



Hokies Close Regular Season Against No. 1 Miami

Virginia Tech (9-3; 3-3) vs. Miami (11-0; 6-0) • 1 p.m., Dec. 7, 2002 • Orange Bowl

TODAY'S CHECKLIST

- ✓ Virginia Tech and Miami first met on the gridiron in 1953
- ✓ UM holds a 14-5 lead in the series
- ✓ The Hurricanes won last year's meeting 26-24 in Blacksburg
- ✓ The Hokies are 2-8 against Miami at the Orange Bowl
- ✓ VT is 3-1 on the road in 2002
- ✓ The Hokies have a 67-36-5 record in final regular-season games
- ✓ VT is ranked 18th by AP and is 14th in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' poll
- ✓ Miami is ranked No. 1 in both polls
- ✓ The game will be televised by ABC
- ✓ The Hokies have an 83-45 record in televised games

THE SERIES

☛ Saturday's game will be the 20th football meeting between Virginia Tech and the University of Miami. The two schools first met on the gridiron during the 1953 season. After losing the first 12 games of the series, Tech won five consecutive games against UM before losing the last two meetings.

The Hokies won for the first time during the 1995 season with a 13-7 decision at Lane Stadium. Tech won in 1996 at Miami, 21-7, and held on for a 27-25 victory in Blacksburg during the '97 season. The Hokies rallied for a 27-20 overtime win at Miami in 1998 and won at home in 1999 by a score of 43-10.

Miami defeated Tech 41-21 at the Orange Bowl in 2000 to snap the Hokies' streak, then took a 26-24 decision last year in Blacksburg on the way to a national championship. The two schools have met twice in bowl games with Miami winning 14-7 in the 1966 Liberty Bowl and 20-10 in the 1980 Peach Bowl. Tech is 2-8 against the 'Canes in games played at the Orange Bowl.

THE GAME ON TV

☛ The Virginia Tech-Miami game will be televised by ABC. Brad Nessler will handle the play-by-play with Bob Griese serving as the color analyst. Lynn Swann will provide sideline commentary.

Virginia Tech has a 7-10 record in games televised by ABC. Tech's last appearance on the network was a 13-3 win at Texas A&M earlier this season.

THIS SEASON

☛ Virginia Tech is 9-3 overall and 3-3 in the BIG EAST Conference following a 21-9 home win against Virginia. Tech posted a 6-0 mark in non-conference games, including wins against nationally-ranked LSU (14th), Marshall (16th) and Texas A&M (19th), but lost consecutive conference outings to Pittsburgh, Syracuse and WVU.

☛ Miami carries an 11-0 overall record and a 6-0 mark in the BIG EAST after a 49-7 win at Syracuse. UM has wins against FSU, Florida and Tennessee and has held the No. 1 spot in the AP poll every week but one. UM has won 33 straight games.

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

- 10 Virginia Tech is in line for its 10th-straight bowl bid.
- 9 Tech is tied for ninth nationally in pass interceptions this season with a total of 20.
- 8 Eight Virginia Tech players have scored their first collegiate touchdowns during the 2002 season.
- 7 Virginia Tech ranks seventh among Division I-A football teams in winning percentage (.777) since the start of the 2000 season.
- 6 Tech's game at Miami will mark the Hokies' sixth meeting with a team ranked No. 1.
- 5 The Hokies are 5-5 against Miami in BIG EAST play.
- 4 Lee Suggs needs four yards to move by Ken Oxendine for fifth place in career rushing at Virginia Tech.
- 3 Three different Tech defensive ends — Jim Davis, Cols Colas and Nathaniel Adibi — have posted three-sack games in 2002.
- 2 Redshirt freshman Justin Hamilton picked up his second blocked punt of the season during the Virginia game.
- 1 Ernest Wilford is the first player during Coach Frank Beamer's tenure at Virginia Tech to catch 40 passes in a season.

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 116-68-2 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 158-91-4 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 56-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 (9-3; 3-3):

- hW 63- 7 Arkansas State
- hW 26- 8 LSU
- hW 47-21 Marshall
- aW 13- 3 Texas A&M
- aW 30- 0 Western Michigan
- aW 28-23 Boston College*
- hW 35-14 Rutgers*
- hW 20-10 Temple*
- hL 21-28 Pittsburgh*
- aL 42-50 Syracuse (3OT)*
- hL 18-21 West Virginia*
- hW 21- 9 Virginia
- Dec. 7 at Miami (1 p.m.)*

Miami (11-0, 6-0):

- hW 63-17 Florida A&M
- aW 41-16 Florida
- aW 44-21 Temple*
- hW 38- 6 Boston College*
- hW 48-14 Connecticut
- hW 28-27 Florida State
- aW 40-23 West Virginia*
- aW 42-17 Rutgers*
- aW 26- 3 Tennessee
- hW 28-21 Pittsburgh*
- aW 49- 7 Syracuse*
- Dec. 7 Virginia Tech*

*BIG EAST games

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 158 career wins. Joe Paterno leads the way with 336 wins followed by Bobby Bowden (332), Lou Holtz (238), Jackie Sherrill (178) and Ken Hatfield (159).

COACH LARRY COKER

☛ Larry Coker (Northeastern State '70) is in his second season as the head football coach at Miami where his current record is 23-0. Coker served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at UM for six seasons before being elevated to the head coaching position in 2001. Coker began his collegiate coaching career as an assistant at Tulsa in 1979. He moved to Oklahoma State in 1983 and was OSU's offensive coordinator for five seasons. He held the same position at Oklahoma from 1988-92. Coker spent two years (1993-94) on the staff at Ohio State before moving to Miami in 1995. He guided UM to the national title in 2001.

TECH IN THE POLLS

☛ Virginia Tech is No. 18 in the The Associated Press Poll and No. 14 in *USA Today*/ESPN Coaches' Poll.

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's highest preseason rankings ever came last season when it was ranked No. 9 in both polls.

Tech has been ranked a total of 134 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 79 of the last 80 AP polls including the last 68 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. Miami (93) and Tech (92) have won more games than any BIG EAST teams since the start of 1993.

TECH ON THE ROAD

☛ Virginia Tech has won 35 of the last 45 regular-season road games it has played, including 20 of its last 27 BIG EAST Conference road games. Tech is 3-1 on the road this season with wins at Texas A&M, Western Michigan and BC and a triple-overtime loss at Syracuse.

TECH VS. NO. 1

☛ Tech will be meeting the nation's No. 1 ranked football team for just the sixth time in school history. The Hokies are 0-5 in the previous meetings. Tech lost at No. 1 ranked Alabama, 31-7, in 1979. The Hokies have lost twice to Florida State when the Seminoles topped the polls. Top-ranked FSU beat Tech, 33-20, in a regular-season neutral site game at Orlando in 1991 and took a 46-29 decision in the national championship game in the 2000 Nokia Sugar Bowl. Miami was ranked No. 1 when it beat the Hokies at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field in both 1992 (43-23) and 2001 (26-24).

SEASON FINALES

☛ The Hokies have an overall record of 67-36-5 in final regular-season games. Tech has won 19 of its last 24 final regular-season games. Just 14 of Tech's 108 final regular-season games have been played on an opponent's home field. The Hokies are 8-6 in those contests. Tech has played 74 final regular-season games at neutral sites and 20 at home.

SCORING STREAK

☛ Tech has scored in a school record 94 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. The previous record was 66 straight games, which started in 1970 and ran into the 1976 season. During their current streak, the Hokies have scored 13 or more points in all but two games.

BIG EAST STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Miami	6-0-0	11-0-0
West Virginia	6-1-0	9-3-0
Pittsburgh	5-2-0	8-4-0
Virginia Tech	3-3-0	9-3-0
Boston College	3-4-0	8-4-0
Temple	2-5-0	4-8-0
Syracuse	2-5-0	4-8-0
Rutgers	0-7-0	1-11-0

Saturday, Nov. 30

Virginia Tech 21, Virginia 9

Miami 49, Syracuse 7

West Virginia 24, Pittsburgh 17

Boston College 44, Rutgers 14

Saturday, Dec. 7

Virginia Tech at Miami

2001 RESULTS

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

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)

Miami (12-0, 7-0 BIG EAST):

hW 33- 7 Penn State

hW 61- 0 Rutgers*

aW 43-21 Pittsburgh*

hW 38- 7 Troy State

aW 49-27 Florida State

hW 45- 3 West Virginia*

hW 38- 0 Temple*

aW 18- 7 Boston College*

hW 59- 0 Syracuse*

hW 65- 7 Washington

aW 26-24 Virginia Tech*

nW 37-14 Nebraska

(Rose Bowl)

*BIG EAST games

Last Game

Hokies Get Back On Winning Track With Win Over UVa

Nov. 30, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 65,097

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech relied on its running game and special teams to snap a three-game losing streak with a 21-9 win against in-state rival Virginia before a record-setting crowd at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

On a cold, blustery afternoon, the Hokies scored 14 second-quarter points to gain the upper hand, then put the game out of reach on Lee Suggs' second touchdown run of the day with 5:08 left to play. Suggs led a rushing attack that produced 272 yards, including 178 in the second half. The senior tailback gained 108 yards on 19 carries, while sophomore Kevin Jones added 91 yards on 15 carries.

Virginia capitalized on an interception to set up a first-quarter field goal and a fumble deep in Tech territory to set up a 15-yard TD pass in the third period. The Cavaliers managed a total of just 203 yards of offense for the game, including just 76 yards in the second half.

Tech's special teams put the Hokies ahead to stay when Justin Hamilton blocked a Virginia punt in the second quarter and Darryl Tapp returned it 11 yards for a touchdown. Suggs capped a 61-yard Tech drive with 6:56 showing in the quarter to give the Hokies a 14-3 halftime lead.

Virginia	3	0	6	0	—	9
Virginia Tech	0	14	0	7	—	21

UVa (10:20 re 1st) — FG Hughes 20
 VT (13:30 re 2nd) — Tapp 11 blocked punt return (Warley kick)
 VT (6:56 re 2nd) — Suggs 4 run (Warley kick)
 UVa (10:09 re 3rd) — H. Miller 15 pass from Schaub (kick failed)
 VT (5:08 re 4th) — Suggs 6 run (Warley kick)

Team Stats	UVa	VT
First downs	11	17
Rushing yds.	37-152	50-272
Passing yds.	51	85
Return yds.	35	84
Passes	13-24-1	5-11-1
Punts-avg.	7-29	5-28
Fumbles-lost	5-0	2-2
Penalties-yds.	4-25	5-35
Time of poss.	28:56	31:04
Sacks by	1-5	3-8

Individual Leaders

Rushing — UVa, Lundy 29-127, McMullen 1-19, Snelling 2-12, Schaub 5-(-6); VT, Suggs 19-108, Jones 15-91, Randall 14-67, Easlick 1-7, Team 1-(-1).
 Passing — UVa, Schaub 12-23-1-43, Hagan 1-1-8; VT, Randall 5-11-1-85.
 Receiving — UVa, McMullen 4-14, Lundy 4-10, Miller 2-15, Newby 1-8, Hagens 1-4, Snelling 1-0; VT, Wilford 2-33, Johnson 1-39, Suggs 1-9, Easlick 1-4.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ Virginia Tech's 21-9 victory against Virginia gave the Hokies their fourth straight win over their in-state rival. The last time either team won four straight in the series was from 1980-83 when the Hokies took four consecutive meetings.

☛ The crowd of 65,097 was the largest ever to watch a football game in the commonwealth of Virginia. The previous record was set earlier this season when Tech had turnouts of 65,049 for its games with both LSU and Marshall.

☛ The 30 combined points by the two teams was the lowest total in the series since 1988 when Virginia won by a score of 16-10 in Blacksburg.

☛ A pair of freshmen made their first collegiate starts at defensive tackle for Tech in the Virginia game. Redshirt freshman **Tim Sandidge** (Madison Heights, Va.) and true freshman **Jonathan Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) moved into the lineup after 11-game starters **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.) and **Kevin Lewis** both suffered season-ending injuries in the West Virginia game. Sandidge and Jonathan Lewis each posted six tackles against the Cavaliers.

☛ **Justin Hamilton**, a redshirt freshman from Clintwood, Va., posted his second blocked punt of the season during the Virginia game. Hamilton's block against UVa was picked up by true freshman **Darryl Tapp** (Chesapeake, Va.) and returned for a touchdown. It was Tapp's first collegiate TD.

☛ **Cols Colas** (Plantation, Fla.) had three sacks against UVa. He became the third Tech defensive end to post three sacks in a game during the 2002 season. **Jim Davis** had three versus LSU, while **Nathaniel Adibi** had three at Texas A&M.

NOTING TECH-MIAMI

☛ Virginia Tech's 24 points were the second-most against Miami in 2001 and the two-point final margin was the closest of the season for the 'Canes. Going into the game, Miami had held eight of its first 10 foes to seven points or less. Florida State managed 27 points against UM and Pittsburgh scored 21 points.

☛ True freshman **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) rushed for 160 yards against the Hurricanes, the most yards by an opposing player against the 'Canes during the 2001 season. His 56-yard run in the third quarter was also the longest against Miami during the season. Jones posted his third-straight 100-yard rushing game. He was the first Tech freshman to post three 100-yard rushing games in a season since Jon Jeffries finished with three in 1987. Roscoe Coles also had three 100-yard rushing games as a freshman in 1974.

☛ When **Grant Noel** (Ridgeley, W.Va.) passed to **Terrell Parham** (Bartow, Fla.) for a two-point conversion against Miami, it marked Tech's first successful two-point conversion since the 1996 season when Angelo Harrison caught a Jim Druckenmiller pass for two points against Akron.

☛ Redshirt freshman **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.) registered his first collegiate sack in the second quarter of the Miami game. It was only the fourth sack allowed by UM all season.

☛ Tech blocked two kicks against Miami. Defensive tackle **David Pugh** (Madison Heights, Va.) blocked a field goal in the first quarter that led to a Tech field goal. During the fourth quarter, **Eric Green** (Clewiston, Fla.) blocked a punt that was picked up by **Brandon Manning** (Harrisburg, Pa.) and returned for a touchdown.

Last Season

Hokies Give Top-Ranked Miami Hurricanes A Real Scare

Dec. 1, 2001 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 53,662

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech came painfully close to ending No. 1 Miami's undefeated season before falling in a hard-fought, 26-24, loss to the 'Canes at Lane Stadium.

