



Tech, ASU Open in Hispanic College Fund Classic

Virginia Tech (0-0) vs. Arkansas State (0-0) • 2:30 p.m., Aug. 25, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field

TODAY'S CHECKLIST

- ✓ This will be the third meeting between Virginia Tech and Arkansas State
- ✓ Tech won the first two meetings, both of which were played in Blacksburg
- ✓ VT is 76-31-1 in season-opening games
- ✓ The Hokies have a 138-59-6 record at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field
- ✓ Tech was 4-2 at Lane Stadium in 2001 and has won 16 of its last 18 home games
- ✓ VT is ranked 16th in both the AP poll and the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' poll
- ✓ The game will be produced by ESPN Region Television and shown in parts of 24 different states
- ✓ Monarch Sports Radio will broadcast the game nationally.

THE HCF CLASSIC

☛ Virginia Tech and Arkansas State University will be meeting in the third Hispanic College Fund Football Classic. The inaugural HCF event in 2000 matched Texas Tech against New Mexico with the Red Raiders winning 24-7 at home. Last season's game pitted Oklahoma against North Carolina. The Sooners won, 41-27, in Norman.

On April 21, 1999, the Hispanic College Fund became the first national Hispanic organization to obtain affiliate membership with the NCAA. Proceeds from the football games benefit both participating universities, as well as the HCF Scholarship Program.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the HCF is a national non-profit organization founded in 1993 that has since awarded more than 800 scholarships to aspiring Hispanic students enrolled in colleges and universities throughout the country.

THE SERIES

☛ Sunday's game will mark just the third football meeting between Virginia Tech and Arkansas State University. Tech won the first two meetings, taking a 34-7 win during the 1994 season and a 50-0 decision in 1997. Both games were played at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. The Indians are the only school from the state of Arkansas that Tech has ever played in football.

Arkansas State is 1-4 in games against teams from Virginia. ASU is 0-2 against the Hokies and 1-2 versus the University of Richmond. The Indians registered a 24-3 victory at Richmond in 1979. ASU lost to the Spiders in Jonesboro, Ark., by scores of 24-20 in 1981 and 30-27 in 2000.

BEAMER MILESTONES

☛ The Hokies' 50-0 victory over Arkansas State in 1997 made Coach Frank Beamer the winningest football coach in Virginia Tech history. The win was Beamer's 65th at Tech, moving him by Bill Dooley, who had 64 wins from 1978 through 1986.

Beamer enters this year's game against ASU needing just one win for his 150th victory as a collegiate coach. Last year, Beamer earned his 100th win at Virginia Tech when the Hokies downed Connecticut in the first game of the 2001 season.

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

- 10 Virginia Tech has won 10 of its last 11 season opening games.
- 9 Tech has averaged nine wins per season over the last nine years.
- 8 Tailback Lee Suggs needs eight yards rushing to move into 18th-place on Tech's career rushing list.
- 7 The Hokies blocked seven kicks in 2001 and got a combined total of seven touchdowns from their defense and special teams.
- 6 Tech has won its last six season openers.
- 5 The Hokies have a total of just five seniors on their entire defensive roster.
- 4 For the fourth consecutive season, Virginia Tech enters the season ranked by both major football polls.
- 3 Only three of Tech's current defensive tackles have seen varsity action for the Hokies.
- 2 The Hokies are riding their first two-game losing streak at home since the 1995 season.
- 1 Frank Beamer is one win away from his 150th career victory as a collegiate coach.

COACH FRANK BEAMER

☛ Frank Beamer (Va. Tech '69), whose teams have averaged nine victories a year over the last nine seasons, is in his 16th year as the head football coach at Virginia Tech. Beamer has guided the Hokies to a 107-65-2 record. He became Tech's winningest football coach in 1997 when the Hokies defeated Arkansas State, 50-0.

Under Beamer, Tech football has enjoyed unprecedented success with nine consecutive bowl appearances, three BIG EAST Conference titles and a trip to the national championship game. Last season, the Hokies posted an 8-4 record and appeared in the Top 20 every week despite having to fill four offensive line spots, the quarterback job vacated by sensational underclassman Michael Vick and the tailback spot left open when All-America tailback Lee Suggs was lost for the season with an injury.

During the 2000 season, the Hokies posted an 11-1 record that included a 41-20 win over Clemson in the Gator Bowl. In 1999, Tech marched to an 11-0 regular-season mark before losing a hard-fought 46-29 game to Florida State for the national title in the Sugar Bowl. The Hokies ended that season ranked No. 2 by The Associated Press.

Another highlight of the Hokies' parade of bowl games came when Tech beat Texas, 28-10, in the 1995 Sugar Bowl and finished 10-2. The 1996 Hokies also finished 10-2, bowing to Nebraska, 41-21, in the Orange Bowl. In 1998, Tech registered a 9-3 mark, including a 38-7 win over Alabama in the first Music City Bowl game.

The Hokies posted a record of 7-5 in 1997 after losing to UNC in the Gator Bowl game. The bowl streak started in '93 when Tech beat Indiana in the Independence Bowl, 45-20, to cap a 9-3 season. The Hokies were 8-4 in 1994 after losing to Tennessee, 45-23, in the Gator Bowl.

Tech won the BIG EAST title in 1999 and 1995 and shared it in '96. Beamer was voted BIG EAST Coach of the Year by the league's coaches each of those seasons. In 1997, he was inducted into The Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, and following the 1999 season, he earned eight national coach of the year honors.

Beamer returned to his alma mater in December 1986 after a six-year stint as the head coach at Murray State University, where he compiled a 42-23-2 mark. His 149-88-4 overall record ranks him sixth among active Division I-A coaches in wins.

During his undergraduate days at Tech, Beamer started three years as a cornerback and played on the Hokies' 1966 and 1968 Liberty Bowl teams. The 55-year-old Hillsville, Va., native began his collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant at Maryland in 1972. He held assistant coaching positions at The Citadel and Murray State before being named MSU's head coach in 1981.

2002 SCHEDULES & RESULTS

Virginia Tech (0-0):	
Aug.	25 Arkansas State (2:30 p.m.)
Sept.	1 LSU (2:30 p.m.)
	12 Marshall (7:30 p.m.)
	21 at Texas A&M (tba)
	28 at Western Michigan (tba)
Oct.	10 at Boston College (7:45 p.m.)*
	19 Rutgers (tba)*
	26 Temple (tba)*
Nov.	2 Pittsburgh (tba)*
	9 at Syracuse (tba)*
	20 West Virginia (7 p.m.)*
	30 Virginia (tba)
Dec.	7 at Miami (1 p.m.)*
*BIG EAST Conference Game	
Arkansas State (0-0):	
Aug.	25 at Virginia Tech
	31 San Jose State
Sept.	7 Tulsa
	14 at Illinois
	21 at Louisiana-Monroe
	28 Tennessee-Martin
Oct.	5 Middle Tennessee State
	12 at Mississippi
	19 North Texas
	26 New Mexico State
Nov.	2 Southern Utah
	9 at Louisiana-Lafayette
	16 at Idaho

STABILITY AT THE TOP

☛ One of the keys to the success of Virginia Tech football has been the stability of the program. That stability begins with head coach Frank Beamer.

Beamer, the first Tech alumnus to guide the Hokies' football program since the 1940s, has coached and won more football games at Tech than any other coach. His 15 years at the Hokie helm have helped the program develop a sense of stability and consistency currently enjoyed by just a handful of other Division I-A schools.

Only three of the 117 Division I-A head football coaches have been at their current school longer than Beamer. Those coaches are: Joe Paterno (36 yrs., Penn State); Bobby Bowden (26 yrs., Florida State); and Fisher DeBerry (18 yrs., Air Force).

ACTIVE WINNERS

☛ Frank Beamer is ranked sixth among the winningest active NCAA Division I-A football coaches with 149 career wins. Joe Paterno leads the way with 327 wins followed by Bobby Bowden (323), Lou Holtz (233), Jackie Sherrill (175) and Ken Hatfield (155).

