a 15-0 record and a state AAAA championship in 1998 … Named South Carolina all-state as both a junior and senior. … Honorable-mention All-Southern by Orlando Sentinel as a senior … All-Low Country Offensive Lineman of the Year …

Reggie Butler
Offensive Lineman, 6-6, 310
Monticello H.S., Keswick, Va.

The biggest member of Tech’s recruiting class … Has only played three years of organized football … Lettered two seasons as a tackle for Coach Brud Bicknell … Earned first-team all-district honors after helping his team to a 7-3 record in 2000 … Also named All-Central Virginia by The Daily Progress in Charlottesville … Gained second-team all-region recognition … Had 10 tackles, three sacks and two fumble recoveries in limited action on defense as a senior … Listed as the No. 55 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … Ranked the No. 37 prospect in Virginia by PrepAtlantic … A three-year letterman on the track team … Placed seventh in Group AA discus finals in 2001 … Played a role in two district titles …

Personal: Reginald Allan Butler … Born 8/21/82 in Charlottesville, VA. … Son of Lee Ethel Butler … Would like to become a teacher.

Chris Clifton
Quarterback, 6-4, 200
Deep Creek H.S., Chesapeake, Va.

Was 23-2 as the starting quarterback for Coach David Cox at Deep Creek … Led the team to the Group AAA Division 6 title game as a senior … Threw for 1,286 yards and 18 touchdowns his senior season and added nearly 300 yards and six TDs rushing … Passed for 192 yards and three TDs in a playoff game against Princess Anne … Tossed four touchdown passes during a 28-26 loss to Centreville in the championship game after seeing his team fall behind 28-0 … Finished that game with 225 yards passing … Earned PrepStar All-Atlantic Region honors as an athlete … Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report rated him the No. 70 player in Mid-Atlantic Region … Picked the No. 23 prospect in Virginia by SuperPrep and the No. 22 in the state by The Roanoke Times … Named All-Southeastern District at QB as a junior and senior. … Gained second-team all-region honors following his senior season … Also competed in track … Finished third in the state in the long jump as a junior and second as a senior … Attended Tech’s summer football camp in 2000. …

Personal: Chris Arron Clifton … Born 10/27/82 in Portsmouth, VA. … Son of Cheryl Clifton … May pursue a major in computer science.

Andrew Fleck
Defensive Lineman/Tight End, 6-4, 240
Santa Fe H.S., Edmond, Okla.

A four-year letterman and three-year starter at tight end and defensive end for Coach Brian Kelly at Santa Fe … Named first-team all-state as a defensive lineman in Class 6A by the coaches and second-team all-state by the media. … Also garnered first-team all-city, all-conference and all-district recognition as a senior … Posted 60 tackles, seven sacks and four fumble recoveries his senior season … Caught 35 passes for 575 yards and five touchdowns as a tight end in 2000 … Contributed seven of those catches for 120 yards in a single game. … Registered 21 catches and three TDs on offense and 45 tackles on defense as a junior. … Collected three sacks in a game during the 1999 season … Set school career record for catches by a tight end with 68 … Also saw time as a deep snapper during his prep career. … Ranked the No. 62 tight end in the nation by Rivals. … Chosen to play in the Oil Bowl, which pits the best high school seniors from Oklahoma against the top seniors from Texas. … Also excelled as a four-year letterman in basketball and track. …

Personal: Andrew Garrett Fleck … Born 10/11/82 in Oklahoma City, OK. … Son of Terry and Deanna Fleck. … Is interested in journalism.
Brandon Frye
Defensive Lineman, 6-4, 225
Myrtle Beach H.S., Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Saw most of his action at tight end until his senior season — his first year as a starter on defense … Posted 14 quarterback sacks and 18 tackles for loss in 2000 as a defensive end for Coach Scott Early … Had a total of 74 tackles for the season … Also contributed 18 pass receptions for 220 yards and two TDs on offense … Listed as one of the top 50 seniors in the state by South Carolina Prep Football … Picked to that publication’s AAA all-state team … Earned all-region honors and was named to the WPDE All-Zone team … Caught eight passes for 136 yards and three touchdowns his junior year … One of those TD receptions came as time expired to send a game into overtime … Is the first Myrtle Beach High player to sign with a Division I school in five years … A member of the National Science Honors Society …

Personal: Brandon Lee Frye … Born 1/23/83 in Myrtle Beach, SC … Son of Brenda Epps and Stan Rome … His father played football and basketball at Clemson and went on to play with the NFL Kansas City Chiefs.