Tech, which trailed 20-3 at halftime, staged a fierce second-half comeback, scoring twice within a 2 1/2-minute span of the fourth quarter. The second of those two touchdowns, a blocked punt return by Brandon Manning, cut the Miami lead to just two points with 6:03 remaining. A two-point conversion pass that could have tied the game fell incomplete. Miami ended the Hokies' final threat with an interception at the UM 31 with just under five minutes left.

An inspired defensive performance helped Tech stay within striking distance despite committing five turnovers. The Hokies held the 'Canes to 132 total yards during the second half and forced a fumble that set up the first of two 1-yard TD runs by fullback Jarrett Ferguson.

Miami	0	20	3	3	—	26
Virginia Tech	3	0	7	14	—	24

- VT (3:08 re 1st) — FG Warley 27
- UM (13:05 re 2nd) — Shockey 14 pass from Dorsey (Sievers kick)
- UM (6:11 re 2nd) — Portis 7 run (Sievers kick)
- UM (3:59 re 2nd) — FG Sievers 34
- UM (0:16 re 2nd) — FG Sievers 43
- VT (10:30 re 3rd) — Ferguson 1 run (Warley kick)
- UM (4:41 re 3rd) — FG Sievers 42
- UM (11:32 re 4th) — FG Sievers 39
- VT (8:33 re 4th) — Ferguson 1 run (Parham pass from Noel)
- VT (6:03 re 4th) — Manning 22 blocked punt return (pass failed)

Team Stats	UM	VT
First downs	23	11
Rushes-yds.	41-149	39-167
Passing yds.	235	81
Return yds.	60	41
Passes	21-44-0	4-16-4
Punts-avg.	7-35	6-42
Fumbles-lost	2-2	3-1
Penalties-yds.	10-73	3-27
Time of poss.	34:18	25:42
Sacks by	5-31	1-3

Individual Leaders

Rushing — UM, Portis 34-124, Gore 4-19, Davenport 1-7, McGahee 1-2, Dorsey 1-(-3); VT, Jones 24-160, Burnell 6-34, Ferguson 3-6, R. Johnson 1-(-2), Noel 5-(-31).

Passing — UM, Dorsey 21-44-0-235; VT, Noel 4-16-4-81.

Receiving — UM, Jones 5-29, Shockey 4-60, Beard 3-46, Sands 3-32, Portis 2-35, Davenport 2-18, Johnson 1-11, Williams 1-4; VT, Ferguson 1-42, Slowikowski 1-29, E. Johnson 1-9, R. Johnson 1-1.

CALLING THE SIGNALS

☛ Sophomore **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.), who saw only limited action as Tech's top backup at quarterback last season, has had a hand in eight wins in 2002, including three over nationally-ranked opponents. Randall came off the bench after the first two series to direct the Tech attack against LSU and made his first collegiate start against Marshall. He completed 10 of 11 passes for 119 yards in his first road game start at Texas A&M.

In his first BIG EAST Conference game at Boston College, Randall threw a 44-yard touchdown pass and scrambled for several key first downs. Against Syracuse, he set a BIG EAST record with 504 yards passing and established a Tech mark with five passing touchdowns. He rushed for 125 yards in the WVU game. Randall has connected on 125 of his 199 passes (62.8 percent) for 1,792 yards and 11 touchdowns, while being intercepted 11 times. Randall has also contributed 395 yards and three TDs on the ground.

NOEL'S KNEE

☛ Quarterback **Grant Noel** (Ridgeley, W.Va.) opened his senior season as Tech's starter 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. 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.

After starting against Arkansas State and LSU, Noel underwent a 15-minute arthroscopic procedure on Sept. 3 to evaluate his left knee. During his procedure, doctors found a partially torn lateral meniscus, which was trimmed up along with the portion of the ACL that was torn during the spring. Noel's only action since has been limited to 12 snaps.

BACKFIELD BACKGROUND

☛ **Lee Suggs** (r-Sr., Roanoke, Va.) and runningmate **Kevin Jones** (So., Chester, Pa.) have become the most productive Tech twosome ever in terms of single-season rushing yardage. Suggs and Jones have a combined total of 2,035 yards rushing this season which stands as a new season record for two Tech players. The previous record of 1,963 yards was set by Phil Rogers (1,036 yds.) and James Barber (927 yds.) in 1973. That still remains the closest two Tech backs have come to rushing for 1,000 yards in the same season. Suggs has already surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for 2002 with 1,200 yards, while Jones stands at 835 yards after missing seven quarters of play with a hamstring injury. Suggs joins Cyrus Lawrence and Roscoe Coles as the only Tech players to post 1,000-yard rushing seasons twice during their Tech careers. He rushed for 1,207 yards during the the 2000 season. Suggs has 2,642 career yards rushing on 501 carries, an average of 5.3 yards per attempt. Jones has rushed for 1,792 yards on 320 carries, an average of 5.6 yards per carry. The most productive Tech twosome in terms of career rushing yards has been tailbacks Maurice Williams (2,981) and Eddie Hunter (2,523) who combined for 5,504 yards from 1983 through 1986.

☛ **Lee Suggs** has scored at least one touchdown in each of the last 25 games in which he has played dating back to the opening game of the 2000 season against Akron. With his 28-yard touchdown run during the West Virginia game, Suggs set an NCAA Division I-A mark for consecutive games with a touchdown. The Tech senior broke the 32-year old mark of 23 consecutive games set by Arkansas' Bill Burnett during a span that began on Oct. 5, 1968 through Oct. 31, 1970. Burnett scored a total of 47 touchdowns during that span. Suggs has similar numbers, scoring 52 touchdowns from Sept. 2, 2000 when he scored twice against Akron through last week's game with UVa when he scored twice. The fact that Suggs missed all but one game in 2001 does not affect the streak. Also, the NCAA does count bowl games toward consecutive game streaks.

☛ **Lee Suggs** became the BIG EAST Conference's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns when he scored the first of his two touchdowns at Boston College. Suggs, who now has 48 career rushing touchdowns, passed former West Virginia standout Amos Zereoue who held the old mark of 38. Just one game earlier, Suggs became the BIG EAST's career leader in total touchdowns when he scored two TDs against Western Michigan. Suggs, who now has 51 career touchdowns (48 rushing, three receiving), broke the conference mark of 39 that was shared by William Green of Boston College and Zereoue. The Tech senior has scored at least one touchdown in each of the last 25 games in which he has played (all as a starter), including the 2001 Gator Bowl game. Suggs led the nation in scoring in 2000 when he scored 28 touchdowns. His current point total of 306 places him third on the BIG EAST's list of career scoring leaders. Former Tech kicker Shayne Graham is the league's all-time scoring leader with 371 points.

LEE AND KJ

☛ 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 by many preseason publications, and they have lived up to their billing. During the Hokies' 12 games of the 2002 season, Suggs and Jones have rushed for 2,035 yards and scored a total of 28 touchdowns. Together, they are averaging 169.6 yards rushing per game and 5.5 yards per carry. Suggs has 223 carries for 1,200 yards so far this season and has scored 19 TDs. Jones has 145 carries for 835 yards and has nine touchdowns.

☛ **Lee Suggs** has regained the form that helped him earn All-America honors in 2000. He has been a consistent performer throughout the Hokies' 2002 season. He rushed for 91 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries in the LSU game and had 24 carries for 153 yards and two TDs versus Marshall. Suggs ran for 154 yards and two TDs at Boston College before gaining a career-high 197 yards on the ground against Rutgers. He added 128 yards against Pittsburgh and 108 versus Virginia.

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 TDs before injuring his knee in the third quarter.

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).

Suggs' final rushing tally of 1,207 yards was the third-best single-season mark in school history and the best during coach Frank Beamer's 15 seasons. He tied a school season mark with six 100-yard games.

Suggs scored five TDs at UCF, and four versus both Rutgers and Virginia in 2000. He carried the football a total of 222 times without a fumble and 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 and total TDs. He currently ranks second on Tech's career scoring list with 306 points. Tech's all-time scoring leader is place-kicker Shayne Graham with 371 points.

Suggs' career rushing total of 2,642 yards ranks sixth at Tech. He needs four yards to move by Ken Oxendine for fifth on the list.

☛ Highly-touted **Kevin Jones** lived up to his billing during 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 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*.

This season, Jones has rushed for 70 yards and a TD against LSU and carried 24 times for 171 yards and three TDs versus Marshall. He scored another touchdown at WMU and added 144 yards rushing and a TD against Boston College. In Tech's win over Rutgers, he registered 132 yards on the ground and scored on a 58-yard run.

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 is 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 22 different players have scored touchdowns while playing on Tech's special teams. Altogether, the defense and special teams have combined for 76 TDs since Beamer arrived in 1987, including 59 in Tech's last 110 games.

Under Beamer, Tech's defense has scored 47 TDs, with 27 coming on pass interceptions, 18 on fumble returns and two on fumble recoveries. The special teams have added 29 TDs, including 14 on blocked punts, nine 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 56 different players on Tech's defense and special teams have scored touchdowns. Twelve 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. **DeAngelo Hall**, Ike Charlton and Ricky Hall have three scores and André Davis four.

Since the start of the 1993 season, Tech is 40-5 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-yd. 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.

2002: DeAngelo Hall, 69-yd. punt return vs. Arkansas State; DeAngelo Hall (cb), 49-yd. interception return vs. Arkansas State; Jason Lallis (dt), 59-yd. fumble return vs. Arkansas State; Alex Markogiannakis (lb), 25-yd. fumble return vs. Western Michigan; DeAngelo Hall 51-yd. punt return vs. Rutgers; Darryl Tapp, 11-yd. blocked punt return vs. Virginia.

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 97 blocks in Beamer's 186 games as the head coach. The Hokies have blocked 51 punts (14 for TDs), 25 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 has started the new decade with 19 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 16-seasons have been Pittsburgh, WVU and Miami. During that span, the Hokies have blocked 10 kicks versus the Panthers, nine against the Mountaineers and eight versus UM.

☛ Since joining the BIG EAST in 1991, the Hokies have posted at least three blocked kicks against every team in the league. During that span, Tech has blocked 10 kicks against Pittsburgh, eight against Miami, seven versus WVU, five versus Rutgers, four against BC and three versus Syracuse and Temple.

☛ During the Beamer era, Tech has blocked two kicks in a game 17 times, including two against No. 14 LSU this season. Tech blocked two kicks against four different teams in 1998.

VIRGINIA TECH'S BLOCKED KICKS UNDER FRANK BEAMER

Totals: 97 in 186 games (51 punts, 25 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 DelRocco) 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)

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, 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

2002 (5 punts, 2 FG)

LSU – punt+ (Justin Hamilton)
punt@ (Jason Lallis) hW
Marshall – FG+ (Team) hW
Western Michigan – FG (Jeff King) aW
Pittsburgh – punt+ (Nathaniel Adibi) hL
West Virginia – punt# (Ernest Wilford) hL
Virginia – punt* (Justin Hamilton) hW

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

CRAWFORD UPDATE

☛Tech starting rover **Michael Crawford** (Baltimore, Md.) underwent an open biopsy on Nov. 11 at Montgomery Regional Hospital to test for possible lymphoma. The redshirt junior underwent a needle biopsy prior to Tech's game with Pittsburgh, then traveled to Baltimore for further tests the following week. Both tests revealed the suspicion of lymphoma.

Crawford is not undergoing any treatment at this time and could play against Miami. Once the results of the recent tests are known, a method of treatment will be determined.

Crawford got the starting nod at rover prior to the 2002 opener. He turned in his best game at Texas A&M with five tackles, a tackle for loss, a sack, a fumble caused and a pass broken up. He has 42 tackles and two sacks for the year. He played 16 defensive snaps during the UVa game and contributed two tackles.

Billy Hardee (Winter Haven, Fla.) has started the last three games. Hardee had 12 tackles at Syracuse and six against West Virginia. He has 48 tackles for the season.

WHIP LB

☛Redshirt sophomore **Brandon Manning** (Harrisburg, Pa.) has started 11 of Tech's 12 games this season at whip linebacker. Manning is another successful product of the Hokies' walk-on program, having already earned a scholarship and a starting position. Manning is currently third on the team in tackles with 67. He has five tackles for loss, including one quarterback sack. Manning has also broken up two passes and recovered a fumble.

Mike Daniels (Fairfax, Va.), who started the final four games of the 2001 season at whip linebacker, has kept the pressure on Manning for the starting job. Daniels has one start this season and has contributed 45 tackles, including two for losses.

VEGAS

☛Starting inside linebacker **Vegas Robinson** (Chesapeake, Va.) returned to action against WVU after missing three games due to an ankle injury. Robinson, who took over the backer spot vacated by Ben Taylor has been a key player for the Hokies.

Robinson, who saw action on just 78 defensive plays last year, has been in on 460 plays this season. Despite missing time, he still ranks fourth in tackles with 60 and has two pass interceptions, three tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and a pair of quarterback hurries.

2002 START CHART

Pos.	Offense (starts)
SE	Ernest Wilford (11) Terrell Parham (1)
LT	Anthony Davis (12)
LG	Jacob Gibson (10) James Miller (2)
C	Jake Grove (12)
RG	Luke Owens (12)
RT	Jon Dunn (7) Jimmy Martin (5)
TE	Keith Willis (8) Jeff King (4)
QB	Bryan Randall (10) Grant Noel (2)
FB	Doug Easlick (12)
TB	Lee Suggs (12)
FL	Shawn Witten (10) Richard Johnson (2)

Pos.	Defense (starts)
E	Nathaniel Adibi (11) Jim Davis (1)
T	Kevin Lewis (11) Tim Sandidge (1)
T	Jason Lallis (11) Jonathan Lewis (1)
E	Cols Colas (7) Jim Davis (5)
OLB	Brandon Manning (11) Mike Daniels (1)
ILB	Mikal Baaqee (11) Alex Markogiannakis (1)
ILB	Vegas Robinson (9) James Anderson (3)
BC	DeAngelo Hall (9) Garnell Wilds (3)
FS	Willie Pile (12)
ROV	Michael Crawford (9) Billy Hardee (3)
FC	Ronyell Whitaker (9) Vincent Fuller (3)

SECONDARY EXPERIENCE

☛Virginia Tech's defensive secondary features an experienced cast of performers led by senior returning starters **Ronyell Whitaker** (Norfolk, Va.) and **Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.) and dynamic sophomore **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.).