COACH STEVE ROBERTS

☛ Steve Roberts (Ouachita Baptist '87) enters his first season as the head football coach at Arkansas State University. Roberts came to ASU from Northwestern (La.) State, where he compiled a 14-9 coaching record in two seasons as the head coach. He started his coaching career as an assistant on the Southern Arkansas staff in 1987. Roberts served as an assistant coach in the high school ranks for two years before returning to the Southern Arkansas staff as an assistant in 1990. He was named the head coach at SAU prior to the 1994 season and posted a 35-24-1 mark over six years. His overall coaching record is 49-33-1.

TECH IN THE POLLS

☛ Virginia Tech is ranked No. 16 by both The Associated Press and the *USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Polls*. Tech's highest preseason rankings ever came last season when it was ranked No. 9 in both polls.

The Hokies posted their highest-ever football rankings during the 1999 and 2000 seasons. Tech finished the 1999 season rated No. 2 by AP and No. 3 by the coaches. In 2000, Tech climbed as high as No. 2 in both polls before finishing No. 6. Prior to the '99 season, Tech's previous high in the AP poll was 10th in the final 1995 poll that followed a 28-10 Sugar Bowl win over Texas. The Hokies had been ranked as high as No. 9 in the coaches' poll. Tech was ranked ninth by the coaches in the final poll of 1995, as well as four times during the '96 season.

Tech has been ranked a total of 119 voting periods by the AP since the beginning of the 1993 season. When Coach Frank Beamer took over in 1987, Tech had been ranked a total of 12 weeks during the first 49 years of the AP poll. The Hokies have been ranked in 64 of the last 65 AP polls including the last 53 in a row.

TECH IN THE BIG EAST

☛ Virginia Tech joined the BIG EAST Football Conference as a charter member when the league formed in 1991. Tech has finished among the top four in the league each year since the BIG EAST went to round-robin play in 1993. Tech won the BIG EAST title in 1999 and 1995 and shared the '96 championship with Miami and Syracuse. Tech finished second in 1994, 1997, 2000 and tied for second in 1998. The Hokies were fourth in '93. Last year, Tech tied for third in the league, marking just the second time in the last nine years that it did not finish higher than it was picked. Tech has won more games (83) than any BIG EAST team since the start of 1993.

THE GAME ON TV

☛ The Virginia Tech-Arkansas State game will be produced by ESPN Regional Television and shown in parts of 24 different states. The game will be televised in Virginia by WJPR (Fox) in Roanoke, WRIC (ABC) in Richmond, WSKY (Ind.) in Norfolk, WKPT (ABC) in Bristol/Tri-Cities and WJLA (ABC) in Northern Virginia/Washington, D.C.

The game will also be seen on several regional sports networks, including ComCast Sports South and NESN.

Dave Weekley will handle the play-by-play for the game with Jim Donnan serving as the color analyst and Sharon Thorsland providing sideline reports.

Virginia Tech has compiled a 50-14 record in televised football games over the past seven seasons. Overall, Tech is 76-42 in televised games, including a 62-30 record during Frank Beamer's 15 seasons as head coach.

TECH AT HOME

☛ Virginia Tech has posted a 138-59-6 overall record in its 37 seasons at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. Tech is 64-22-1 at home under the direction of Frank Beamer.

The Hokies have a 22-7-1 record versus non-conference teams at Lane Stadium since BIG EAST football formed in 1991. The Hokies have won 17 of their last 21 non-league home games.

Tech is 27-6 against BIG EAST teams at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. Since losing to Boston College at Lane Stadium in the opening game of the 1995 season, Tech has won 20 of its last 23 home BIG EAST games with the only league losses during that span coming to Temple, 28-24, in 1998 and to Syracuse, 22-14, and Miami, 26-24, last season.

Virginia Tech football teams are 297-90-13 in Blacksburg, including a 4-2 record in 2001.

BIG EAST STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Miami	0-0-0	0-0-0
Virginia Tech	0-0-0	0-0-0
Syracuse	0-0-0	0-0-0
Boston College	0-0-0	0-0-0
Pittsburgh	0-0-0	0-0-0
West Virginia	0-0-0	0-0-0
Temple	0-0-0	0-0-0
Rutgers	0-0-0	0-0-0

Sunday, Aug. 25

Arkansas State at Virginia Tech
(Hispanic College Fund Classic)

Thursday, Aug. 29

Syracuse at BYU
(Kickoff Classic)
Richmond at Temple

Saturday, Aug. 31

Florida A&M at Miami
UConn at Boston College
Ohio University at Pittsburgh
Villanova at Rutgers
Chattanooga at West Virginia

2001 RESULTS

Virginia Tech (8-4; 4-3):

hW	52-10	Connecticut
hW	31-0	Western Michigan
aW	50-0	Rutgers*
hW	46-14	UCF
aW	35-0	West Virginia*
hW	34-20	Boston College*
hL	14-22	Syracuse*
aL	7-38	Pittsburgh*
aW	35-0	Temple*
aW	31-17	Virginia
hL	24-26	Miami*
nL	17-30	Florida State (Toyota Gator Bowl)

Arkansas State (2-9):

aL	17-45	Georgia
aL	3-24	Baylor
hL	28-31	Jacksonville State
hL	17-35	Mississippi
hW	26-20	Louisiana-Lafayette
aL	0-45	North Texas
hW	34-31	Idaho
aL	6-54	Middle Tennessee State
aL	17-28	New Mexico State
hL	7-16	Louisiana-Monroe
hL	22-28	Nicholls State

*denotes BIG EAST game

1994 Tech-ASU

FAST START LEADS TO 34-7 TECH WIN OVER ASU

Sept. 3, 1994 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 38,626

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech scored on its first three possessions of the game and went on to defeat Arkansas State, 34-7, at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field in the opening game of the 1994 season.

Senior quarterback Maurice DeShazo ran for one touchdown and passed for two more as the Hokies raced to a 21-0 lead by the end of the first quarter. Tech managed just one touchdown and a pair of field goals the rest of the way, but the damage was done. The Hokies' special teams kept ASU pinned deep in its own territory most of the game, and the defense limited the Indians to just 177 total yards, which at the time was the lowest offensive production for a Tech foe since 1989.

Arkansas State scored its only points after recovering a Tech fumble at the Hokies' 11-yard line. DeShazo completed 13 of 20 passes for 209 yards as the Hokies accumulated 381 yards of total offense.

Arkansas St.	0	7	0	0	—	7
Virginia Tech	21	3	0	10	—	34

- VT (9:36 re 1st) — DeShazo 3 run (Williams kick)
- VT (6:03 re 1st) — Martin 11 pass from DeShazo (Williams kick)
- VT (0:24 re 1st) — Jennings 7 pass from DeShazo (Williams kick)
- ASU (13:18 re 2nd) — Z. Freeman 9 run (Caldwell kick)
- VT (0:46 re 2nd) — FG Williams 45
- VT (14:19 re 4th) — Edwards 1 run (Williams kick)
- VT (8:11 re 4th) — FG Williams 33

Team Stats	ASU	VT
First downs	7	18
Rushes-yds.	35-125	48-163
Passing yds.	52	218
Return yds.	0	106
Passes	8-17-0	15-24-1
Punts-avg.	11-43	3-41
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-yds.	7-47	12-88
Time of poss.	27:11	32:49
Sacks by	0-0	3-17

Individual Leaders

Rushing — ASU, Tinsley 8-88, Freeman 7-27, Walker 10-24, Covington 5-5, Pettus 5-(-19); VT, Thomas 14-72, Edwards 17-42, Edmonds 6-20, DeShazo 5-15, Oxendine 1-8, R. White 2-3, Druckenmiller 2-2, Parker 1-1.

Passing — ASU, Covington 4-13-0-29, Pettus 4-4-0-23; VT, DeShazo 13-20-1-209, Druckenmiller 2-4-0-9.

Receiving — ASU, Austin 4-29, McIntosh 1-9, Murphy 1-6, Cunningham 1-6, Walker 1-2; VT, Holmes 3-84, A. Freeman 3-60, D. Thomas 3-23, Scales 2-9, C. White 1-21, Martin 1-11, Jennings 1-7, Edmonds 1-3.

JUST FOR OPENERS

☛ Thanks to a string of 40 consecutive opening-game victories from 1903 through 1942, Tech has an overall 76-31-1 record in season-opening football games. Over the last 33 seasons, however, the Hokies have won just 17 times on opening day. Last year, Tech opened with a 52-10 victory against Connecticut at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

☛ The Hokies are 11-4 in season openers during Frank Beamer's tenure as the head coach. Tech has won 10 of its last 11 opening-day games, including the last six in a row.

