



Tech Plays Host to Rutgers for Homecoming

Virginia Tech (6-0; 1-0) vs. Rutgers (1-5; 0-2) • 1 p.m., Oct. 19, 2002 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field

TODAY'S CHECKLIST

- ✓ This will be the 13th football meeting between Virginia Tech and Rutgers
- ✓ Tech holds a 9-3 advantage in the series, which began in 1920
- ✓ The Hokies won last year's game 50-0 at Rutgers
- ✓ VT has an overall 141-59-6 record at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field
- ✓ Tech is 27-6 in BIG EAST Conference games played in Blacksburg
- ✓ The Hokies have a 51-19-4 record in Homecoming games
- ✓ Tech is 11-4 on Homecoming Day during Coach Frank Beamer's 15 seasons
- ✓ VT is ranked 3rd in both the AP poll and the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' poll

THE SERIES

☛ Saturday's Virginia Tech-Rutgers game will mark the 13th football meeting between the two schools. The Hokies lost their first three games with the Scarlet Knights before posting nine straight wins to earn a 9-3 advantage in the series.

Rutgers defeated Tech 19-6 in 1920, 20-13 during the 1953 season and 50-49 in 1992. All three of those games were played on Rutgers' home field.

The Hokies earned their first win in the series during the 1993 season with a 49-42 decision at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. Tech edged Rutgers in Blacksburg again the following season, 41-34.

In 1995, Tech registered a 45-17 win at Rutgers Stadium. The Hokies downed the Scarlet Knights, 30-14, at Lane Stadium in 1996 and opened 1997 with a 59-19 win at Rutgers. Tech won 47-7 at home during the 1998 season, posted a 58-20 win on the road in '99 and notched a 49-0 win in Blacksburg in 2000. Last year, Tech won 50-0 at Rutgers.

Overall, the Hokies have a 5-0 record against the Scarlet Knights at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

THIS SEASON

☛ Virginia Tech is 6-0 overall and 1-0 in the BIG EAST Conference following a 28-23 win in a Thursday night ESPN game at Boston College on Oct. 10. Tech opened the season with three consecutive victories at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. The Hokies beat Arkansas State 63-7 in the third Hispanic College Fund Football Classic. Tech followed that win with victories at home against No. 14 Louisiana State (26-8) and No. 16 Marshall (47-21). The Hokies opened their road schedule with wins at No. 19 Texas A&M (13-3) and at Western Michigan (30-0).

☛ Rutgers enters the game with a 1-5 overall mark and a 0-2 record in BIG EAST Conference play. The Scarlet Knights are coming off a 40-0 loss to West Virginia on Saturday. Rutgers opened the 2002 season with back-to-back home losses to Villanova (37-19) and Buffalo (34-11) before shutting out Army 44-0 at Rutgers Stadium. Rutgers lost road games at Pittsburgh (23-3) and at the University of Tennessee (35-14).

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

- 10 Virginia Tech has forced a combined total of 10 turnovers during its last three games.
- 9 Tech is ranked ninth nationally in total defense.
- 8 The Hokies have allowed opponents a total of just eight touchdowns during the first six games of the season.
- 7 Tech is trying to start a season with seven straight wins for just the sixth time in school history.
- 6 DE Nathaniel Adibi already has a career-high six sacks in 2002.
- 5 Offensive linemen Jon Dunn, Luke Owens and Jacob Gibson each had five knockdown blocks against Boston College.
- 4 Virginia Tech's 25-5 record since the beginning of the 2000 season ranks fourth-best among Division I-A teams.
- 3 Tailback Lee Suggs needs just three points to move past Ryan Williams for second place in career scoring at Tech.
- 2 Tech has allowed a total of two rushing first downs in its last two games.
- 1 Quarterback Bryan Randall ranks first in the BIG EAST in pass efficiency.

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 113-65-2 record. He became Tech's winningest football coach in 1997 when the Hokies defeated Arkansas State, 50-0.

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

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

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

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

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

Beamer returned to his alma mater in December 1986 after a six-year stint as the head coach at Murray State University, where he compiled a 42-23-2 mark. His 155-88-4 overall record ranks him sixth among active Division I-A coaches in wins.

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

2002 SCHEDULES & RESULTS

Virginia Tech (6-0; 1-0):

| | | |
|------|-------|-------------------------|
| 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* |
| Oct. | 19 | Rutgers (1 p.m.)* |
| | 26 | Temple (1 p.m.)* |
| Nov. | 2 | Pittsburgh (tba)* |
| | 9 | at Syracuse (tba)* |
| | 20 | West Virginia (7 p.m.)* |
| | 30 | Virginia (tba) |
| Dec. | 7 | at Miami (1 p.m.)* |

Rutgers (1-5, 0-2):

| | | |
|------|-------|--------------------|
| hL | 19-37 | Villanova |
| hL | 11-34 | Buffalo |
| hW | 44- 0 | Army |
| aL | 3-23 | Pittsburgh* |
| aL | 14-35 | Tennessee |
| hL | 0-40 | West Virginia* |
| Oct. | 19 | at Virginia Tech |
| | 26 | at Syracuse* |
| Nov. | 2 | Miami* |
| | 16 | Temple* |
| | 23 | at Notre Dame |
| | 30 | at Boston College* |

*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 155 career wins. Joe Paterno leads the way with 331 wins followed by Bobby Bowden (328), Lou Holtz (238), Jackie Sherrill (177) and Ken Hatfield (157).

RU COACH GREG SCHIANO

☛ Greg Schiano (Bucknell '88) is in his second season as the head football coach at Rutgers. Schiano began his collegiate coaching career as a grad assistant at Rutgers in 1989. From 1990-95, he served as a full-time assistant at Penn State. Schiano moved to the pro ranks in 1996 as a defensive assistant with the Chicago Bears. He served as the Bears' defensive backfield coach in 1997-98 before returning to the college game as the defensive coordinator at Miami. Schiano helped UM to a 20-5 mark during his two seasons on the staff. He was named the head coach at Rutgers in December 2000 and is currently 3-14 at the helm.

TECH IN THE POLLS

☛Virginia Tech is ranked No. 3 in both The Associated Press Poll and in the *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 127 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 72 of the last 73 AP polls including the last 61 in a row.

TECH IN THE BIG EAST

☛Virginia Tech joined the BIG EAST Football Conference as a charter member when the league formed in 1991. Tech has finished among the top four in the league each year since the BIG EAST went to round-robin play in 1993. Tech won the BIG EAST title in 1999 and 1995 and shared the '96 championship with Miami and Syracuse. Tech finished second in 1994, 1997, 2000 and tied for second in 1998. The Hokies were fourth in '93. Last year, Tech tied for third in the league, marking just the second time in the last nine years that it did not finish higher than it was picked. Tech has won more games (89) than any BIG EAST team since the start of 1993.