Prior to the season, the Tech secondary was rated among the nation's best by several preseason magazines, but the loss of versatile junior **Eric Green** (Clewiston, Fla.) with a season-ending knee injury and the suspension of Whitaker for two games forced the Hokies to shuffle their lineup. During Whitaker's absence, secondary coach Lorenzo Ward started promising sophomore free safety **Vincent Fuller** (Baltimore, Md.) at the field corner spot were Whitaker and Green were both working. Fuller and experienced redshirt junior **Garnell Wilds** (Tampa, Fla.) combined to solidify the position. Fuller has shown good promise with 23 tackles, six pass breakups and four interceptions. Wilds has 42 tackles, five breakups, four interceptions and a key fumble recovery. Whitaker, who has 39 tackles, returned to the starting lineup against Marshall, but Fuller continues to see significant playing time.

Pile, who is in his third season as a starter, has been rated as one of the top free safeties in Division I-A for the second straight year. He is second on the team with 92 tackles and has three interceptions. Pile also has five pass breakups.

Hall, the starting boundary corner, was listed as the best athlete in the BIG EAST by *Street & Smith's* preseason magazine and showed why by returning a punt and an interception for touchdowns in Tech's opening game. Hall, who has seen only brief action in Tech's last three games due to a sore back, has 38 tackles. He leads the team in pass breakups with nine and is tied for the lead in interceptions with four.

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 36 games, 32 as a starter; senior **Lamar Cobb** (Hurt, Va.), who has played in 39 games, 20 as a starter; redshirt junior **Cols Colas** (Plantation, Fla.), who has played in 34 games, 11 as a starter; and junior **Jim Davis** (Highland Springs, Va.), who has played in 33 games, nine as a starter.

Last season, those four players combined for 49 quarterback hurries and 11 of the Hokies' 30 sacks. This year, they have produced 59 hurries and 24.5 sacks in 12 games.

Davis is a play-maker who is trying to shake a nagging ankle injury. 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 TDs. He has 31 tackles, 5.5 sacks, eight total tackles for loss, nine hurries and three passes batted down so far in 2002.

Adibi has been a standout on this year's young defense. He has a career-high nine sacks and 15 total tackles for loss. He has 50 tackles, 16 hurries and has forced three fumbles, one of which was returned for a TD. During the Syracuse game he had a career-high 13 tackles, two sacks and two other tackles behind the line.

Colas' power and explosive speed – 390 bench press and 4.41 forty – make him hard to handle on the corner. He has 22 hurries, nine sacks and 18 total tackles for loss to go with 49 tackles. He was in on 11 tackles at Syracuse.

Cobb led the ends in tackles last year with 46. He currently has 12 hurries, a sack and 32 tackles.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Nathaniel ADIBI	uh-DEE-bee
MIKAL BAAQEE	meh-KELL 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 have seen action in Tech's first 12 games with redshirt junior **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) and seniors **Shawn Witten** (Elizabethton, Tenn.) and **Terrell Parham** (Bartow, Fla.) leading the way.

Wilford has been outstanding with 40 catches for 807 yards and six touchdowns. He is averaging 20.2 yards per catch, tops among BIG EAST receivers with 20 or more catches. He set Tech and BIG EAST records with 279 yards receiving against Syracuse. His four touchdown catches in that game also set a Tech record. Wilford ranks third in the conference in yards receiving per game with 67.2.

Witten is second on the team with 19 catches for 237 yards, while Parham is third with 14 catches for 121 yards. **Richard Johnson** (r-So.; Baltimore, Md.) has posted a total of 13 catches for 136 yards.

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 is anchored by 6-3, 292-pound **Jake Grove** (r-Jr.; Forest, Va.) who moved to center this year after starting every game at guard in 2001. Grove has been outstanding, earning a spot in the Winner's Circle every game and leading the team with a total of 39 knockdown blocks.

Also back 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.). Davis has 34 knockdowns, while Owens has 28.

Jon Dunn (r-So.; Virginia Beach, Va.), a 6-7, 319-pounder, and **Jimmy Martin** (Fr.; Fairfax, Va.) have been manning the right tackle position. Six-four, 302-pound **Jacob Gibson** (r-Jr.; Rocky Mount, Va.) and 6-6, 304-pound **James Miller** (So.; Pompano Beach, Fla.) have both gotten starts at left guard. Gibson, who has 10 starts, is second on the team with 38 knockdowns.

FRESH FACES

☞Twelve true freshmen have dressed for the Hokies this season. True freshmen who dress on offense are tackles **Reggie Butler** (Keswick, Va.) and **Jimmy Martin** (Fairfax, Va.), center **Danny McGrath** (Herndon, Va.), tailback **Mike Imoh** (Fairfax, Va.), quarterback **Marcus Vick** (Newport News, Va.) and tailback **John Candelas** (Blacksburg, Va.). The true freshmen on defense who are dressing are end **Darryl Tapp** (Chesapeake, Va.), tackle **Jonathan Lewis** (Richmond, Va.), cornerback **Cary Wade** (Fairfax, Va.) and safety **Jimmy F. Williams** (Hampton, Va.). Kickers **Nic Schmitt** (Salem, Va.) and **Brandon Pace** (Virginia Beach, Va.) round out the group. All but Vick and Pace have played.

☞The busiest of the true freshmen are defensive tackle **Jonathan Lewis** and defensive end **Darryl Tapp**. Lewis has been in on 339 plays at tackle and 16 on special teams. Tapp, who is a starter on five different special teams, has played 250 plays on special teams and 89 snaps at end.

THE OTHER BACKS

☞While tailbacks **Lee Suggs** and **Kevin Jones** are stealing all the headlines, **Doug Easlick** (r-Jr.; Marlton, N.J.), **Cedric Humes** (r-Fr.; Virginia Beach, Va.) and **Josh Spence** (r-So.; Riner, Va.) are quietly handling the fullback duties.

All three have seen action with Easlick getting the starting nod in all 12 games. Easlick has rushed 16 times for 76 yards and caught 13 passes for 94 yards and one TD. Humes, who worked some at both fullback and tailback during the Arkansas State game, has rushed for 68 yards on 16 carries. He also has six pass receptions for 50 yards. Spence has also seen action, rushing four times for 26 yards and catching a pass for an 18-yard gain.

BIG EAST HONORS

☞Junior defensive end **Jim Davis** (Highland Springs, Va.) was named BIG EAST Co-Defensive Player of the Week after posting six tackles, three sacks and two hurries against LSU. Davis was the first Tech player to have three sacks in a game since 1999 when rover Cory Bird had three versus Boston College.

☞Punter **Vinnie Burns** (New Orleans, La.) enjoyed his best career punting day as a Hokie against a team from his home state. Burns was named the BIG EAST Special Teams Player of the Week after averaging a personal-best 44.7 yards per punt against LSU. Four of Burns' nine punts covered 50 yards or more and four were placed inside the Tigers' 20-yard line.

☞Sophomore tailback **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) was named the BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Week for his showing against No. 16 Marshall. Jones carried 24 times for 171 yards and three touchdowns in Tech's 47-21 win. Two of his TDs came in the first half to help the Hokies build a 20-0 lead.

☞**Mikal Baaqee** (Columbia, Md.) was named BIG EAST Co-Defensive Player of the Week after the Hokies' win against Marshall. The redshirt sophomore linebacker set up Tech's second touchdown with an interception. He also contributed three solo tackles, six assists and a pass broken up.

☞Senior free safety **Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.) was named the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Week following Tech's win at Texas A&M. Pile led the Hokies with 10 tackles, including five solo hits. He also intercepted a pass and returned it 17 yards to set up Tech's go-ahead field goal. Pile added a fumble recovery that he returned 31 yards.

☞Tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) earned BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Week honors after rushing for a career-high 197 yards in a win over Rutgers. Suggs averaged 9.4 yards on 21 carries and scored TDs on runs of 3 and 42 yards.

☞Sophomore **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) was named BIG EAST Co-Special Teams Player of the Week for his performance as a punt returner against Rutgers. Hall had five returns for 74 yards. He iced the win with a 51-yard return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

☞Split end **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) was named the BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Week after turning in the most proficient receiving day in league history. The redshirt junior had a conference and school-record 279 receiving yards at Syracuse on a career-high eight catches. He set a Tech record and tied a league mark with four TD catches.

☞**Justin Hamilton** (Clintwood, Va.) earned BIG EAST Special Teams Player of the Week honors for his performance in the Virginia game. The redshirt freshman blocked a punt in the second quarter that was picked up and returned for TD. It was his second blocked punt of the season.

PLAYERS FROM FLORIDA

☞Nine players on the Tech team hail from the state of Florida. That group includes starters **Billy Hardee** (ROV; Winter Haven) and **Cols Colas** (DE; Plantation) and regulars **Terrell Parham** (WR; Bartow), **Garnell Wilds** (CB; Tampa) and **James Miller** (OG; Pompano Beach). **Chris Buie** (LB; Tampa) is on the dress squad, while **Antoine Rutherford** (ROV; Miramar) and **Chris Ceasar** (WR; Delray Beach) are being redshirted. **Eric Green** (CB; Clewiston) suffered a season-ending knee injury during the summer.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

☛ Virginia Tech was the last team to defeat the University of Miami. The Hurricanes have reeled off 33 straight wins since losing to the Hokies 43-10 in Blacksburg during the 1999 season.

☛ Miami and Tech are ranked fifth and eighth, respectively, in Division I-A scoring defense.

☛ Virginia Tech's **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.) and Miami's Ken Dorsey are both ranked among the top 10 Division I-A quarterbacks in passing efficiency. Randall stands ninth (145.64), while Dorsey ranks 10th (144.28).

☛ Forty-eight of the last 54 passes caught by Virginia Tech tight ends have produced first downs.

☛ During the Syracuse game, **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) had 113 yards receiving to become the first Tech tight end to reach the 100-yard mark in a game since Mike Shaw had 120 yards versus VMI in 1982.

☛ Tech's 68-consecutive appearances in the AP Poll represent the second-longest active streak behind Michigan, which has been ranked 78 consecutive weeks. Miami is third on the list at 53 straight weeks.

☛ Since the start of BIG EAST Conference round-robin play in 1993, Tech is 64-4 when it rushes for 200 yards or more.

☛ Tech's top tackler on special teams has been redshirt freshman **Jordan Trott** (Torrance, Calif.) with a total of 10 tackles. **Kevin Jones** (So.; Chester, Pa.) is second with nine, followed by **Garnell Wilds** (r-Jr.; Tampa, Fla.), **Darryl Tapp** (Fr.; Chesapeake, Va.) and **James Anderson** (r-Fr.; Chesapeake, Va.) with eight each.

Extra Points

☛ The Rutgers' game marked the third time this season that both **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) and **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) broke the 100-yard rushing barrier in the same game. The only other time on record that feat has been accomplished in a single season was in 1986 when tailbacks Maurice Williams and Eddie Hunter both rushed for over 100 yards in games against Syracuse, Virginia and Richmond. During their Tech careers (1983-86), Williams and Hunter both gained over 100 yards in the same regular-season games four times. They also stand as the only Tech players ever to rush for over 100 yards in the same bowl game (1986 Peach Bowl). The only other Tech twosome since 1950 to accomplish the feat more than once in the same season was Phil Rogers and James Barber during the 1973 season. That year, Rogers and Barber both ran for over 100 yards in games against Virginia and Florida State. Suggs and Jones both topped the 100-yard mark against Boston College and Rutgers. The only other time since 1950 that the Hokies have had two players rush for 100 yards or more in the same game in back-to-back outings was in 1979. During that season, tailback Kenny Lewis and fullback Mickey Fitzgerald both surpassed 100 yards against Appalachian State, then the following game, Lewis and fellow tailback Cyrus Lawrence did it against William & Mary. Prior to 2002, Tech had not had the same two players accomplish the feat in consecutive games during the modern era.

☛ Tech has allowed just 53 points in the first half of play this season. The Hokies have outscored their opponents 213-53 in the first half, including a 122-23 advantage in the first quarter. Since the beginning of the 1993 season, Tech has posted a 76-7 record in games when it is leading at the half. During that same stretch, the Hokies are 7-0 in games when the score is tied at the half and 9-21 in contests when they have trailed at the half.

☛ During the Syracuse game, split end **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) and tight end **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) both hauled in 87-yard pass receptions. Their catches stand as the third-longest in Tech history. Willis' catch was the longest ever for a Tech tight end.

☛ Free safety **Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.) was named the Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week for his performance in Tech's 13-3 victory at Texas A&M. Pile had 10 tackles in the game, including five solo hits. He also contributed an interception and a fumble recovery. Pile returned the interception 17 yards and advanced the fumble 31 yards. Pile has been added to the watch list for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which will be presented on Dec. 9.

☛ Former high school teammates **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.) and **Mikal Baaqee** (Columbia, Md.) made their first Tech starts in the same game. Lallis opened at tackle and Baaqee at mike linebacker against Arkansas State. The two players entered Tech together after starring at DeMatha High School.

MORE ON TECH-MIAMI

☛ Miami's 41-21 victory over the Hokies in 2000 ended a streak of 19-straight regular-season victories for Tech. The streak dated back to a 36-32 loss to Virginia in the final regular-season game of the 1998 season. The UM win also ended Tech's record 14-game winning streak against BIG EAST teams and snapped a five-game Tech winning streak against the 'Canes. The loss was the Hokies' first in a regular-season road game since the 1998 season when they lost at Syracuse, 28-26. Tech had won eight straight regular-season road games prior to the loss to UM.

☛ Miami's 41 points were the Hurricanes' most points against Tech at the Orange Bowl. Their previous high was 27. UM's point total also was the highest at the time against the Hokies in a regular-season game since Syracuse scored 52 against Tech in 1996. Tech gave up 46 points to Florida State in the 2000 Sugar Bowl and 42 points against North Carolina in the Gator Bowl following the 1997 season.

☛ Senior Dave Meyer made his third career start at quarterback for the Hokies during the 2000 game and posted career highs for passing attempts (25), completions (13) and passing yards (225). Meyer connected with Emmett Johnson on a 69-yard touchdown pass. It was the longest play of both players during their Tech careers.

☛ Miami was the only team to out-rush the Hokies during the 2000 season. The 'Canes finished with 183 yards on the ground compared to 162 for Tech.

☛ Tech failed to register a pass interception in its loss to Miami in 2000. The Hokies had collected at least one interception in each of their previous nine games.

☛ Virginia Tech's 43-10 win over Miami in 1999 produced the widest victory margin in the series by either team. Tech's first four wins against UM came by a total of 29 points.

☛ Tech starting cornerbacks Ike Charlton and Anthony Midget, who both hailed from Florida, turned in big performances against the 'Canes in '99. Charlton, who hailed from Orlando, posted eight tackles, recovered three fumbles — one of which he returned 51 yards for a touchdown — and caused another fumble. Meanwhile, Midget, who came to Tech from Clewiston, Fla., tied a school and BIG EAST Conference single-game mark by intercepting three passes. He also contributed four tackles and broke up another pass.