☛ Tech grid teams are 57-13 in opening-day games played in Blacksburg, but are just 10-11 in season openers at Lane Stadium.

SCORING STREAK

☛ Tech has scored in a school record 82 straight football games, beginning with a 13-7 win over Miami on Sept. 23, 1995. The streak began after a 16-0 loss to Cincinnati in 1995.

DEPTH CHARGES

☛ Virginia Tech's entire defensive roster for the 2002 season includes just five seniors. Eleven of the top 30 players on the defensive depth chart are freshmen or redshirt freshmen, while seven others are sophomores.

☛ Of the 11 players who got some work at defensive tackle during the preseason, only three have seen any varsity action at the position. Redshirt junior **Mark Costen** (Virginia Beach, Va.) played in six games last year as a reserve and was in for 71 plays. **Kevin Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) saw action on 125 plays as a freshman in 2000, then was redshirted last year. **Jason Lallis** (r-So.; Mitchellville, Md.) was primarily an end until playing a few downs at tackle late last season.

NOTING TECH-ASU

☛ At the time, Tech's season-opening 34-7 win against Arkansas State in 1994 marked just the second time since 1980 that the Hokies had held their opening day foe to seven points or less. Tech defeated Akron 29-3 to open the 1989 season. Since then, Tech has held opening day foes to seven points or less twice, in 1998 (East Carolina, 38-3) and 1999 (JMU, 47-0).

☛ Arkansas State managed a total of just seven first downs versus Tech's defense in 1994. The Hokies allowed just one first down and 50 yards of offense in the second half. It was the lowest first down total by a Tech foe since a 1982 game with Virginia when the Hokie defense limited the Cavaliers to seven first downs. The last time a Tech defensive unit held an opponent to fewer than seven first downs in a game was 1980. Tech limited William & Mary to six first downs that year. Since the 1994 ASU game, Tech has held three other opponents to seven first downs in a game – Syracuse (1999), Temple (2000) and Western Michigan (2001).

☛ Eleven of Arkansas State's 14 possessions against Tech in their first meeting lasted just three plays. The Indians' longest drive in that game covered 58 yards in nine plays. One of the plays in that drive was a 57-yard run.

☛ The Tech defense set a BIG EAST Football Conference single-game record for rushing defense when it held Arkansas State to minus 28 yards on the ground in 1997. The performance tied Tech's school record, which was set versus the University of Tampa in 1967. The BIG EAST mark was not broken until last season when Pittsburgh held Temple to minus 36 yards on the ground.

1997 Tech-ASU

BEAMER REACHES MILESTONE IN TECH WIN

Sept. 27, 1997 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 42,178

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Frank Beamer became the winningest football coach in Virginia Tech history when the Hokies blanked Arkansas State, 50-0. The win was Beamer's 65th at the Tech helm, moving him past Bill Dooley as the Hokies' top winner.

Tech scored twice in every quarter on the way to improving its season record to 4-0. The Hokies piled up 498 yards of offense in the victory, while holding the Indians to just 168 yards. Tech's defense tied a school record by holding ASU to minus 28 yards rushing.

Junior Lamont Pegues led the Tech ground game with 94 yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries, while quarterbacks Al Clark and Nick Sorensen combined for three TDs through the air.

At the time, the final score marked the biggest shutout win for a Tech grid team since a 52-0 win over VMI in 1969. It also provided the biggest shutout margin in a home game since 1928 when the Hokies defeated King College, 52-0, in Blacksburg.

Arkansas State	0	0	0	0	—	0
Virginia Tech	14	14	9	13	—	50

- VT (7:25 re 1st) — Scales 47 pass from Clark (Graham kick)
- VT (1:41 re 1st) — Oxendine 1 run (Graham kick)
- VT (5:47 re 2nd) — Pegues 1 run (Graham kick)
- VT (0:23 re 2nd) — Harrison 5 pass from Clark (Graham kick)
- VT (12:39 re 3rd) — FG Graham 32
- VT (3:11 re 3rd) — Pegues 1 run (kick failed)
- VT (10:33 re 4th) — Gildersleeve 11 pass from Sorensen (Graham kick)
- VT (9:22 re 4th) — Ferguson 84 interception return (kick failed)

Team Stats	ASU	VT
First downs	15	27
Rushes-yds.	29-(-28)	53-296
Passing yds.	196	202
Return yds.	0	176
Passes	14-35-2	13-18-1
Punts-avg.	8-36	2-40
Fumbles-lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-yds.	6-28	13-113
Time of poss.	29:42	30:18
Sacks by	2-16	6-42

Individual Leaders

Rushing — ASU, L. Johnson 2-16, Phillips 3-1, Pettus 1-1, Tinsley 6-(-2), Watkins 3-(-4), Zachery 10-(-11), Lemons 4-(-29); VT, Pegues 15-94, Kendrick 9-48, Oxendine 10-45, Parker 6-40, Clark 7-33, Sorensen 3-29, Hawkins 2-4, Ellison 1-3.

Passing — ASU, Watkins 10-21-1-111, Lemon 2-8-1-65, Pettus 2-5-0-20, Tinsley 0-1-0-0; VT, Clark 11-14-0-177, Sorensen 2-4-1-25.

Receiving — ASU, L. Johnson 6-92, Teat 4-60, Tinsley 2-19, Lee 1-19, Cockrell 1-6; VT, Harrison 4-19, Scales 2-63, Stuewe 2-30, Parker 1-22, Sullivan 1-22, Oxendine 1-21, Remley 1-14, Gildersleeve 1-11.

NOEL IS NO. 1

☛ Starting quarterback **Grant Noel** (Ridgeley, W.Va.) is ready to open his senior season despite a torn ACL in his left knee. Noel, who took over the starting duties last season, injured his knee just days before the Hokies' 2002 spring game. When tests showed there was not a significant amount of looseness in the knee, Noel opted to forego surgery, which would likely have meant the end of his Tech playing career. Instead, he underwent conservative treatment involving a brace and rehabilitation.

Noel worked extremely hard during the summer to prepare for the challenge, and has maintained his spot at the top of the depth chart with his showings during the preseason.

Nobody had bigger shoes to fill than Noel when he followed Michael Vick as the Hokies' quarterback in 2001. Noel had seen varsity action in just six games during his three years at Tech. Against UConn in his first start, Noel completed 16 of 20 passes for 267 yards and three touchdowns. His passing total of 267 yards and his total offense of 273 yards were the third-best figures ever for a Tech quarterback in their first start.

At Rutgers, Noel tied a Tech mark with four touchdown passes in a game and became the first Tech QB in more than 40 years to throw TD passes in each of his first three starts. He threw 108 passes before suffering his first career interception at WVU.

Noel suffered through the typical ups and downs of a first-year quarterback, tossing three TD passes against state-rival Virginia, then throwing four interceptions against top-ranked Miami, then bouncing back with a Tech bowl record 269 yards passing in the Gator Bowl.

Noel finished the 2001 season completing 146 of 254 attempts (57.5 percent) for 1,826 yards. His 16 touchdown passes during the 2001 season ranks tops among first-year starters at Tech.

2002 Preseason Notes

Virginia Tech was picked to finish second in the BIG EAST Conference in 2002 based on a poll of media representatives who cover the league on a regular basis. The Hokies were picked behind defending national champion Miami, which received all 24 first-place votes for a total of 192 points. Tech garnered 152 points in the voting. Syracuse was picked to finish third with 133 points. The Orangemen were followed in the voting by Boston College (130), Pittsburgh (110), West Virginia (64), Temple (50) and Rutgers (33).

Tech's preseason ranking of 16th from both The Associated Press and the *USA Today/Coaches'* polls marks the fourth consecutive year that the Hokies have started a season ranked by both major polls. The Hokies have now started eight of the last nine seasons ranked in at least one of the two polls.

Virginia Tech's defensive secondary was rated the No. 10 defensive backfield in the Division I-A ranks by *The Sporting News* and *Lindy's*. The Hokies' running backs were rated the best in the BIG EAST by both *TSN* and *Athlon Sports*.

Tailback Lee Suggs was named to the preseason *Playboy* All-America team, while senior cornerback Ronyell Whitaker was picked first-team preseason All-America by *Athlon Sports*.

