



Tech, Syracuse To Tangle In The Carrier Dome

Virginia Tech (8-1; 3-1) vs. Syracuse (3-6; 1-3) • 3:30 p.m., Nov. 9, 2002 • Carrier Dome

TODAY'S CHECKLIST

- ✓ This will be the 16th football meeting between Virginia Tech and Syracuse
- ✓ Syracuse holds an 8-7 edge in the series, which began in 1964
- ✓ SU won last year's game 22-14 at Tech's Lane Stadium/Worsham Field
- ✓ The Hokies have won 35 of their last 44 regular-season road games
- ✓ Tech is just 2-5 in games played at the Carrier Dome
- ✓ VT is ranked 8th in the AP poll and 7th in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' poll
- ✓ The game will be televised by ESPN
- ✓ The Hokies have an 82-43 record in televised games

THE SERIES

☛ Saturday's game will mark the 16th football meeting between Virginia Tech and Syracuse. SU holds an 8-7 advantage in the series following a 22-14 victory last season at Tech's Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. That win was the first for the Orangemen in Blacksburg since the 1987 season.

Syracuse won the initial meeting in the series, 20-15, on its home field in 1964. Tech and SU did not meet again in football until 1985. The Hokies won at home, 24-14, in '85 and at the Carrier Dome, 26-17, the following year. SU posted a 35-21 win at Lane Stadium in 1987 and won 35-0 at home in 1988.

The first BIG EAST game between the schools ended in a 28-9 SU win at the Dome in '92. Tech won at Blacksburg, 45-24, in 1993, 31-7, in '95, 31-3 in '97 and 62-0 in '99. The Orangemen were winners at home by scores of 28-20 in 1994, 52-21 in 1996 and 28-26 in 1998. Tech became the first visiting team to win in the series since '87 when it took a 22-14 decision at the Dome in 2000.

THE GAME ON TV

☛ The Virginia Tech-Syracuse game will be televised nationally by ESPN. Jeff Hullinger will handle the play-by-play with Todd Christensen serving as the color analyst and Stacy Paetz providing sideline commentary.

Tech is 19-3 in games televised by ESPN, including a 2-0 mark this season. Tech is 10-2 on ESPN2.

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

- 10 Senior Lee Suggs posted his 10th career 100-yard rushing game Saturday, tying him for the fifth-highest total at Virginia Tech.
- 9 Cornerback DeAngelo Hall leads the Hokies in passes broken up this season with a total of nine.
- 8 Virginia Tech will be making its eighth visit to the Carrier Dome.
- 7 The Hokies have intercepted seven passes during their last three games.
- 6 Six of the seven touchdown drives in the Tech-Pittsburgh game took less than six plays.
- 5 Nathaniel Adibi's blocked punt against Pittsburgh was Tech's fifth blocked kick of the 2002 season.
- 4 The visiting team has won just four of the 15 games in the Tech-Syracuse series.
- 3 Opposing teams have made just three of their eight field goal attempts against the Hokies this season.
- 2 The Hokies stand No. 2 nationally in both rushing defense and scoring defense.
- 1 Tech is ranked first in the BIG EAST in red zone defense.

THIS SEASON

☛ Virginia Tech is 8-1 overall and 3-1 in the BIG EAST after suffering its first loss of the season, a 28-21 setback at the hands of Pittsburgh in Blacksburg. Tech opened its season with eight straight wins, including victories against nationally-ranked LSU (14th), Marshall (16th) and Texas A&M (19th). The Hokies are 5-1 at home and 3-0 on the road.

☛ Syracuse stands 3-6 overall on the season and carries a 1-3 mark in the BIG EAST Conference. After opening the season with a 1-6 mark, the Orangemen have won their last two outings, including a 38-35 road win at UCF on Saturday. SU is 2-2 at the Carrier Dome in 2002.

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 115-66-2 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 157-89-4 overall record ranks him sixth among active Division I-A coaches in wins.

During his undergraduate days at Tech, Beamer started three years as a cornerback and played on the Hokies' 1966 and 1968 Liberty Bowl teams. The 56-year-old Hillsville, Va., native began his collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant at Maryland in 1972. He held assistant coaching positions at The Citadel and Murray State before being named MSU's head coach in 1981.

2002 SCHEDULES & RESULTS

Virginia Tech (8-1; 3-1):

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

Syracuse (3-6, 1-3):

- aL 21-42 BYU
- hL 22-30 North Carolina
- hW 63-17 Rhode Island
- aL 34-37 Auburn (3 OT)
- hL 24-48 Pittsburgh*
- aL 16-17 Temple*
- aL 7-34 West Virginia*
- hW 45-14 Rutgers*
- aW 38-35 UCF
- Nov. 9 Virginia Tech*
- 16 at Boston College*
- 30 Miami*

*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 157 career wins. Joe Paterno leads the way with 333 wins followed by Bobby Bowden (329), Lou Holtz (238), Jackie Sherrill (178) and Ken Hatfield (159).

COACH PAUL PASQUALONI

☛ Paul Pasqualoni (Penn State '72) is in his 12th season as the head football coach at Syracuse. He has guided Syracuse to a 94-45-1 record and has an overall mark of 128-62-1 as a head coach on the collegiate level. Pasqualoni started his collegiate coaching career as an assistant at Southern Connecticut in 1976. After three seasons, he moved to Western Connecticut State where he spent five years as the head coach and AD, compiling a 34-17 record. Pasqualoni joined the coaching staff at Syracuse as an assistant in 1987. He was named SU's head coach in 1991. Syracuse has played in eight bowls during his 11 seasons.

TECH IN THE POLLS

☛Virginia Tech is ranked No. 8 in The Associated Press Poll and No. 7 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 130 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 75 of the last 76 AP polls including the last 64 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 (91) than any BIG EAST team since the start of 1993.