☛ Tech's Ricky Hall returned a punt 64 yards for a touchdown against UM in '99. It was the Hokies' first punt return for a TD since 1995 when Bryan Still had a 60-yard return for a score against Texas in the Sugar Bowl. At the time, the last Tech player to return a punt for a touchdown in a regular-season game was Antonio Freeman who had an 80-yard return against Pittsburgh in 1994.

☛ When Tech trailed 10-0 in the first quarter against Miami, it was the Hokies' biggest deficit of the regular season. The only previous deficit for the Hokies in 1999 had been one point against West Virginia in the fourth quarter of a 22-20 victory.

☛ André Davis, who had a hand in a lot of big plays in '99, scored his eighth touchdown of the year when he recovered a fumble in the end zone against Miami. Davis finished with nine pass receptions for touchdowns and two TDs on reverses. He also had the Hokies' lone blocked punt in '99.

☛ Virginia Tech's 1998 victory against Miami at the Orange Bowl came in the first overtime football game in Tech history. With the win, the Hokies became the first team to defeat UM four straight seasons since Notre Dame won four straight times versus the Hurricanes from 1977 through 1980.

☛ Blocked extra points played a big role in Tech wins against the 'Canes during the 1998 and 1997 seasons. In '97, Carl Bradley blocked a PAT attempt after Miami's second TD and the Hokies ended up winning 27-25. In the 1998 game, a blocked extra point attempt by John Engelberger following UM's second touchdown helped set the stage for Tech's overtime win.

☛ Tech's two-point, 27-25, win against Miami in 1997 marked the closest game in the series at the time. Last season, Miami defeated Tech 26-24 in Blacksburg. The two teams went into overtime during the 1998 season, with Tech winning 27-20.

☛ Hurricane receiver Reggie Wayne's 84-yard touchdown catch against Tech in '98 was the longest pass reception at the time versus Tech since 1976. Boston College struck for a 97-yard touchdown pass against the Hokies at Lane Stadium during the 1999 season.

☛ During one five-year stretch, four Tech freshman defensive backs from the state of Florida earned their first collegiate starts in games versus Miami. In 1997, it was redshirt freshman Ike Charlton (Orlando). In 1996, it was true freshman Anthony Midget (Clewiston) and in '95 it was true freshman Loren Johnson (Miramar). During the 1993 season, Torrian Gray, a redshirt freshman from Lakeland, earned his first Tech start as a free safety against the Hurricanes.

☛ Tech's 21-7 win during the '96 season marked the 'Canes first loss in a Homecoming game since a 24-7 defeat by Florida State in 1982.

☛ Tech's 21-7 win at Miami in 1996, marked the Hurricanes' first home loss during the month of November since 1984 when Doug Flutie and Boston College shocked UM, 47-45. At the time, the loss to the Hokies was just the 'Canes' second defeat in all games played in November since that '84 contest with BC.

☛ When Virginia Tech defeated Miami, 13-7, at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field in 1995 it marked the Hurricanes' first-ever football loss to a team from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The 'Canes were 20-0 versus teams from Virginia heading into that contest.

☛ After being held to minus-14 yards rushing and no rushing first downs at Miami in 1994, Tech piled up 300 yards on the ground and 13 rushing first downs when the 'Canes came to Blacksburg in 1995. At the time, Tech's rushing total was the highest versus a UM team since '79.

☛ In 1992, Miami became the first No. 1 ranked football team to play in Blacksburg.

☛ During the Hurricanes' first three visits to Blacksburg – 1967, 1982 and 1992 – Tech intercepted just one UM pass. That lone interception was made in 1967 by cornerback **Frank Beamer**, Tech's current head coach.

☛ Tech has scored a combined total of just 33 touchdowns during its 19-game series with Miami. Twenty of those TDs have come in the last six meetings. The 'Canes have held the Hokies to one touchdown or less in 11 of their 19 meetings and have limited Tech to 10 points or less nine times.

FAMILY TIES

☛ Brothers **Kevin** and **Jonathan Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) played side-by-side at defensive tackle for the first time at Tech during the Arkansas State game. Kevin, a redshirt sophomore starter, and Jonathan, a true freshman, are the first brothers to play side-by-side at Tech since offensive linemen T.J. and Todd Washington in 1995 and 1996. The Lewis brothers have combined for 97 tackles, 11 quarterback hurries, 12 tackles for losses and three sacks. A season-ending injury to starter **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.), gave Jonathan the chance to make his first collegiate start in the Virginia game. Ironically, Kevin also suffered a season ending injury against WVU and was absent from the starting lineup for the first time all season.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

☛ Of the 75 Virginia Tech players who have seen playing time so far this season, 43 are freshmen or sophomores. The overall breakdown is 10 true freshmen, 14 redshirt freshmen, 19 sophomores, 19 juniors and 13 seniors. A total of 20 players have made their first collegiate starts this season on offense and defense.

☛ Only one of the 13 players who have recorded quarterback sacks for Tech this season is a senior. Senior end **Lamar Cobb** (Hurt, Va.) has one sack.

☛ Twenty-seven of the 37 players who have started games on offense or defense this season have at least one year of eligibility left. Sixteen of those 27 players have more than one year of eligibility remaining.

☛ Seven of the eight players who have intercepted passes for Tech this season are scheduled to return next season. Those seven players have accounted for 17 of the Hokies' 20 picks in 2002.

THE NUMBERS GAME

761 ... offensive snaps played by starting center Jake Grove out of a possible 796 plays (96.4%).

191 ... Tech's first downs allowed is the lowest total in the BIG EAST this season.

160 ... net yards rushing against Miami last season by Tech tailback Kevin Jones.

62.5 ... percentage of BIG EAST Conference teams with eight or more victories (5 of 8) is best in nation.

62 ... pass interceptions by the Tech defense since the beginning of the 2000 season.

36 ... consecutive starts for senior Willie Pile at free safety.

12.25 ... average points scored per game by Lee Suggs during his 25 starts.

12 ... where Virginia Tech ranks nationally in both rushing offense and rushing defense.

9 ... career-high sack total this year by both Nathaniel Adibi and Cols Colas.

7 ... catches needed by Ernest Wilford to break the school single-season record held by Mike Burnop (46).

2 ... Tech players had over 100 yards receiving against Syracuse, marking the first time the Hokies have had multiple receivers over 100 yards in the same game since a 1972 contest against Houston when Mike Burnop (117), Craig Valentine (110) and Donnie Reel (100) all reached the 100-yard plateau in receiving yards.

YOUNG TACKLES

☛Of the 11 players who got some work at defensive tackle during the preseason, seven were true freshmen or redshirt freshmen. Only three of the players had seen any varsity action at the position. **Kevin Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) and **Jason Lallis** (r-So.; Mitchellville, Md.) had only limited experience before earning the starting jobs in 2002. Lewis saw action on 125 plays as a freshman in 2000, then was redshirted last year, while Lallis was primarily an end until playing a few downs at tackle late last season. Lewis and Lallis ranked fifth and sixth, respectively, on the team in tackles before they both suffered season-ending injuries during the West Virginia game. Lewis had contributed 49 tackles, while Lallis had 46. Lallis also returned a fumble caused by Lewis 59 yards for a TD. Their starting spots were filled by freshman **Jonathan Lewis** and redshirt freshman **Tim Sandidge**.

ROAD WORK

☛Virginia Tech's win at Texas A&M was the first by a non-conference team at A&M's Kyle Field during Aggie coach R.C. Slocum's 13-plus seasons at the helm. Texas A&M had posted 29 consecutive victories against non-conference teams in College Station under Slocum. The last non-league team to win at Kyle Stadium was Alabama in 1988.

☛Virginia Tech's three-game road sweep of No. 19 Texas A&M, Western Michigan and Boston College marked just the second time in school history that a Tech football team won three consecutive games played on opposing teams' home fields during a single season. The only other Tech team to accomplish the feat was the 1955 team that won successive road games at Pennsylvania (33-0), William & Mary (14-7) and Florida State (24-20).

BIG (EAST) PLAYS

Tech's Longest Plays in BIG EAST Games

Longest Run from Scrimmage: VT — 87 yds., tb Kevin Jones vs. Temple, 2001; Opp. — 78 yds., tb James Jackson of Miami, 1997

Longest Pass Completion: VT — 87 yds., qb Bryan Randall to se Ernest Wilford vs. Syracuse, 2002; qb Bryan Randall to te Keith Willis vs. Syracuse, 2002; Opp. — 97 yds., qb Tim Hasselbeck to wr Detric Dewalt of Boston College, 1999.

Longest Kickoff Return: VT — 65 yds., Shawn Scales vs. Temple, 1997; Opp. — 86 yds., Jeyson Wilson of Syracuse, 1993

Longest Punt Return: VT — 80 yds., Antonio Freeman vs. Pittsburgh, 1994; Opp. — 83 yds., Jamal Burke of Boston College, 2002

Longest Interception Return: VT — 100 yds., fs Keion Carpenter vs. Miami, 1996; Opp. — 68 yds., cb Shawntae Spencer of Pittsburgh, 2001

Longest Field Goal: VT — 52, Shayne Graham vs. Pittsburgh, 1999; Opp. — 49, Chris Ferencik of Pittsburgh, 1996; Sand Sciortino of Boston College, 2002

Longest Punt: VT — 75 yds., Jimmy Kibble vs. Pittsburgh, 1997; Opp. — 78 yds., Mark Fazzolari of West Virginia, 1999.

KICKING DUTIES

☛Redshirt junior kicker **Carter Warley** (Richmond, Va.), who is 30-for-30 on extra points and 6 of 11 on field goals in 2002, was sidelined for four games by low back pain before returning to action against Syracuse. Warley's off-and-on bout with back pain kept him on the sidelines during the first half of the Western Michigan game. He entered the contest to kick two PATs in the second half. **Jon Mollerup** (Lyndhurst, Va.) kicked in the first half of the WMU game. Mollerup was 1-for-2 on both extra points and field goals. Prior to the BC game, Coach Frank Beamer tabbed true freshman **Nic Schmitt** (Salem, Va.) as Warley's replacement. Schmitt made all 14 of his PAT kicks and was 2-for-6 on field goals. This marks the first time in more than 45 years that three kickers have scored points in a season for Tech.

TODAY'S GAME ON RADIO

☛Today's game can be heard on radio stations throughout Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region on the Virginia Tech ISP Sports Network. Bill Roth (play-by-play), Mike Burnop

(analyst) and Cory Provus (studio host) comprise Tech's football broadcast crew. Coverage begins 90-minutes prior to kickoff with Virginia Tech Gameday and continues 90-minutes following the game with the Kroger Point After. For a complete list of radio stations, please consult Tech's football media guide or the Fan's Guide to Radio and TV on hokiesports.com.

ISP SPORTS TELEVISION

☛Highlights of today's game, post-game interviews and other features can be seen on Virginia Tech Sports Today, Tech's weekly television magazine show presented by ISP Sports. The show, featuring Tech coach Frank Beamer with host Bill Roth, can be seen every Sunday on a network of stations throughout the Commonwealth: Washington D.C. (Newschannel 8, Sunday, 10 a.m.), Norfolk (WAVY-TV, Sunday, 10 a.m.), Richmond (WRIC-TV, Sunday, 1 p.m.), Roanoke (WSLS-TV, Sunday 10 a.m.), Bristol-Johnson City (WCYB, Sunday 9:30 a.m.). The show is also shown on Comcast SportsNet every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

Game 1

Fast Start Leads To 63-7 Tech Win Over Arkansas State

Aug. 25, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 54,016

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech scored 35 points in the first quarter on the way to a 63-7 season-opening victory against Arkansas State in the Hispanic College Fund Football Classic at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Sophomore DeAngelo Hall scored two of Tech's first three touchdowns, returning a punt 69 yards for the Hokies' first score and racing 49 yards with an interception for the team's third TD. Tech's No. 2 quarterback, Bryan Randall, accounted for three touchdowns during the game, scoring on runs of 12 and 5 yards and tossing a 19-yard touchdown pass.

Defensively, the Hokies held ASU to 24 yards on the ground and 227 yards overall. Tech's offense accounted for 387 total yards, including 288 yards rushing.

Arkansas St.	0	0	7	0	—	7
Virginia Tech	35	21	7	0	—	63

- VT (12:40 re 1st) — Hall 69 punt return (Warley kick)
- VT (9:47 re 1st) — Suggs 32 run (Warley kick)
- VT (6:05 re 1st) — Hall 49 interception return (Warley kick)
- VT (5:50 re 1st) — King 19 pass from Noel (Warley kick)
- VT (2:11 re 1st) — Jones 19 run (Warley kick)
- VT (12:14 re 2nd) — Randall 12 run (Warley kick)
- VT (9:50 re 2nd) — Lallis 59 fumble return (Warley kick)
- VT (5:43 re 2nd) — Imoh 19 pass from Randall (Warley kick)
- ASU (11:06 re 3rd) — Cox 73 pass from Jacobs (Neihouse kick)
- VT (7:02 re 3rd) — Randall 5 run (Warley kick)

Team Stats	ASU	VT
First downs	10	21
Rushes-yds.	33-24	41-288
Passing yds.	203	99
Return yds.	22	196
Passes	14-27-1	11-18-0
Punts-avg.	9-43	5-41
Fumbles-lost	6-4	1-1
Penalties-yds.	8-72	10-82
Time of poss.	31:47	28:13
Sacks by	1-16	1-8

Individual Leaders

Rushing — ASU, Smith 17-36, Stegall 6-12, Warren 4-(-4), Team 1-(-6), Jacobs 4-(-6), Miller 1-(-8); VT, Suggs 7-87, Humes 10-52, Randall 5-36, Jones 4-31, Imoh 4-22, Spence 3-21, Easlick 1-15, Candelas 5-15, Hunt 1-11, Noel 1-(-2).

Passing — ASU, Jacobs 9-16-0-177, Miller 5-11-1-26; VT, Randall 6-8-0-66, Hunt 3-5-0-9, Noel 2-5-0-24.

Receiving — ASU, Cox 5-120, Hickenbotham 2-39, Wood 2-17, Smith 2-13, Stegall 1-9, Mack 1-3, C. Walker 1-2; VT, Imoh 4-28, King 1-19, Wilford 1-15, Willis 1-15, Witten 1-11, Hamilton 1-5, Easlick 1-5, Humes 1-1.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛Virginia Tech's 56 points in the first half against Arkansas State marked the most points in a half for a Tech squad during the modern era (since 1950). It also ranked as the second-highest point total in a half by a BIG EAST Conference team behind the 59 points scored by West Virginia against Rutgers last season. The Hokies' 35 first-quarter points against the Indians tied modern day school and BIG EAST Conference marks for points in a quarter.