Virginia Tech was forced to cancel two practices when an outbreak of a flu-like virus sidelined a number of players. Two players became ill on Saturday, Aug. 10, and by Thursday, Aug. 15 – the final day of Tech's two-a-day practices – 43 players, two coaches, two trainers, a manager and a videographer had developed symptoms of the virus. The Hokies did not practice on the 15th, but were able to resume workouts on the afternoon of Aug. 16.

Individual player preseason rankings saw Tech tailback Lee Suggs rated the No. 5 running back in Division I-A by *The Sporting News*. Suggs' runningmate at tailback, Kevin Jones, was named the No. 12 running back by *Lindy's* and the No. 18 back by *TSN*. Junior Jake Grove was selected the No. 6 center in the nation by *The Sporting News*, while senior Ronyell Whitaker was picked the No. 8 cornerback by *TSN* and the No. 10 cornerback by *Lindy's*. Willie Pile was listed as the 10th-best safety in Division I-A by *The Sporting News* and the No. 13 safety by *Lindy's*. Offensive linemen Anthony Davis and Luke Owens were both ranked by *TSN*. Davis was listed as the No. 21 tackle and Owens the No. 23 guard.

The Hokies lost cornerback Eric Green for the season when he suffered a torn ACL in his left knee during a personal workout in late July. Green, a junior from Clewiston, Fla., has a redshirt year available. He was expected to challenge for the starting job at field corner and also be one of the Hokies' top special team performers.

THE UNTOUCHABLES

☛ Virginia Tech's tailback duo of senior **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) and sophomore **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) was ranked among the nation's best backfield combinations in many preseason publications. In a contest to nickname the duo held on the Hokies' official athletics Web site hokiesports.com, an amazing 4,016 potential slogans were submitted over a one-month period. After going through all of the choices, Suggs and Jones chose Jeremy Reynolds of Danville, Va., as the winner with his slogan of "The Untouchables."

☛ **Lee Suggs** is looking to regain the form that helped him earn All-America honors in 2000. Suggs was lost to the Virginia Tech football team for the 2001 season after suffering a torn ACL in his left knee during the Hokies' 52-10 win over Connecticut. Suggs rushed for 99 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries before injuring his knee in the third quarter. He underwent an MRI after the game and was reevaluated the following day. Suggs also suffered a tear of his medial meniscus. He underwent successful surgery on Sept. 14.

Suggs made quite an impact in 2000, his first year as a starter. He finished first in the Division I-A ranks in scoring (15.27 ppg) and touchdowns (28) and led the BIG EAST Conference in both scoring and rushing (109.1 ypg).

A string of four-straight 100-yard rushing performances at the end of the regular season brought Suggs' final rushing tally to 1,207 yards. His total stands as the third-best single-season mark in school history and the best during Coach Frank Beamer's 15 seasons. Suggs tied a school season mark with six 100-yard games. He posted a career-high 164 yards against Pittsburgh, 145 yards versus Boston College, 143 yards at UCF, 122 yards at East Carolina, 121 yards at Miami and 116 yards versus UVa.

Suggs rushed for at least one touchdown in every game in 2000. He scored five TDs at UCF, four versus Rutgers and Virginia and three against Pittsburgh. He scored two TDs five times and one twice. He carried the football a total of 222 times without a fumble. He was named third-team All-America by The Associated Press.

With his two touchdowns in the UConn game, Suggs established new Tech career records for both rushing touchdowns (31) and total TDs (32). He enters the 2002 season ranked fifth on the Hokies' career scoring list with 192 points. He has scored at least one TD in his last 13 games.

Suggs career rushing total of 1,442 yards ranks 19th at Tech. He needs just eight yards to pass Mickey Fitzgerald (1,449) for 18th place and is 114 yards away from moving by Tommy Francisco (1,555) for 17th.

☛ Highly-touted **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) lived up to his billing in his first season with the Hokies, earning 2001 BIG EAST Rookie of the Year honors. The true freshman running back became a prominent figure in the Tech offense after Lee Suggs suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opening game.

Jones joined with redshirt junior Keith Burnell to fill the position and ended up in the starting lineup for the Hokies' last three regular-season games and the Gator Bowl. During the final three regular-season games, Jones contributed 155 yards rushing at Temple, 181 yards against Virginia and 160 yards versus No. 1 Miami. His 957 yards for the season led the team and set a school season mark for a freshman. He ranked fifth among Division I-A freshmen in rushing yards for the season and third among true freshmen. He was named a freshman All-American by *The Sporting News*. His 87-yard TD run at Temple was the longest on record for a Tech freshman.

WHAT'S A HOKIE?

That's the most often-asked question in Virginia Tech athletics. The answer leads all the way back to 1896 when Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College changed its name to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. With the change came the necessity for writing a new cheer and a contest for such a purpose was held by the student body. Senior O.M. Stull won first prize for his "Old Hokie" yell which still is used today. Later, when asked if "Hokie" had any special meaning, Stull explained the words he used had no hidden or symbolic meaning, but had been thought up in an effort to get attention. Hokie soon became a nickname for all Tech teams and for those people loyal to Tech athletics. Following is the "Old Hokie" yell in its original form:

Hoki, Hoki, Hoki Hy!
 Tech! Tech! V.P.I!
 Sola-Rex Sola-Rah
 Polytech-Vir-gin-i-a!!
 Rae, Ri, V.P.I.

SIZE CHART

Average heights and weights by position of the players on Tech's active depth chart:

Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.
WR	6-0	194
TE	6-5	255
OT	6-5	310
OG	6-4	308
C	6-3	292
QB	6-1	203
FB	6-0	227
TB	6-0	204
DE	6-2	247
DT	6-2	278
ILB	6-1	225
OLB	6-0	206
CB	5-11	188
SAF	6-2	197

BEAMERBALL

☛During the Frank Beamer era at Tech, putting points on the scoreboard has always been a team effort — the offensive team, the defensive team and the special teams. It's called BeamerBall, and what sets it apart are the contributions of the defense and special teams.

Each of Tech's last eight teams are ranked among the school's top 10 highest scoring teams. During that time, a player at every position on the defensive unit has produced at least one touchdown. And 20 different players have scored touchdowns while playing on Tech's special teams. Altogether, the defense and special teams have combined for 70 TDs since Beamer arrived in 1987, including 53 in Tech's last 98 games.

Under Beamer, Tech's defense has scored 44 TDs, with 26 coming on pass interceptions, 16 on fumble returns and two on fumble recoveries. The special teams have added 26 TDs, including 13 on blocked punts, seven on punt returns, three on kickoff returns, two on blocked field goals and one on a fumble recovery.

Fittingly, the trend started in Beamer's first game as Tech's head coach when true freshman Jon Jeffries returned a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown against Clemson. It was the Hokies' first touchdown under Beamer, and it was scored on special teams.

Under Beamer, a total of 52 different players on Tech's defense and special teams have scored touchdowns. Eleven of those players — Don Stokes, Jock Jones, Roger Brown, Lawrence Lewis, Antonio Banks, Jim Baron, Keion Carpenter, Pierson Prioleau, Anthony Midget, Cory Bird and Kevin McCadam — scored twice. Ike Charlton and Ricky Hall have three scores and André Davis finished with four.

Since the start of the 1993 season, Tech is 36-5 in games it scores at least one TD on defense or special teams.

TOUCHDOWNS BY DEFENSE & SPECIAL TEAMS

1987: Jon Jeffries, 92-yd. kickoff return vs. Clemson; Don Stokes, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Syracuse; Randy Cockrell (ilb), 90-yd. interception return vs. Navy.

1988: Don Stokes, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Southern Miss; Jock Jones, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. West Virginia; Roger Brown (cb), 55-yd. interception return vs. South Carolina; Leslie Bailey (ilb), 19-yd. interception return vs. South Carolina.

1989: Marcus Mickel, 90-yd. kickoff return vs. Clemson; Jock Jones (olb), 55-yd. interception return vs. Tulane; Roger Brown (cb), 55-yd. interception return vs. North Carolina State.

1990: The '90 season marked the first and only season to date during Beamer's tenure that Tech failed to score at least one TD on either defense or special teams.

1991: P.J. Preston (olb), recovered fumble in end zone vs. Oklahoma; Ken Landrum, 18-yd. blocked punt return vs. Cincinnati; Kirk Alexander (fs), 95-yd. interception return vs. Cincinnati.