DeAngelo Hall
Defensive Back, 6-0, 190
Deep Creek H.S., Chesapeake, Va.

The first player in the class to commit to Tech … Had an outstanding senior season for Coach David Cox, helping his team to the state AAA Division 6 championship game … Scored 30 touchdowns and rushed for over 1,300 yards … Also intercepted nine passes, posted over 100 tackles and had 16 tackles for loss … Scored 10 touchdowns every time he touched the ball … Was named a SuperPrep All-American and ranked the No. 9 defensive back in the nation and No. 2 player in Virginia by that publication … Also earned All-America honors from PrepStar which named him the No. 3 defensive back and No. 12 overall prospect in the Atlantic Region, and from Student Sports, which rated him the No. 13 cornerback in the nation … Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report listed him the No. 41 player in the Mid-Atlantic Region … A first-team Group AAA defensive back pick by The Associated Press … Selected first-team all-state as a DB and kick returner by the coaches …

Ranked the No. 2 player in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … Tidewater Player of the Year as a senior … Also the Norfolk Sports Club Player of the Year … Earned all-district player of the year honors and was named to the all-district team as a running back, defensive back and return man … Averaged 9.8 yards a carry during his junior year and added seven picks … Was the district offensive and defensive player of the year as a junior and a first-team pick as a defensive back on the All-Tidewater team … Ran a sub 4.4 time in the 40 at Tech’s summer football camp in 2000 … Was a sprinter on the track team … Placed sixth at the junior nationals in the 60-meter dash as a junior … Third in state AAA long jump as a senior …

Personal: DeAngelo Eugene Hall … Born 11/19/83 in Chesapeake, VA … Son of Joan Hall.

Justin Hamilton
Running Back, 6-3, 210
Clintwood H.S., Clintwood, Va.

Rushed for over 4,000 yards and scored 62 touchdowns during his prep career … Had 1,153 yards rushing and 19 TDs as a senior, but won first-team Group A all-state honors for his play as a defensive back … A SuperPrep All-American, he was ranked the No. 24 running back in the nation and the No. 6 player in Virginia … Named PrepStar A-A and listed as the No. 3 RB in the Atlantic Region and the No. 26 overall prospect in the region … Listed the No. 4 player in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … Gained 1,550 yards and tallied 20 TDs in 1999 on the way to first-team all-state honors as a running back … Was named the district player of the year and earned all-district and all-region honors on both offense and defense … Added over 800 yards and 19 touchdowns his sophomore season … A two-time all-state pick in basketball … Averaged 21 points and 13 rebounds as a senior and 24 points and 12 boards his junior season … Also excelled in track winning the state title in both the 110- and 300-meter hurdles his junior year …

Personal: Justin Lee Hamilton … Born 9/17/82 in Norton, VA … Son of Beth Stanley.

Kevin Hilton
Defensive Lineman, 6-2, 255
Good Counsel H.S., Silver Spring, Md.

A PrepStar All-American who was ranked the No. 12 defensive lineman in the Atlantic Region … Had 82 tackles, eight sacks, 19 hurries and three forced fumbles as a senior … A consensus all-state choice in Maryland … First-team all-county and all-conference … Second-team Washington Post All-Metro … Named to George Michael’s Golden 11 All-Star Team for the Washington Metro area … Rated the No. 26 player in Mid-Atlantic Region by SuperPrep … Listed as the No. 15 player in Maryland by ACC Area Sports Journal … Lettered three seasons and started two as a defensive linemen and tight end for Coach Tom Kolar … Registered 67 tackles, seven sacks and 12 hurries his senior season … Attended Tech’s summer football camp in 2000 …

Personal: Kevin Kennedy Hilton … Born 10/13/83 in Tacoma Park, MD … Son of Tom Hilton and Maureen Hilton Kennedy … Interested in computer science.