☛Tech's 63 points in the ASU game were the most points scored by the Hokies in a season opening game since Tech defeated Roanoke College 86-0 to open the 1905 season. The last time Tech scored more points in a game was a 77-27 win over Akron in 1995.

☛Each of the Hokies' first four touchdowns against ASU were scored in a different manner. Tech scored on a punt return, a rushing play, an interception and a pass play. The Hokies also had a fumble return for a TD later in the game. Special teams, offense and defense each contributed one of Tech's first three scores.

☛Eleven Tech players made their first collegiate starts in the Arkansas State game. The first-time starters on offense were guard **James Miller** (Pompano Beach, Fla.), tackle **Jon Dunn** (Virginia Beach, Va.), tight end **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) and fullback **Doug Easlick** (Marlton, N.J.). Starting for the first time on defense were tackles **Kevin Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) and **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.), linebackers **Brandon Manning** (Harrisburg, Pa.), **Vegas Robinson** (Chesapeake, Va.) and **Mikal Baaqee** (Columbia, Md.), rover **Michael Crawford** (Baltimore, Md.) and cornerback **Vincent Fuller** (Baltimore, Md.).

Game 2

Hokies Post Victory Over Defending SEC Champs LSU

Sept. 1, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 65,049

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Sixteenth-ranked Virginia Tech used a strong defense and an opportunistic offense to defeat No. 14 Louisiana State, 26-8, in front of a state-record crowd of 65,049 at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

Tech capitalized on good field position to build a 14-0 advantage in the first half. A 17-yard punt return by sophomore DeAngelo Hall put the Hokies at the LSU 27 late in the first quarter. From there, it took Tech just six plays to score its first touchdown. A blocked punt gave the Hokies the football at the LSU 29 less than two minutes into the second quarter. A 6-yard TD run by Lee Suggs capped a four-play drive.

Defensively, the Hokies kept the pressure on LSU quarterback Matt Mauck, registering four quarterback sacks and 14 hurries. Tech limited the Tigers to 80 yards on the ground and 214 yards overall. LSU converted on just one of 13 third-down plays during the contest. A pass interception by linebacker Vegas Robinson set up Tech's last touchdown.

Suggs led the Hokies with 91 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 22 carries.

Louisiana State	0	0	0	8	—	8
Virginia Tech	7	7	3	9	—	26

- VT (0:30 re 1st) — Jones 2 run (Warley kick)
- VT (12:58 re 2nd) — Suggs 6 run (Warley kick)
- VT (11:22 re 3rd) — FG Warley 41
- VT (14:02 re 4th) — Suggs 2 run (Warley kick)
- LSU (10:00 re 4th) — Toefield 1 run (Clayton pass from Mauck)
- VT (0:05 re 4th) — safety, punt blocked out of end zone

Team Stats	LSU	VT
First downs	14	13
Rushes-yds.	28-80	32-166
Passing yds.	134	65
Return yds.	52	68
Passes	15-35-1	7-14-0
Punts-avg.	9-27	9-45
Fumbles-lost	4--1	4-1
Penalties-yds.	8-61	8-65
Time of poss.	25:56	34:04
Sacks by	3-21	4-20

Individual Leaders

Rushing — LSU, Toefield 10-46, Davis 7-23, Mauck 10-6, Addai 1-5; VT, Suggs 22-91, Jones 14-70, Randall 14-6, Team 1-(-1).

Passing — LSU, Mauck 15-35-1-134; VT, Randall 5-9-0-47, Noel 2-5-18-0.

Receiving — LSU, Clayton 5-49, Toefield 3-20, Brazell 1-12, Edwards 1-11, Henderson 1-10, Carey 1-9, Addai 1-9, Davis 1-8, Myers 1-6; VT, Humes 1-17, Parham 1-11, Wilford 1-11, Witten 1-8, Willis 1-7, Suggs 1-6, Easlick 1-5.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ Louisiana State, which was ranked 14th in the Associated Press poll, was the highest-ranked team in the AP poll that Virginia Tech has defeated since a 28-10 win over No. 9 Texas in the 1995 Sugar Bowl game. The last time Tech beat a higher ranked team in Blacksburg was during the 1964 season when the Hokies downed No. 10-ranked Florida State by a score of 20-11. That game was played at Miles Stadium.

☛ The attendance of 65,049 for the Tech-LSU game set new state and Tech records for the largest crowd to see a football game. The previous attendance record for the commonwealth of Virginia was 61,625 set during last season's game between Virginia Tech and Virginia in Charlottesville. The former Tech mark was set during the 2000 season when all six home games were sell-outs of 56,272.

☛ Redshirt freshman **Justin Hamilton** (Clintwood, Va.) and redshirt sophomore **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.) both blocked punts during the Hokies' win over LSU. Hamilton's block in the second quarter set up Tech's second touchdown of the game, while Lallis' block in the fourth quarter resulted in a safety. It marked the 17th time in Frank Beamer's tenure as head coach that the special teams unit posted two blocks in a game.

☛ Only three players had rushing carries for the Hokies during the LSU game. The last time Tech only had three players carry the football in a game was during a 1994 game with Virginia.

☛ Tech's 231 yards of total offense against LSU ranks as the lowest total for the Hokies in a victory since gaining just 206 yards during a 1999 win at Pittsburgh.

Game 3

Tech Rushes To 47-21 Victory Against Thundering Herd

Sept. 12, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 65,049

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Tailbacks Kevin Jones and Lee Suggs combined for 324 yards rushing and five touchdowns as No. 11 Virginia Tech posted a convincing 47-21 win against No. 16 Marshall in a Thursday night ESPN game at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

While the Tech defense was holding Marshall quarterback Byron Leftwich in check, Jones and Suggs helped the Hokies pile up a 33-0 lead before the Herd got on the scoreboard with three fourth-quarter touchdowns. Jones rushed for 171 yards and three touchdowns, while Suggs added 153 yards and a pair of TDs.

Defensively, Tech was at its best when it mattered, holding Marshall to just 234 yards during the first three quarters. The offense helped out with four touchdown drives of more than 70 yards, including a 15-play, 85-yard drive that took up more than eight minutes on the clock.

Marshall	0	0	0	21	—	21
Virginia Tech	10	10	6	21	—	47

- VT (10:46 re 1st) — FG Warley 42
- VT (2:47 re 1st) — Jones 25 run (Warley kick)
- VT (13:21 re 2nd) — FG Warley 43
- VT (9:11 re 2nd) — Jones 15 run (Warley kick)
- VT (2:57 re 3rd) — Suggs 1 run (pass failed)
- VT (14:02 re 4th) — Suggs 1 run (Warley kick)
- MU (11:56 re 4th) — Watts 9 pass from Leftwich (Head kick)
- VT (5:38 re 4th) — Jones 1 run (Warley kick)
- MU (4:20 re 4th) — Marriott 18 pass from Leftwich (Head kick)
- MU (2:25 re 4th) — Bates 19 pass from Leftwich (Head kick)
- VT (1:28 re 4th) — Candelas 10 run (Warley kick)

Team Stats	MU	VT
First downs	25	28
Rushing yds.	16-34	66-395
Passing yds.	442	101
Return yds.	0	52
Passes	36-56-1	5-12-0
Punts-avg.	3-49	1-49
Fumbles-lost	3-2	1-0
Penalties-yds.	5-40	7-65
Time of poss.	25:53	34:07
Sacks by	1-8	2-14

Individual Leaders

Rushing — MU, Carey 6-17, Wallace 4-16, Hargrove 1-9, Watts 1-6, Leftwich 4(-14); VT, Jones 24-171, Suggs 24-153, Randall 7-36, Easlick 4-18, Candelas 2-11, Spence 1-5, Humes 2-3, Team 2(-2).

Passing — MU, Leftwich 31-49-1-406; Hill 5-6-0-36, Team 0-1-0-0; VT, Randall 5-12-0-101.

Receiving — MU, Jones 11-164, Watts 7-85, Davis 6-72, Marriott 6-60, Rader 3-30, Deifel 2-12, Bates 1-19; VT, Wilford 2-49, Witten 2-44, Easlick 1-8.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛Prior to the kickoff of the Marshall game, Tech head coach Frank Beamer's jersey was retired. Beamer, who is in his 16th season as the Hokies' head coach, was a three-year starter in the secondary for Tech from 1966-68. He is the winningest football coach in school history and is a member of the Tech Sports Hall of Fame. Beamer was the consensus Division I-A Coach of the Year in 1999 when he helped guide Tech to the national championship game.

☛Tech running backs **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) and **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) both rushed for over 150 yards in the Marshall game. Jones compiled 171 yards on 24 carries, while Suggs finished with 153 yards on 24 attempts. It marked just the second time in Tech history that two players had rushed for 150 or more yards in the same game. It was first done by tailbacks Maurice Williams (165) and Eddie Hunter (159) against William & Mary during the 1985 season. Jones and Suggs were just the third set of backs to accomplish the feat in BIG EAST history. Boston College backs Chuckie Dukes (162) and Dwight Shirley (160) did it against Michigan State in 1992. Two other BC backs, Omari Walker (185) and Mike Cloud (159), equalled the feat against Miami in 1997.

☛Tech mounted its longest touchdown drive of the season against Marshall, going 90 yards in nine plays. Tech also had a season-high 15-play drive that took 8:02 off the clock, another season-best.

☛Marshall's 442 yards passing were the most against the Hokies since 1993 when Boston College passed for 448 yards. It was the third-highest overall total ever against a Tech team. The Herd got 233 of their passing yards during the fourth quarter.

Game 4

Hokies End Texas A&M Home Streak With 13-3 Victory

Sept. 21, 2002 • Kyle Field • Attendance 83,746

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Virginia Tech snapped Texas A&M's 29-game home winning streak against non-conference teams with a hard-fought 13-3 victory over the 19th-ranked Aggies. Tech became the first non-conference team to win at Kyle Field since Alabama in 1988.

Points and yards were hard to come by in a game that featured two of the nation's best defenses. But the Tech offense, under the direction of sophomore quarterback Bryan Randall, did what it had to do to help secure the Hokies' third straight victory over a Top 20 team. Randall guided Tech on an eight-play, 86-yard touchdown drive early in the fourth quarter that put the Hokies in control. A 52-yard pass from Randall to end Ernest Wilford was the key play, setting up a 1-yard Lee Suggs touchdown run with 12:29 left.

Tech's defense assured the victory by limiting the Aggies' offense to just 58 total yards during its last five possessions. Overall, the Hokies allowed just 156 total yards in the game. Tech forced three turnovers and sacked A&M quarterbacks five times.

Randall, in his first road start, completed 10 of 11 passes for 119 yards and did not throw an interception.

Virginia Tech	0	3	3	7	—	13
Texas A&M	3	0	0	0	—	3

A&M (4:58 re 1st) — FG Pegram 43
 VT (0:57 re 2nd) — FG Warley 22
 VT (9:10 re 3rd) — FG Warley 26
 VT (12:29 re 4th) — Suggs 1 run (Warley kick)

Team Stats	VT	A&M
First downs	13	10
Rushing yds.	48-129	28-38
Passing yds.	119	118
Return yds.	85	6
Passes	10-11-0	14-35-2
Punts-avg.	7-41	7-48
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-yds.	2-20	5-40
Time of poss.	32:57	27:03
Sacks by	5-32	4-24

Individual Leaders

Rushing — VT, Suggs 13-51, Jones 15-48, Randall 17-14, Johnson 1-13, Easlick 2-3; A&M, Farmer 12-22, McNeal 6-5, Joseph 1-4, Weber 2-4, Long 4-2, Goynes 1-1, Flemming 2-0.

Passing — VT, Randall 10-11-0-119; A&M, Long 13-28-1-111; McNeal 1-6-1-7.

Receiving — VT, Parham 4-23, Wilford 2-63, Witten 2-21, Johnson 1-8, Humes 1-4; A&M, Taylor 5-56, Murphy 4-25, Thomas 2-19, Porter 2-10, Weber 1-8.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛The crowd of 83,746 at Texas A&M's Kyle Field was the largest ever to see a Tech team play. The previous high was 80,500 fans at Clemson in 1988.

☛Tech's win at Kyle Field gave the Aggies a rare home loss. It marked just the ninth time Texas A&M has lost to any team at home since the 1988 season.

☛Tech's win against the No. 19 Aggies marked the Hokies' third win against a top 20 team in as many games. The Hokies defeated No. 14 LSU and No. 16 Marshall earlier. That marks the first time in school history Tech has beaten three teams ranked among the top 20 teams in the Associated Press Poll in successive games. The Hokies posted three wins in a row against teams in the AP Top 25 during the 1996 season, downing No. 18 Miami, No. 23 West Virginia and No. 20 Virginia in consecutive games.

☛When Texas A&M kicked a field goal in the first quarter, it marked the first points of the season against Tech in the first half of play. It also marked the first successful field goal of the season against the Hokies. Opposing teams are 1-for-2 on field goals against Tech in 2002.

☛Willie Pile's interception in the Texas A&M game was the 11th of his Tech career. The senior free safety from Alexandria, Va., is now tied for seventh on Tech's career interception list with Mike Johnson, Ashley Lee and William Yarborough.

☛Defensive end Nathaniel Adibi (Hampton, Va.) posted three sacks against Texas A&M. Adibi is the second Tech player to register three sacks in a game this season. End Jim Davis (Highland Springs, Va.) had three against LSU.

Game 5

Tech Overcomes Slow Start to Post Road Win at WMU

Sept. 28, 2002 • Waldo Field • Attendance 27,218

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A pair of touchdowns in the final two minutes of the first half helped propel No. 5 Virginia Tech to a 30-0 victory at Western Michigan University.

The Hokies led just 3-0 before scoring twice within a 20-second span of the second quarter. A 28-yard shovel pass from quarterback Bryan Randall to tailback Lee Suggs produced Tech's first touchdown with 1:41 remaining in the half. At the 1:21 mark, linebacker Alex Markogiannakis scooped up a WMU fumble and rambled 25 yards for another Tech touchdown to give the Hokies a 16-0 lead at the end of the half.

Tech's defense produced another stellar showing, allowing just 35 yards on the ground and 268 yards overall. Tech defenders forced three fumbles, posted five quarterback sacks and compiled 21 QB hurries.

Randall directed the Hokies on scoring drives of 84 and 77 yards in the second half. He completed 13 of 19 passes for 194 yards during the game and added 40 yards rushing.