1992: Tyronne Drakeford (cb), 40-yd. interception return vs. East Carolina; Tony Kennedy, 91-yd. kickoff return vs. Louisville; Ken Brown (olb), 18-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers.

1993: William Ferrell, 7-yd. blocked punt return vs. Rutgers; DeWayne Knight (olb), 23-yd. fumble return vs. Syracuse; Jeff Holland (dt), 8-yd. fumble return vs. Virginia; Lawrence Lewis (de), 20-yd. fumble return vs. Indiana; Antonio Banks, 80-yd. blocked field goal return vs. Indiana.

1994: Torrian Gray (rov), 66-yd. interception return vs. Boston College; Stacy Henley, 25-yd. blocked punt return vs. Temple; Lawrence Lewis (de), 60-yd. fumble return vs. East Carolina; Antonio Freeman, 80-yd. punt return vs. Pittsburgh.

1995: Jermaine Holmes, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Akron; Hank Coleman (de), 51-yd. fumble return vs. Rutgers; Myron Newsome (ilb), 71-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; Larry Green (cb), 37-yd. interception return vs. West Virginia; Jim Baron (dt), 46-yd. fumble return vs. Temple; J.C. Price (dt), 19-yd. interception return vs. Temple; Antonio Banks (cb), 65-yd. interception return vs. Virginia; Bryan Still, 60-yd. punt return vs. Texas; Jim Baron (dt), 20-yd. fumble return vs. Texas.

1996: Cornelius White, 60-yd. blocked punt return vs. Syracuse; Keion Carpenter (fs), 100-yd. interception return vs. Miami.

1997: Carl Bradley (dt), recovered fumble in end zone vs. Rutgers; Pierson Prioleau (rov), 43-yd. fumble return vs. Rutgers; Lorenzo Ferguson (fs), 84-yd. interception return vs. Arkansas St.; Anthony Midget (cb), 22-yd. fumble return vs. Pittsburgh.

1998: Keion Carpenter (fs), 16-yd. interception return vs. Pittsburgh; Pierson Prioleau (rov), 85-yd. interception return vs. Boston College; Marcus Gildersleeve, recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. UAB; Ricky Hall 17-yd. blocked punt return vs. West Virginia; Ricky Hall recovered blocked punt in end zone vs. Syracuse; Loren Johnson (cb), 78-yd. fumble return vs. Syracuse; Ike Charlton (cb) 26-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; Jamel Smith (lb), 98-yd. interception return vs. Rutgers; Anthony Midget (cb), 27-yd. interception return vs. Alabama.

1999: Ike Charlton (cb), 34-yd. interception return vs. Clemson; Corey Moore (de), 32-yd. fumble return vs. Clemson; Cory Bird (rov), 26-yd. fumble return vs. Syracuse; Phillip Summers (rov) 43-yd. interception return vs. Syracuse; Tee Butler recovered fumble by punter in end zone vs. Syracuse; Ricky Hall, 64-yd. punt return vs. Miami; Ike Charlton (cb), 51-yd. fumble return vs. Miami; Larry Austin (cb), 31-yd. interception return vs. Temple.

2000: Willie Pile (fs), 11-yd. interception return vs. Akron; Cory Bird 9-yd. blocked punt return vs. East Carolina; André Davis 87-yd. punt return vs. East Carolina; André Davis 71-yd. punt return vs. Boston College; André Davis 76-yd. punt return vs. WVU; Nathaniel Adibi (de), 36-yd. fumble return vs. UCF.

2001: Channing Reed (dt), 8-yard fumble return vs. Rutgers; Kevin McCadam (rov), 69-yd. interception return vs. UCF; André Davis, 55-yd. punt return vs. UCF; Jim Davis (de), 27 yd. interception return vs. WVU; Kevin McCadam (rov), 9-yd. fumble return vs. BC; Ronyell Whitaker, 71-yd. blocked field goal return vs. Pittsburgh; Brandon Manning, 22-yd. blocked punt return vs. Miami.

BEAMERBALL II

☛ Virginia Tech's tradition for blocking kicks is another part of BeamerBall. It was carried to new heights in 1998 with 10 blocks during the regular season and two more in the Hokies' Music City Bowl game against Alabama. Tech now has 90 blocks in Beamer's 174 games as the head coach. The Hokies have blocked 46 punts (13 for TDs), 23 field goals and 21 extra points.

☛ Tech blocked more kicks in the 1990s than any other Division I-A team. The Hokies blocked 63 kicks during the decade — 31 punts, 18 PATs and 14 FGs. Tech started the new decade with eight blocks.

☛ The most prolific kick blockers under Beamer have been defensive lineman Bernard Basham and safety Keion Carpenter who each posted six blocks during their Tech careers. Basham blocked three field goals and three PATs, while Carpenter blocked six punts.

☛ The teams Tech has victimized the most during Frank Beamer's 15-seasons have been Pittsburgh, WVU and Miami. During that span, the Hokies have blocked nine kicks against the Panthers and eight versus the Mountaineers and 'Canes.

☛ Since joining the BIG EAST Conference in 1991, the Hokies have posted at least three blocked kicks against every team in the league. During that span, Tech has blocked nine kicks against Pittsburgh, eight versus Miami, six against WVU, five versus Rutgers, four against BC and three against Syracuse and Temple.

☛ During the Beamer era, Tech has blocked two kicks in a game 16 times, including two against top-ranked Miami last season. Tech blocked two kicks against four different teams in 1998.

VIRGINIA TECH'S BLOCKED KICKS UNDER FRANK BEAMER

Totals: 90 in 174 games (46 punts, 23 FGs, 21 PATs)

1987 (1 punt, 1 PAT, 1 FG)

Syracuse – punt* (Jimmy Whitten) hL
East Carolina – PAT (na) hL
Cincinnati – FG (Roger Brown) hW

1988 (4 punts, 3 FGs)

Clemson – punt (Jock Jones) aL
Southern Miss – punt* (Archie Hopkins) aL
West Virginia – punt* (Archie Hopkins) hL
Cincinnati – punt+ (Jock Jones) aW
Louisville – FG (Jimmy Whitten) aL
Florida State – FG (Roger Brown);
FG+ (Roger Brown) aL

1989 (1 punt, 1 FG)

Tulane – punt+ (Archie Hopkins) hW
N.C. State – FG (Jock Jones) aW

1990 (2 punts, 3 PATs, 1 FG)

East Carolina – PAT (John Rivers) aW
South Carolina – PAT (John Rivers) hL
Florida State – punt+ (Scott Jones) aL
West Virginia – FG+ (Bernard Basham) hW
Temple – punt (Archie Hopkins) aL
N.C. State – PAT (Bernard Basham) hW

1991 (3 punts, 3 FGs)

James Madison – FG (Bernard Basham) hW
Oklahoma – FG (Bernard Basham) aL
Cincinnati – punt+ (P.J. Preston);
punt* (Kirk Alexander) hW
Louisville – FG (John Rivers) hW
East Carolina – punt (Marcus McClung) hL

1992 (5 PATs, 1 FGs)

James Madison – PAT (John Rivers);
FG+ (Kirk Alexander) hW
East Carolina – PAT (Bernard Basham) aL
West Virginia – PAT (David Wimmer) hL
Miami – PAT (Bernard Basham) hL
Virginia – PAT (David Wimmer) hL

1993 (4 punts, 2 FGs)

Miami – punt@ (Willie Wilkins) aL
Maryland – FG (George DelRicco) hW
Rutgers – punt* (Marcus McClung) hW
Syracuse – punt+ (William Ferrell) hW
Virginia – punt# (Brandon Semones) aW
Indiana – FG* (Jeff Holland) nW
Independence Bowl

1994 (2 punts, 2 FGs)

Arkansas St. – FG (Cornell Brown) hW
Temple – punt* (William Ferrell) hW
Miami – punt# (Michael Williams) aL
Rutgers – FG (Michael Williams) hW

1995 (4 punts, 3 PATs, 1 FG)

BC – PAT (Waverly Jackson) hL
Cincinnati – FG (Jim Baron);
PAT (Lawrence Lewis) hL
Miami – punt# (Angelo Harrison) hW
Pittsburgh – punt+ (Angelo Harrison);
punt# (Angelo Harrison) aW
Akron – punt* (Okesa Smith);
PAT (Lawrence Lewis) hW