Cedric Humes
Running Back, 6-2, 200
Princess Anne H.S., Virginia Beach, Va.

Earned SuperPrep and PrepStar All-America honors after rushing for 1,640 yards and 22 TDs as a senior … Rated the No. 28 running back in the nation and the No. 8 player in Virginia by SuperPrep … Picked the No. 2 RB in the Atlantic Region and the No. 22 overall player in the region by PrepStar … Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report named him the No. 25 player in the Mid-Atlantic area … Ranked the No. 9 prospect in Virginia by The Roanoke Times … The No. 76 running back in the nation according to Rivals … Played running back and line backer for Coach Jeff Ballance at Princess Anne … Contributed 87 tackles on defense his senior year with two sacks and eight fumble recoveries … Rushed for 197 yards on just nine carries in one contest during his senior season and had 200 yards on 18 attempts in another game … Named to the All-Tidewater team and also earned all-district and all-region honors as a tailback … Selected conference offensive player of the year … Gained 1,300 yards and scored 18 TDs as a junior … Contributed 80 tackles on defense and intercepted five passes, returning three for touchdowns … His team posted a 19-5 record in his two years as a starter and made back-to-back appearances in the Group AAA playoffs … Also contributed in basketball and track …

Personal: Cedric Akeem Humes … Born 8/7/83 in Virginia Beach, VA … Son of Alfred and Sheria Humes … His interests include computer science.
Will Hunt
Quarterback, 6-1, 205
Springdale H.S., Springdale, Ark.

Posted 2,647 yards passing and 1,594 yards rushing as a quarterback for Coach Jarrell Williams at Springdale, the largest high school in Arkansas ... Passed for 1,484 yards and ran for 816 in leading the team to the Arkansas 5A championship game in 1999 ... Guided his team to an 11-1-1 record and the state 5A semifinals as a senior in 2000 ... Completed 67 of 159 passes for 1,163 yards and nine touchdowns ... Added 778 yards rushing on 117 carries ... Scored 12 rushing touchdowns, including three during a 102-yard rushing game against Jonesboro in the second round of the state playoffs ... Had 160 yards rushing on 12 carries in a game against Fort Smith ... Rushed for 21 touchdowns during his two years as a starter and passed for 21 TDs ... His 94-yard touchdown pass against Fayetteville in 1999 broke a state record ... Earned All-Class 5A honors his last two seasons ... Named Northwest Arkansas Morning News Class 4A/5A State Player of the Year as a junior and a senior ... Voted the player of the year as a senior by the Northwest Arkansas Times ... Earned All-Southeast Region honors from PrepStar ... Listed the No. 11 player in Arkansas by SuperPrep ... Named to the All-Arkansas team by Arkansas Recruiting Report ... An all-conference pitcher in baseball, he helped Springdale to a state title game as a junior ... President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter at his school ... Also president of the National Junior Honor Society ...

Personal: William Tredwell Hunt ... Born 6/4/82 in Springdale, AR ... Son of Thomas and Tracey Jones ... His father was a football and basketball player ... Is interested in sports management.

Kevin Jones
Running Back, 6-1, 205
Cardinal O'Hara H.S., Chester, Pa.

The most highly-rated recruit in Virginia Tech history ... Ranked the nation’s top high school player in 2000 by SuperPrep, Max Emfinger’s Blue Chip Recruiting, Rivals and Student Sports ... Named to the PrepStar Dream Team as the No. 2 running back in the nation and No. 1 overall player in the East ... Rated the No. 3 player in the nation by Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report ... Named the nation’s No. 1 offensive player by G&W Recruiting ... A member of the USA Today All-USA first team ... A Parade All-American and a Reebok ESPN first-team All-American ... Named the player of the year in Pennsylvania by the Philadelphia Inquirer ... Listed as the top player in the state by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ... A four-time all-county pick and a four-time All-Catholic League selection ... His 5,878 career rushing yards rank second all-time in Philadelphia history and first in Catholic League history ... Scored 84 career touchdowns and stands as the leading scorer in Delaware County history ... Rushed for 1,268 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior, despite missing two games with an ankle injury ... Helped lead Coach George Stratts’ team to the Catholic League championship, scoring four touchdowns in the title game — two on runs, one on a kickoff return and another on a pass reception ... Played in the National High School All-Star game ... Won the first-ever High School Heisman award for the Northeast region ... Ran for 1,896 yards and 26 touchdowns his junior year ... Added 2,082 yards rushing and 26 TDs as a sophomore ... Gained over 600 yards on the ground as a freshman ... Holds the school record for longest run from scrimmage (96 yards) and set a single-game mark for rushing yards in a game with 305 on just 15 carries ... Ranks as a national-caliber sprinter in track with times of 10.2 in the 100 meters, 21.2 in the 200 meters and 6.7 in the 60 ... Was clocked at 4.26 in the 40 at FSU’s summer camp ...