TECH ON THE ROAD

☛Virginia Tech has won 35 of the last 44 regular-season road games it has played, including 20 of its last 26 BIG EAST Conference road games. Tech is 3-0 on the road this season following a 13-3 win at Texas A&M, a 30-0 victory at Western Michigan and a 28-23 win at BC.

TECH ON TURF

☛The Syracuse game will mark Virginia Tech's 45th game on artificial turf since Frank Beamer took the helm in 1987. Tech has won 19 of its last 25 games on turf, but is just 24-20 overall on artificial surfaces under Beamer.

TECH INDOORS

☛Virginia Tech has a 5-9 record in games played in domed stadiums, including a 2-5 mark at the Carrier Dome. The Hokies have played three games in the Astrodome, losing to Houston in 1971 (56-29) and 1973 (54-27) and downing the Cougars in 1975 (34-28). Tech has a 2-2 record at the Superdome, with wins against Texas in 1995 (28-10) and Tulane in 1983 (26-10) and losses to Tulane in 1987 (57-38) and Florida State (46-29) last year.

Tech defeated Syracuse in the Carrier Dome, 26-17, in '86, then lost on five straight visits — 35-0 in 1988, 28-9 in 1992, 28-20 in 1994, 52-21 in 1996 and 28-26 in 1998. Tech broke that string with a 22-14 win at the Dome in 2000.

SCORING STREAK

☛Tech has scored in a school record 91 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	4-0-0	8-0-0
Pittsburgh	4-0-0	7-2-0
Virginia Tech	3-1-0	8-1-0
West Virginia	3-1-0	6-3-0
Temple	1-3-0	3-6-0
Syracuse	1-3-0	3-6-0
Boston College	0-3-0	5-3-0
Rutgers	0-5-0	1-8-0

Saturday, Nov. 2

Pittsburgh 28, Virginia Tech 21
Miami 42, Rutgers 17
West Virginia 46, Temple 20
Boston College 14, Notre Dame 7
Syracuse 38, UCF 35

Saturday, Nov. 9

Virginia Tech at Syracuse
Temple at Pittsburgh
Boston College at West Virginia
Miami at Tennessee

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)

Syracuse (10-3; 6-1):

nL 7-13 Georgia Tech
aL 9-33 Tennessee
hW 21-10 UCF
hW 31-14 Auburn
hW 44-30 East Carolina
aW 24-17 Rutgers*
aW 42-10 Pittsburgh*
hW 45- 3 Temple*
aW 22-14 Virginia Tech*
hW 24-13 West Virginia*
aL 0-59 Miami*
hW 39-28 Boston College*
nW 26- 3 Kansas State
(Insight.com Bowl)

*BIG EAST game

Last Week

Pittsburgh Rallies To Hand Hokies First Loss Of Season

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTING TECH-SYRACUSE

☛Syracuse's 22-14 win last season ended Virginia Tech's school-record 16-game winning streak at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. Tech's last home loss was a 36-32 defeat at the hands of Virginia on Nov. 28, 1998. The win also ended a nine-game overall Tech winning streak that dated back to a 41-21 loss at Miami last season. The SU win — the Orangemen's first in Blacksburg since 1987 — also produced a bit of irony. In 2000, Tech posted its first win at Syracuse since 1986 by the same score, 22-14.

☛Tech managed just 14 points in its loss to the Orangemen in 2001, which at the time was the Hokies' lowest point total since finishing with just three points in a loss to North Carolina in the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1, 1998. The last time the Hokies had 14 points or fewer in a regular-season game was against Navy during the 1995 season. Tech's point total against Syracuse broke a school-record string of 37 straight games in which the Hokies had scored 20 or more points. The following week, Tech had just seven points in a loss at Pittsburgh.

☛When Syracuse's Jamel Riddle returned a punt for a touchdown against the Hokies last season, it marked just the third time a punt had been returned for a TD against Tech since Coach Frank Beamer arrived in 1987. The last time it had been done during a regular-season game was during the 1988 season. The most recent TD return at the time was by Florida State's Peter Warrick during the 2000 Sugar Bowl. Earlier this season, Tech surrendered a TD return to Boston College's Jamal Burke.

☛When David Tyree blocked a Tech punt to set up a Syracuse field goal, it marked the second straight year that Tyree had blocked a punt against the Hokies.

Last Season

Syracuse Orangemen Snap Hokies' Winning Streaks

Oct. 27, 2001 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 53,662

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Syracuse beat Virginia Tech at its own game, using good special teams play, aggressive defense and its running game to hand the Hokies a 22-14 home loss. The Syracuse victory snapped a nine-game Tech winning streak and produced the Hokies' first home loss since the 1998 season.

SU's special teams contributed a punt return for a touchdown and a blocked punt that set up a field goal. Meanwhile, the 'Cuse defense limited Tech's highly-ranked running game to minus-three yards in the first half and 90 yards overall. The Hokies compounded their problems with two fumbles, one of which led to a touchdown, and a costly penalty that helped keep another Syracuse scoring drive alive.

The Orangemen played error-free football and controlled the game offensively behind the efforts of quarterback R.J. Anderson and tailback James Mungro. Syracuse finished with 168 yards on the ground against a Tech defense that had held each of its first six opponents to an average of 42.5 yards rushing.

Syracuse	14	3	0	5	—	22
Virginia Tech	0	0	7	7	—	14

- SU (13:18 re 1st) — Riddle 51 punt return (Barber kick)
- SU (7:35 re 1st) — Mungro 1 run (Barber kick)
- SU (0:04 re 2nd) — FG Barber 26
- VT (4:36 re 3rd) — Burnell 2 run (Warley kick)
- SU (12:25 re 4th) — FG Barber 45
- VT (5:19 re 4th) — Witten 17 pass from Noel (Warley kick)
- SU (2:24 re 4th) — team safety

Team Stats	SU	VT
First downs	14	18
Rushes-yds.	53-168	34-90
Passing yds.	52	162
Return yds.	73	26
Passes	6-17-0	15-32-0
Punts-avg.	9-39	7-33
Fumbles-lost	0-0	3-2
Penalties-yds.	7-55	3-30
Time of poss.	32:50	27:10
Sacks by	5-24	1-7

Individual Leaders

Rushing — SU, Mungro 23-102, Anderson 21-63, Johnson 4-6, Jackson 1-2, Reyes 2-(-1), Team 2-(-4); VT, Burnell 13-51, Jones 6-29, Ferguson 4-11, R. Johnson 1-9, Davis 1-4, Noel 9-(-14).