Virginia Tech	0	16	7	7	—	30
Western Michigan	0	0	0	0	—	0

- VT (14:18 re 2nd) — FG Mollerup 37
- VT (1:41 re 2nd) — Suggs 28 pass from Randall (kick failed)
- VT (1:21 re 2nd) — Markogiannakis 25 fumble return (Mollerup kick)
- VT (8:52 re 3rd) — Suggs 5 run (Warley kick)
- VT (11:28 re 4th) — Jones 2 run (Warley kick)

Team Stats	VT	WMU
First downs	19	12
Rushing yds.	39-128	27-37
Passing yds.	212	233
Return yds.	58	6
Passes	14-25-2	24-44-0
Punts-avg.	6-44	8-37
Fumbles-lost	2-0	3-3
Penalties-yds.	4-30	9-74
Time of poss.	29:53	30:07
Sacks by	5-30	1-4

Individual Leaders

Rushing — VT, Suggs 13-48, Randall 8-40, Jones 14-36, Humes 1-3, Imoh 1-3, Team 2-(-2); WMU, Reed 15-31, Riley 3-18, Munson 1-(-3), Drach 8-(-11).
 Passing — VT, Randall 13-19-2-194, Noel 1-6-0-18; WMU, Drach 22-39-0-210, Munson 2-4-0-23, Thomas 0-1-0-0.
 Receiving — VT, Wilford 2-38, Willis 2-27, Johnson 2-26, Parham 2-20, Easlick 2-(-2), Witten 1-34, Suggs 1-28, Hamilton 1-23, Spence 1-18; WMU, Mosley 7-66, Afariogun 4-31, Chestnut 3-54, Lewis 3-15, Thomas 2-12, Walker 1-26, Johnson 1-12, Reed 1-6, Jennings 1-6, Kiner 1-5.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ Virginia Tech split end **Terrell Parham** (Bartow, Fla.), linebacker **Alex Markogiannakis** (Chantilly, Va.) and flanker **Richard Johnson** (Baltimore, Md.) all made their first collegiate starts against Western Michigan.

☛ When quarterback **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.) threw an interception in the first quarter against WMU, it marked the first Tech pass that had been intercepted during the 2002 season.

☛ **Jon Mollerup** (Lyndhurst, Va.) attempted his first varsity field goal and extra point during Tech's win at Western Michigan. Mollerup, who handles the Hokies' kickoffs, was pressed into duty in the first half when starter **Carter Warley** (Richmond, Va.) complained of back pains. Mollerup hit a 37-yard field goal for Tech's first points and made one of two extra point attempts. He missed on a 42-yard field goal try. Warley returned to kick two extra points in the second half.

☛ Senior **Alex Markogiannakis** (Chantilly, Va.) became the 38th different Virginia Tech player to score a defensive touchdown since Frank Beamer took over as the head coach in 1987. Markogiannakis picked up a WMU fumble and returned it 25 yards for his first career touchdown. It was the 47th touchdown scored by the defense under Beamer.

☛ When the Hokies and Broncos played a scoreless first quarter, it marked the first scoreless opening quarter in a Tech game since a 1999 game against West Virginia in Morgantown.

☛ Tech was the highest ranked team (No. 5) to ever play a football game at a Mid-American Conference stadium.

Game 6

Tech Opens BIG EAST Play With Hard-Fought Win at BC

Oct. 10, 2002 • Alumni Stadium • Attendance 42,826

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. — Virginia Tech used a ball-control offense that ground out 334 yards rushing to open its BIG EAST Conference schedule with a 28-23 victory over Boston College in a Thursday night ESPN game at Alumni Stadium.

Tech put together four long touchdown drives and consumed 37:50 on the clock with an offensive attack that stuck to the ground on 61 of its 68 plays. The Hokies drove 81 and 75 yards for touchdowns in the first half on the way to a 14-7 advantage at the intermission.

Kevin Jones broke a 14-14 tie when he capped a 74-yard Tech drive late in the third quarter with a 4-yard TD run. Lee Suggs put the finishing touches on another 75-yard drive and the win with a 27-yard scoring run with 5:41 left. Quarterback Bryan Randall joined his tailbacks in making key plays as Tech finished with 420 yards of total offense. Randall tossed a 44-yard TD pass to Ernest Wilford and made several key scrambles for first downs.

Tech's defense contributed four sacks, three interceptions and a fumble recovery while holding BC to 83 yards on the ground and 315 yards overall. The Hokies also benefited from a pair of costly personal foul penalties by the Eagles.

Virginia Tech	7	7	7	7	—	28
Boston College	0	7	7	9	—	23

VT (10:43 re 1st) — Wilford 44 pass from Randall (Schmitt kick)

VT (12:12 re 2nd) — Suggs 1 run (Schmitt kick)

BC (1:03 re 2nd) — Burke 83 punt return (Sciortino kick)

BC (6:39 re 3rd) — Knight 5 run (Sciortino kick)

VT (0:42 re 3rd) — Jones 4 run (Schmitt kick)

BC (10:35 re 4th) — FG Sciortino 49

VT (5:41 re 4th) — Suggs 27 run (Schmitt kick)

BC (0:49 re 4th) — St. Pierre 1 run (pass failed)

Team Stats	VT	BC
First downs	21	15
Rushing yds.	61-334	26-83
Passing yds.	86	232
Return yds.	55	105
Passes	4-7-0	16-30-3
Punts-avg.	5-37	2-39
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-yds.	15-96	5-40
Time of poss.	37:50	22:10
Sacks by	4-30	4-21

Individual Leaders

Rushing — VT, Suggs 26-154, Jones 18-144, Randall 15-37, Team 1-(-1). BC, Knight 15-94, Dodd 1-6, St. Pierre 10-17.

Passing — VT, Randall 4-7-0-86; BC, St. Pierre 16-30-3-232.

Receiving — VT, Wilford 2-71, Witten 1-8, Johnson 1-7; BC, Adams 5-75, Knight 5-63, Burke 2-56, Hemmings 1-17, Daniels 1-9, Hazard 1-9, Ryan 1-3.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ Both Lee Suggs (Roanoke, Va.) and Kevin Jones (Chester, Pa.) rushed for over 100 yards in the Boston College game. Suggs ran for 154 yards on 26 carries, while Jones posted 144 yards on 18 attempts. That marks the second time this season that Suggs and Jones have both produced over 100-yards on the ground in the same game. The last time Tech had the same two players both rush for 100 yards or more in the same game twice in a season was 1986. That year, tailbacks Maurice Williams and Eddie Hunter accomplished the feat three times, both rushing for over 100 yards in games against Syracuse, Virginia and Richmond. During their Tech careers, Williams and Hunter both gained over 100 yards on the ground in the same game a record four times. They also stand as the only Tech players ever to rush for 100 or more yards in the same bowl game (1986 Peach Bowl). The only other Tech twosome since 1950 to accomplish the feat more than once in the same season was Phil Rogers and James Barber in 1973. Rogers and Barber both ran for over 100 yards in games against Virginia and Florida State.

☛ Virginia Tech's 15 penalties against Boston College were the most during Frank Beamer's 15-plus seasons as head coach. The previous high was 14 against South Carolina in 1988 and Miami in 1993.

☛ Willie Pile (Alexandria, Va.) posted his second interception of the season and the 12th of his career during the Hokies' win at Boston College. His pick against the Eagles moves him into a tie for fifth place on both the Tech and BIG EAST career lists for interceptions. Pile is tied with John Granby and Mike Widger on the Tech list. He shares the fifth spot on the BIG EAST list with former Syracuse player, Donovin Darius.

Game 7

Hokies Celebrate Homecoming With 35-14 Win Over RU

Oct. 19, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 64,907

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech scored 21 unanswered points in the first quarter to pave the way for a 35-14 Homecoming victory against Rutgers.

Once again, the running of tailbacks Lee Suggs and Kevin Jones highlighted the day for the Hokies, who finished with 342 yards on the ground and 492 yards overall. Suggs led the way with 197 yards and a pair of touchdown runs, while Jones added 132 yards, including a highlight-reel, 58-yard TD scamper. Quarterback Bryan Randall was efficient through the air, completing 11 of 15 passes for 131 yards and a touchdown.

Tech's defense kept the pressure on the Scarlet Knights, registering eight quarterback sacks and two interceptions, while limiting the visitors to minus-seven yards rushing. Rutgers still managed to stay within striking distance until DeAngelo Hall weaved his way 51 yards for a touchdown on a punt return with just under five minutes remaining in the game.

Rutgers	0	7	7	0	—	14
Virginia Tech	21	7	0	7	—	35

- VT (6:35 re 1st) — Suggs 3 run (Schmitt kick)
- VT (3:12 re 1st) — Wilford 16 pass from Randall (Schmitt kick)
- VT (0:41 re 1st) — Suggs 42 run (Schmitt kick)
- RU (8:34 re 2nd) — Martin 12 pass from Cubit (Sands kick)
- VT (2:29 re 2nd) — Jones 58 run (Schmitt kick)
- RU (11:42 re 3rd) — Facyson 31 pass from Cubit (Sands kick)
- VT (4:57 re 4th) — Hall 51 punt return (Schmitt kick)

Team Stats	RU	VT
First downs	11	26
Rushing yds.	25-(-7)	50-342
Passing yds.	222	150
Return yds.	10	83
Passes	17-34-2	12-16-1
Punts-avg.	7-45	2-32
Fumbles-lost	1-0	6-2
Penalties-yds.	11-100	7-61
Time of poss.	28:05	31:55
Sacks by	4-27	8-75

Individual Leaders

- Rushing — RU, Pittman 7-27, Facyson 5-19, Carty 1-12, Cubit 12-(-65); VT, Suggs 21-197, Jones 13-132, Imoh 5-13, Johnson 1-0, Randall 10-0.
- Passing — RU, Cubit 17-32-2-222, Facyson 0-1-0-0, Barnes 0-1-0-0; VT, Randall 11-15-1-131, Noel 1-1-0-19.
- Receiving — RU, Hobbs 5-89, Martin 4-30, Tucker 3-15, Facyson 2-48, Andre 1-35, Loomis 1-3, Pilch 1-2; VT, Wilford 7-99, Witten 2-16, Mazzetta 1-19, Hamilton 1-10, Parham 1-6.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ Virginia Tech held Rutgers to minus-seven yards rushing. The last time the Hokies held a team to negative yards rushing was against Temple during the 2000 season. Tech limited the Owls to minus-15 yards in that game.

☛ Rutgers became the first team during the 2002 season to score points off of a Virginia Tech turnover. The Scarlet Knights did it twice, setting up their first touchdown with an interception and getting their second TD following a Tech fumble.

☛ Both **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) and **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) went over the 100-yard mark in rushing for the second game in a row. Suggs ran for a career-high 197 yards on 21 carries and Jones added 132 yards on 13 carries.

☛ **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) posted career-bests for pass receptions and receiving yards during the Rutgers game. The redshirt junior split end caught seven passes for 99 yards and one touchdown.

☛ Tech registered a season-high eight sacks against the Scarlet Knights for losses totaling 75 yards. The Hokies' sack total was the highest since posting nine in a 1999 game at Pittsburgh. The sack yardage in the Rutgers' game was the most for Tech during Coach Frank Beamer's 15-plus seasons. The previous high under Beamer was minus-70 yards on seven sacks against Boston College during the 1996 season.

☛ Freshman **Jimmy F. Williams** (Hampton, Va.) recorded his first career interception against RU.

☛ The Rutgers game marked the first time since Sept. 11, 1999 (versus UAB) that a Tech home game was not televised.

Game 8

Tech Overcomes Turnovers To Hand Temple 20-10 Loss

Oct. 26, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 64,937

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Despite a sub-par offensive performance that included four turnovers, Virginia Tech remained undefeated with a 20-10 BIG EAST victory against Temple at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

The Hokies drove for a touchdown on their first possession of the game, but had trouble maintaining consistency on offense during the remainder of the contest. Tech had possessions ended by fumbles twice and tossed a pair of interceptions. Two of those turnovers came on the Tech side of the field, while one of the interceptions was returned to the Hokies' 26-yard line. A 32-yard touchdown catch by fullback Doug Easlick on the final play of the third quarter and two Nic Schmitt field goals proved just enough of an edge for Tech.

Once again, the Hokies' defense helped save the day, limiting the Owls to just 39 yards on the ground and intercepting three passes. Redshirt sophomore Vincent Fuller picked off passes at the Tech 8-yard line and in the end zone to stop a pair of Temple scoring threats. The Owls converted on just 3 of 12 third-down conversions against the Hokies and finished with 269 total yards.

Temple	0	0	3	7	—	10
Virginia Tech	7	3	7	3	—	20

- VT (9:16 re 1st) — Suggs 4 run (Schmitt kick)
- VT (0:02 re 2nd) — FG Schmitt 21
- TU (8:51 re 3rd) — FG Poklemba 36
- VT (00:00 re 3rd) — Easlick 32 pass from Randall (Schmitt kick)
- VT (10:05 re 4th) — FG Schmitt 22
- TU (1:48 re 4th) — Szarka 13 pass from McGann (Poklemba kick)

Team Stats	TU	VT
First downs	12	20
Rushing yds.	25-39	54-199
Passing yds.	230	146
Return yds.	23	22
Passes	17-32-3	13-20-2
Punts-avg.	5-32	2-45
Fumbles-lost	2-0	2-2
Penalties-yds.	9-65	4-30
Time of poss.	23:45	36:15
Sacks by	0-0	2-10

Individual Leaders

Rushing — TU, Sharps 17-38, McGann 6-16, Team 1-(-5), Ringwelski 1-(-10); VT, Jones 17-72, Suggs 19-47, Randall 9-47, Easlick 4-16, Humes 3-10, Johnson 1-9, Team 1-(-2).

Passing — TU, McGann 17-32-3-230; VT, Randall 13-20-2-146.

Receiving — TU, Dillard 4-98, Cobb 4-40, Szarka 3-43, Fenton 2-22, Sharps 2-15, Stubbs 2-12; VT, Johnson 4-40, Easlick 3-38, Wilford 2-11, Suggs 1-30, Hamilton 1-11, Witten 1-10, Humes 1-6.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ Virginia Tech's win against Temple gave the Hokies their eighth straight win. It marks just the third time in school history that Tech has opened a season 8-0. The Hokies also won their first eight games in 1999 and 2000.

☛ Fullback **Doug Easlick's** 32-yard touchdown catch at the end of the third quarter was the longest pass reception of his Tech career.