1996 (5 punts, 1 PAT)

Akron – PAT (John Engelberger) aW
BC – punt+ (Keion Carpenter) aW
Syracuse – punt* (Cornelius White) aL
Temple – punt (Keion Carpenter) hW
SW Louisiana – punt (Michael Stuewe);
punt+ (Keion Carpenter) hW

1997 (2 punts, 3 PATs, 2 FGs)

Arkansas St. – FG+ (Carl Bradley) hW
WVU – punt# (Phillip Summers) aL
Miami – PAT (Carl Bradley) hW
Pittsburgh – PAT (Corey Moore);
PAT (John Engelberger) aL
Virginia – punt (Keion Carpenter);
FG (John Engelberger) aL

1998 (8 punts, 2 PATs, 2 FGs)

East Carolina – FG+ (Corey Moore) hW
Miami – PAT (John Engelberger) aW
Pittsburgh – FG (Corey Moore);
punt# (Larry Austin) hW
Boston College – punt (Keion Carpenter);
punt+ (André Davis) aW
UAB – punt* (Larry Austin) aW
WVU – punt* (Marcus Gildersleeve);
PAT (John Engelberger) hW
Syracuse – punt* (Anthony Midget) aL
Alabama – punt (Keion Carpenter);
punt+ (Corey Moore) nW
Music City Bowl

1999 (1 punt, 1 PAT, 0 FGs)

Rutgers – PAT^ (Carl Bradley) aW
Pittsburgh – punt+ (André Davis) aW

2000 (4 punts, 2 FGs, 2 PATs)

Akron – FG+ (Cory Bird) hW
East Carolina – punt* (Wayne Ward);
FG (Larry Austin) aW
Rutgers – punt+ (Eric Green) hW
Temple – punt+ (Wayne Ward) hW
West Virginia – punt (Lee Suggs);
PAT (Lamar Cobb) hW
Pittsburgh – PAT (David Pugh) hW

2001 (5 punts, 0 PAT, 2 FG)

W. Michigan – punt+ (Wayne Ward) hW
Rutgers – punt@ (Eric Green) aW
UCF – punt@ (Brandon Manning) hW
Pittsburgh – FG* (Lamar Cobb) aL
Virginia – punt (Wayne Ward) aW
Miami – FG# (David Pugh)
punt* (Eric Green) hL

*recovered or returned for touchdown +led to TD @led to safety #led to FG ^led to a two-point defensive extra point

UP FOR GRABS

☛The competition continues to be close for several positions on the Virginia Tech depth chart, including the rover and whip linebacker positions.

Senior **Billy Hardee** (Winter Haven, Fla.) and redshirt junior **Michael Crawford** (Baltimore, Md.) have taken turns holding the top spot at the rover position during the pre-season. Hardee was making good progress at rover last fall before he was sidelined for six games by a knee injury. Crawford saw some reserve action at rover following Hardee's injury and was making a strong push for the position during the spring before suffering an ankle injury.

Mike Daniels (Fairfax, Va.), who started the final four games of the 2001 season at whip linebacker, is battling fellow redshirt sophomore **Brandon Manning** (Harrisburg, Pa.) for the starting duties this fall. Daniels saw action on 203 plays during Tech's last three regular-season games in 2001 and performed well. He has been slowed during the preseason, however, by a hamstring injury. Manning, who excelled on special teams last year, has taken advantage of the opportunity with some steady play.

The starters at both positions may not be named until late in the week.

READY FOR HIS TURN

☛Redshirt junior tight end **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) is anxious to prove what he can do after working behind veterans Browning Wynn and Bob Slowikowski the past two seasons. Willis, who has bulked up to 254 pounds, was one of three offensive players to meet all six of his goals in preseason strength and conditioning tests. He increased his bench press to 390 pounds, best among the tight ends. He also led the position with a 32-inch vertical jump and a 336-pound push jerk.

VEGAS

☛Defensive coordinator Bud Foster had some big shoes to fill at the backer position during spring practice, but he just may have hit the jackpot with **Vegas Robinson** (Chesapeake, Va.). Robinson will be taking over the spot held the past two seasons by Ben Taylor, a two-time All-American and Butkus Award semi-finalist.

In Robinson, the Hokies have a physical, athletic player with all the tools to follow in Taylor's footsteps. The 6-0, 245-pound redshirt junior attained Elite Athlete status during the spring when he turned in a 370-pound bench press, a 600-pound back squat, a 39 1/2-inch vertical jump and a 4.47 second clocking in the 40-yard dash.

2001 START CHART

Pos.	Offense (starts)
SE	Shawn Witten (7) Emmett Johnson (4) Ernest Wilford (1)
LT	Anthony Davis (12)
LG	Luke Owens (7) Jacob Gibson (5)
C	Steve DeMasi (12)
RG	Jake Grove (11) Luke Owens (1)
RT	Matt Wincek (12)
TE	Bob Slowikowski (12)
QB	Grant Noel (12)
FB	Jarrett Ferguson (12)
TB	Keith Burnell (7) Kevin Jones (4) Lee Suggs (1)
FL	André Davis (12)
Pos.	Defense (starts)
E	Lamar Cobb (8) Cols Colas (4)
T	Chad Beasley (12)
T	David Pugh (11) Dan Wilkinson (1)
E	Nathaniel Adibi (9) Jim Davis (3)
OLB	Deon Provitt (4) T.J. Jackson (4) Mike Daniels (4)
ILB	Jake Houseright (7) Brian Welch (5)
ILB	Ben Taylor (12)
BC	Ronyell Whitaker (11) DeAngelo Hall (1)
FS	Willie Pile (12)
ROV	Kevin McCadam (12)
FC	Larry Austin (10) Eric Green (1) Garnell Wilds (1)

SHUFFLING THE DECK

☛Virginia Tech's defensive secondary was rated among the nation's best in several preseason magazines, but the loss of versatile junior cornerback **Eric Green** (Clewiston, Fla.) with a season-ending knee injury and the suspension of All-America corner **Ronyell Whitaker** (Norfolk, Va.) for two games have forced Tech to shuffle its lineup.

Secondary coach Lorenzo Ward tried promising sophomore free safety **Vincent Fuller** (Baltimore, Md.) at the field corner spot were Whitaker and Green were both working. Fuller adjusted well and will work with experienced redshirt junior **Garnell Wilds** (Tampa, Fla.) to solidify the position until Whitaker's return.

With Fuller's move to corner, true freshman **Jimmy F. Williams** (Hampton, Va.) will get a chance to back up veteran starter **Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.) at free safety.

DeAngelo Hall (Chesapeake, Va.) will handle the starting duties at the boundary corner. The talented sophomore was listed as the best athlete in the BIG EAST by *Street & Smith's* preseason magazine.

Redshirt freshman **D.J. Walton** (Woodbridge, Va.) and true freshman **Cary Wade** (Fairfax, Va.) will also be on hand to provide help at the cornerback spots.

ALIVE AND KICKING

☛Redshirt junior kicker **Carter Warley** (Richmond, Va.) is coming off excellent spring and preseason practices after experiencing some ups and downs last season. Warley connected on just 11 of his 21 field goal attempts in 2001, but has been extremely accurate since then. During spring scrimmages, Warley made his first seven field goals before just missing from 56 yards. He was 2-for-3 in the spring game and 4-for-4 in fall scrimmages, including two 47-yard field goals.

DON'T FORGET THESE GUYS

☛Virginia Tech's tailbacks and defensive backfield have been rated among the best units in the nation, but it's hard to overlook the Hokies' defensive ends.

This year's group of ends ranks with the best Tech has had. The veteran group includes redshirt junior **Nathaniel Adibi** (Hampton, Va.), who has played in 24 games, 21 as a starter; senior **Lamar Cobb** (Hurt, Va.), who has played in 28 games, 20 as a starter; redshirt junior **Cols Colas** (Plantation, Fla.), who has played in 22 games, four as a starter; and junior **Jim Davis** (Highland Springs, Va.), who has played in 21 games, three as a starter.

Last season, those four players combined for 49 quarterback hurries, 25 tackles for loss and 11 of the Hokies' 30 sacks. Those numbers are expected to improve this season.