Passing — SU, Anderson 6-17-0-52; VT, Noel 15-32-0-162.

Receiving — SU, Morant 1-19, Tyree 1-13, Riddle 1-9, Campbell 1-8, Johnson 1-3, Mungro 1-0; VT, Ferguson 5-43, Witten 4-45, Wilford 2-23, Davis 2-13, Wynn 1-19, E. Johnson 1-19.

THE MAN UNDER CENTER

☛ Sophomore **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.), who saw only limited action as Tech's top backup at quarterback last season, has had a hand in seven 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 came off the bench to run for two TDs and pass for another in Tech's opener against Arkansas State. He has connected on 79 of his 123 passing attempts (64.2 percent) for 1,035 yards and five touchdowns, while being intercepted six times. Randall has also contributed 212 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 limited to 12 snaps.

BACKFIELD BACKGROUND

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

☛ Suggs currently has 2,398 career yards rushing on 448 carries, an average of 5.4 yards per attempt. Jones has rushed for 1,665 yards on 296 carries, an average of 5.6 yards per carry. The most productive Tech twosome in terms of career rushing yardage has been tailbacks Maurice Williams (2,981) and Eddie Hunter (2,523) who combined for 5,504 rushing yards from 1983 through 1986. To date, the closest two Tech backs have come to both gaining 1,000 yards on the ground in the same season was in 1973 when Phil Rogers rushed for 1,036 yards and James Barber added 927 yards. Their combined 1,963 yards stand as a season record for two Tech players.

☛ **Lee Suggs** became the BIG EAST Conference's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns when he scored the first of his two touchdowns at Boston College. Suggs, who now has 45 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 47 career touchdowns (45 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 22 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 led the nation in scoring in 2000 when he scored 28 touchdowns.

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' nine games of the 2002 season, Suggs and Jones have rushed for 1,664 yards and scored a total of 24 touchdowns. Together, they are averaging 184.9 yards rushing per game and 5.7 yards per carry. Suggs has 170 carries for 956 yards so far this season and has scored 15 TDs. Jones has 121 carries for 708 yards and has nine touchdowns.

☛**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 for 91 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries in the LSU game and had 24 carries for 153 yards and two TDs versus Marshall. Suggs ran for 154 yards and two TDs at Boston College before gaining a career-high 197 yards on the ground against Rutgers. He added 128 yards against Pittsburgh.

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.

Suggs scored five TDs at UCF, and four versus both Rutgers and Virginia in 2000. He carried the football a total of 222 times without a fumble and was named third-team All-America by The Associated Press.

With his two touchdowns in the UConn game, Suggs established new Tech career records for both rushing touchdowns and total TDs. He currently ranks second on Tech's career scoring list with 282 points. Tech's all-time scoring leader is place-kicker Shayne Graham with 371 points.

Suggs' career rushing total of 2,398 yards ranks eighth at Tech. He needs 64 yards to move by Phil Rogers for seventh on the list.

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

Jones ended up in the starting lineup for the Hokies' last three regular-season games and the Gator Bowl. During the final three regular-season games, Jones contributed 155 yards rushing at Temple, 181 yards against Virginia and 160 yards versus No. 1 Miami. His 957 yards for the season led the team and set a school season mark for a freshman. He ranked fifth among Division I-A freshmen in rushing yards for the season and third among true freshmen. He was named a freshman All-American by *The Sporting News*.

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

WHAT'S A HOKIE?

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

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

SIZE CHART

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

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

BEAMERBALL

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

Each of Tech's last eight teams is ranked among the school's top 10 highest scoring teams. During that time, a player at every position on the defensive unit has produced at least one touchdown. And 21 different players have scored touchdowns while playing on Tech's special teams. Altogether, the defense and special teams have combined for 75 TDs since Beamer arrived in 1987, including 58 in Tech's last 107 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 28 TDs, including 13 on blocked punts, nine on punt returns, three on kickoff returns, two on blocked field goals and one on a fumble recovery.

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

Under Beamer, a total of 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 and Kevin McCadam — scored twice. **DeAngelo Hall**, Ike Charlton and Ricky Hall have three scores and André Davis four.

Since the start of the 1993 season, Tech is 39-5 in games it scores at least one TD on defense or special teams.

TOUCHDOWNS BY DEFENSE & SPECIAL TEAMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 95 blocks in Beamer's 183 games as the head coach. The Hokies have blocked 49 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 10 kicks versus the Panthers and eight against 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 10 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: 95 in 183 games (49 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 (3 punts, 2 FG)

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

*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 WMU. Crawford has 33 tackles and two sacks for the year, while Hardee has 25 tackles.

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 eight of Tech's nine games this season and is tied for second on the team in tackles with 53. Daniels, who was slowed during the preseason by a hamstring injury, started the Marshall game and has a total of 31 tackles for the season.

Redshirt junior **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) has started eight 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.) earned his first Tech start against Pittsburgh and caught a TD pass in the opening game with Arkansas State. **Jared Mazzetta** (Flemington, N.J.), who was slowed by a preseason ankle injury, caught a 19-yard pass against Rutgers.

ROBINSON SIDELINED

☛ Starting inside linebacker **Vegas Robinson** (Chesapeake, Va.) is hoping to return to action soon after missing the Temple and Pittsburgh games due to an ankle injury. Robinson, who took over the backer spot vacated by Ben Taylor has been a key player in the Hokies' defense.

Robinson, who saw action on just 78 defensive plays last year, has been in on 336 plays this season. He is tied for fourth on the team in tackles with 42 and has also contributed two pass interceptions, two tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and a pair of quarterback hurries.