TECH AT HOME

☛Virginia Tech has posted a 141-59-6 overall record in its 37-plus seasons at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. Tech is 67-22-1 at home under the direction of Frank Beamer.

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

Virginia Tech football teams are 300-90-13 in Blacksburg, including wins over Arkansas State, LSU and Marshall this season.

HOMECOMING AT TECH

☛Homecoming football games have been an official function at Virginia Tech since the beginning of the 1952 season, although there were designated games for many years, starting in 1926.

Tech's overall record on Homecoming is 51-19-4. The Hokies have a 28-7-2 mark in Homecoming games played at Lane Stadium, including a 34-20 win over Boston College last season.

The Hokies' last loss in a Homecoming game was during the 1998 season when Temple handed Tech a 28-24 loss. Tech has an 11-4 record in Homecoming games during Frank Beamer's tenure as head coach.

SCORING STREAK

☛Tech has scored in a school record 88 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 | 2-0-0 | 6-0-0 |
| Pittsburgh | 2-0-0 | 5-2-0 |
| Virginia Tech | 1-0-0 | 6-0-0 |
| West Virginia | 1-0-0 | 4-2-0 |
| Temple | 1-1-0 | 2-4-0 |
| Boston College | 0-2-0 | 3-2-0 |
| Rutgers | 0-2-0 | 1-5-0 |
| Syracuse | 0-2-0 | 1-5-0 |

Thursday, Oct. 10
Virginia Tech 28, BC 23

Saturday, Oct. 12
Temple 17, Syracuse 16
West Virginia 40, Rutgers 0
Miami 28, Florida State 27
Notre Dame 14, Pittsburgh 6

Saturday, Oct. 19
Rutgers at Virginia Tech
Syracuse at West Virginia
Navy at Boston College

2001 RESULTS

Virginia Tech (8-4; 4-3):
hW 52-10 Connecticut
hW 31- 0 Western Michigan
aW 50- 0 Rutgers*
hW 46-14 UCF
aW 35- 0 West Virginia*
hW 34-20 Boston College*
hL 14-22 Syracuse*
aL 7-38 Pittsburgh*
aW 35- 0 Temple*
aW 31-17 Virginia
hL 24-26 Miami*
nL 17-30 Florida State
(Toyota Gator Bowl)

Rutgers (2-9; 0-7):
aW 31-15 Buffalo
aL 0-61 Miami*
hL 0-50 Virginia Tech*
hL 19-20 Connecticut
hL 17-24 Syracuse*
aL 5-30 Temple*
hW 23-17 Navy
aL 7-80 West Virginia*
hL 0-42 Pittsburgh*
hL 7-38 Boston College*
hL 10-20 California

*BIG EAST game

Last Game

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, Donovan Darius.

NOTING TECH-RUTGERS

☛By shutting out Rutgers, 50-0, last season, Virginia Tech posted back-to-back shutouts for the first time since the 1983 season when Tech blanked Louisville and VMI in consecutive games. The Hokies shut out Western Michigan, 31-0, prior to facing the Scarlet Knights.

☛Tech's 28 first quarter points at Rutgers represented the most points by the Hokies in the first quarter of a game since 1992. That year, Tech had 28 points during the first quarter of a 50-49 loss at Rutgers. Tech had 35 first-quarter points versus Arkansas State earlier this season.

☛Quarterback **Grant Noel** (Ridgeley, W.Va.) tied a school single-game record with four touchdown passes against Rutgers in 2001. Don Strock set the mark in 1972 against Ohio University. Maurice DeShazo equalled the mark twice during the 1993 season in games against Maryland and Temple. It was also tied by Michael Vick in 1999 at Rutgers.

☛Three Tech players — receiver **Terrell Parham** (Bartow, Fla.), tight end **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) and defensive tackle Channing Reed — scored their first collegiate touchdowns during last season's win at Rutgers.

☛Tech defensive players Brian Welch, **Billy Hardee** (Winter Haven, Fla.) and Jake Houseright posted their first interceptions to help Tech to victory at RU.

☛**Eric Green** (Clewiston, Fla.) posted his second career blocked punt during the fourth quarter of the last year's game at Rutgers. Green's block was eventually recovered in the end zone by the Scarlet Knights for a safety. At the time, it was the Hokies' only safety since a 1999 win at West Virginia.

Last Season

Hokies Open BIG EAST Conference Play With Shutout

Sept. 22, 2001 • Rutgers Stadium • Attendance 27,514

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Virginia Tech got 28 first quarter points from its offense and a second-straight shutout from its defense to open BIG EAST Conference play with a 50-0 victory at Rutgers.

Quarterback Grant Noel passed for four touchdowns, including three in the opening 15 minutes, to give Tech its ninth-straight win over the Scarlet Knights. The Tech offensive unit also piled up over 200 yards on the ground for the 23rd time in its last 25 games.

The Hokies capitalized on six Rutgers turnovers, beginning with an interception by linebacker Brian Welch on the second offensive play of the game. Welch returned his interception to the Scarlet Knight 1-yard line to set up a quick Tech touchdown. Defensive tackle Channing Reed finished the scoring with an 8-yard fumble return for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The Hokies held Rutgers to just 102 total yards of offense.

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----|---|---|----|---|----|
| Va. Tech | 28 | 0 | 6 | 16 | — | 50 |
| Rutgers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | 0 |

- VT (13:40 re 1st) — Burnell 1 run (Warley kick)
- VT (7:13 re 1st) — Ferguson 5 pass from Noel (Warley kick)
- VT (4:04 re 1st) — E. Johnson 16 pass from Noel (Warley kick)
- VT (0:08 re 1st) — Parham 6 pass from Noel (Warley kick)
- VT (8:12 re 3rd) — FG Warley 38
- VT (4:02 re 3rd) — FG Warley 37
- VT (14:04 re 4th) — Willis 7 pass from Noel (Warley kick)
- VT (7:51 re 4th) — Safety, blocked punt recovered in ez by kicking team
- VT (2:19 re 4th) — Reed 8 fumble return (Warley kick)

| Team Stats | VT | RU |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| First downs | 23 | 11 |
| Rushes-yds. | 46-223 | 38-32 |
| Passing yds. | 175 | 70 |
| Return yds. | 107 | 0 |
| Passes | 19-27-0 | 12-24-4 |
| Punts-avg. | 4-33 | 8-36 |
| Fumbles-lost | 3-1 | 4-2 |
| Penalties-yds. | 8-108 | 11-78 |
| Time of poss. | 34:42 | 25:18 |
| Sacks by | 4-37 | 0-0 |

Individual Leaders

Rushing — VT, Jones 18-76, Burnell 12-74, Randall 3-39, Ward 6-23, Noel 5-9, Easlick 1-1, Briggs 1-1; RU, Ohene 19-43, Jones 6-23, Moses 1-13, Cook 4-6, team 1-(-5), Trump 1-(-15), Cubit 6-(-33).