Davis is a play-maker who is being counted on for a big year. Last year, he tied for the team lead in sacks with 4.5, intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown and forced two fumbles that were returned for touchdowns. He was named the most valuable performer during Tech's spring workouts.

Adibi was also recognized for his efforts during the spring when he was named the team's outstanding leader. He finished with 41 tackles and 15 quarterback hurries in 2001. Adibi was moved to the stud end position during the spring in an effort to get him and Davis on the field at the same time.

Colas will see a lot of playing time at the stud end, too. His power and explosive speed – 390 bench press and 4.41 forty – make him hard to handle on the corner. He led the team with 17 hurries last fall and added 3.5 sacks.

Cobb, who will miss the first game due to a violation of team rules, led the defensive ends in tackles last season with 46 and had 11 hurries.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Nathaniel ADIBI	uh-DEE-bee
MIKAL BAQUEE	meh-CALL bah-KEY
Chris BUIE	BOO-ee
John CANDELAS	can-DELL-us
COLS COLAS	coles CO-las
Billy HARDEE	har-DEE
Mike IMOH	EEE-moh
Ken KEISTER	KEES-ter
Jason LALLIS	LAH-liss
Alex MARKOGIANNAKIS	marko-gee-an-knock-us
Jared MAZZETTA	muh-ZEH-tah
Jon MOLLERUP	MAH-ler-up
Grant NOEL	knoll
Chris PANNELL	puh-NELL
Robert PEASLEE	PEESE-lee
Tim SANDIDGE	SAN-didge
Chris SHREVE	shreev
Carter WARLEY	WOR-lee

ON THE RECEIVING END

☛A lot of attention was paid to the receiving positions during the spring and preseason as Tech looked to replace veteran wideouts André Davis and Emmett Johnson.

A variety of players could see action early in the season as the Hokies finalize their best combinations. Leading the way will be senior **Shawn Witten** (Elizabethton, Tenn.) and redshirt junior **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.). Witten started seven games last season before suffering a broken leg against Pittsburgh. He caught 16 passes for 161 yards and one touchdown. Wilford saw action in every game, catching eight passes for 100 yards and one TD.

Redshirt sophomore **Richard Johnson** (Baltimore, Md.), who was impressive in preseason practice, is expected to press for a starting job. Others battling for playing time are **Chris Shreve** (r-Jr.; Mouth of Wilson, Va.), **Justin Hamilton** (r-Fr.; Clintwood, Va.), **Chris Clifton** (r-Fr.; Chesapeake, Va.) and **Mike Imoh** (Fr.; Fairfax, Va.). **Terrell Parham** (r-Jr.; Bartow, Fla.), who caught 14 passes in 2001, will miss the opener.

CLEARING THE WAY

☛Leading the charge for Tech's highly-touted running backs is an offensive line that ranks among the largest in school history. The unit will be anchored by **Jake Grove** (r-Jr.; Forest, Va.) who moved to center this year after starting every game last season at guard. Also returning from last year's starting lineup are 6-4, 322-pound left tackle **Anthony Davis** (Victoria, Va.) and 6-3, 310-pound right guard **Luke Owens** (Grundy, Va.).

Jon Dunn (Virginia Beach, Va.), a 6-7, 319-pound redshirt sophomore is the starter at right tackle, while 6-6, 304-pound sophomore **James Miller** (Pompano Beach, Fla.) and 6-4, 302-pound redshirt junior **Jacob Gibson** (Rocky Mount, Va.) are vying for the left guard spot.

Owens will be pushed by **Will Montgomery** (r-Fr.; Clifton, Va.), **Anthony Nelson** (r-Jr.; Kingsport, Tenn.) is also at guard. **Reggie Butler** (Fr.; Keswick, Va.) and **Jimmy Martin** (Fr.; Chantilly, Va.) are the No. 2 tackles, with **Robert Ramsey** (r-So.; Coraopolis, Pa.) and **Danny McGrath** (Fr.; Herndon, Va.) at center.

2002 Virginia Tech Depth Chart for Arkansas State (8/25/02)

Offense (Multiple)

SE 19, Ernest Wilford (6-4, 217, r-Jr.)
81, Chris Shreve (6-0, 185, r-Jr.)

LT 57, Anthony Davis (6-5, 322, Sr.)
61, Reggie Butler (6-5, 330, Fr.)

LG 76, James Miller (6-6, 304, So.) OR
60, Jacob Gibson (6-4, 302, r-Jr.)

C 64, Jake Grove (6-4, 292, r-Jr.)
68, Robert Ramsey (6-3, 296, r-So.)

RG 74, Luke Owens (6-4, 310, r-Sr.) OR
66, Will Montgomery (6-3, 294, r-Fr.)

RT 79, Jon Dunn (6-7, 319, r-So.)
52, Jimmy Martin (6-5, 269, Fr.)

TE 86, Keith Willis (6-5, 254, r-Jr.)
90, Jeff King (6-5, 252, r-Fr.)

QB 11, Grant Noel (6-2, 221, r-Sr.)
14, Bryan Randall (6-0, 213, So.)

TB 22, Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.) OR
7, Kevin Jones (6-0, 212, So.)

FB 43, Doug Easlick (5-11, 235, r-Jr.) OR
32, Cedric Humes (6-1, 218, r-Fr.)

FL 26, Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.) OR
12, Richard Johnson (5-11, 180, r-So.)

Defense (4-3)

DE 83, Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.)
99, Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.)

DT 70, Kevin Lewis (6-1, 287, r-So.)
72, Jason Murphy (6-2, 288, r-Fr.)

DT 91, Jason Lallis (6-0, 254, r-So.)
92, Mark Costen (6-3, 270, r-Jr.)

DE 95, Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.)
58, Darryl Tapp (6-1, 234, Fr.)

ILB 6, Vegas Robinson (6-0, 245, r-Jr.)
37, James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Fr.)

ILB 45, Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 217, r-So.)
39, Alex Markogiannakis (5-9, 204, r-Sr.)

OLB 31, Mike Daniels (6-0, 201, r-So.) OR
48, Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.)

FC 8, Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.)
24, D.J. Walton (5-9, 197, r-Fr.)

FS 35, Willie Pile (6-3, 211, r-Sr.)
18, Jimmy F. Williams (6-2, 203, Fr.)

ROV 25, Billy Hardee (5-11, 203, r-Sr.) OR
21, Michael Crawford (5-11, 206, r-Jr.)

BC 4, DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.)
17, Garnell Wilds (5-11, 192, r-Jr.)

Special Teams

P 38, Vinnie Burns (5-11, 194, r-So.) OR
23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.)

FG/PAT 49, Carter Warley (5-11, 189, r-Jr.) OR
23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.)

FG/PAT Snap 55, Ken Keister (6-1, 240, r-Sr.)
62, Travis Conway (6-5, 257, r-So.)

FG/PAT Hold 89, Robert Peaslee (6-1, 199, r-Jr.)
26, Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.)

Punt Snap 55, Ken Keister (6-1, 240, r-Sr.)
62, Travis Conway (6-5, 257, r-So.)

KOs 97, Jon Mollerup (5-11, 205, r-Sr.)
23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.)

KR 12, Richard Johnson (5-11, 180, r-So.)
7, Kevin Jones (6-0, 212, So.) OR
22, Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.)

PR 4, DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.)

