



Trip To Western Michigan Next For Hokies

Virginia Tech (4-0) vs. Western Michigan (1-2) • Noon, Sept. 28, 2002 • Waldo Stadium

TODAY'S CHECKLIST

- ✓ This will be the second football meeting between Virginia Tech and WMU
- ✓ Tech won the first meeting last year in Blacksburg by a score of 31-0
- ✓ The Hokies will be playing their first-ever football game in Michigan
- ✓ Tech has won 33 of its last 42 regular-season road games
- ✓ VT is 13-1 versus non-conference foes in regular-season road games since the BIG EAST went to round-robin play in 1993
- ✓ VT is ranked 5th in both the AP poll and the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' poll
- ✓ The game will be a BIG EAST ESPN Plus+ Game of the Week

THE SERIES

☛ Saturday's game will mark the second football meeting between Virginia Tech and Western Michigan University. Tech beat WMU 31-0 last season in Blacksburg. It was the Hokies' first-ever football game against a team from Michigan.

Tech head coach Frank Beamer and WMU head coach Gary Darnell faced each other three times in the past when they coached at Murray State and Tennessee Tech, respectively. Beamer's MSU teams won all three meetings. The Racers won 20-6 during the 1983 season, 37-0 in 1984 and 29-21 in 1985. Darnell coached against Tech teams as an assistant at Texas, SMU and Oklahoma State.

THE GAME ON TV

☛ The Virginia Tech-Western Michigan game will be televised in Virginia and parts of Michigan and Florida as a BIG EAST Conference ESPN Plus+ Game of the Week. Dave Weekley will handle the play-by-play with Charles Arbuckle serving as the color analyst.

The game will be televised in Virginia by WJPR/WFXR (Fox) and WBVA (Ind.) in Roanoke, WSKY (Ind.) in Norfolk/Newport News, WRIC (ABC) in Richmond and WKPT (ABC) in the Tri-Cities area. The game will be shown by WJLA (ABC) in Washington, D.C. The game will also be part of ESPN's GamePlan package. Tech has an overall record of 80-42 in televised football games.

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

- 10 Quarterback Bryan Randall completed his last 10 pass attempts during Virginia Tech's win at Texas A&M.
- 9 Virginia Tech has lost just nine of its last 42 regular-season road games.
- 8 Tech ranks eighth nationally in rushing offense.
- 7 Safety Willie Pile moved into a tie for seventh place in career pass interceptions at Tech with a pick against Texas A&M.
- 6 The Hokies have opened with four straight wins for the sixth consecutive season.
- 5 Tech had a season-high five quarterback sacks at Texas A&M.
- 4 Senior tailback Lee Suggs moved into fourth place in career scoring at Tech with a touchdown run against the Aggies.
- 3 Tech's win at No. 19 Texas A&M gave the Hokies their third straight victory over a Top 20 team in 2002.
- 2 During the Texas A&M game, Nathaniel Adibi became the second Tech player this season to post three sacks in a game.
- 1 Virginia Tech's defensive unit has allowed just one rushing touchdown in 2002.

THIS SEASON

☛ Virginia Tech is 4-0 following a 13-3 victory at No. 19 Texas A&M on Saturday. Tech opened its 2002 season with three straight wins at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. The Hokies defeated Arkansas State 63-7 in the third Hispanic College Fund Football Classic. Tech followed that win with a 26-8 decision over No. 14 Louisiana State and a 47-21 win against No. 16 Marshall.

☛ Western Michigan University has a 1-2 record for the 2002 season. WMU opened with a 48-17 home win over Indiana State before losing on a pair of visits to Big Ten foes Michigan and Purdue. The Broncos lost 35-12 at UM and dropped a hard-fought 28-24 decision to the Boilermakers. Western Michigan is coming off an open date on Sept. 21.

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 111-65-2 record. He became Tech's winningest football coach in 1997 when the Hokies defeated Arkansas State, 50-0.

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

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

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

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

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

Beamer returned to his alma mater in December 1986 after a six-year stint as the head coach at Murray State University, where he compiled a 42-23-2 mark. His 153-88-4 overall record ranks him sixth among active Division I-A coaches in wins.