Personal: Kevin S. Jones ... Born 8/21/83 in Chester, PA ... Son of Thomas and Tracey Jones ... His father was a high school All-America basketball player ... Is interested in sports management.

Fred Lee
Wide Receiver, 5-10, 175
Bishop McDevitt H.S., Harrisburg, Pa.

Considered one of the top high school receivers in the country after catching nearly 100 passes over his last two seasons ... Earned All-America honors from both SuperPrep and PrepStar ... Ranked the No. 28 wide receiver in the nation and No. 9 player in Pennsylvania by SuperPrep ... Named to the PrepStar Dream Team as the No. 15 WR in the nation ... Also picked the No. 1 receiver in the East Region and No. 13 overall prospect in the East by PrepStar ... Tom Lemming’s Prep Football Report listed him as an All-American and rated him as the No. 127 player in the nation ... Ranked the No. 18 receiver in the nation by Rivals and the No. 22 WR by Student Sports ... Posted 48 catches for 1,080 yards and 16 TDs as a senior ... Turned in six catches for 186 yards and three TDs in a game against Cedar Cliff ... Returned an interception for a touchdown in that game ... Also caught 48 passes as a junior, good for 872 yards and nine TDs ... Played as a defensive back, as well as a receiver, for Coach Jeff Weachter ... Intercepted five passes in his senior year and contributed 52 tackles ... Scored three TDs on defense — two on picks and one on a fumble return ... Added 52 tackles and three interceptions as a junior ... Finished his career with 130 catches for 2,767 yards and 35 TDs ... Collected 11 career interceptions, returning five for TDs ... A dangerous kick returner, he scored two touchdowns on kickoff returns and two more on punt returns his junior year ... Started four seasons and helped the team to a 30-12 record ... Earned 4A all-state honors as both a junior and senior and was a three-time all-conference pick ... Started as a guard on
the basketball team … His high school is
the alma mater of Ricky Watters of the
Seattle Seahawks …

Personal: Fred Robert Lee … Born
3/10/83 in Harrisburg, PA … Son of Fred
and Debra Lee … His brother, Shawn,
was a three-year starter at Penn State …
Is interested in the communications field.

Danny McGrath
Offensive Lineman, 6-2, 270
Herndon H.S., Herndon, Va.

A three-year letterman as an offensive
guard and defensive lineman for Coach
Tom Meier … Led the team in snaps
played his senior year … Set a school
record for pancake blocks … Made first-
team all-district and all-region … Named
to the All-Northern Virginia first-team
all-district and all-region … Named
record for pancake blocks … Made first-
played his senior year … Set a school

Bryan Randall
Quarterback, 6-2, 205
Bruton H.S., Williamsburg, Va.