Passing — VT, Noel 17-22-0-164, Randall 2-5-0-11; RU, Cubit 11-23-4-55, Barr 1-1-0-15.

Receiving — VT, Ferguson 3-28, Witten 3-15, Wilford 2-28, Briggs 2-23, Parham 2-10, Slowikowski 1-22, Wynn 1-16, E. Johnson 1-16, Davis 1-13, Willis 1-7, R. Johnson 1-4, Burnell 1-(-7); RU, Smith 4-9, Martin 2-20, Fletcher 2-3, Seabrooks 1-15, Hobbs, 1-9, Moses 1-7, Andre 1-7.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

☛Sophomore **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.), who saw only limited action as Tech's top backup at quarterback last season, has already had a hand in five 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. He added 194 yards passing and 40 rushing during Tech's win at WMU.

In his first BIG EAST game at Boston College, Randall threw a 44-yard touchdown pass and scrambled for several key first downs. He ran for two touchdowns and passed for another in Tech's 2002 opener against Arkansas State. He has connected on 43 of his 66 passing attempts (65.2 percent) for 613 yards and three touchdowns, while being intercepted twice. Randall has also contributed 169 yards and a pair of touchdowns 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 two series at WMU.

Extra Points

☛Virginia Tech's three-game road sweep of No. 19 Texas A&M, Western Michigan and Boston College marks just the second time in school history that a Tech football team has 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).

☛Tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) 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 40 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 42 career touchdowns (40 rushing, two 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 19 games that he has started for the Hokies, including the 2001 Gator Bowl game. Suggs scored three touchdowns during that Gator Bowl contest against Clemson but under NCAA rules they don't count in his career total. That rule will change this season, but will not be retroactive. Suggs started every game during the 2000 season, but suffered a season-ending knee injury in the third quarter of last year's opening game. He led the nation in scoring in 2000 when he scored 28 touchdowns.

☛Eleven of Virginia Tech's last 14 touchdown drives have covered more than 70 yards, with six covering more than 80 yards. The Hokies had touchdown drives of 90, 22, 85, 73, 81 and 46 yards against Marshall University. Tech's lone touchdown drive at Texas A&M was 86 yards, while its TD drives at Western Michigan were 68, 84 and 77 yards. During its Thursday night ESPN game at Boston College, Tech put together scoring drives of 81, 75, 74 and 75 yards. The average time of the 14 drives has been 4:26.

☛Virginia Tech's rushing defense is ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division I-A statistics, allowing just 49 yards per game. The Hokies have held all six opponents this season to less than 85 yards on the ground. The Hokies are also ranked No. 1 in scoring defense at 10.3 points per game. Tech has finished among the top 20 Division I-A teams in rushing defense six of the last seven seasons and has been ranked among the top 15 teams in scoring defense six times in the past seven years.

☛Virginia Tech ranks first nationally in turnover margin at plus-2.5 per game. The Hokies are tied for third nationally in fumbles recovered with 12 and tied for 12th in turnovers gained with 20. The Hokies have committed just five turnovers.

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 in many preseason publications. So far, they have lived up to their billing. During the Hokies' first six games of the 2002 season, Suggs and Jones have rushed for 1,084 yards and scored a total of 17 touchdowns. Together, they are averaging 180.7 yards rushing per game and 5.6 yards per carry. Suggs has 105 carries for 584 yards in 2002. Jones has 89 carries for 500 yards.

☛ **Lee Suggs** appears to have regained the form that helped him earn All-America honors in 2000. Suggs has made good showings in Tech's early-season games. He rushed seven times for 87 yards and a touchdown against Arkansas State in his first appearance since the opening game of 2001. He added 91 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries in the LSU game and had 24 carries for 153 yards and two TDs versus Marshall. He is averaging 5.4 yards per carry.

Suggs was lost to the Virginia Tech football team for the 2001 season after suffering a torn ACL in his left knee during the Hokies' 52-10 win over Connecticut. Suggs rushed for 99 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries before injuring his knee in the third quarter.

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. He posted a career-high 164 yards against Pittsburgh.

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 third on Tech's career scoring list with 252 points. Both players ahead of him on the list are place-kickers.

Suggs' career rushing total of 2,026 yards ranks 13th at Tech. He needs just 27 yards to pass James Barber (2,052) for 12th place.

☛ 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*.

Jones opened the 2002 season by scoring on a 19-yard run and posting three tackles on special teams in the Arkansas State game. He rushed for 70 yards and a TD against LSU and carried 24 times for 171 yards and three TDs versus Marshall. Jones scored another touchdown at WMU and added 144 yards rushing and a TD against Boston College.

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 21 different players have scored touchdowns while playing on Tech's special teams. Altogether, the defense and special teams have combined for 74 TDs since Beamer arrived in 1987, including 57 in Tech's last 104 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 27 TDs, including 13 on blocked punts, eight 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 55 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, Kevin McCadam and **DeAngelo Hall** — scored twice. Ike Charlton and Ricky Hall had three scores and André Davis had four.

Since the start of the 1993 season, Tech is 38-5 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-yard 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.

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 94 blocks in Beamer's 180 games as the head coach. The Hokies have blocked 48 punts (13 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 nine kicks against the Panthers and eight versus the Mountaineers and 'Canes.

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

☛ During the Beamer era, Tech has blocked two kicks in a game 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: 94 in 180 games (48 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 (2 punts, 2 FG)

LSU – punt+ (Justin Hamilton)
punt@ (Jason Lallis) hW
Marshall – FG+ (Team) hW
Western Michigan – FG (Jeff King) aW

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

GOOD COMPETITION

☛ Strong competition continues to keep players on their toes at several positions on the Virginia Tech depth chart, including the rover and whip linebacker spots and tight end.

Senior **Billy Hardee** (Winter Haven, Fla.) and redshirt junior **Michael Crawford** (Baltimore, Md.) took turns holding the top spot at the rover position during the preseason before Crawford got the starting nod prior to the opener. Crawford 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. Hardee had six tackles, a fumble recovery and a pass broken up against Western Michigan. Crawford has 22 tackles for the year, while Hardee has 16.

Mike Daniels (Fairfax, Va.), who started the final four games of the 2001 season at whip linebacker, is battling fellow redshirt sophomore **Brandon Manning** (Harrisburg, Pa.) for the starting duties this fall. Manning has started five of the Hokies' six games this season and is fourth on the team in tackles with 31. Daniels, who was slowed during the preseason by a hamstring injury, started the Marshall game and has a total of 20 tackles for the season.