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

2002 SCHEDULES & RESULTS	
Virginia Tech (3-0):	
hW	63- 7 Arkansas State
hW	26- 8 LSU
hW	47-21 Marshall
aW	13- 3 Texas A&M
Sept.	28 at Western Michigan (noon)
Oct.	10 at Boston College (7:45 p.m.)*
	19 Rutgers (tba)*
	26 Temple (tba)*
Nov.	2 Pittsburgh (tba)*
	9 at Syracuse (tba)*
	20 West Virginia (7 p.m.)*
	30 Virginia (tba)
Dec.	7 at Miami (1 p.m.)*
*BIG EAST Conference Game	
Western Michigan (1-2):	
hW	48-17 Indiana State
aL	12-35 Michigan
aL	24-28 Purdue
Sept.	28 Virginia Tech
Oct.	5 at Buffalo
	12 Central Florida
	19 at Bowling Green
	26 Northern Illinois
Nov.	2 at Ball State
	9 Eastern Michigan
	16 Toledo
	23 at Central Michigan

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 153 career wins. Joe Paterno leads the way with 330 wins followed by Bobby Bowden (327), Lou Holtz (235), Jackie Sherrill (176) and Ken Hatfield (155).

COACH GARY DARNELL

☛ Gary Darnell (Oklahoma State '70) is in his sixth season as the head coach at Western Michigan where he has a 37-23 record. Darnell began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Oklahoma State in 1970 and joined the staff full time the next season. He served on staffs at SMU, North Carolina and Kansas State before taking over as the head coach at Tennessee Tech in 1983. Darnell moved to Wake Forest as an assistant prior to the 1986 season and spent time at Florida, Notre Dame and Texas before accepting the top job at Western Michigan in December 1997. He served as an interim head coach at Florida in '89 posting a 3-4 record.

TECH IN THE POLLS

☛Virginia Tech is ranked No. 5 in both The Associated Press Poll and in the *USA Today*/ESPN Coaches' Poll.

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

Tech has been ranked a total of 124 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 69 of the last 70 AP polls including the last 58 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 (87) than any BIG EAST team since the start of 1993.

TECH ON THE ROAD

☛Virginia Tech has won 33 of the last 42 regular-season road games it has played, including 19 of its last 25 BIG EAST Conference road games. The Hokies' are 13-1 versus non-conference opponents in regular-season road games since the BIG EAST went to round-robin play in 1993. The lone loss came at Virginia (34-20) in 1997. Tech is 1-0 on the road this season following a 13-3 win at Texas A&M.

☛Tech's win at Texas A&M on Saturday marked the 10th straight season the Hokies have won their first road game of the year. Tech's win at Texas A&M was the first by a non-conference team at A&M's Kyle Field during Aggie coach R.C. Slocum's 13-plus seasons at the helm. Texas A&M had posted 29 consecutive victories against non-conference teams in College Station under Slocum. The last non-conference team to win at Kyle Stadium was Alabama in 1988.

TECH ON TURF

☛The Western Michigan game will mark Virginia Tech's 43rd game on artificial turf since Frank Beamer took the helm in 1987. Tech has won 17 of its last 23 games on turf, but is just 22-20 overall on artificial surfaces under Beamer. The Hokies were 2-0 on turf during the 2001 season with wins at West Virginia (35-0) and Temple (35-0).

SCORING STREAK

☛Tech has scored in a school record 86 straight football games, beginning with a 13-7 win over Miami on Sept. 23, 1995. The streak began after a 16-0 loss to Cincinnati in 1995. The previous record was 66 straight games, which started in 1970 and ran into the 1976 season. During their current streak, the Hokies have scored 13 or more points in all but two games.

BIG EAST STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Miami	2-0-0	4-0-0
Pittsburgh	1-0-0	3-1-0
Virginia Tech	0-0-0	4-0-0
West Virginia	0-0-0	2-1-0
Syracuse	0-0-0	1-2-0
Boston College	0-1-0	2-1-0
Rutgers	0-1-0	1-3-0
Temple	0-1-0	1-3-0

Saturday, Sept. 21

Virginia Tech 13, Texas A&M 3
Miami 38, Boston College 6
Pittsburgh 23, Rutgers 3
South Carolina 42, Temple 21

Saturday, Sept. 28

Virginia Tech at Western Mich.
Syracuse at Auburn
Central Mich. at Boston College
Toledo at Pittsburgh
East Carolina at West Virginia
Cincinnati at Temple
Rutgers 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)
*BIG EAST games

Western Michigan (5-6):
hW 48- 7 Illinois State
aL 0-31 Virginia Tech
aL 21-38 Michigan
aW 31-10 Eastern Michigan
hW 31-14 Akron
hW 37-28 Bowling Green
aL 12-20 Northern Illinois
aL 11-25 Miami (Ohio)
aL 35-41 Toledo
hW 20-17 Central Michigan
hL 31-35 Ball State

Last Week

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.

NOTING TECH-WMU

☛ Tech's 31-0 win over Western Michigan last season marked the Hokies' 14th-straight football victory at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field. That set a new record for consecutive wins at Lane Stadium, surpassing the old mark of 13 set during the 1979-81 seasons. Tech went on to extend its home winning streak to 16 consecutive games before dropping a 22-14 decision to Syracuse in its fifth home game of the 2001 season.