TECH OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team	Second Team
<p>SE 19 Ernest Wilford (6-4, 217, r-Jr.) A huge target at wide receiver ... Looking to have a breakout season ... Caught 8 passes last year for 100 yards and a TD</p>	<p>SE 81 Chris Shreve (6-0, 185, r-Jr.) A speedy receiver who has moved up the depth chart ... Will see more time with the suspension of T. Parham ... A former walk-on</p>
<p>LT 57 Anthony Davis (6-4, 322, Sr.) Started every game last year ... Averaged 59 snaps a game on O ... Graded out at 81 percent for the year with 29 knockdown blocks</p>	<p>LT 61 Reggie Butler (6-5, 330, Fr.) Enrolled at Tech in January ... A big, physical presence on the line ... Recorded a 500-lb. squat and a 316-lb. push jerk in the spring</p>
<p>LG 76 James Miller (6-6, 304, So.) Looking to solidify his spot as the starter ... Was 1 of 4 true frosh to play last year ... Saw action in 10 of 11 regular season games</p>	<p>OR LG 60 Jacob Gibson (6-4, 302, r-Jr.) Considered the "utility player" of the line ... Can play either guard or tackle spot ... Played in 9 games in '01, averaging 31 snaps a game</p>
<p>C 64 Jake Grove (6-3, 292, r-Jr.) Makes the move to center this year ... Started all 11 games ... Averaged 63 offensive spg ... Graded out at 87.6% for the year</p>	<p>C 68 Robert Ramsey (6-3, 296, r-So.) Competing for the #2 center spot ... Has a solid grasp of Tech offense ... Has a legitimate chance for playing time this year</p>
<p>RG 74 Luke Owens (6-3, 310, r-Sr.) Started 10 regular season games ... Graded out at 84.9% this year with 48 knockdown blocks in '01 ... Moves from LG spot</p>	<p>OR RG 66 Will Montgomery (6-3, 294, r-Fr.) A former invited walk-on who earned a scholarship this past offseason ... A strong newcomer who will add depth to the line</p>
<p>RT 79 Jon Dunn (6-7, 319, r-So.) The biggest player on the team ... Has progressed nicely and is ready to assume a bigger role ... Averaged 26 spg last year</p>	<p>RT 52 Jimmy Martin (6-5, 269, Fr.) A standout lineman at Fork Union Military Academy in 2001 ... Has moved up the depth chart rapidly and should see playing time</p>
<p>TE 86 Keith Willis (6-5, 254, r-Jr.) Has waited his turn and is ready to take over the starting job ... An athletic TE with good hands ... Had 2 catches and a TD in '01</p>	<p>TE 90 Jeff King (6-5, 252, r-Fr.) The biggest of the three main tight ends ... Made excellent progress while redshirting last year ... Has good hands and blocks well</p>
<p>QB 11 Grant Noel (6-2, 221, r-Sr.) Started every game in '01 ... Threw for 1,826 yards on 146-of-254 passing ... Had 18 total TDs ... Playing with torn ACL in left knee</p>	<p>QB 14 Bryan Randall (6-0, 213, So.) An athletic QB who battled for the starting job all preseason ... Will still see action this year ... Played in 8 games as true frosh in '01</p>
<p>FB 43 Doug Easlick (5-11, 235, r-Jr.) Has big shoes to fill ... A former walk-on ... A physical back with tailback speed ... Caught a 22-yd. pass for a TD against WMU</p>	<p>OR FB 32 Cedric Humes (6-1, 218, r-Fr.) Moved to FB from TB following spring ... Turned a lot of heads while redshirting last year ... A great runner with breakaway speed</p>
<p>TB 22 Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.) BIG EAST Off. Player of the Year in '00 ... Ran for 1,207 yards and scored a nation-leading 28 TDs in '00 ... VT all-time TD leader</p>	<p>OR TB 7 Kevin Jones (6-0, 212, So.) BIG EAST Rookie of the Year in '01 ... Ran for 160 yds. vs. #1 Miami ... Finished with 957 yards and 5 TDs ... TSN Frosh All-American</p>
<p>FL 26 Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.) Has the best hands and runs the best routes of any receiver ... Had 16 catches and 161 yds. before breaking his leg vs. Pitt in '01</p>	<p>OR FL 12 Richard Johnson (5-11, 180, r-So.) Looking to make a big impact this year after struggling with a hamstring injury most of last year ... Also returns kickoffs</p>
<p>PK 49 Carter Warley (5-11, 189, r-Jr.) All-BIG EAST in 2000 ... Was 44 of 44 on PATs in '01 ... Went just 11-for-21 on field goals ... Coaches are looking for more consistency</p>	<p>PK 23 Nic Schmitt (6-3, 238, Fr.) A talented young kicker with a strong leg ... Impressed the coaches in preseason practices ... Will battle for playing time as a true frosh</p>

TECH DEFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team	Second Team
<p>DE 83 Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.) Has started 21 games at end over the past 2 seasons, including 2 bowl games ... Has 86 career tackles, 10 TFL and 6 sacks</p>	<p>DE 99 Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.) Started the last three regular season games and the Gator Bowl last year ... Has explosive speed ... Has 57 tackles and 3.5 sacks</p>
<p>DT 70 Kevin Lewis (6-1, 287, r-So.) Coming off a redshirt year ... Saw action in 8 games as a true frosh ... Posted 15 tackles and 3 TFL in 2000 ... Is very physical</p>	<p>DT 72 Jason Murphy (6-2, 288, r-Fr.) A physical player who plays hard ... Runs well and is athletic ... Has improved dramatically since enrolling ... Redshirted last year</p>
<p>DT 91 Jason Lallis (6-0, 254, r-So.) Spent the first two years at defensive end ... Runs well and has excellent skills ... Had a great preseason to win the starting job</p>	<p>DT 92 Mark Costen (6-3, 270, r-Jr.) One of only a few DTs with game experience ... Doesn't have a lot of experience, but is a tough competitor ... A former walk-on</p>
<p>DE 95 Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.) A playmaking end who could also move inside to the tackle spot ... A pass-rushing specialist ... Has 66 tackles and 8 sacks</p>	<p>DE 58 Darryl Tapp (6-1, 234, Fr.) A true frosh slated to see playing time ... Bumped up to #2 after the 1-game suspension to L. Cobb ... A physical player with speed</p>
<p>LB 31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 201, r-So.) Started the last 4 games of the '01 season after a mid-season position change (rover) ... Had 28 tackles — 12 solo — in 2001</p>	<p>OR LB 48 Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.) Played in all 12 games last year ... Returned a blocked punt for a TD against #1 Miami ... Had 12 tackles in 2001 ... A former walk-on</p>
<p>LB 45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 217, r-So.) A solid #1 at the mike linebacker spot ... Played mostly special teams last year ... Recorded a 500-lb. squat in preseason tests</p>	<p>LB 39 Alex Markogiannakis (5-9, 204, r-Sr.) Will challenge for playing time this year ... Has game experience at the mike linebacker spot ... Has 16 career tackles in 13 games</p>
<p>LB 6 Vegas Robinson (6-0, 245, r-Jr.) Has big shoes ... A physical player who has a chance to become a playmaker at the backer spot ... Nicknamed the "Two-year Plan"</p>	<p>LB 37 James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Fr.) A physical player who turned a lot of heads in preseason ... A young LB with good athletic ability ... HS teammate of V. Robinson</p>
<p>BC 4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.) The best overall athlete on the team ... Could be a special player ... Played in 11 games in '01, starting 1, with 42 tackles and 3 INTs</p>	<p>BC 17 Garnell Wilds (5-11, 192, r-Jr.) Has great technique ... Can play both the field and boundary corner positions ... Made his 1st start vs. Temple and had 2 INTs</p>
<p>FS 35 Willie Pile (6-3, 211, r-Sr.) The leader of the secondary ... Had 4 INTs last year ... Has 10 INTs in 2 seasons as a starter ... Also had 162 tackles, 6 TFL and a sack</p>	<p>FS 18 Jimmy F. Williams (6-2, 203, Fr.) A true freshman who has turned a lot of heads this fall ... Will provide quality relief for Willie Pile ... A big, physical player</p>
<p>ROV 25 Billy Hardee (5-11, 203, r-Sr.) Looking to make the most of his senior year ... Has been slowed by injuries throughout his career ... Had 8 stops and an INT in '01</p>	<p>OR ROV 21 Michael Crawford (5-11, 206, r-Jr.) Had a very good fall season to compete for the starting job ... Played in 11 games last year, recording 14 tackles, 2 TFL and a sack</p>
<p>FC 8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.) Moved to the FC spot after the season-ending injury to Eric Green ... Can still play free safety if needed ... Has a lot of speed</p>	<p>FC 24 D.J. Walton (5-9, 197, r-Fr.) A smart player who has been bumped up to #2 after the 2-game suspension to R. Whitaker ... Made steady progress while RS in '01</p>
<p>P 38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 194, r-So.) Handled the punting duties in '01 ... Averaged 37.8 yards on 59 punts ... Completed a 33-yard pass on fake punt vs. UCF last yr.</p>	<p>OR P 23 Nic Schmitt (6-3, 238, Fr.) Has pressed Burns for playing time in the preseason ... Has a strong leg ... Has improved quickly since reporting in late July</p>