Redshirt junior **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) has started all six games at tight end after working behind veterans Browning Wynn and Bob Slowikowski the past two seasons. Willis has increased his bench press to 390 pounds, best among the tight ends, and leads the position with a 32-inch vertical jump. He has four receptions for 49 yards on the season.

Redshirt freshman **Jeff King** (Pulaski, Va.) has also seen a substantial amount of playing time at the position and caught a TD pass against ASU. **Jared Mazzetta** (Flemington, N.J.), who was slowed by a preseason ankle injury, is also getting playing time.

VEGAS

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

Robinson, who saw action on just 78 defensive plays last year, has been in on 298 plays this season. He leads the team in tackles with 39 and has also contributed two pass interceptions, two tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and a pair of quarterback hurries.

The redshirt junior attained Elite Athlete status during the spring with a 370-pound bench press, a 39 1/2-inch vertical jump and a 4.47 forty.

2002 START CHART

| Pos. | Offense (starts) |
|------|---|
| SE | Ernest Wilford (5) Terrell Parham (1) |
| LT | Anthony Davis (6) |
| LG | Jacob Gibson (4) James Miller (2) |
| C | Jake Grove (6) |
| RG | Luke Owens (6) |
| RT | Jon Dunn (6) |
| TE | Keith Willis (6) |
| QB | Bryan Randall (4) Grant Noel (2) |
| FB | Doug Easlick (6) |
| TB | Lee Suggs (6) |
| FL | Shawn Witten (4) Richard Johnson (2) |
| Pos. | Defense (starts) |
| E | Nathaniel Adibi (6) |
| T | Kevin Lewis (6) |
| T | Jason Lallis (6) |
| E | Jim Davis (3) Cols Colas (3) |
| OLB | Brandon Manning (5) Mike Daniels (1) |
| ILB | Mikal Baaqee (5) Alex Markogiannakis (1) |
| ILB | Vegas Robinson (6) |
| BC | DeAngelo Hall (6) |
| FS | Willie Pile (6) |
| ROV | Michael Crawford (6) |
| FC | Ronyell Whitaker (4) Vincent Fuller (2) |

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 15 tackles, five pass breakups and an interception, while Wilds has 23 tackles, two breakups and a key fumble recovery.

Whitaker returned to the starting lineup against Marshall, but Fuller continues to see significant time at corner while also backing up Pile at free safety. 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 currently second on the team with 38 tackles and has two interceptions. Pile, who has been one of the Hokies' top big-play men, also has a pair of fumble recoveries.

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 leads the cornerbacks with 25 tackles and tops the team in pass breakups with six. He is tied for the team lead with two pass interceptions.

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 30 games, 27 as a starter; senior **Lamar Cobb** (Hurt, Va.), who has played in 33 games, 20 as a starter; redshirt junior **Cols Colas** (Plantation, Fla.), who has played in 28 games, seven as a starter; and junior **Jim Davis** (Highland Springs, Va.), who has played in 27 games, six as a starter.

Last season, those four players combined for 49 quarterback hurries and 11 of the Hokies' 30 sacks. This season, they have already produced 32 hurries and 16 sacks in just six 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 16 tackles, 4.5 sacks, six total tackles for loss, five hurries and three passes batted down so far in 2002.

Adibi, the team's most outstanding leader during 2002 spring practice, has already surpassed his career high with six sacks. He has 20 tackles and seven hurries.

Colas' power and explosive speed – 390 bench press and 4.41 forty – make him hard to handle on the corner. He led the team with 17 hurries last fall and added 3.5 sacks. He has 12 hurries and 4.5 sacks so far this season.

Cobb led the ends in tackles last year with 46. He currently has eight hurries, a sack and 13 tackles.

Fast-rising true freshman **Darryl Tapp** (Chesapeake, Va.) has contributed 12 tackles and three hurries.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

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

ON THE RECEIVING END

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

A variety of players have seen action in Tech's first six games with redshirt junior **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) and seniors **Shawn Witten** (Elizabethton, Tenn.) and **Terrell Parham** (Bartow, Fla.) leading the way. Wilford tops the team with 10 catches for 247 yards and two touchdowns. Witten has eight catches for 126 yards and Parham seven for 54.

Richard Johnson (r-So.; Baltimore, Md.) got his first start as a Hokie at Western Michigan and has four catches for 41 yards. **Justin Hamilton** (r-Fr.; Clintwood, Va.), who was moved from tailback during the spring, has two catches for 28 yards. **Mike Imoh** (Fr.; Fairfax, Va.) saw brief action at flanker catching four passes for 28 yards and a TD, but has since moved to tailback. **Chris Shreve** (r-Jr.; Mouth of Wilson, Va.) and **Chris Clifton** (r-Fr.; Chesapeake, Va.) have also seen playing time.

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 with a grade of over 80 percent. He is among the team leaders in knock-down blocks with 19.

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, who has joined Grove in the Winner's Circle every game, has posted 19 knockdowns, while Owens has 16.

Jon Dunn (r-So.; Virginia Beach, Va.), the 6-7, 319-pound right tackle is making big strides with 18 knock-down blocks. 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 has a team-high 20 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 **Darryl Tapp**, who is a starter on five different special teams and has also seen action at defensive end. Lewis has been in on 145 plays at tackle and 25 on special teams. Tapp has played 136 plays on special teams and 75 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 six games. Easlick has rushed seven times for 36 yards and caught five passes for 16 yards. Humes, who worked some at both fullback and tailback during the Arkansas State game, has rushed for 58 yards on 13 carries. He also has three pass receptions for 22 yards. Spence has also seen action, rushing four times for 26 yards and catching a pass for an 18-yard gain.

BIG EAST HONORS

☞ 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.

☞ 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.

☞ 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.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

☞ With Florida falling out of The Associated Press poll, Tech's 61-consecutive appearances in the AP Poll represent the second-longest active streak behind Michigan.

☞ Virginia Tech has won 13 of its last 14 games in October with the lone loss to Syracuse last season.

☞ The Hokies have allowed just 10 rushing touchdowns during their last 17 regular-season games.

☞ Since the beginning of the 1993 season, Tech is 66-11 in games that it scores first and 23-14 in games that the opposing team scores first.

☞ The Hokies have held teams to under 100 yards rushing in 14 of their last 17 regular-season games.

☞ The 83-yard punt return for a touchdown by Jamal Burke of BC was the longest against Tech since 1979 and the longest-ever against the Hokies in a BIG EAST game. West Virginia's Fulton Walker had an 85-yard return versus Tech in '79.