☛ Western Michigan was just 1-for-13 on third-down conversions against the Hokies. WMU's lone successful attempt came on its first third-down play of the game.

☛ WMU's 103 penalty yards were the most for a Tech opponent since Clemson had 116 yards in penalties during a 1998 game against Tech. The Broncos' 13 penalties were the most by a Tech foe since Miami had 13 in 1998.

☛ For the second straight game, 11 different Tech players caught at least one pass. Tech had not had 10 or more players catch passes in back-to-back games during Frank Beamer's tenure as coach. Prior to the Western Michigan and UConn games, the last time Tech had at least 11 different players catch a pass in a game was during a 33-20 loss to No. 1 Florida State at Orlando in 1991. Eleven Tech players caught passes in that game.

☛ The loss was the worst for WMU since a 32-point setback to Michigan State in 1997. It marked the first shutout loss for the Broncos since a 38-0 loss to Ohio during the 1996 season (50 games).

☛ The WMU game marked just the ninth time since 1950 that the Hokies held an opponent to just one rushing first down.

Last Season

Defense Shines In 31-0 Victory Over Western Michigan

Sept. 8, 2001 • Lane Stadium/Worsham Field • Attendance 53,662

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech's defense held Western Michigan to 166 yards of offense to win its first-ever football meeting with the Broncos. The game also marked the Hokies' first football game against a team from the state of Michigan.

Tech capitalized on a blocked punt by Wayne Ward and a pass interception by rover Kevin McCadam to build a 10-0 lead. The Hokies got the football at the WMU 16 after Ward's block and took just two plays to score a touchdown. McCadam's pick put Tech at the Broncos' 22 and led to a Carter Warley field goal.

Defensively, the Hokies held Western Michigan out of Tech territory until the third quarter. Overall, WMU ran just 10 offensive plays on Tech's side of the 50. The Broncos got 113 of their 166 yards during the first half and managed just seven first downs during the entire game.

Quarterback Grant Noel ran for one touchdown and passed for another. He also directed a 10-play, 98-yard touchdown drive during the third quarter.

Western Michigan	0	0	0	0	—	0
Virginia Tech	7	10	14	0	—	31

VT (2:34 re 1st) — Burnell 11 run (Warley kick)

VT (12:21 re 2nd) — FG Warley 20

VT (6:35 re 2nd) — Noel 1 run (Warley kick)

VT (5:31 re 3rd) — Ferguson 24 run (Warley kick)

VT (2:45 re 3rd) — Easlick 22 pass from Noel (Warley kick)

Team Stats	WMU	VT
First downs	7	27
Rushes-yds.	23-34	58-271
Passing yds.	132	156
Return yds.	6	71
Passes	15-31-1	14-26-0
Punts-avg.	10-36	3-41
Fumbles-lost	1-0	4-2
Penalties-yds.	13-103	4-25
Time of poss.	24:32	35:28
Sacks by	1-7	2-7

Individual Leaders

Rushing — WMU, Reed 16-45, Welsh 3-2, Clark 1-2, Harris 2-(-5), Team 1-(-10); VT, Jones 10-75, Burnell 21-74, Ward 6-50, Ferguson 3-35, Spence 5-15, Noel 7-11, Randall 5-8, Easlick 1-3.

Passing — WMU, Welsh 12-25-1-100, Harris 3-6-0-32; VT, Noel 13-25-0-144, Randall 1-1-0-12.

Receiving — WMU, Jennings 4-31, Thomas 3-21, Wolverton 2-30, Zuhl 2-23, Afariogun 2-14, Mosely 1-7, Bush 1-6; VT, Davis 4-29, Slowikowski 1-27, Ferguson 1-25, Easlick 1-22, Burnell 1-18, Moody 1-12, Ward 1-10, E. Johnson 1-6, Wilford 1-3, Jones 1-3, Whitten 1-1.

MAKING STRIDES

☛ Sophomore **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.), who saw only limited action as Tech's top backup at quarterback last season, has already had a hand in three straight wins over nationally-ranked opponents in 2002. He 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. Randall ran for two touchdowns and passed for another in the 2002 opener against Arkansas State. He has completed 26 of 40 passes for 333 yards and has added 92 yards on the ground.

NOEL'S KNEE

☛ Quarterback **Grant Noel** (Ridgeley, W.Va.) underwent a 15-minute arthroscopic procedure on Tuesday, Sept. 3 to evaluate his left knee. Noel had been slightly limited for about three weeks due to "clicking" in his knee. He 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. When tests showed there was not a significant amount of looseness in the knee, Noel opted to forego surgery, which would likely have meant the end of his Tech playing career. Instead, he underwent conservative treatment involving a brace and rehabilitation. During his recent 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 did not see action against Marshall or Texas A&M.