Rated the top player in Virginia for the
2000 season … Finished his senior
season rated the No. 2 athlete in the
nation by SuperPrep and the No. 4
quarterback in the country by PrepStar …
As a junior, he became the first player in
Virginia high school football history to rush
for 1,000 yards and pass for 1,000 yards
in the same season … Last fall as a
senior, he became the first state player to
duplicate the feat in back-to-back seasons …
A prep All-America pick by Parade,
SuperPrep, PrepStar, Blue Chip
Recruiting, G&W Recruiting and Student
Sports … Rated the No. 15 player in the
nation, the Mid-Atlantic offensive player
of the year and the No. 1 player in Virginia
by SuperPrep … Was a Dream Team pick
by PrepStar, which listed him as the No. 1
player in the Atlantic Region … Ranked as
the No. 41 player in the nation by Max
Emfinger’s Blue Chip Recruiting … G&W
Recruiting’s No. 46 offensive player in
nation … Picked the No. 20 QB in the
nation by Student Sports … Named the
No. 1 player in Virginia by The Roanoke
Times … Tom Lemming’s Prep Football
Report No. 21 player in the Mid-Atlantic
Region … Named the Gatorade Player
for the state of Virginia … An All-
Southern pick by Orlando Sentinel …
Selected the state Group AA Player of
Year by The Associated Press and the AA
Offensive Player of the Year by the state
coaches … First-team Group AA all-state
as a QB and DB by coaches … First-team
Group AA as DB, second-team as QB by
AP … Accounted for 58 TDs, 2,826 yards
passing and 2,169 yards rushing during
the past two years … Passed for 1,301
yards and 14 TDs as a senior …
Completed 94 of 171 passes … Added
1,012 yards rushing with 16 TDs … Ran
for 214 yards and three touchdowns and
passed for 184 yards and two TDs in a
win over Tabb … Posted over 150 tackles
and intercepted eight passes on defense
as a senior … Contributed 22 tackles, 134
yards and three touchdowns rushing and
a pair of passing touchdowns during a win
over Poquoson his junior year … Rushed
for 1,157 yards and passed for 1,525 as a
junior … Played quarterback, receiver,
safety and returned kicks during his four-
year career for Coach Kyle Neve
… Named the district and region offense
and defensive player of the year as a
senior … Compiled a district record 7,481
all-purpose yards during his career … A
four-year letterman as a guard on the

Chris Pannell
Defensive Lineman, 6-5, 240
Robert E. Lee H.S., Staunton, Va.

Following the 2000 season, he was
named first-team Group AA all-state by
The Associated Press and second-team
by the state coaches … Had 38 tackles,
14 assists, nine sacks, four passes
broken up, three fumble recoveries and a
blocked punt as a senior … Anchored a
defensive unit that held foes to 282 total
yards rushing and less than 100 total
points for the season … Helped the team
to its first undefeated (10-0) regular
season in 35 years … Posted three
sacks in a game against Rockbridge
County … Blocked a punt and deflected
three passes against Waynesboro …
Contributed 54 tackles, 11 sacks, two
fumble recoveries and an interception his
junior year … Lettered a total of three
seasons as a defensive lineman and
tight end for Coach David Tibbs …

Jason Murphy
Defensive Lineman, 6-3, 255
Edmondson Westside H.S., Baltimore, Md.

The Baltimore Sun Defensive Player
of the Year … Was in on over 100 tackles,
including 17 quarterback sacks, in 2000
… Recovered seven fumbles and blocked
a pair of punts … Posted an amazing 60
sacks during his four seasons as a starter
for Coach Pete Pompey … Thirty of those
sacks came in 1999 when he helped his
team to the Maryland 2A championship
game … Rated the No. 46 defensive
player in the nation by G&W Recruiting …
Rated as the No. 38 DE by Rivals … Tom
Lemming’s Prep Football Report rated
him the No. 35 player in the Mid-Atlantic
Region … Listed as the No. 14 prospect
in Maryland by ACC Area Sports Journal
and the No. 16 player in the Mid-Atlantic
Region by SuperPrep … A PrepStar all-
region pick … A first-team All-Metro and
all-state pick as a junior and senior and a
second-team All-Metro selection as a
sophomore … Helped the team to three-
straight city West Division championships
and 28 wins in the last 30 games of his
career … Played his first organized
football as a freshman … Led
Edmondson Westside to the state
semifinals his senior season … Spent
time at all four defensive line positions
during his career and even saw some
limited action at linebacker … Played
lacrosse for one season … Attended
Tech’s summer football camp after his
junior year … The vice-president of his
senior class …

Personal: Jason G. Murphy … Born
8/7/82 in Baltimore, MD … Son of
Benjamin and Anna Murphy … Plans to
look into accounting or business
management as a major.

2001 Virginia Tech Football 115
basketball team ... Was named the state Group AA Basketball Player of the Year as a junior after leading his team to a state championship ... Played on an AAU national championship basketball team ... A member of the National Honor Society ...