☞ **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) is currently ranked 10th nationally in punt returns with an average of 16 yards per return.

☞ Since the start of BIG EAST Conference round-robin play in 1993, Tech is 62-3 when it rushes for 200 yards or more.

☞ Quarterback **Bryan Randall**'s 90.9 completion percentage against Texas A&M (10-for-11) tied for the second-best single-game percentage in BIG EAST Conference history.

☞ Brothers **Kevin** and **Jonathan Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) have combined for 47 tackles, nine quarterback hurries and five tackles for loss at defensive tackle.

☛Nine of defensive end **Cols Colas'** 16 tackles this season have come behind the line of scrimmage.

☛The Rutgers game will be the Hokies' first Saturday home game of the year.

☛Tech's **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) is ranked 14th nationally in scoring with an average of 10 points per game.

☛Texas A&M's 3-0 first-quarter lead marks the only time this year that Tech has trailed in a game.

☛Nineteen of Virginia Tech's 21 quarterback sacks this season have come from the defensive ends and tackles.

☛Tech's top tackler on special teams has been redshirt junior **Garnell Wilds** (Tampa, Fla.) with seven tackles. True freshman **Cary Wade** (Fairfax, Va.) and sophomore **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) are close behind with six each.

☛**Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.), **Ronyell Whitaker** (Norfolk, Va.) and **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) are all on the watch list for the Jim Thorpe Award, given to the nation's top defensive back.

☛Senior tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) has not lost a fumble in his last 369 regular-season carries and his last 389 overall carries, including the 2001 Gator Bowl. The only lost fumble of his career came against Rutgers on his 14th carry of the 1999 season.

☛Tech currently ranks 11th in the Division I-A ranks in rushing offense with 240 yards per game.

☛Forty-five of the last 50 passes caught by Virginia Tech tight ends have produced first downs.

Extra Points

☛Tech has allowed just 10 points in the first half of play this season, with the lone touchdown coming on a punt return by Boston College. The Hokies have outscored their opponents 123-10 in the first half and 156-24 during the first three quarters of play. Since the beginning of the 1993 season, Tech has posted a 73-5 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 9-20 in contests when they have trailed at the half. Tech has won the last 32 games it has led at halftime.

☛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.

☛Tech's win at Texas A&M marked the 10th straight season the Hokies have won their first road game of the year. 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-conference team to win at Kyle Stadium was Alabama in 1988.

☛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. Both players had an impact on the Arkansas State game. Lallis picked up an ASU fumble in the second quarter and rambled 59 yards for a touchdown. Baaqee forced a pass interception that teammate **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) returned for a TD and earned the most points on defense.

☛During the Arkansas State game, sophomore **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) became the first player in coach Frank Beamer's 15-plus seasons at Tech to score a touchdown on defense and a touchdown on special teams in the same game. Hall scored on a 69-yard punt return and a 49-yard interception return during the first quarter of the ASU game.

☛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, posted six tackles including a sack which forced a fumble that was returned for a touchdown. Jonathan, a true freshman, played 22 downs and was in on five tackles. They are the first brothers to play side-by-side at Tech since offensive linemen T.J. and Todd Washington in 1995 and 1996.

MORE ON TECH-RUTGERS

☛ Virginia Tech's 49-0 win over Rutgers during the 2000 season marked the first-ever shutout for Tech in a BIG EAST Conference opener and ran the Hokies' record in league openers to 9-1. The game was just the second BIG EAST opener for Tech at home and marked the team's first win in a BIG EAST opener at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

☛ The Hokies piled up 348 yards against the Scarlet Knights in 2000. At the time, that was the most rushing yardage for a Tech team since posting 349 yards on the ground against Temple in 1996. In their very next game after Rutgers, the Hokies rushed for 420 yards against Boston College.

☛ Tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) scored four touchdowns against the Scarlet Knights in 2000. At that time it was the most touchdowns for a Tech player in a game since Tommy Edwards scored four TDs at Pittsburgh during the 1993 season. Suggs posted five TDs at UCF later in the season and also had four versus Virginia.

☛ The Hokies' four interceptions against Rutgers were the most in a game for Tech since picking off six passes against Rutgers in 1998.

☛ **Eric Green** (Clewiston, Fla.) blocked a Scarlet Knight punt in the second quarter of the 2000 game. The block set up a Tech touchdown. Green set up another touchdown when he tackled Rutgers punter Mike Barr for a 22-yard loss following a bad snap.

☛ Tech receiver **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) turned in the best performance of his redshirt freshman season against Rutgers. Wilford had three catches in the 2000 game for 35 yards.

☛ Virginia Tech tied BIG EAST records (at the time) for scoring in a half (49) and a quarter (35) during the '99 Rutgers game. Miami had 49 points in the first half of a 1995 game against Rutgers. The Hurricanes also had a 35-point quarter on two occasions — against Rutgers in '95 and versus San Diego State in 1992. Both scoring figures were modern day records for Tech, which posted 56 first-half points versus ASU this year.

☛ Quarterback Michael Vick had a record-setting game at Rutgers in '99 and he did it all in just one half of play. Vick became the first Tech quarterback on record to pass for four touchdowns in a half and to account for five TDs in a half and a game. Vick's four touchdown passes also tied the school single-game mark for TD passes by an individual, which was set by Don Strock in 1972 and equalled by Maurice DeShazo twice during the 1993 season and Grant Noel in 2001. Vick, who was 11-for-12 passing, set a BIG EAST mark for completion percentage (.917) in a game.

☛ Tech flanker André Davis posted 157 yards receiving on four catches versus Rutgers in '99. Davis caught a 74-yard touchdown pass on the first offensive play of the game. At the time, his yardage total was the best for a Tech receiver since Antonio Freeman had 194 yards in a 1993 game with Temple. Davis closed out the regular season with 172 yards receiving against Boston College.

☛ Tech registered its first blocked kick of the 1999 season when tackle Carl Bradley blocked an extra-point kick at RU during the fourth quarter. **Ronyell Whitaker** (Norfolk, Va.) returned the block for a two-point defensive conversion. It was just the second two-point defensive extra point in Tech history.

☛ Tech tied a school record with six interceptions during its 47-7 win over Rutgers in 1998. The record was set during a 40-22 win at Florida State in 1968 and equalled during a 50-49 loss at Rutgers in 1992. Ironically, members of the Hokies' 1968 grid squad were on hand for the game as part of a 30th reunion celebration.

☛ In 1998, Tech had 169 yards on interception returns versus RU, the second highest total in school history. Tech had 182 return yards on interceptions versus Vanderbilt in 1983.