In the opening game win over Arkansas State, he worked four series, directing the team to three touchdowns, including one on his 19-yard pass to tight end **Jeff King**.

Extra Points

☛ The Virginia Tech football team is trying to close out another perfect September. The Hokies have not lost a football game during the month of September since a 52-21 defeat at Syracuse on Sept. 28, 1996. Tech has won the last 21 games it has played during the month of September. Overall, Tech is 40-19-1 in September games during Coach Frank Beamer's 15-plus seasons, including a 33-4-1 mark since the start of the 1993 season.

☛ Five of Virginia Tech's last seven touchdown drives have covered more than 70 yards, with four covering more than 80 yards. The Hokies had touchdown drives of 90, 22, 85, 73, 81 and 46 yards against Marshall University. Tech's lone touchdown drive at Texas A&M was 86 yards.

☛ Virginia Tech ranks fifth nationally in turnover margin at plus-2.50 per game. The Hokies have made the most of their opportunities this season, scoring 48 points off of their opponents' 13 turnovers. Tech's three turnovers this season, all on fumbles, have not led to any points. The Hokies are tied for sixth nationally in fumbles recovered with eight and tied for 11th in turnovers gained with 13.

☛ Virginia Tech's rushing defense is ranked No. 2 in NCAA Division I-A statistics, allowing just 44 yards per game. The Tech defense held Texas A&M to just 38 yards rushing. The Hokies have held all four opponents this season to 80 yards or less on the ground.

☛ Tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) has scored at least one touchdown in each of the 17 games that he has started for Virginia Tech. During those 17 games, Suggs has posted a total of 39 TDs. Three of those touchdowns, against Clemson in the 2001 Gator Bowl, don't count in his career total because they came in a bowl game. That NCAA rule will change this season, but will not be retroactive. Suggs' official career total now stands at 38, including two touchdowns as a reserve in 1999. He is just two touchdowns away from becoming the BIG EAST Conference's all-time leader in touchdowns scored. The current record of 39 is shared by William Green of Boston College and Amos Zereoue of West Virginia. Suggs is also nearing the BIG EAST mark for career rushing touchdowns. The Tech senior has 37 career rushing TDs, one behind Zereoue who holds the current mark of 38.

☛ Tech has allowed just three points in the first half of play this season. The Hokies have outscored their opponents 93-3 in the first half and 112-10 during the first three quarters of play. Since the beginning of the 1993 season, Tech has posted a 71-5 record in games when it is leading at the half. During that same stretch, the Hokies are 7-0 in games when the score is tied at the half and 9-20 in contests when they have trailed at the half. Tech has won the last 30 games it has led at halftime.

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. In a contest to nickname the duo held on the Hokies' official athletics Web site hokiesports.com, an amazing 4,016 potential slogans were submitted over a one-month period. After going through all of the choices, Suggs and Jones chose Jeremy Reynolds of Danville, Va., as the winner with his slogan of "The Untouchables."

☛ **Lee Suggs** appears to have regained the form that helped him earn All-America honors in 2000. Suggs has made good showings in Tech's first four games. He rushed seven times for 87 yards and a touchdown against Arkansas State in his first appearance since the opening game of 2001. He added 91 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries in the LSU game and had 24 carries for 153 yards and two TDs versus Marshall. He is averaging 5.8 yards per carry.

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

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

Suggs' final rushing tally of 1,207 yards was the third-best single-season mark in school history and the best during coach Frank Beamer's 15 seasons. He tied a school season mark with six 100-yard games. He posted a career-high 164 yards against Pittsburgh.

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

With his two touchdowns in the UConn game, Suggs established new Tech career records for both rushing touchdowns and total TDs. He currently ranks fourth on Tech's career scoring list with 228 points. All three players ahead of him on the list are place-kickers.

Suggs' career rushing total of 1,824 yards ranks 15th at Tech. He needs another 105 yards to pass Kenny Lewis (1,928) for 14th place.

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

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

Jones opened the 2002 season by gaining 31 yards on four carries in the Arkansas State game. He scored on a 19-yard run and also posted three tackles on special teams. Jones rushed for 70 yards and a TD against LSU and carried 24 times for 171 yards and three TDs versus Marshall.

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 73 TDs since Beamer arrived in 1987, including 56 in Tech's last 102 games.

Under Beamer, Tech's defense has scored 46 TDs, with 27 coming on pass interceptions, 17 on fumble returns and two on fumble recoveries. The special teams have added 27 TDs, including 13 on blocked punts, eight on punt returns, three on kickoff returns, two on blocked field goals and one on a fumble recovery.