Personal: Bryan Jemar Randall ... Born 8/16/83 in Charleston, WV ... Son of Edgar and Belinda Randall ... His father played basketball at West Virginia State ... His older brother, Brandon, was a starter on the Hampden-Sydney basketball team in 2000-2001.

**Tim Sandidge**

Defensive Lineman, 6-2, 275
Amherst County, Madison Heights, Va.

Only played football his final two years at Amherst County ... Participated in baseball and basketball during his freshman and sophomore years ... Had 35 tackles, seven sacks and two blocked punts in his first season of play for Coach Mickey Crouch ... Earned all-district and all-region honors ... Was in on 55 tackles as a senior, posting eight sacks, three fumble recoveries and three blocked punts ... Garnered second-team Group AA all-state honors from the state coaches ... Also named all-district and all-region ... Played defensive tackle, offensive line and tight end during his two seasons ... Scored a touchdown on a pass reception against Rustburg during his junior year ... Rated the No. 23 player in the state by The Roanoke Times ... SuperPrep ranked him the No. 22 player in Virginia, while Prep Star named him All-Atlantic Region ... Attended Tech's summer football camp in 2000 ...

Personal: Timothy Allan Sandidge ... Born 6/12/83 in Lynchburg, VA ... Son of Robert and Dorothy Sandidge.

Jordan Trott

Linebacker/Defensive Lineman, 6-4, 230
Loyola H.S., Torrance, Calif.

The first football player from the state of California to sign with Virginia Tech straight out of high school ... Did not make his final decision until after the national signing day ... Played several positions as a junior for Coach Steve Grady, including defensive tackle, center and offensive tackle ... Turned in 38 tackles, four sacks, and three fumble recoveries on defense that season ... Switched to linebacker as a senior and helped the team to a No. 25 national ranking ... Registered 138 tackles his senior season with four sacks, three fumbles caused and three recoveries ... Had 15 tackles in the CIF Division I title game versus No. 2 ranked Long Beach Poly ... Named the California Del Rey League, CIF Division I Defensive Player of the Year ... Was selected first-team all-league, all-division and all-region ... Picked the Central City lineman/linebacker of the year by the L.A. Times ... Also garnered first-team Central City honors from that publication ... Excelling as a first baseman in baseball ... Invited by the Los Angeles Dodgers to join 200 of the best high school baseball players from the western part of the U.S. for a camp at Dodger Stadium during summer 2000 ... One of 50 participants who made the Dodgers' Elite Team ... Named a National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame scholar athlete ...

Personal: Jordan Richard Trott ... Born 6/26/83 in Torrance, CA ... Son of Richard and Rita Trott ... Is interested in studying business.

**D.J. Walton**

Defensive Back, 5-10, 195
C.D. Hylton H.S., Woodbridge, Va.

A prep All-America pick by SuperPrep, PrepStar, Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report and Student Sports ... Started three seasons as a defensive back and running back for Coach Bill Brown ... Helped his team to a 41-2 record and two Group AAA championships over his three seasons ... During a regional championship win against Potomac in 2000, he posted four interceptions and 10 tackles on defense and piled up over 100 yards rushing and two touchdowns on offense ... Posted two long touchdown runs in the fourth quarter of Hylton's state championship win over Varina in 1998 ... Played in the first-ever National High School All-Star football game in Dallas and posted nine tackles ... A first-team pick on the Washington Post All-Metro squad as both a junior and senior ... Named first-team Group AAA all-state as both a defensive back and a running back by the state coaches ... Also selected the co-offensive player of the year in AAA by the coaches ... Picked first-team Group AAA as a defensive back by The Associated Press ... Named to George Michael's Golden 11 All-Star Team for the Washington Metro Area ... Was in on 97 tackles as senior and intercepted six passes ... Rushed for 711 yards and 16 TDs as a senior ... He also scored two touchdowns on pass receptions, two more on punt returns and another on a kickoff return ... Was listed the No. 19 DB in the nation and No. 10 prospect in Virginia by SuperPrep ... Rated the No. 3 athlete in the Atlantic Region and No. 27 overall player in the Atlantic Region by PrepStar ... Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report listed him the No. 151 player in the nation ... Ranked the No. 10 player in Virginia by The Roanoke Times ... Named honorable-mention All-South by Orlando Sentinel ... Had 104 tackles and five interceptions as a junior ... Rushed for over 3,000 yards during his career, including 1,172 as a sophomore ... Also lettered as a guard on the basketball team ...