2002 START CHART

Pos.	Offense (starts)
SE	Ernest Wilford (8) Terrell Parham (1)
LT	Anthony Davis (9)
LG	Jacob Gibson (7) James Miller (2)
C	Jake Grove (9)
RG	Luke Owens (9)
RT	Jon Dunn (7) Jimmy Martin (2)
TE	Keith Willis (8) Jeff King (1)
QB	Bryan Randall (7) Grant Noel (2)
FB	Doug Easlick (9)
TB	Lee Suggs (9)
FL	Shawn Witten (7) Richard Johnson (2)

Pos.	Defense (starts)
E	Nathaniel Adibi (8) Jim Davis (1)
T	Kevin Lewis (9)
T	Jason Lallis (9)
E	Cols Colas (5) Jim Davis (4)
OLB	Brandon Manning (8) Mike Daniels (1)
ILB	Mikal Baaqee (8) Alex Markogiannakis (1)
ILB	Vegas Robinson (7) James Anderson (2)
BC	DeAngelo Hall (8) Garnell Wilds (1)
FS	Willie Pile (9)
ROV	Michael Crawford (9)
FC	Ronyell Whitaker (6) Vincent Fuller (3)

SECONDARY EXPERIENCE

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

Prior to the season, the Tech secondary was rated among the nation's best by several preseason magazines, but the loss of versatile junior **Eric Green** (Clewiston, Fla.) with a season-ending knee injury and the suspension of Whitaker for two games forced the Hokies to shuffle their lineup. During Whitaker's absence, secondary coach Lorenzo Ward started promising sophomore free safety **Vincent Fuller** (Baltimore, Md.) at the field corner spot were Whitaker and Green were both working. Fuller and experienced redshirt junior **Garnell Wilds** (Tampa, Fla.) combined to solidify the position. Fuller has been outstanding with 20 tackles, six pass breakups and four interceptions. Wilds has 31 tackles, three breakups and a key fumble recovery. Whitaker, who has 15 tackles, returned to the starting lineup against Marshall, but Fuller continues to see significant playing time.

Pile, who is in his third season as a starter, has been rated as one of the top free safeties in Division I-A for the second straight year. He is tied for second on the team with 53 tackles and has three interceptions. Pile, 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 35 tackles. He leads the team in pass breakups with nine and is tied for the team lead in interceptions with four.

DON'T FORGET THESE GUYS

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

This year's group of ends ranks with the best Tech has had. The veteran group includes redshirt junior **Nathaniel Adibi** (Hampton, Va.), who has played in 33 games, 29 as a starter; senior **Lamar Cobb** (Hurt, Va.), who has played in 36 games, 20 as a starter; redshirt junior **Cols Colas** (Plantation, Fla.), who has played in 31 games, nine as a starter; and junior **Jim Davis** (Highland Springs, Va.), who has played in 30 games, eight 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 51 hurries and 19 sacks in just nine 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 22 tackles, 5.5 sacks, seven total tackles for loss, nine hurries and three passes batted down so far in 2002.

Adibi has been one of the standouts on this year's young defense. He has already surpassed his career high with seven sacks. He has 27 tackles, 13 hurries and has forced two fumbles, one of which led to a TD.

Colas' power and explosive speed – 390 bench press and 4.41 forty – make him hard to handle on the corner. He has 19 hurries, 5.5 sacks and 11 total tackles for loss so far this season to go with 26 tackles.

Cobb led the ends in tackles last year with 46. He currently has 10 hurries, a sack and 24 tackles.

True freshman **Darryl Tapp** (Chesapeake, Va.) has contributed 18 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 nine 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 25 catches for 437 yards and two touchdowns. Witten has 14 catches for 181 yards and Parham nine for 73.

Richard Johnson (r-So.; Baltimore, Md.) got his first start as a Hokie at Western Michigan and has been coming on strong in recent games with a total of eight catches for 81 yards.

Newcomer **Justin Hamilton** (Clintwood, Va.), a redshirt freshman who was moved from tailback during the spring, has four catches for 49 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.

CLEARING THE WAY

☛Leading the charge for Tech's highly-touted running backs is an offensive line that ranks among the largest in school history. The unit is anchored by 6-3, 292-pound **Jake Grove** (r-Jr.; Forest, Va.) who moved to center this year after starting every game at guard in 2001. Grove has been outstanding, earning a spot in the Winner's Circle every game and tying for the team lead with a total of 31 knockdown blocks.

Also back from last year's starting lineup are 6-4, 322-pound left tackle **Anthony Davis** (Victoria, Va.) and 6-3, 310-pound right guard **Luke Owens** (Grundy, Va.). Davis, has 29 knockdowns, while Owens has 22.

Jon Dunn (r-So.; Virginia Beach, Va.), a 6-7, 319-pounder, and **Jimmy Martin** (Fr.; Fairfax, Va.) have been manning the right tackle position. Six-four, 302-pound **Jacob Gibson** (r-Jr.; Rocky Mount, Va.) and 6-6, 304-pound **James Miller** (So.; Pompano Beach, Fla.) have both gotten starts at left guard. Gibson, who has seven starts, shares the team lead with 31 knockdowns.

FRESH FACES

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

☞The busiest of the true freshmen are defensive tackle **Jonathan Lewis** and defensive end **Darryl Tapp**. Lewis has been in on 213 plays at tackle and 33 on special teams. Tapp, who is a starter on five different special teams, has played 205 plays on special teams and 87 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 nine games. Easlick has rushed 13 times for 52 yards and caught eight passes for 54 yards and one TD. Humes, who worked some at both fullback and tailback during the Arkansas State game, has rushed for 68 yards on 16 carries. He also has five pass receptions for 43 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.

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

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

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

☞Virginia Tech is trying to become the first team in its series with Syracuse to win on back-to-back visits to the opposing team's home field.