☛ Tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) hauled in a 30-yard pass during the Temple game, the longest catch of his Tech career. The catch was also the longest for a Tech tailback since 1997 when Lamont Pegues caught a 47-yard pass against Virginia.

☛ **Richard Johnson** (Baltimore, Md.) posted career-bests for pass receptions and receiving yards during the Temple game. The redshirt sophomore flanker caught four passes for 40 yards against the Owls.

☛ **Vincent Fuller** (Baltimore, Md.) intercepted two passes in the red zone to help the Hokies defeat Temple. It marked the third straight game in which Fuller has had at least one pass interception. The redshirt sophomore had one pick at the Owls' 8-yard line and another in the end zone.

☛ True freshman kicker **Nic Schmitt** (Salem, Va.) connected on a 21-yard field goal in the first half of the Temple game. It was his first successful field goal as a Hokie. He also had a 22-yarder in the fourth quarter and is now 2-for-5 overall.

☛ Redshirt freshman **James Anderson** (Chesapeake, Va.) made his first collegiate start and posted 11 tackles and a quarterback hurry. He was starting in place of injured linebacker **Vegas Robinson**.

Game 9

Pittsburgh Rallies To Hand Hokies First Loss Of Season

Nov. 2, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 64,971

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The University of Pittsburgh scored 21 unanswered points in the second half to knock No. 3 Virginia Tech from the ranks of the unbeaten with a 28-21 win at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. It was the Panthers' first-ever win in Blacksburg.

Pittsburgh engineered the win by controlling the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. The Panthers rolled up 483 yards of offense in the game, including 301 yards in the second half. Their total included 275 yards on the ground against a Tech defense that entered the game ranked No. 1 nationally in rushing defense with an average of 40.8 yards allowed per game.

Tech enjoyed a 14-0 lead early in the first quarter and led 21-7 after a 59-yard touchdown run by tailback Lee Suggs less than two minutes into the second half. The Panthers turned the game around with a pair of quick TD passes in the third quarter and took the lead on a 53-yard touchdown run by Brandon Miree with just over four minutes remaining in the game.

The Tech offense mounted just one threat after Suggs' third-quarter touchdown run, moving to the Pittsburgh 25 before missing a field goal attempt.

Pittsburgh	7	0	14	7	—	28
Virginia Tech	14	0	7	0	—	21

- VT (7:07 re 1st) — Jones 3 run (Schmitt kick)
- VT (4:38 re 1st) — Suggs 1 run (Schmitt kick)
- P (3:06 re 1st) — Fitzgerald 31 pass from Rutherford (Abdul kick)
- VT (13:52 re 3rd) — Suggs 59 run (Schmitt kick)
- P (10:39 re 3rd) — Fitzgerald 14 pass from Rutherford (Abdul kick)
- P (7:09 re 3rd) — Fitzgerald 10 pass from Rutherford (Abdul kick)
- P (4:11 re 4th) — Miree 53 run (Abdul kick)

Team Stats	P	VT
First downs	22	15
Rushing yds.	44-275	45-130
Passing yds.	208	145
Return yds.	50	98
Passes	11-26-2	12-22-1
Punts-avg.	6-33	7-44
Fumbles-lost	3-1	4-2
Penalties-yds.	7-68	6-60
Time of poss.	28:54	31:06
Sacks by	7-33	2-11

Individual Leaders

- Rushing — P, Miree 23-161, Murphy 2-58, Rutherford 15-56, Polite 2-0, Team 2-0; VT, Suggs 25-128, Jones 2-4, Easlick 2-2, Randall 16-(-4).
- Passing — P, Rutherford 11-26-2-208; VT, Randall 12-22-1-145.
- Receiving — P, Fitzgerald 5-105, Wilson 4-85, Slade 1-11, Miree 1-7; VT, Wilford 6-80, Witten 3-29, Humes 1-15, Parham 1-13, Suggs 1-8.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ Virginia Tech's 28-21 loss to Pittsburgh marked just the seventh BIG EAST loss for Tech at home since the football league formed in 1991. The Hokies are now 0-3 against the Panthers in the month of November and 7-0 in September and October.

☛ Pittsburgh's 483 yards of total offense were the most against Tech since the 1997 season when Virginia posted 502 yards in a 34-20 win. The Panthers' 275 yards rushing were the most against the Hokies since the 1996 Orange Bowl when Nebraska ran for 279 yards.

☛ Tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) turned in the longest run from scrimmage of his Tech career, when he scampered 59 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter. Suggs finished the game with 128 yards on the ground, moving him by Shyrone Stith and Vaughn Hebron for eighth place in career rushing at Tech. Suggs now has 2,398 career yards rushing.

☛ Senior free safety **Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.) registered his 13th career pass interception during the Pittsburgh game. The pick moved Pile into a tie with Ron Davidson and Lenny Smith for third place in career interceptions at Tech.

☛ **Nathaniel Adibi** (Hampton, Va.) blocked a punt in the first quarter against Pittsburgh. It was the first block of Adibi's career and Tech's 10th block during its series against the Panthers. Tech has blocked more kicks against Pittsburgh during Frank Beamer's tenure as head coach than against any other team.

☛ Pittsburgh's Brandon Miree rushed for 161 yards in the Panthers' win at Tech. Miree's rushing total was the highest against Tech since Boston College's Mike Cloud ran for 186 yards against the Hokies in 1998.

Game 10
Tech Suffers Three-Overtime Loss At The Carrier Dome

Nov. 9, 2002 • Carrier Dome • Attendance 48,239

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Damien Rhodes ran for a touchdown and a two-point conversion in the third overtime period to give homestanding Syracuse a wild 50-42 triple-overtime victory over No. 8 Virginia Tech at the Carrier Dome. It was the Hokies' sixth loss in their eight trips to the Dome.

Tech, which got record-setting performances from quarterback Bryan Randall and receiver Ernest Wilford, gave up over 600 yards of offense but still had a number of opportunities to win the game. The Hokies missed field goals at the end of regulation play and at the end of the first overtime period. SU kept its hopes alive with a fourth-down TD pass in the second overtime, then scored and intercepted a Tech pass in the third extra period to end the four-hour game.

Virginia Tech	14	0	7	14	7	—	42
Syracuse	3	9	10	13	15	—	50

- SU (9:25 re 1st) — FG Barber 30
- VT (5:41 re 1st) — Suggs 15 pass from Randall (Warley kick)
- VT (3:29 re 1st) — Wilford 75 pass from Randall (Warley kick)
- SU (14:07 re 2nd) — FG Barber 26
- SU (6:26 re 2nd) — Reyes 1 run (run failed)
- SU (8:42 re 3rd) — FG Barber 38
- VT (7:55 re 3rd) — Wilford 34 pass from Randall (Warley kick)
- SU (4:47 re 3rd) — Reyes 9 run (Barber kick)
- SU (13:38 re 4th) — Reyes 9 run (kick failed)
- VT (7:40 re 4th) — Wilford 87 pass from Randall (Warley kick)
- VT(4:45 re 4th) — Wilford 6 pass from Randall (Warley kick)
- SU (4:27 re 4th) — Rhodes 3 run (Shafer kick)
- VT (2nd OT) — Randall 1 run (Warley kick)
- SU (2nd OT) — Donnelly 6 pass from Nunes (Shafer kick)
- SU (3rd OT) — Rhodes 25 run (Rhodes run)

Team Stats	VT	SU
First downs	18	29
Rushing yds.	25-55	60-201
Passing yds.	504	403
Return yds.	-2	65
Passes	23-35-3	24-40-3
Punts-avg.	6-34	5-39
Fumbles-lost	2-2	2-0
Penalties-yds.	6-45	9-93
Time of poss.	22:44	37:16
Sacks by	6-54	2-15

Individual Leaders

- Rushing — VT, Suggs 19-65, Team 1-(-1), Randall 5-(-9); SU, Reyes 21-118, Rhodes 17-67, Belton 4-20, Davis 5-13, Team 1-(-1), Nunes 12-(-16).
- Passing — VT, Randall 23-35-3-504; SU, Nunes 24-40-3-403.
- Receiving — VT, Wilford 8-279, Parham 5-48, Willis 2-113, Suggs 2-24, Easlick 2-19, Witten 2-11, Johnson 2-10; SU, Tyree 9-229, Riddle 8-65, Reyes 2-40, Donnelly 2-32, Rhodes 2-21, Morant 1-16.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛Virginia Tech's 50-42 triple-overtime loss at Syracuse was the second overtime game in Tech football history. Tech won a 27-20 single-overtime game at Miami in 1998.

☛**Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) set Virginia Tech and BIG EAST Conference records for receiving yardage in a game with 279 against SU. Wilford's four touchdown catches also set a Tech mark and tied the conference record. Ricky Scales held the previous Tech record for yardage with 213 against Wake Forest in 1972. Scales and Antonio Freeman shared the old touchdown mark with three. Dietrich Jells of Pittsburgh held the old BIG EAST yardage record with 225 against WVU in 1994. SU receiver David Tyree also surpassed the old mark with 229 yards during the win over Tech. Wilford is tied with Billy Davis of Pittsburgh and Chris Brantley of Rutgers for TD catches in a game.

☛Quarterback **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.) set a BIG EAST record for passing yards in a single game with 504 versus Syracuse. The old conference mark was 485 yards by Miami's Gino Torretta against San Diego State in 1991. Randall's total ranks second at Tech behind Don Strock's 527 yards passing against Houston in 1972. Randall's five passing touchdowns set a new Tech mark for an individual. The old mark of four was set by Strock and equalled by Maurice DeShazo (twice), Michael Vick and Grant Noel. The five TD passes against SU tie a Tech team record. The Hokies had five passing touchdowns against Temple in 1993 — four by DeShazo and one by Jim Druckenmiller.

☛**Garnell Wilds** (Tampa, Fla.) tied a Tech and BIG EAST record with three interceptions against the Orangemen.

Game 11
Mountaineers Hold Off Hokies For 21-18 BIG EAST Win

Nov. 20, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 62,723

BLACKSBURG, Va. — West Virginia used a goal-line stand and a pass interception in the end zone to hold off No. 13 Virginia Tech for a 21-18 Wednesday night victory at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

The Mountaineers snapped a four-game losing streak against Tech with some big plays on both offense and defense. A 42-yard touchdown run by Quincy Wilson put WVU on top 21-10 late in the third quarter. After cutting West Virginia's advantage to 21-16, Tech marched to the Mountaineers' 1-yard line during the waning minutes of the fourth quarter.

The WVU defense held its ground on three-straight running plays to preserve the lead. With 2:30 remaining, the Mountaineers took a safety rather than punt from their own end zone. Tech got one last chance from mid-field following a free kick. The Hokies moved all the way to the West Virginia 11 before Brian King picked off a Randall pass in the end zone with 12 seconds on the clock.

Randall finished with 293 yards of total offense, including 125 yards rushing.

West Virginia	7	7	7	0	—	21
Virginia Tech	7	3	6	2	—	18

VT (4:57 re 1st) — Suggs 28 run (Warley kick)

WVU (2:45 re 1st) — Cobourne 9 run (James kick)

WVU (14:21 re 2nd) — Marshall 7 run (James kick)

VT (6:49 re 2nd) — FG Warley 34

WVU (4:09 re 3rd) — Wilson 42 run (James kick)

VT (1:29 re 3rd) — Willis 6 pass from Randall (pass failed)

VT (2:30 re 4th) — Team safety

Team Stats	WVU	VT
First downs	20	23
Rushing yds.	46-263	44-243
Passing yds.	124	168
Return yds.	9	52
Passes	13-20-1	18-31-1
Punts-avg.	5-27	4-36
Fumbles-lost	2-0	1-1
Penalties-yds.	9-75	6-75
Time of poss.	28:05	31:55
Sacks by	2-7	0-0

Individual Leaders

Rushing — WVU, Wilson 11-125, Cobourne 19-80, Marshall 12-43, Garvin 2-22, Fazzolari 1-(-3), Team 1-(-4); VT, Randall 18-125, Suggs 15-71, Jones 9-36, Easlick 2-11.

Passing — WVU, Marshall 23-20-1-124; VT, Randall 18-30-1-168, Team 0-1-0-0.

Receiving — WVU, D. Smith 4-93, Cobourne 3-12, Wilson 3-12, Page 1-5, Neal 1-5, Marshall 1-(-3); VT, Wilford 5-58, Witten 3-45, Suggs 3-22, Easlick 2-17, Johnson 2-6, Shreve 1-7, Humes 1-7, Willis 1-6.

A CLOSER LOOK

☛ West Virginia handed Virginia Tech its third-straight loss, marking the first time since 1997 that the Hokies have lost three consecutive games in a season and the first time since 1992 that Tech has lost three straight regular-season games. The win was the first in the series for WVU since 1997 and the first in Blacksburg for the Mountaineers since the 1992 season.

☛ Quarterback **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.) ran for 125 yards against the Mountaineers. The last time a Virginia Tech quarterback ran for 100 or more yards in a game was on Sept. 28, 2000 when Michael Vick ran for 210 yards at Boston College. Randall also had 168 yards passing for a total of 293 yards of offense.

☛ Redshirt freshman linebacker **Blake Warren** (Clifton, Va.) posted his first collegiate interception in the third quarter of the Tech-WVU game.

☛ The West Virginia game marked the first time this season that the Hokies trailed at the half. WVU led 14-10 after two quarters.

☛ **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) registered his first blocked punt during the second quarter of the West Virginia game. It was the sixth blocked kick of the season for Tech.

☛ **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) took over Tech's kickoff return duties in the West Virginia game. Suggs, whose last kickoff return came against Miami during the 2000 season, had three returns for 77 yards against the Mountaineers.

☛ The WVU game marked the 67th time since the start of the 1993 season that Tech has rushed for 200 yards or more. The loss was just the Hokies' fourth in those 67 contests.