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

Under Beamer, a total of 54 different players on Tech's defense and special teams have scored touchdowns. Eleven of those players — Don Stokes, Jock Jones, Roger Brown, Lawrence Lewis, Antonio Banks, Jim Baron, Keion Carpenter, Pierson Prioleau, Anthony Midget, Cory Bird, Kevin McCadam and **DeAngelo Hall** — scored twice. Ike Charlton and Ricky Hall had three scores and André Davis had four.

Since the start of the 1993 season, Tech is 37-5 in games it scores at least one TD on defense or special teams.

TOUCHDOWNS BY DEFENSE & SPECIAL TEAMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2002: DeAngelo Hall, 69-yd. punt return vs. Arkansas State; DeAngelo Hall (cb), 49-yd. interception return vs. Arkansas State; Jason Lallis (dt), 59-yd. fumble return vs. Arkansas State.

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 93 blocks in Beamer's 178 games as the head coach. The Hokies have blocked 48 punts (13 for TDs), 24 field goals and 21 extra points.

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

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

☛ The teams Tech has victimized the most during Frank Beamer's 16-seasons have been Pittsburgh, WVU and Miami. During that span, the Hokies have blocked nine kicks against the Panthers and eight versus the Mountaineers and 'Canes.

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

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

VIRGINIA TECH'S BLOCKED KICKS UNDER FRANK BEAMER

Totals: 93 in 178 games (48 punts, 24 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 Semonos) aW
Indiana – FG* (Jeff Holland) nW
Independence Bowl

1994 (2 punts, 2 FGs)

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

1995 (4 punts, 3 PATs, 1 FG)

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

1996 (5 punts, 1 PAT)

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

1997 (2 punts, 3 PATs, 2 FGs)

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

1998 (8 punts, 2 PATs, 2 FGs)

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

1999 (1 punt, 1 PAT)

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

2000 (4 punts, 2 FGs, 2 PATs)

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

2001 (5 punts, 2 FG)

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

2002 (2 punts, 1 FG)

LSU – punt+ (Justin Hamilton)
punt@ (Jason Lallis) hW
Marshall – FG+ (Team) hW

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

GOOD COMPETITION

☛The competition continues to be close for 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 has eight tackles and a fumble recovery for the season.

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 three of the Hokies' four games this season and is tied for third on the team in tackles with 25. Daniels, who was slowed during the preseason by a hamstring injury, started the Marshall game and has a total of 11 tackles for the season.

Redshirt junior **Keith Willis** (Norfolk, Va.) has started all four 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 had a 15-yard reception in the opening game with Arkansas State and added a 7-yard catch in the Hokies' win against LSU.

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

VEGAS

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

Robinson, who saw action on just 78 defensive plays last year, has been in on 196 plays this season, contributing 25 tackles, two pass interceptions, two tackles for loss and a pair of quarterback hurries.

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

2002 START CHART

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

SECONDARY EXPERIENCE

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

Whitaker returned to the starting lineup against Marshall. The 5-9, 192-pound senior was a first-team All-BIG EAST pick last season and was third-team AP All-America.

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 worked extremely well with experienced redshirt junior **Garnell Wilds** (Tampa, Fla.) to solidify the position. Fuller has three pass breakups and Wilds has 15 tackles.

Fuller will continue to see time at corner while also backing up starter **Willie Pile** (Alexandria, Va.) at free safety. Pile, who is in his third season as a starter, has been rated as one of the top free safeties in Division I-A for the second straight year. The 6-3 senior currently leads the team with 31 tackles. True freshman **Jimmy F. Williams** (Hampton, Va.) saw playing time at safety against Arkansas State and contributed 10 tackles.

DeAngelo Hall (Chesapeake, Va.) is the starting boundary corner. The talented sophomore 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 has 16 tackles and leads the team in pass breakups with five.

Redshirt freshman **D.J. Walton** (Woodbridge, Va.) and true freshman **Cary Wade** (Fairfax, Va.) are also providing help at the corners.

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 28 games, 25 as a starter; senior **Lamar Cobb** (Hurt, Va.), who has played in 31 games, 20 as a starter; redshirt junior **Cols Colas** (Plantation, Fla.), who has played in 26 games, five as a starter; and junior **Jim Davis** (Highland Springs, Va.), who has played in 25 games, six as a starter.

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

Davis is a play-maker who is being counted on for a big year. Last year, he tied for the team lead in sacks with 4.5, intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown and forced two fumbles that were returned for TDs. He had six tackles, three sacks and two hurries in Tech's win over LSU.

Adibi, the team's most outstanding leader during 2002 spring practice, finished with 41 tackles and 15 hurries in 2001. He was moved to the stud end position during the spring and has responded with a team-leading four sacks.

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

Cobb led the defensive ends in tackles last season with 46 and had 11 hurries. He registered four tackles and one hurry during the LSU game and has five hurries on the season.