☞Syracuse and Tech are ranked 13th and 15th, respectively, in the NCAA's net punting standings.

☞Syracuse's **Jamel Riddle** and Tech's **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) stand first and second, respectively, among BIG EAST players in punt returns with averages of 15.3 and 13.8 yards per return.

☞Virginia Tech is ranked 13th nationally in rushing offense, while Syracuse stands 12th in punt returns.

☞Syracuse is tied for first place nationally in fumbles recovered (16), while Tech is fourth nationally in total turnovers gained (28).

☞Tech's 64-consecutive appearances in the AP Poll represent the second-longest active streak behind Michigan, which has been ranked 74 consecutive weeks. Miami is third on the list at 49 straight weeks, while Oklahoma (44) and Texas (37) stand fourth and fifth.

☛ During its last two games with Syracuse, Virginia Tech has scored a combined total of three points in the first half of play.

☛ Virginia Tech has averaged just 17.7 points on its seven visits to the Carrier Dome.

☛ When Pittsburgh overcame a 14-point deficit to beat the Hokies, it marked the first time since the 1998 Virginia game that a team had come from behind to beat Tech after trailing by as many as 14 points. Virginia trailed by 22 points.

☛ **Nathaniel Adibi** (Hampton, Va.) is one of 10 semi-finalists for the Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award.

☛ Texas A&M's 3-0 first-quarter lead and Pittsburgh's 28-21 fourth-quarter lead mark the only two times this year that Tech has trailed in a game.

☛ Since the beginning of the 1993 season, Tech is 68-12 in games that it scores first and 23-14 in games that the opposing team scores first.

☛ Tech's **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) is ranked ninth nationally in scoring with 10 points per game.

☛ Since the start of BIG EAST Conference round-robin play in 1993, Tech is 63-3 when it rushes for 200 yards or more.

☛ Tech's top tackler on special teams has been redshirt freshman **Jordan Trott** (Torrance, Calif.) with a total of nine tackles. Sophomore **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) and **Garnell Wilds** (r-Jr.; Tampa, Fla.) are second with eight tackles each.

☛ Forty-six of the last 51 passes caught by Virginia Tech tight ends have produced first downs.

Extra Points

☛ Tech has allowed just 24 points in the first half of play this season, with the first touchdown coming on a punt return by Boston College and the other two on a passes by Rutgers and Pittsburgh. The Hokies have outscored their opponents 175-24 in the first half and 222-62 during the first three quarters of play. Since the beginning of the 1993 season, Tech has posted a 75-6 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.

☛ 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.

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

☛ Tech's 22-14 win at Syracuse in 2000 marked the Hokies' first win at the Carrier Dome since 1986, the year before Frank Beamer became Tech's head coach. The Hokies had lost on five straight visits to the Dome under Beamer.

☛ Syracuse piled up 177 yards of offense on 13 plays during the first quarter of the 2000 game, an average of 13.6 yards per play. Over the last three quarters, however, SU compiled a combined total of just 151 yards on 53 plays. That averages out to 2.8 yards a play.

☛ **Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.) tied a Tech and BIG EAST record with three pass interceptions in the game. Pile set up a field goal and a touchdown with his first two interceptions. The Tech free safety now shares the school mark with nine other players.

☛ When kicker **Carter Warley** (Richmond, Va.) booted a 47-yard field goal against the Orangemen, it marked the first field goal attempt for Tech since the first quarter of the East Carolina game — a span of 20 straight quarters. Warley attempted just nine field goals the entire season.

☛ When Syracuse took a 14-0 lead in the 2000 game, it marked the largest regular-season deficit at the time for Tech since falling behind Virginia, 27-3, during a 34-20 loss at Charlottesville in the final regular-season game of the 1997 season. Syracuse's 14 points in the first quarter exceeded the total scored against Tech during the first quarter of its first six games combined (10).

☛ Syracuse posted eight sacks against the Hokies during the game in 2000, the most versus Tech since Florida State had nine in a 1989 game in Blacksburg.

☛ Virginia Tech's 62-0 win over Syracuse in 1999 tied a record at the time for the largest margin of victory by a BIG EAST team, matching Rutgers' 62-0 win over Temple in 1993. The record was broken in 2001 when West Virginia beat Rutgers 80-7. The winning margin was the largest for Tech since a 73-0 victory against Catholic University in 1922 and the largest ever for the Hokies against a team ranked in the Associated Press poll. It was also the second largest margin of victory by any team over a team ranked in the AP poll. Previously, Tech's biggest victory margin against a team ranked by AP was a 35-6 win over No. 20 North Carolina State in 1956.

☛ Redshirt sophomore flanker **André Davis** ran 28 yards for a touchdown on a reverse against Syracuse in 1999. It was Davis' second career carry and his second career rushing TD. He also scored on a 22-yard reverse against James Madison in Tech's '99 season opener. The last Tech wide receiver to rush for two touchdowns in a season was Donnie Reel, who had two rushing TDs during the 1971 season.

☛ With starting center **Keith Short** and No. 2 center **Tim Schneck** out with injuries, walk-on **Steve DeMasi** made his first Tech start versus Syracuse in '99 and played every offensive snap.

☛ Tech's 28-26 loss to Syracuse in 1998 marked the first time the Hokies had lost on the final play of a game since a 50-49 loss at Rutgers in 1992. Both schools won on touchdown passes as time expired.

☛ A 76-yard touchdown run by redshirt freshman **Jarrett Ferguson** at Syracuse in 1998 still stands as the longest run by a Tech fullback since **Kenny Edwards** ran 88 yards for a TD at FSU in 1968.

☛ Tech cornerback **Loren Johnson** scored in the '98 SU game when he picked off a fumble in mid-air and returned it 78 yards for a TD. His return was the longest-ever fumble return for a Tech player. The old mark of 75 yards was set by **Carter Wiley** against VMI in 1984 and equalled by **Anthony Pack** versus East Carolina in 1990.