☛ The Hokies returned two of their interceptions for touchdowns against Rutgers in 1998. The last time Tech returned two interceptions for TDs was in a 1988 home game versus South Carolina. Jamel Smith's 98-yard return in the game against RU was the second-longest pass interception return in Tech history.

☛ Wayne Ward scored his first collegiate touchdown during Tech's '98 win over Rutgers. Ward closed out the scoring in that game with a 20-yard TD run.

☛ Tight end Browning Wynn posted his first career reception against the Scarlet Knights in 1998 with a 14-yard grab.

☛ During the course of the Tech-Rutgers series, the two teams have combined to score 738 points in 12 games. That averages out to 61.5 points per game or just over a point per minute.

☛ At the time, Tech's 59 points against the Scarlet Knights in the opening game of the 1997 season marked the second-highest point total ever in a football season opener for a Tech team. The 1905 Tech grid team opened with an 86-0 win versus Roanoke College.

☛During the '97 Rutgers game, Al Clark became the first Tech quarterback to surpass 100 yards in both rushing and passing in a game since Steve Casey in 1978.

☛Tech's defensive and special teams have combined for nine touchdowns during its last 10 games against Rutgers. Linebacker Ken Brown started the trend with an 18-yard interception return against RU in 1992. The following season, William Ferrell returned a blocked punt seven yards for a Tech TD against the Scarlet Knights.

The Tech defense scored twice against Rutgers in 1995, 1997 and again in 1998. During the '95 game, defensive end Hank Coleman returned a fumble 51 yards for a TD, while linebacker Myron Newsome posted a 71-yard interception return. In 1997, defensive tackle Carl Bradley fell on a fumble in the end zone for one score and rover Pierson Prioleau picked up a fumble and ran 43 yards to the end zone for the other.

Both touchdowns in 1998 came on interception returns. Cornerback Ike Charlton returned the first one 26 yards for a score and linebacker Jamel Smith took the second one 98 yards. Last season, Tech defensive tackle Channing Reed picked up a fumble and returned it eight yards for a TD. The Hokies also blocked a punt for a safety in that game.

☛During the 1996 season, quarterback Jim Druckenmiller's 24 pass completions versus Rutgers were the most for a Tech quarterback since Will Furrer connected on 27 of 50 passes in a loss to Oklahoma in 1991.

☛Former offensive coordinator Rickey Bustle spent the first half of the 1995 Rutgers game in a hospital emergency room where he was treated for a kidney stone attack. Bustle returned for the second half.

☛The home team won the first five games in the Tech-Rutgers series. Overall, the home team has won eight of the 12 games.

☛The first three BIG EAST games between Tech and Rutgers produced three of the most exciting games in early league history.

In 1992, the two schools hooked up in what still ranks as the third-highest scoring game between two league teams. The Scarlet Knights scored on the last play of that game to win at home by a score of 50-49. In 1993, Tech built a big lead at home before holding off a furious Rutgers rally to win, 49-42, in what still stands as the fifth highest-scoring game between two BIG EAST Conference teams. The 1994 season produced a virtual repeat of the '93 game with Tech watching a 41-13 lead evaporate in the fourth quarter before finally securing a 41-34 win by recovering an onside kick with just over a minute remaining.

Overall, the first three BIG EAST meetings between the Hokies and Scarlet Knights produced a combined total of 37 touchdowns, 3,106 yards of offense and 147 first downs. Twenty-four different players scored during those three games and 15 of the touchdown plays covered more than 20 yards, including eight of 45 yards or more. As many as 41 points were scored in a quarter, but no fewer than 10. All but two of the scoring drives during the three games took less than four minutes, including 15 of less than two minutes.

NEW LEADER

☛The 2002 season is Bryan Stinespring's 10th year as a full-time coach on Frank Beamer's staff at Tech, but it is his first as offensive coordinator. Stinespring was promoted to the position in December and handled those duties during Tech's Gator Bowl game against Florida State.

THE NUMBERS GAME

203 ... the Hokies' average yards rushing per game during running back's coach Billy Hite's 24-plus seasons at Tech (270 games).

101.7... opponents' pass efficiency rating places Tech 22nd nationally in pass efficiency defense.

89 ... percentage of offensive snaps played by starting linemen Jake Grove, Anthony Davis and Jon Dunn during Virginia Tech's first six games.

71.7 ... percentage of the time that Virginia Tech has spent in the AP Top 10 since the beginning of the 1999 season (43 of 60 weeks).

65.2 ... sophomore quarterback Bryan Randall's pass completion percentage for the season.

52 ... combined broken tackles for tailbacks Lee Suggs (30) and Kevin Jones (22) through six games.

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

23-4 ... Tech's regular-season record at home since the start of the 1998 season.

20-3 ... Tech's regular-season record on the road since the start of the 1998 season.

19 ... Tech's rushing touchdowns lead the BIG EAST.

16 ... Virginia Tech players have made their first collegiate starts during the 2002 season.

13 ... number of different players who have scored for the Hokies this season.

2 ... F-16 jets scheduled to fly over Lane Stadium if weather permits.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

☛ Of the 76 Tech players who have seen action this season, 44 are freshmen or sophomores. The overall breakdown is 10 true freshmen, 14 redshirt freshmen, 20 sophomores, 19 juniors and 13 seniors. Of the 71 players who dressed for the Hokies' season opener against Arkansas State, 28 were dressing for the first time.

☛ Fifteen of Tech's 27 touchdowns this season have been scored by either a freshman or sophomore.

☛ Thirteen of the 15 players who have registered quarterback hurries for the Hokies this season have at least one year of eligibility left. Twenty of Tech's 21 sacks have come from players with at least one year remaining.

☛ 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. Redshirt junior **Mark Costen** (Virginia Beach, Va.) played in six games last year as a reserve and was in for 71 plays. **Kevin Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) saw action on 125 plays as a freshman in 2000, then was redshirted last year. **Jason Lallis** (r-So.; Mitchellville, Md.) was primarily an end until playing a few downs at tackle late last season. Lallis and Lewis have started in the Hokies' first six games.

☛ Tech's kickoff team features seven freshmen, including true freshmen **Jimmy Williams** (Hampton, Va.), **Cary Wade** (Fairfax, Va.) and **Darryl Tapp** (Chesapeake, Va.).

☛ Only one of Hokies' top 15 tacklers this season is a senior.

☛ Eight of the 11 Tech players who have rushing yardage this year have two or more years remaining.

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 — 85 yds., qb Jim Druckenmiller to fl Bryan Still vs. Pittsburgh, 1995; Opp. — 97 yds., qb Tim Hasselbeck to wr Dedrick 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 20-for-20 on extra points and 5 of 8 on field goals in 2002, will be sidelined for an undetermined amount of time while being treated for low back pain. 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 extra points 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 missed a 41-yard field goal at BC, but made all four of his PAT kicks. This marks the first time in more than 45 years that three kickers have scored points in a season.