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 saw action in the Hokies' first four games with senior **Shawn Witten** (Elizabethton, Tenn.) and redshirt junior **Ernest Wilford** (Richmond, Va.) getting the starts at flanker and split end, respectively. Witten, who started seven games last year before suffering a broken leg at Pittsburgh, has caught six passes for 84 yards, while Wilford has six grabs for 138 yards.

Terrell Parham (r-Jr.; Bartow, Fla.), who caught 14 passes in 2001, enjoyed his best game at Texas A&M with four catches for 23 yards.

Richard Johnson (r-So.; Baltimore, Md.), **Chris Shreve** (r-Jr.; Mouth of Wilson, Va.), **Justin Hamilton** (r-Fr.; Clintwood, Va.) and **Chris Clifton** (r-Fr.; Chesapeake, Va.) have all seen playing time. True freshman **Mike Imoh** (Fairfax, Va.), who saw action at flanker against ASU, had four catches for 28 yards and a touchdown in that game.

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 last season. 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.).

Jon Dunn (Virginia Beach, Va.), a 6-7, 319-pound redshirt sophomore is the starter at right tackle, while 6-6, 304-pound **James Miller** (So.; Pompano Beach, Fla.) and 6-4, 302-pound **Jacob Gibson** (r-Jr.; Rocky Mount, Va.) have both seen starting time at left guard.

Guards **Will Montgomery** (r-Fr.; Clifton, Va.) and **Anthony Nelson** (r-Jr.; Kingsport, Tenn.), tackles **Reggie Butler** (Fr.; Keswick, Va.) and **Jimmy Martin** (Fr.; Chantilly, Va.) and centers **Robert Ramsey** (r-So.; Coraopolis, Pa.) and **Danny McGrath** (Fr.; Herndon, Va.) provide solid depth along the offensive front.

FRESH FACES

☞ Eleven true freshmen are dressing 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.), flanker **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.). Freshman place-kicker/punter **Nic Schmitt** (Salem, Va.) rounds out the group. All but Schmitt and Vick have played.

☞ The busiest of the true freshmen has been **Darryl Tapp**, who is a starter on five different special teams and has also seen action at defensive end. Tapp has played 54 snaps at end and 89 plays on special teams. Defensive tackle **Jonathan Lewis** has also been busy with 99 plays at tackle and 24 on special teams.

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 in the first four games with Easlick getting the starting nod. Easlick has rushed seven times for 36 yards and caught three passes for 18 yards. Humes, who worked some at both fullback and tailback during the Arkansas State game, has rushed for 55 yards on 12 carries. He also has three pass receptions for 22 yards. Spence has also seen his share of playing time and has gained 26 yards rushing on four carries.

BIG EAST HONORS

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

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

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

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

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

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

☞ Virginia Tech is one of only seven Division I-A teams that have yet to throw an interception this season.

☞ Tech's longest touchdown drive of the 2001 season was a 98-yard drive against Western Michigan.

☞ Tech inside linebackers **Vegas Robinson** (Chesapeake, Va.) and **Mikal Baaqee** (Columbia, Md.) have accounted for three of Tech's five pass interceptions in 2002.

☞ Only one of Tech's top 19 tacklers this season is a senior.

☞ Tech ranks fourth nationally in scoring defense, allowing an average of 9.75 points per game.

☞ The Hokies have held teams to under 100 yards rushing in 12 of their last 15 regular season games.

☞ Punt returner **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) is currently ranked 17th nationally in punt returns with an average of 16 yards per return.

☞ Tech is 17 of 20 in the red zone this season with 15 touchdowns.

☞ Half of punter **Vinnie Burns'** 22 punts have been downed inside opponents' 20-yard line.

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

☞ Tech leads the BIG EAST in scoring defense, rushing defense and turnover margin.

☞ Texas A&M's 3-0 first-quarter lead marked the first time this year that Tech trailed in a game.

☛ Redshirt junior fullback **Doug Easlick** (Marlton, N.J.) scored his first collegiate touchdown against Western Michigan last season on a 22-yard shovel pass from Grant Noel.

☛ The Hokies ran the football a season-high 58 times against WMU in Blacksburg last season.

☛ Marshall's 36 pass completions against the Hokies earlier this season were the most ever against a Tech team.

☛ Marshall quarterback Byron Leftwich finished with 31 completions, the most by an individual against the Hokies.

☛ Senior tailback **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.) has not fumbled in his last 350 regular-season carries and his last 370 overall carries, including the 2000 Gator Bowl. The only fumble of his career came against Rutgers on his 14th carry of the 1999 season.

☛ Linebacker **Mikal Baaqee** (Columbia, Md.) registered his first collegiate interception against Marshall. Baaqee is currently second on the Tech team in tackles with 29.