☛ In both 1999 and 1998, Tech got at least one touchdown each from its offense, its defense and its special teams against the Orangemen. That has happened just five other times during Coach Frank Beamer's 15-plus seasons at Tech. The Hokies also accomplished the feat during their 1995 Sugar Bowl game with Texas, in their '93 Independence Bowl game versus Indiana, in a 1991 regular-season game against Cincinnati, during their 1999 game with Miami and in their 2002 season-opening game against Arkansas State. Tech won six of the seven games, losing the 1998 game to Syracuse in the Carrier Dome. Tech scored on a blocked punt and a fumble return at SU in '98 and had two defensive TDs and a recovered fumble in the end zone on special teams during the 1999 season.

☛ Tech's six first downs and 152 yards of total offense against SU in 1998 are still the lowest totals for a Tech team since Frank Beamer's first game as the head coach. Beamer's 1987 Tech squad managed just six first downs and a total of 60 yards in a 22-10 season-opening loss to Clemson at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. Tech's 35 yards passing versus Syracuse were the fewest since posting 28 yards in a 1985 game against William & Mary.

☛ Tech's 31-3 win over Syracuse in 1997 halted the Orangemen's school-record streak of consecutive 30-point games at 14.

☛ Defensive end Corey Moore registered his first collegiate sacks in the 1997 Syracuse game. Moore, playing in a reserve role, posted two sacks in that game. Moore went on to compile 35 career sacks.

☛ After giving up 338 yards on the ground against Syracuse in '96, Tech's defense limited SU to just 35 yards rushing in 1997.

☛ Tech's 52-21 loss at Syracuse in 1996 still ranks as the Hokies' worst loss since a 38-0 defeat at Virginia in 1991. The Orangemen's 52 points in that game were the most against a Tech team during the 1990s. Tech also lost by 31 points to Pittsburgh in 2001.

☛ Tech defeated Syracuse, 31-7, in 1995 with a balanced attack. The Hokies rushed for 224 yards and passed for 224 yards. It was Tech's second highest offensive output of the season overall and its best showing of the year in a BIG EAST game.

☛ The Hokies held Syracuse to season lows in points (7), total offense (167 yds.), rushing yards (54), passing yards (113), first downs (10) and time of possession (24:19) in '95. The Orangemen entered the game as the top scoring team in the BIG EAST with an average of 29 points per game. Syracuse was averaging 381.3 yards of total offense a game.

☛ Quarterback Jim Druckenmiller threw 25-yard touchdown passes to both of his starting running backs — fullback Brian Edmonds and tailback Dwayne Thomas — during the 1995 Syracuse game. The last time both starting running backs caught TD passes in the same game for the Hokies was in a 1990 contest against South Carolina when fullback Phil Bryant and tailback Vaughn Hebron were both on the receiving end of scoring aerials from Will Furrer.

☛ Rob Konrad's 19-yard touchdown run for Syracuse was the longest touchdown play by a BIG EAST team against the Hokies in '95.

☛ In 1994, Syracuse ended a two-season, seven-game Tech winning streak with a 28-20 victory at the Carrier Dome.

☛ Tech piled up a season-high 486 yards of offense at SU in '94, but also gave up a season-high 461 yards.

☛ Ken Oxendine turned in the longest run at the time by a true freshman at Tech since 1984 when he bolted 62 yards for a touchdown at Syracuse in 1994. Freshman tailback Tyronne Branch had a 71-yard run against William & Mary during the 1984 season. **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) established a new freshman mark with an 87-yard run at Temple last season.

☛ SU backs Kirby Dar Dar and Malcolm Thomas both finished with over 100 yards rushing against Tech in 1994. That still ranks as the only time teammates have rushed for over 100 yards in the same game against a Tech team since 1976 when Kent State's Art Best (113) and Mike Whalen (105) accomplished the feat during a 42-14 loss to the Hokies.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

☛ Of the 76 Virginia Tech players who have seen playing time so far this season, 44 are freshmen or sophomores. The overall breakdown is 10 true freshmen, 14 redshirt freshmen, 20 sophomores, 19 juniors and 13 seniors. A total of 18 players have made their first collegiate starts this season on offense and defense.

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

THE NUMBERS GAME

203.2 ... the Hokies' average yards rushing per game during running back's coach Billy Hite's 24-plus seasons at Tech (273 games).

176 ... Virginia Tech's first down total this season is tops in the BIG EAST.

90 ... yards was the Hokies' rushing total during a loss to Syracuse last season.

78 ... combined broken tackles for tailbacks Lee Suggs (43) and Kevin Jones (35) through nine games.

48 ... opponents' percentage of success scoring in the red zone against the Hokies is the lowest in the conference.

44 ... yards tailback Lee Suggs needs to reach 1,000 yards rushing for the 2002 season.

34 ... number of consecutive games Tech had won when leading at the half prior to its loss to Pittsburgh.

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

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

15 ... passes caught by split end Ernest Wilford during the Hokies' last three games.

11 ... consecutive wins for Tech on ESPN (does not include ESPN2).

2-7 ... Tech's record in domed stadiums during Frank Beamer's tenure as head coach.

0 ... number of turnovers by the Hokies in their lone BIG EAST win at the Carrier Dome.

YOUNG TACKLES

☛Of the 11 players who got some work at defensive tackle during the preseason, seven were true freshmen or redshirt freshmen. Only three of the players had seen any varsity action at the position. **Kevin Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) and **Jason Lallis** (r-So.; Mitchellville, Md.) had only limited experience before earning the starting jobs in 2002. Lewis saw action on 125 plays as a freshman in 2000, then was redshirted last year, while Lallis was primarily an end until playing a few downs at tackle late last season. Lewis and Lallis currently rank fifth and sixth, respectively, on the team in tackles. Lewis has 42 tackles, a sack and six hurries. Lallis has 40 tackles, two sacks, six hurries and a blocked kick. He also returned a fumble caused by Lewis 59 yards for a touchdown.