TECH DEFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team	Second Team
<p>DE 83 Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.) Had 13 tackles, 2 TFL, 2 sacks & a FF at Syracuse ... Recorded 3 sacks at Texas A&M ... Has a career-high 9 sacks this season</p>	<p>OR DE 95 Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.) Recorded 5 tackles at Syracuse ... Had 4 stops and a sack vs. TU ... Had a team-high 3 sacks vs. LSU ... Has 5.5 sacks in '02</p>
<p>DT 71 Tim Sandidge (6-1, 273, r-Fr.) Recorded 5 tackles and a sack against Syracuse ... Had 4 solo stops and 2 assists vs. Virginia ... Had 3 tackles and a FR vs. ASU</p>	<p>OR DT 98 Jimmy E. Williams (6-3, 338, Jr.) Recorded five assisted tackles on 23 snaps in the win over Virginia ... Played a career-high 24 snaps vs. WVU ... Had 4 tackles vs. WV</p>
<p>DT 56 Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 300, Fr.) Had 6 stops vs. Virginia ... Had 4 tackles, a TFL and 2 QBH at Texas A&M ... Had 8 stops vs. WVU ... Had 5 stops & 2 TFL vs. Pitt</p>	<p>DT 72 Jason Murphy (6-2, 288, r-Fr.) Will see increased playing time with the injuries at DT ... Played 12 snaps on defense against WVU ... Had a solo stop and an assist</p>
<p>DE 99 Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.) Had 11 tackles, a TFL, half a sack & a QBH hurry at SU ... Had 6 solo stops, 3 sacks, a TFL, a PBU, a FF and 2 QB hurries vs. Virginia</p>	<p>DE 28 Lamar Cobb (6-2, 236, r-Sr.) Had 11 tackles, a TFL, half a sack & a QBH hurry at SU ... Had 6 stops, 2 TFL, 4 QBH, 2 sacks & a forced fumble at Western Mich.</p>
<p>LB 48 Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.) Had 8 stops, a TFL, a sack and a PBU vs. Pitt ... Had 9 stops and a fumble recovery vs. LSU ... Had 6 stops, a TFL & a PBU vs. ASU</p>	<p>LB 31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 201, r-So.) Got the start vs. Marshall, recording 5 tackles ... Had 4 stops and forced a fumble at BC ... Had 6 tackles and a PBU vs. Syracuse</p>
<p>LB 45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 217, r-So.) Recorded 11 tackles and a sack vs. Rutgers ... Had a team-high 10 stops vs. LSU ... Had 17 tackles, 2 TFL, 2 sacks & a forced INT at SU</p>	<p>LB 39 Alex Markogiannakis (5-9, 204, r-Sr.) Got his 1st career start at WMU, recording 4 stops and returning a fumble 25 yards for a TD ... Had a FR and a TFL vs. Arkansas State</p>
<p>LB 6 Vegas Robinson (6-0, 245, r-Jr.) Expected to return after missing 3 games (ankle) ... Had 7 stops and a FR vs. Marshall ... Had 9 total stops, 2 QBH & an INT vs. LSU</p>	<p>LB 40 Blake Warren (6-3, 228, r-Fr.) Has seen limited action this year on defense ... Has played mostly special teams ... Will see playing time if Vegas Robinson can't go</p>
<p>FC 2 Ronyell Whitaker (5-9, 192, r-Sr.) Had 10 tackles - 7 solo - and a PBU vs. UVa ... Caused a fumble against Marshall ... Had 3 solo stops and 3 PBU at Texas A&M</p>	<p>FC 8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.) Picked off 2 passes vs. TU ... Had 3 tackles, a PBU and an INT at BC ... Caused a fumble vs. LSU ... Had an interception vs. Rutgers</p>
<p>FS 35 Willie Pile (6-3, 211, r-Sr.) Had 10 stops, an INT and a FR vs. TAMU ... Had 14 tackles on 100 plays at SU ... Had 14 tackles & a FF vs. UVa ... Has 13 career INTs</p>	<p>FS 18 Jimmy F. Williams (6-2, 203, Fr.) Registered 5 solo stops, 5 assists and a PBU vs. ASU ... Had 3 tackles on defense at WMU ... Made an INT and a stop vs. Rutgers</p>
<p>ROV 25 Billy Hardee (5-11, 203, r-Sr.) Had 5 total stops against Pittsburgh ... Had 9 solo tackles and 3 assists at Syracuse ... Had 6 stops & recovered a fumble at WMU</p>	<p>ROV 21 Michael Crawford (5-11, 206, r-Jr.) Had open biopsy on Nov. 11 ... Recorded 2 solo tackles on 21 snaps vs. Virginia ... Has 42 stops, 4 TFL, 2 sacks and 2 PBU in '02</p>
<p>BC 4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.) Questionable for Miami game (back) ... Missed 2 games ... Returned a punt & INT for TDs vs. ASU ... Had a PR for a TD vs. RU</p>	<p>OR BC 17 Garnell Wilds (5-11, 192, r-Jr.) Had 3 INT, 5 tackles and 2 PBU at SU ... Had 6 stops vs. W. Virginia ... Had 4 tackles and 2 PBU vs. LSU ... Had 2 stops and a FR at BC</p>
<p>P 38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 194, r-So.) Is averaging 40.3 yards per punt ... Was named the BIG EAST S.T. POW after LSU game ... Had a long of 58 yds w/22 inside the 20</p>	<p>P 23 Nic Schmitt (6-3, 238, Fr.) Can be used at both P and PK ... Has a very strong leg ... Was scheduled to redshirt this year but was forced into action at BC</p>

TECH OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team

SE 19 Ernest Wilford (6-4, 217, r-Jr.)

Caught 8 passes for a BIG EAST record 284 yards and a school-record 4 TDs at SU ... Has 40 rec. for 807 yards & 6 TDs this year

LT 57 Anthony Davis (6-4, 322, Sr.)

Started all 12 games this year ... Had 3 knockdowns and graded out at 83% vs. Temple ... Graded out at 85% with 6 KDs vs. Rutgers

LG 60 Jacob Gibson (6-4, 302, r-Jr.)

Got the start in the last 10 games ... Graded out at 91% vs. WVU ... Had 4 knockdowns and graded out at 93% against Pittsburgh

C 64 Jake Grove (6-3, 292, r-Jr.)

Started all 12 games this year ... Graded out at 93% vs. Pittsburgh ... Had 6 knockdowns vs. TU ... Graded out at 94% at Syracuse

RG 74 Luke Owens (6-3, 310, r-Sr.)

Has started all 12 games this year ... Graded out at 88 % with 2 knockdown blocks vs. Pittsburgh ... Had 3 KDs in the win over MU

RT 52 Jimmy Martin (6-5, 269, Fr.)

Played 58 snaps in 1st start against Temple ... Played 20 snaps vs. RU, grading out at 80% ... Graded out at 83% w/1 KD at Syracuse

TE 90 Jeff King (6-5, 252, r-Fr.)

Caught his first career pass and TD pass against Arkansas State, a 19-yarder ... Has started the last 4 games (Pitt, SU, WVU, UVa)

QB 3 Bryan Randall (6-0, 213, So.)

Threw for a BIG EAST record 504 yards and a school record 5 TDs at Syracuse ... Completed 10-of-11 passes in the win at Texas A&M

FB 43 Doug Easlick (5-11, 235, r-Jr.)

Caught a 32-yard TD pass vs. TU ... Had an 18-yard run vs. MU ... Has blocked well in all 12 games ... Had a 15-yard run vs. ASU

TB 22 Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.)

Holds NCAA record 25-game TD scoring streak ... Ran for 197 yards and 2 scores vs. Rutgers ... Has 51 career TDs, a VT record

FL 26 Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.)

Had three catches for 29 yards against Pittsburgh ... Has 19 catches for 237 yards in '02 ... Caught a 34-yard pass at WMU

PK 49 Carter Warley (5-11, 189, r-Jr.)

Missed 4 games due to back pain ... Is 30 of 30 on PATs in '02 ... Is 6 for 11 on field goals ... Kicked FGs of 42 and 43 yards vs. MU

Second Team

SE 9 Terrell Parham (6-0, 195, r-Sr.)

Caught 5 passes for 48 yds at SU ... Caught a team-high 4 passes in the win at Texas A&M ... Has 14 catches for 121 yards this year

LT 61 Reggie Butler (6-5, 330, Fr.)

Saw significant action against Arkansas State, playing 34 snaps ... A big, physical presence on the line ... Recorded a 500-lb. squat

LG 66 Will Montgomery (6-3, 294, r-Fr.)

A former invited walk-on who earned a scholarship this past offseason ... Saw significant action in the win over Arkansas State

C 68 Robert Ramsey (6-3, 296, r-So.)

Saw significant action against Arkansas State, playing 34 snaps ... Saw limited action vs. MU ... Has a solid grasp of VT's offense

RG 76 James Miller (6-6, 304, So.)

Started the 1st 2 games this year ... Saw action on 49 plays against LSU ... Graded out at 84% on 38 snaps in the win against Marshall

RT 79 Jon Dunn (6-7, 319, r-So.)

Graded at 89% vs. Arkansas State ... Had 5 knockdowns vs. MU ... Graded out at 84% vs. Temple ... Has started 7 games this year

TE 86 Keith Willis (6-5, 254, r-Jr.)

Has started 8 games this year ... Has 7 catches for 168 yards ... Caught 2 passes for 113 yards, including an 87-yarder at Syracuse

QB 11 Grant Noel (6-2, 221, r-Sr.)

Had surgery on Sept. 3 to clean up his left knee ... Saw his 1st action back at Western Mich. ... Playing with slightly-torn ACL in left knee

FB 32 Cedric Humes (6-1, 218, r-Fr.)

Moved to FB from TB following spring ... Had 10 rushes for 52 yards against Arkansas State ... A great runner with breakaway speed

TB 7 Kevin Jones (6-0, 212, So.)

Has 835 yards and 9 TDs in '02 ... Ran for 171 yards and 3 TDs vs. MU ... Ran for 132 yards & a TD vs. RU ... Ran for 91 yards vs. UVa

FL 12 Richard Johnson (5-11, 180, r-So.)

Had a big 39-yard catch vs. Virginia ... Caught a career-high 4 passes for 40 yards vs. TU ... Also returns punts, averaging 7.1 ypr

PK 23 Nic Schmitt (6-3, 238, Fr.)

Is 14-for-14 on PATs, but is 2-for-6 on field goal attempts ... Was scheduled to redshirt this year ... Is also the back-up punter

CHARTING THE HOKIES

On The Move

Quarterback	Drives				Drives Ended By					Points Scored	Pts. Drive	Drive Efficiency
	Started	TD	FG	FGA	Punt	Downs	TO	Clock	Safety			
Randall	145	39	9	19	51	4	23	9	0	304	2.1	33.1%
Noel	9	3	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	21	2.3	33.3%
Hunt	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0.0	0.0%
VT Offense	160	42	9	19	59	4	23	13	0	325	2.0	31.9%
Opp. Offense	166	24	7	13	73	10	33	11	2	187	1.1	18.7%

What Happens On First Down

Team	Plays	Yds.	Avg.	Rush	Yds.	Avg.	Pass	Yds.	Avg.
VT	361	2,180	6.0	268	1,253	4.7	93	927	9.9
Opp.	338	1,653	4.9	204	771	3.8	140	882	6.3

Times Gained 10+ Yards (on any down): VT 146/Opponents 132

Times Gained 5+ Yards (on any down): VT 333/Opponents 288

Negative Yardage Attempts on First Downs: VT 39/Opponents 40

Own Penalty on First Down: VT 24/Opponents 22

The Money Downs (Results on third- and fourth-down conversions)

Opponents are 56 for 175 (32%) on third-down conversions and 5 for 19 (26%) on fourth-down conversions

Virginia Tech is 58 for 156 (37%) on third-down conversions and 6 for 13 (46%) on fourth-down conversions

Capitalizing On Turnovers

Virginia Tech's 24 total turnovers have led to 30 points for the opposition

Opponents' 33 total turnovers have led to 79 points for Virginia Tech

Field Position

	Virginia Tech	Opponents
Drives Started *	157	163
Cumulative Starting Yardlines	5,431	4,628
Average Starting Field Position	Own 34.6	Own 28.4
Times Started Inside 20	27	37
Drives Started in Plus Territory	32	21

* excluding the three drives for both Tech and its opponent in the triple overtime game at SU

Kickoffs (20 yards added to average drive started total for touchbacks)

Player	No.	Ret.	FC	OB	TB	EZ+	O-S	Avg. Depth	Avg. Drive Start
Mollerup	64	44	1	1	18	5	0	3.5-yd. line (224)	23.4-yd. line (1,500)
Schmitt	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5.5-yd. line (11)	VT 38-yd. line (124)

Inside The Red Zone

	Virginia Tech	Opponents
Times Penetrated Opponent 20	45	40
Total Scores	34	24
Touchdowns	29	19
Field Goals	5	5
Lost on Downs, Turnovers or Punt	6	10
Lost on Missed Field Goals	4	5
Lost on Expiration of Time	1	1
Scoring Percentage	75.6%	60.0%
TD Scoring Pct. (TDs out of total red zone scores)	85.3%	79.2%

Longest Scoring Drives:

	By Tech	By Opponent
# Plays	15 (85 yds, 8:02-TD) vs. MU	11 (71 yds, 4:22-FG) vs. SU
# Yards	90 (9 pl, 4:18-TD) vs. MU	93 (9 pl, 2:52-TD) vs. SU
Possession Time	8:02 (15 pl, 85 yds-TD) vs. MU	5:03 (10 pl, 80 yds-TD) by BC

2002 Virginia Tech Depth Chart for Miami (12/7/02)

Offense (Multiple)

SE 19, Ernest Wilford (6-4, 217, r-Jr.)
9, Terrell Parham (6-0, 195, r-Sr.)

LT 57, Anthony Davis (6-4, 322, Sr.)
61, Reggie Butler (6-5, 330, Fr.)

LG 60, Jacob Gibson (6-4, 302, r-Jr.)
66, Will Montgomery (6-3, 294, r-Fr.)

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

RG 74, Luke Owens (6-3, 310, r-Sr.)
76, James Miller (6-6, 304, So.)

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

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

QB 3, Bryan Randall (6-0, 213, So.)
11, Grant Noel (6-2, 221, r-Sr.)

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

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

FL 26, Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.)
12, Richard Johnson (5-10, 180, r-So.)

Defense (4-3)

DE 99, Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.)
28, Lamar Cobb (6-16-2, 236, r-Sr.)

DT 71, Tim Sandidge (6-1, 273, r-Fr.) OR
98, Jimmy E. Williams (6-3, 338, Jr.)

DT 56, Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 300, Fr.)
72, Jason Murphy (6-2, 288, r-Fr.)

DE 83, Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.) OR
95, Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.)

ILB 6, Vegas Robinson (6-0, 245, r-Jr.)
40, Blake Warren (6-3, 228, r-Fr.)

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

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

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

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

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

FC 2, Ronyell Whitaker (5-9, 192, r-Sr.)
8, Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.)

Special Teams

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

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

Long 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.)

KO 97, Jon Mollerup (5-11, 215, r-Sr.)
23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.)

KR 22, Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.)
12, Richard Johnson (5-10, 180, r-So.)

PR 12, Richard Johnson (5-10, 180, r-So.) OR
4, DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.)