Personal: David Lee Walton ... Born 10/19/82 in Macon, GA ... Son of David and Eva Walton ... His father played baseball at Valdosta State.

**Blake Warren**

Linebacker, 6-2, 205
Centreville H.S., Clifton, Va.

Named the Group AAA Defensive Player of the Year in Virginia by the state coaches ... Helped Centreville post eight shutouts and win the state Division 6 championship in 2000 ... Contributed 14 tackles against Deep Creek in the title game ... For the season, he registered 103 tackles, six interceptions, one sack and one fumble recovery from his free safety position ... Was named first-team AAA all-state by both the high school coaches and The Associated Press ... Selected a first-team defensive back on the Washington Post All-Metro team ... An All-Southern pick by Orlando Sentinel ... A member of George Michael's Golden 11 All-Star team for the Washington Metro area ... Concorde District and Northern Region Defensive Player of the Year in 2000 ... Rated the No. 15 prospect in the state by The Roanoke Times and the No. 16 prospect by SuperPrep ... A PrepStar All-Atlantic Region pick ... Ranked the No. 51 player in the Mid-Atlantic Region by Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report ... Contributed 87 tackles and five interceptions as a junior ... Posted 12 tackles against Chantilly in the district championship game ... Finished his career with the most tackles by a defensive back (190) and a school-record 11 interceptions ... Helped Coach Mike Skinner's team to three consecutive district and region titles ... A three-year letterman in baseball ... Won all-district and all-region honors ...

Personal: Blake Davis Warren ... Born 10/10/82 in Fairfax, VA ... Son of Don and Irene ... His father played 14 years for the Washington Redskins.
When the San Francisco 49ers selected Virginia Tech defensive end John Engelberger in the second round of the 2000 NFL Draft, it completed another chapter in the success story of Tech’s football walk-on program.

Engelberger, who arrived in Blacksburg as a walk-on in 1995, was following in the footsteps of tight end John Burke, who graduated from Tech’s walk-on program as a fourth-round draft pick of the New England Patriots in 1994.

Walk-on players are an important part of Virginia Tech football. With scholarship reductions, not all high school football players earn scholarships to compete in college. But that doesn’t mean there isn’t an opportunity for those individuals, especially at Virginia Tech, where walk-on athletes have a history of contribution.

The walk-ons at Virginia Tech are treated in the same first-class manner – with total respect – as the rest of the squad. Former walk-ons have eventually earned scholarships, earned starting positions, gained All-BIG EAST honors, and some eventually played pro football.

"The important thing for a walk-on, is to know he’s going to be given a chance," said Tech head coach Frank Beamer. "The way you track that is to look at programs around the country to see how many scholarships are given to walk-ons. We’re one of the top two or three programs in the country in that category. So for a guy who’s interested in walking on, there’s not a better place than right here at Virginia Tech. We give people a chance and we treat them the same as everybody else."

Engelberger was a recruited walk-on, meaning he was invited to try out for the team. He arrived in Blacksburg in 1995 as a 6-foot-4, 210-pound tight end from Springfield, Va. He got into the weight room and transformed his body into that of a big-time college football player. After a redshirt year, he earned a scholarship for his tireless work ethic. Thanks to endless hours of work on the practice field and in the weight room, Engelberger finished his career as one of the best defensive ends in Tech history. Over his career, he was named an Associated Press All-American, was an All-BIG EAST selection three times, and was one of the best players in the state of Virginia as a senior.

Last year, he started 13 games at defensive end for the 49ers and played in all 16 games. He had 34 total tackles, including nine solo stops, and three sacks. He also contributed $100,000 back to the Tech football program. He is expected to see plenty of playing time again this year.

"Coach [Frank] Beamer, the football program and Virginia Tech have been good to me," Engelberger said. "They gave me a chance to play football and a chance to get a great college education and my degree. This donation is my way of saying thank you to them."