SIDELINES

☛Tech's rushing defense is ranked No. 2 in NCAA Division I-A statistics, allowing just 66.8 yards per game. Tech has held eight of its nine opponents this season to less than 85 yards on the ground. The Hokies are also ranked No. 2 in scoring defense at 12.7 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's three-game road sweep of No. 19 Texas A&M, Western Michigan and Boston College marked just the second time in school history that a Tech football team won three consecutive games played on opposing teams' home fields during a single season. The only other Tech team to accomplish the feat was the 1955 team that won successive road games at Pennsylvania (33-0), William & Mary (14-7) and Florida State (24-20).

BIG (EAST) PLAYS

Tech's Longest Plays in BIG EAST Games

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

Longest Pass Completion: VT — 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 has made all 15 of his PAT kicks and is 2-for-6 on field goals. This marks the first time in more than 45 years that three kickers have scored points in a season.

TODAY'S GAME ON RADIO

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

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

ISP SPORTS TELEVISION

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

Game 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

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

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

Game 2

Hokies Post Victory Over Defending SEC Champs LSU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

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

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

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

Game 3

Tech Rushes To 47-21 Victory Against Thundering Herd

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

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

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

Game 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

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

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game 5

Tech Overcomes Slow Start to Post Road Win at WMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BC (10:35 re 4th) — FG Sciortino 49

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

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

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

Game 7

Hokies Celebrate Homecoming With 35-14 Win Over RU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game 8

Tech Overcomes Turnovers To Hand Temple 20-10 Loss

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual Leaders

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

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

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

A CLOSER LOOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TECH OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team

SE 19 Ernest Wilford (6-4, 217, r-Jr.)
 Caught 7 passes for 99 yards and a TD vs. RU ... Had 6 catches for 80 yards against Pitt ... Has 25 rec. for 437 yards & 2 TDs this year

LT 57 Anthony Davis (6-4, 322, Sr.)
 Started all 9 games this year ... Had 3 knockdowns and graded out at 83% vs. Temple ... Graded out at 85% with 6 KDs vs. Rutgers

LG 60 Jacob Gibson (6-4, 302, r-Jr.)
 Got the start in the last 7 games ... Graded out at 84% vs. WMU ... Had 4 knockdowns and graded out at 93% against Pittsburgh

C 64 Jake Grove (6-3, 292, r-Jr.)
 Started all 9 games this year ... Graded out at 93% vs. Pittsburgh ... Had 6 knockdowns vs. TU ... Graded out at 94% vs. Rutgers

RG 74 Luke Owens (6-3, 310, r-Sr.)
 Has started all 9 games this year ... Graded out at 88 % with 2 knockdown blocks vs. Pittsburgh ... Had 3 KDs in the win over MU

RT 52 Jimmy Martin (6-5, 269, Fr.)
 Played 58 snaps in 1st start against Temple ... Played 20 snaps vs. RU, grading out at 80% ... Played 34 snaps in the win over ASU

TE 90 Jeff King (6-5, 252, r-Fr.)
 Caught his first career pass and TD pass against Arkansas State, a 19-yarder ... Made his 1st career start vs. Pitt, playing 36 snaps

QB 3 Bryan Randall (6-0, 213, So.)
 Is 6-1 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.)
 Caught a 32-yard TD pass vs. TU ... Had an 18-yard run vs. MU ... Has blocked well in all 9 games ... Had a 15-yard run vs. ASU

TB 22 Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.)
 Needs 44 yards for 1,000 for the year ... Ran for 197 yards and 2 scores vs. Rutgers ... Scored twice and ran for 154 yards at BC

FL 26 Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.)
 Had three catches for 29 yards against Pittsburgh ... Has 14 catches for 181 yards in '02 ... Caught a 34-yard pass at WMU

PK 23 Nic Schmitt (6-3, 238, Fr.)
 Is 14-for-14 on PATs, but is 2-for-6 on field goal attempts ... Is being used in place of the injured Carter Warley (back problems)

Second Team

SE 9 Terrell Parham (6-0, 195, r-Sr.)
 Made his 1st career start at WMU ... Caught a team-high 4 passes in the win at Texas A&M ... Has 9 catches for 73 yards this year

LT 61 Reggie Butler (6-5, 330, Fr.)
 Saw significant action against Arkansas State, playing 34 snaps ... A big, physical presence on the line ... Recorded a 500-lb. squat

LG 66 Will Montgomery (6-3, 294, r-Fr.)
 A former invited walk-on who earned a scholarship this past offseason ... Saw significant action in the win over Arkansas State

C 68 Robert Ramsey (6-3, 296, r-So.)
 Saw significant action against Arkansas State, playing 34 snaps ... Saw limited action vs. MU ... Has a solid grasp of VT's offense

RG 76 James Miller (6-6, 304, So.)
 Started the 1st 2 games this year ... Saw action on 49 plays against LSU ... Graded out at 84% on 38 snaps in the win against Marshall

RT 79 Jon Dunn (6-7, 319, r-So.)
 Graded at 89% vs. Arkansas State ... Had 5 knockdowns vs. MU ... Graded out at 84% vs. Temple ... Has started 7 games this year

OR TE 86 Keith Willis (6-5, 254, r-Jr.)
 Has started 8 games this year ... Has 4 catches for 49 yards ... Caught 2 passes at WMU ... Had 1 catch for 19 yds vs. Arkansas St.