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.

TECH OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team

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

Had a big catch at Texas A&M for 52 yards ... Catch set up the lone TD of the game ... Caught a 44-yd TD pass at Boston College

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

Started all 6 games this year ... Had 3 knockdowns and graded out at 83% at TAMU ... Graded out at 84% with 5 KDs vs. MU

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

Got the start in the last 4 games ... Graded out at 84% vs. WMU ... Had 3 knockdowns and graded out at 83% in the win at TAMU

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

Started all 6 games this year ... Graded out at 93% vs. Western Mich. ... Had 6 knockdowns vs. LSU ... Graded out at 93% vs. MU

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

Has started all 6 games this year ... Graded out at 82 % with 3 knockdown blocks at Texas A&M ... Had 3 KDs in the win over MU

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

Graded at 89% vs. Arkansas State ... Had 5 knockdowns vs. MU ... The biggest player on the team ... Started all 6 games this year

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

Has started all 6 games this year ... Has 4 catches for 49 yards ... Caught 2 passes at WMU ... Had 1 catch for 19 yards vs. ASU

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

Is 4-0 as a starter ... Completed 10-of-11 passes at TAMU ... Led 8 scoring drives vs. MU ... Threw for 194 yards and a TD at WMU

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

Had an 18-yard run vs. Marshall ... Blocked well in all 6 games ... Had a 15-yard run vs. ASU ... A former walk-on ... A physical back

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

Ran for 153 yards and 2 TDs vs. MU ... Scored twice and ran for 154 yards at BC ... Tech's all-time touchdown leader with 41

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

Has started the last 2 games for Tech ... Caught 2 passes for 26 yards in his first start, at WMU ... Also returns kickoffs and punts

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

Went 4-for-4 on PATs, but missed his lone FG attempt at BC ... Is being used in place of the injured Carter Warley (back problems)

Second Team

SE 9 Terrell Parham (6-0, 20195, r-Sr.)

Made his 1st career start at WMU ... Caught a team-high 4 passes in the win at Texas A&M ... Has 7 catches for 54 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 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

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

A former invited walk-on who earned a scholarship this past offseason ... Saw significant action against Arkansas State

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

A standout lineman at Fork Union Military Academy in 2001 ... Saw significant action against Arkansas State, playing 34 snaps

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

Caught his first career pass and touchdown pass against Arkansas State, a 19-yarder ... The biggest of the three main tight ends

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.)

Ran for 171 yards and 3 TDs vs. MU ... Ran for 70 yards and a TD vs. LSU ... Had a 34-yard run ... Ran for 144 yards and a TD at BC

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

Hauled in a key 8-yard pass on 3rd down at BC ... Has 8 catches for 126 yards in '02 ... Caught a 34-yard pass at WMU

PK 97 Jon Mollerup (5-11, 215, r-Sr.)

Tech's main man on the kickoff team ... Kicked a field goal and a PAT at Western Mich. ... Is 1-for-2 on both FGs and PATs this year

TECH DEFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

| First Team | Second Team |
|--|--|
| <p>DE 83 Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.) Recorded 3 sacks at TAMU ... Also caused a fumble and had 7 tackles ... Had 5 solo stops, an assist, a TFL and a sack at BC</p> | <p>DE 95 Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.) Had 4 tackles and 1.5 sacks at BC ... Had a team-high 3 sacks vs. LSU ... Had 6 total stops, 1 TFL, 2 QB hurries and caused a FF</p> |
| <p>DT 70 Kevin Lewis (6-1, 287, r-So.) Had 3 solo stops, a TFL and an assist vs. TAMU ... Had 6 stops, a TFL, a sack and a FF vs. ASU ... Had 7 tackles and a QBH at BC</p> | <p>DT 71 Tim Sandidge (6-1, 273, r-Fr.) Recorded 2 tackles and a sack at Boston College ... Had a sack and a PBU against Marshall ... Had 3 tackles and a FR vs. ASU</p> |
| <p>DT 91 Jason Lallis (6-0, 254, r-So.) Had 8 tackles and a FF at WMU ... Returned a fumble 59 yards for a TD vs. ASU ... Had 6 tackles and a QB hurry against LSU</p> | <p>DT 56 Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 300, Fr.) Had 4 tackles, a TFL and 2 QBH at TAMU ... Had 2 solo stops vs. LSU ... Had 5 tackles and a TFL in the win over Arkansas State</p> |
| <p>DE 99 Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.) Has started the last 3 games ... Had 6 stops, 2 TFL, 4 QBH, 2 sacks and a FF at WMU ... Had 3 solo stops, a sack and 2 QBH at TAMU</p> | <p>DE 28 Lamar Cobb (6-2, 236, r-Sr.) Registered 2 solo stops and 3 quarterback hurries in the win at Texas A&M ... Had 4 tackles, including 1 for a loss against LSU</p> |
| <p>LB 48 Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.) Registered 9 total stops against LSU ... Also recovered a fumble ... Recorded 6 stops, a TFL and a PBU in his 1st career start (ASU)</p> | <p>LB 31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 201, r-So.) Got the start vs. Marshall ... Had 5 tackles - two solo - vs. the Thundering Herd ... Had 4 stops and forced a fumble at BC</p> |
| <p>LB 45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 217, r-So.) Missed the WMU with a sprained ankle ... Had a team-high 10 stops vs. LSU ... Had 9 tackles — 3 solo — and an INT vs. Marshall</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.) Had 7 stops and a FR vs. Marshall ... Had 6 stops and an INT at Texas A&M ... Had 9 total stops, 2 QBH and an INT against LSU</p> | <p>LB 47 James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Fr.) Had 6 tackles — 5 solo — at WMU ... Also had a sack ... Had a 3 stops against ASU ... Had 3 tackles and caused a fumble vs. LSU</p> |
| <p>CB 4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.) Had 7 total tackles vs. LSU ... Also had a PBU ... Returned a punt and an INT for TDs vs. ASU ... Had 5 stops and an INT at BC</p> | <p>CB 17 Garnell Wilds (5-11, 192, r-Jr.) Recorded 4 tackles against LSU ... Also had 2 PBUs ... Had 3 solo stops at Western Michigan ... Had 2 stops and a FR at Boston Coll.</p> |
| <p>FS 35 Willie Pile (6-3, 211, r-Sr.) Had 10 stops, an INT and a FR vs. TAMU ... Had 10 tackles vs. MU ... Had 7 tackles and a PBU against LSU ... Has 12 career INTs</p> | <p>FS 18 Jimmy F. Williams (6-2, 203, Fr.) Played 37 snaps on defense vs. ASU, registering 5 solo stops, 5 assists and a PBU ... Had 3 tackles on defense at Western Mich.</p> |
| <p>ROV 21 Michael Crawford (5-11, 206, r-Jr.) Had 5 stops, including 1 for a loss, a sack, a PBU and caused a fumble at Texas A&M ... Had 6 stops vs. both Marshall and BC</p> | <p>ROV 25 Billy Hardee (5-11, 203, r-Sr.) Recovered a fumble and had 2 tackles vs. Marshall ... Recorded 4 solo stops, 2 assists and recovered a fumble in the win at WMU</p> |
| <p>CB 2 Ronyell Whitaker (5-9, 192, r-Sr.) Caused a fumble on the 1st drive vs. MU ... Had 3 solo stops and 3 PBU in the win at TAMU ... A third-team All-American last year</p> | <p>CB 8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.) Had 3 tackles, a PBU and an INT at BC ... Caused a fumble vs. LSU ... Recorded 3 tackles and 2 passes broken up vs. Marshall</p> |
| <p>P 38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 194, r-So.) Is averaging 42.2 yards per punt ... Was named the BIG EAST S.T. POW after LSU game ... Had a long of 58 yds w/14 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> |