Burke walked on in 1989 and eventually earned a starting position for the Hokies. He was a four-year letterman at Virginia Tech (1990-93) where he caught 21 passes for 303 yards and two touchdowns. He moved into the starting lineup in 1992 after lettering as a special teams player and backup tight end for two seasons. His longest reception was a 48-yard catch and run versus West Virginia in 1991.

Burke was drafted by the New England Patriots in 1994 and was a member of the Patriots’ 1997 Super Bowl XXXI team. He has seen action with the New York Jets, San Diego Chargers and the Oakland Raiders.

Engelberger and Burke aren’t the only Hokies to excel in the walk-on program. Tech had five walk-on players start or see playing time in the 1996 Orange Bowl against Nebraska. Along with Engelberger, end Danny Wheel, tackle Kerwin Hairston and linebacker Steve Tate each made at least six starts for Tech’s defensive unit during the regular season. On offense, split end Michael Stuewe made his mark as one of the team’s top receivers. All five of those former walk-ons earned scholarships and paid big dividends for Tech in the 1996 season.

None of these players would have lived their dream and reached their potential if Virginia Tech hadn’t extended the opportunity they were
seeking. Their eventual success has become a cherished part of the Hokie football tradition and heritage.

“Our walk-on program is so successful for two reasons,” said John Ballein, who directs the walk-on program. “First, our coaches work at it. When they’re out on the road, they’re looking for players who can fit into our program. Secondly, we have a head coach in coach Beamer who is loyal to each player in this program.”

Tech’s walk-on program has provided countless young men a chance to play collegiate football and prove that the evaluation and recruiting process is far from flawless. It allows a young man to mature physically, improve his football skills, and contribute to the success of Virginia Tech football.

“No one really knows the difference between a walk-on and a scholarship player because each person is treated exactly the same,” Ballein said. “Players know they have an opportunity to earn a scholarship and that they’ll be in the best weight program in the country. Combine all those factors and you have the reason why Tech’s walk-on program has been successful.”

There are two types of walk-ons at Virginia Tech: the invited walk-on and the true walk-on. The invited walk-ons are players recruited by coaches to come into the Tech program. The true walk-ons are students already enrolled at Tech who try to earn a spot in the program. Tech has two workouts (one in the spring and one in the fall) for these players. From there, some are invited back to try and earn a spot on the team.

Hokie walk-ons not only get the chance to play in one of the best programs in the nation, they get a chance to play for one of the best coaches in college football, as well.

In 1998, The Sporting News listed the top coaches in terms of getting the most out of their talent year in and year out. Beamer was ranked No. 9 in Division I-A. Three of the past four years, TSN rated Beamer first among BIG EAST coaches. The last four years it has ranked the Hokies’ football coaching staff as the best in the conference.

In 1994, TSN surveyed newsmen across the country and then rated the coaches in the various conferences in a number of categories. Coach Beamer was voted “Best on Game Day,” “Best Game Preparation,” “Best Motivator,” “Best Teacher,” “Best in Big Games,” and “Best Overall.”

Looking at this year’s group of walk-ons, there are seven former walk-ons who have already earned scholarships and that number could increase. Five of those walk-ons who are already in the program are either slated to be a starter or should see plenty of action in the upcoming season.

Two of the more recent success stories are seniors Jarrett Ferguson and Browning Wynn. The duo both earned the program’s first Elite Level of Performance distinction in 2000, based on tests in both strength and performance. Ferguson repeated that feat this past spring, becoming the first to accomplish that.

Three years ago, an injury to Cullen Hawkins placed Ferguson into the starting lineup. He started the final eight games and was third on the team in rushing and fifth in scoring. He has started every game at fullback since then and is considered one of the best blocking fullbacks in the country.

Wynn earned All-BIG EAST second team honors a year ago at his tight end position. He combines with Bob Slowikowski to form a lethal punch at that position.

Steve DeMasi, Carter Warley, Billy Hardee and Ken Keister have all made valuable contributions to the program and now are scholarship players.

Other walk-ons have stepped up and are headed in the same direction as well. Brandon Manning and Chris Shreve are two who could see action this season.

The success of the Tech walk-on program continues to grow right along with the success of the football program. This year the Hokies will welcome another class of walk-ons who are each anxious to prove they could be the next John Engelberger.