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 20 Mike Imoh (5-6, 176, Fr.)
 Will fill in for an injured K. Jones (hamstring) ... Has 10 carries for 38 yards this year ... Also has 4 catches for 28 yards and a touchdown

FL 12 Richard Johnson (5-11, 180, r-So.)
 Caught a career-high 4 passes for 40 yards vs. TU ... Caught 2 passes for 26 yards in his first start, at WMU ... Also returns kickoffs

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 99 Coles Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.) Had four tackles, a TFL, 2 QBH and caused an INT vs. Pitt ... Had 6 stops, 2 TFL, 4 QBH, 2 sacks & a forced fumble at Western Mich.</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 7 tackles, including 3 solo, against Pittsburgh</p>
<p>DT 70 Kevin Lewis (6-1, 287, r-So.) Had 8 stops, a TFL and recovered a fumble vs. Pitt ... 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 3 tackles and a sack against Rutgers ... 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 3 tackles and 2 sacks against Rutgers</p>	<p>DT 56 Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 300, Fr.) Had 4 tackles, a TFL and 2 QBH at TAMU ... Had 5 stops and a sack vs. Temple ... Had 5 tackles and 2 TFL against Pittsburgh</p>
<p>DE 83 Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.) Will rotate with Colas and Davis in the starting lineup ... Recorded 3 sacks at Texas A&M ... Also caused a fumble and had 7 tackles</p>	<p>DE 95 Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.) Will rotate with Colas and Adibi in the starting lineup ... Had 4 stops and a sack vs. Temple ... Had a team-high 3 sacks vs. LSU</p>
<p>LB 48 Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.) Had 8 stops, a TFL, a sack and a PBU vs. Pitt ... Had 9 stops and a fumble recovery vs. LSU ... Had 6 stops, a TFL & a PBU vs. ASU</p>	<p>LB 31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 201, r-So.) Got the start vs. Marshall, recording 5 tackles ... Had 4 stops and forced a fumble at BC ... Had 5 tackles and a TFL vs. Temple</p>
<p>LB 45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 217, r-So.) Recorded 11 tackles and a sack vs. Rutgers ... Had a team-high 10 stops vs. LSU ... Had 7 tackles a TFL, a sack and a FF vs. Pittsburgh</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 47 James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Fr.) Had 11 tackles in his 1st career start, vs. TU ... Had 6 tackles & a sack at WMU ... Had 8 tackles, a TFL and half a sack vs. Pittsburgh</p>	<p>LB 40 Blake Warren (6-3, 228, r-Fr.) Saw limited action on defense vs. Pitt ... Has seen his playing time increase on special teams ... Missed several games (bad back)</p>
<p>BC 4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.) Had 7 total tackles vs. LSU ... Returned a punt and an INT for TDs vs. ASU ... Had 5 stops & an INT vs. Pitt ... Had a PR for a TD vs. RU</p>	<p>BC 17 Garnell Wilds (5-11, 192, r-Jr.) Had 4 stops vs. Pitt ... Recorded 4 tackles and 2 PBU vs. LSU ... Had 3 solo stops at W. Michigan ... Had 2 stops and a FR at BC</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 13 career INTs</p>	<p>FS 18 Jimmy F. Williams (6-2, 203, Fr.) Registered 5 solo stops, 5 assists and a PBU vs. ASU ... Had 3 tackles on defense at WMU ... Made an INT and a stop vs. Rutgers</p>
<p>ROV 25 Billy Hardee (5-11, 203, r-Sr.) Had 5 total stops against Pittsburgh ... Had a fumble and had 2 tackles vs. Marshall ... Had 6 stops & recovered a fumble at WMU</p>	<p>OR 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 4 stops, a sack and PBU vs. Rutgers</p>
<p>FC 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>OR FC 8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.) Picked off 2 passes vs. TU ... Had 3 tackles, a PBU and an INT at BC ... Caused a fumble vs. LSU ... Had an interception vs. Rutgers</p>
<p>P 38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 194, r-So.) Is averaging 42.0 yards per punt ... Was named the BIG EAST S.T. POW after LSU game ... Had a long of 58 yds w/16 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	104	29	8	16	36	1	15	7	0	225	2.2	35.6%	
Noel	9	3	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	21	2.3	33.3%	
Hunt	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0.0	0.0%	
VT Offense	119	32	8	16	44	1	15	11	0	246	2.1	33.6%	
Opp. Offense	122	14	3	8	56	8	28	7	1	107	0.9	13.9%	

What Happens On First Down

Team	Plays	Yds.	Avg.	Rush	Yds.	Avg.	Pass	Yds.	Avg.
VT	268	1,402	5.2	212	981	4.6	56	421	7.5
Opp.	236	1,087	4.6	127	415	3.3	109	672	6.2

Times Gained 10+ Yards (on any down): VT 109/Opponents 93

Times Gained 5+ Yards (on any down): VT 239/Opponents 202

Negative Yardage Attempts on First Downs: VT 28/Opponents 25

Own Penalty on First Down: VT 22/Opponents 14

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

Opponents are 41 for 128 (32%) on third-down conversions and 3 for 14 (21%) on fourth-down conversions

Virginia Tech is 45 for 120 (38%) on third-down conversions and 6 for 9 (67%) on fourth-down conversions

Capitalizing On Turnovers

Virginia Tech's 15 total turnovers have led to 21 points for the opposition

Opponents' 28 total turnovers have led to 72 points for Virginia Tech

Field Position

	Virginia Tech	Opponents
Drives Started	119	122
Cumulative Starting Yardlines	4,366	3,352
Average Starting Field Position	Own 36.7	Own 27.5
Times Started Inside 20	19	27
Drives Started in Plus Territory	30	15

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	51	34	1	0	16	4	0	3.6-yd. line (182)	23.3-yd. line (1187)
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	35	25
Total Scores	28	12
Touchdowns	24	11
Field Goals	4	1
Lost on Downs, Turnovers or Punt	3	9
Lost on Missed Field Goals	3	4
Lost on Expiration of Time	1	0
Scoring Percentage	80.0%	48.0%
Scoring Percentage (TDs out of total red zone scores)	85.7%	91.7%
Percent of total drives (All Scores In Red Zone)	3.5%	9.8%

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 (two times)
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 Syracuse (11/9/02)

Offense (Multiple)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TB 22, Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.)
20, Mike Imoh (5-6, 176, Fr.)

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

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

Defense (4-3)

DE 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 47, James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Fr.)
40, Blake Warren (6-3, 228, r-Fr.)

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

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

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

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

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

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.)
23, Nic Schmitt (6-2, 238, Fr.)

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

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