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 | 65 | 20 | 6 | 11 | 25 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 156 | 2.4 | 40.0% |
| Noel | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 2.6 | 37.5% |
| Hunt | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0% |
| VT Offense | 79 | 23 | 6 | 11 | 33 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 177 | 2.2 | 36.7% |
| Opp. Offense | 82 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 37 | 6 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 55 | 0.7 | 10.9% |

What Happens On First Down

| Team | Plays | Yds. | Avg. | Rush | Yds. | Avg. | Pass | Yds. | Avg. |
|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| VT | 178 | 959 | 5.4 | 145 | 690 | 4.8 | 33 | 269 | 8.2 |
| Opp. | 161 | 602 | 3.7 | 86 | 167 | 1.9 | 75 | 435 | 5.8 |

Times Gained 10+ Yards (on any down): VT 76/Opponents 59

Times Gained 5+ Yards (on any down): VT 155/Opponents 130

Negative Yardage Attempts on First Downs: VT 20/Opponents 16

Own Penalty on First Down: VT 11/Opponents 7

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

Opponents are 28 for 85 (33%) on third-down conversions and 0 for 8 (0%) on fourth-down conversions

Virginia Tech is 30 for 79 (38%) on third-down conversions and 2 for 3 (67%) on fourth-down conversions

Capitalizing On Turnovers

Virginia Tech's 5 total turnovers have led to 0 points for the opposition

Opponents' 20 total turnovers have led to 58 points for Virginia Tech

Field Position

| | Virginia Tech | Opponents |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Drives Started | 79 | 82 |
| Cumulative Starting Yardlines | 3,052 | 2,014 |
| Average Starting Field Position | Own 38.6 | Own 24.6 |
| Times Started Inside 20 | 11 | 21 |
| Drives Started in Plus Territory | 22 | 6 |

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 | 36 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 2.9-yd. line (105) | 22.9-yd. line (827) |
| 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 | 25 | 12 |
| Total Scores | 21 | 6 |
| Touchdowns | 19 | 6 |
| Field Goals | 1 | 0 |
| Lost on Downs or Turnovers | 2 | 3 |
| Lost on Missed Field Goals | 2 | 3 |
| Lost on Expiration of Time | 0 | 0 |
| Scoring Percentage | 84.0% | 50.0% |
| Scoring Percentage (TDs out of total red zone scores) | 76.0% | 100% |
| Percent of total drives (All Scores In Red Zone) | 26.7% | 7.3% |

Longest Scoring Drives:

| | By Tech | By Opponent |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| # Plays | 15 (85 yds, 8:02-TD) vs. MU | 10 (three times) |
| # Yards | 90 (9 pl, 4:18-TD) vs. MU | 86 (6 pl, 3:54-TD) by ASU |
| 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 Rutgers (10/19/02)

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.) 76, James Miller (6-6, 304, So.) |
| 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.) 66, Will Montgomery (6-3, 294, r-Fr.) |
| RT | 79, Jon Dunn (6-7, 319, r-So.) 52, Jimmy Martin (6-5, 269, Fr.) |
| TE | 86, Keith Willis (6-5, 254, r-Jr.) 90, Jeff King (6-5, 252, r-Fr.) |
| QB | 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 | 12, Richard Johnson (5-10, 180, r-So.) 26, Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.) |

Defense (4-3)

| | |
|------------|--|
| DE | 83, Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.) 95, Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.) |
| DT | 70, Kevin Lewis (6-1, 287, r-So.) 71, Tim Sandidge (6-1, 273, r-Fr.) |
| DT | 91, Jason Lallis (6-0, 254, r-So.) 56, Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 300, Fr.) |
| DE | 99, Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.) 28, Lamar Cobb (6-16-2, 236, r-Sr.) |
| ILB | 6, Vegas Robinson (6-0, 245, r-Jr.) 47, James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Fr.) |
| ILB | 45, Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 217, r-So.) 39, Alex Markogiannakis (5-9, 204, r-Sr.) |
| OLB | 48, Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.) 31, Mike Daniels (6-0, 201, r-So.) |
| CB | 2, Ronyell Whitaker (5-9, 192, r-Sr.) 8, Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.) |
| ROV | 21, Michael Crawford (5-11, 206, r-Jr.) 25, Billy Hardee (5-11, 203, r-Sr.) |
| FS | 35, Willie Pile (6-3, 211, r-Sr.) 18, Jimmy F. Williams (6-2, 203, Fr.) |
| CB | 4, DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.) 17, Garnell Wilds (5-11, 192, r-Jr.) |

Special Teams

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| P | 38, Vinnie Burns (5-11, 194, r-So.) 23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.) |
| FG/PAT | 23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.) 97, Jon Mollerup (5-11, 215, r-Sr.) |
| FG/PAT Snap | 55, Ken Keister (6-1, 240, r-Sr.) 62, Travis Conway (6-5, 257, r-So.) |
| FG/PAT Hold | 89, Robert Peaslee (6-1, 199, r-Jr.) 26, Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.) |
| Punt Snap | 55, Ken Keister (6-1, 240, r-Sr.) 62, Travis Conway (6-5, 257, r-So.) |
| KOs | 97, Jon Mollerup (5-11, 215, r-Sr.) OR 23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.) |
| KR | 12, Richard Johnson (5-10, 180, r-So.) 7, Kevin Jones (6-0, 212, So.) OR 22, Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.) |
| PR | 12, Richard Johnson (5-10, 180, r-So.) OR 4, DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.) |