☛ Brothers **Kevin** and **Jonathan Lewis** (Richmond, Va.) have combined for 30 tackles, six quarterback hurries and five tackles for loss at defensive tackle.

☛ **Richard Johnson** (Baltimore, Md.) has gained yardage rushing, receiving and on both punt and kick-off returns this season.

☛ Forty-three of the last 48 passes caught by Virginia Tech tight ends have produced first downs.

☛ Since the start of BIG EAST Conference round-robin play in 1993, Tech is 61-3 when it rushes for 200 yards or more.

Extra Points

☛ Five Virginia Tech players scored their first collegiate touchdowns during the Hokies' opening game against Arkansas State. Sophomores **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.), **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.) and **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.), redshirt freshman **Jeff King** (Pulaski, Va.) and true freshman **Mike Imoh** (Fairfax, Va.) all contributed their first touchdowns as Hokies. Hall and Randall scored two TDs each.

☛ Two Tech players pulled some double-duty during the Arkansas State game. Freshman **Mike Imoh** (Fairfax, Va.) saw action at flanker and led the Hokies with four catches for 28 yards and a touchdown. He also put in some time at tailback, his natural position, rushing four times for 22 yards. Redshirt freshman **Cedric Humes** (Virginia Beach, Va.), who worked at tailback last fall before moving to fullback in the spring, played at both positions. He finished second on the team in rushing against ASU with 52 yards on a team-high 10 carries.

☛ 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 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.

☛ Two Tech players made their first collegiate pass receptions count against Arkansas State. Tight end **Jeff King** (Pulaski, Va.) grabbed a 19-yard touchdown pass from **Grant Noel** (Ridgeley, W.Va.) for his first catch as a Hokie, while flanker **Mike Imoh** (Fairfax, Va.) hauled in a 19-yard TD toss from **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.) for his first reception at Tech.

☛ 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.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

☛Of the 73 Tech players who have seen action this season, 42 are freshmen or sophomores. The overall breakdown is nine true freshmen, 14 redshirt freshmen, 19 sophomores, 18 juniors and 13 seniors. Of the 71 players who dressed for the Hokies' season opener against Arkansas State, 28 were dressing for the first time.

☛Thirteen of Tech's 19 touchdowns this season have been scored by either a freshman or sophomore. The other six have all been scored by senior **Lee Suggs** (Roanoke, Va.). The Hokies have gotten five touchdowns from sophomore **Kevin Jones** (Chester, Pa.) and two TDs each from sophomores **DeAngelo Hall** (Chesapeake, Va.) and **Bryan Randall** (Williamsburg, Va.). Tech has also gotten one TD each from sophomore **Jason Lallis** (Mitchellville, Md.), redshirt freshman **Jeff King** (Pulaski, Va.) and true freshmen **Mike Imoh** (Fairfax, Va.) and **John Candelas** (Blacksburg, Va.).

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

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

ALIVE AND KICKING

☛Redshirt junior kicker **Carter Warley** (Richmond, Va.) is coming off excellent spring and preseason practices after experiencing some ups and downs last season. Warley connected on just 11 of his 21 field goal attempts in 2001, but has been extremely accurate since then. So far this season, Warley is 18-for-18 on extra points and 5 of 8 on field goals. He is 3-for-4 on field goal attempts from 40 or more yards this season. Prior to this year, Warley was just 2-for-7 from 40 or more yards.

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.

THE NUMBERS GAME

713 ... combined rushing yards for tailbacks Lee Suggs and Kevin Jones for the 2002 season.

176 ... total rushing yards allowed by Tech's defense through the first four games of 2002 season.

82.1 ... Tech's winning percentage since the start of the 2000 season.

57 ... End Nathaniel Adibi's total defensive points after registering seven tackles, three quarterback sacks and causing a fumble against Texas A&M.

39.1 ... the Hokies' net punting average this season.

32:20 ... Tech's average time of possession during its first four games.

32 ... Tech's quarterback hurries through four games.

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

23.0 ... yards per catch this year for junior split end Ernest Wilford.

21 ... Virginia Tech's national ranking in scoring offense, punting and kickoff returns.

18 ... combined number of players who caught passes in last year's Tech-Western Michigan game.

9 ... quarterback sacks for Tech's defensive ends in 2002.

7 ... points needed by Lee Suggs to move by Chris Kinzer for third place in career scoring at Virginia Tech.

0 ... touchdowns allowed by the Hokies in the first half of play this season.

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 Over 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.

TECH OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team	Second Team
<p>SE 19 Ernest Wilford (6-4, 217, r-Jr.) Had a big catch at Texas A&M for 52 yards ... Catch set up the lone TD of the game ... Caught a 39-yard pass vs. Marshall</p>	<p>SE 9 Terrell Parham (6-0, 20195, r-Sr.) Tied at No. 2 with Justin Hamilton ... Caught a team-high 4 passes in the win at Texas A&M ... Has 5 catches for 34 yards this year</p>
<p>LT 57 Anthony Davis (6-4, 322, Sr.) Started all 4 games this year ... Had 3 knockdowns and graded out at 83% at TAMU ... Graded out at 84% with 5 KDs vs. MU</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>LG 60 Jacob Gibson (6-4, 302, r-Jr.) Got the start in the last 2 games ... Graded out at 92% vs. LSU ... Had 3 knockdowns and graded out at 83% in the win at TAMU</p>	<p>OR LG 76 James Miller (6-6, 304, So.) Started the 1st 2 games this year ... Saw action on 49 plays against LSU ... Graded out at 84% on 38 snaps in the win against Marshall</p>
<p>C 64 Jake Grove (6-3, 292, r-Jr.) Started all 4 games this year ... Graded out at 86% vs. Arkansas State ... Had 6 knockdowns vs. LSU ... Graded out at 93% vs. MU</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>RG 74 Luke Owens (6-3, 310, r-Sr.) Has started all 4 games this year ... Graded out at 82 % with 3 knockdown blocks at Texas A&M ... Had 3 KDs in the win over MU</p>	<p>RG 66 Will Montgomery (6-3, 294, r-Fr.) A former invited walk-on who earned a scholarship this past offseason ... Saw significant action against Arkansas State</p>
<p>RT 79 Jon Dunn (6-7, 319, r-So.) Graded at 89% vs. Arkansas State ... Had 5 knockdowns vs. MU ... The biggest player on the team ... Started all 4 games this year</p>	<p>RT 52 Jimmy Martin (6-5, 269, Fr.) A standout lineman at Fork Union Military Academy in 2001 ... Saw significant action against Arkansas State, playing 34 snaps</p>
<p>TE 86 Keith Willis (6-5, 254, r-Jr.) Has started all 4 games this year ... Has 2 catches for 22 yards ... An athletic TE with good hands ... Had 1 catch for 19 yards vs. ASU</p>	<p>TE 90 Jeff King (6-5, 252, r-Fr.) Caught his first career pass and touchdown pass against Arkansas State, a 19-yarder ... The biggest of the three main tight ends</p>
<p>QB 3 Bryan Randall (6-0, 213, So.) Is 2-0 as a starter... Completed 10-of-11 passes at TAMU ... Led 8 scoring drives vs. MU ... Ran for 2 TDs and threw for 1 vs. ASU</p>	<p>QB 11 Grant Noel (6-2, 221, r-Sr.) Had surgery on Sept. 3 to clean up his left knee ... Is available for Western Michigan ... Playing with slightly-torn ACL in left knee</p>
<p>FB 43 Doug Easlick (5-11, 235, r-Jr.) Had an 18-yard run vs. Marshall ... Blocked well in all 3 games ... Had a 15-yard run vs. ASU ... A former walk-on ... A physical back</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>TB 22 Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.) Ran for 153 yards and 2 TDs vs. MU ... Ran for 91 yards and 2 TDs vs. LSU ... Virginia Tech's all-time touchdown leader with 37</p>	<p>TB 7 Kevin Jones (6-0, 212, So.) Ran for 171 yards and 3 TDs vs. MU ... Ran for 70 yards and a TD vs. LSU ... Had a 34-yard run ... BIG EAST Rookie of the Year in '01</p>
<p>FL 26 Shawn Witten (6-0, 192, Sr.) Recorded 2 catches for 21 yards in the win over TAMU ... Has 6 catches for 84 yards in '02 ... Has the best hands of any receiver</p>	<p>FL 12 Richard Johnson (5-11, 180, r-So.) Looking to make a big impact this year after struggling with a hamstring injury most of last year ... Also returns kickoffs</p>
<p>PK 49 Carter Warley (5-11, 189, r-Jr.) All-BIG EAST in 2000 ... Is 18 of 18 on PATs this year ... Is 4 for 7 on field goals ... Kicked FGs of 42 and 43 yards against Marshall</p>	<p>PK 23 Nic Schmitt (6-3, 238, Fr.) A talented young kicker with a strong leg ... Impressed the coaches in preseason practices ... Likely to redshirt this year unless needed</p>

TECH DEFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

First Team	Second Team
<p>DE 83 Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 261, r-Jr.) Recorded 3 sacks at TAMU ... Also caused a fumble and had 7 tackles ... Had 2 solo stops vs. LSU ... Had a sack vs. Marshall</p>	<p>OR DE 95 Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.) Has been slowed by a sprained ankle ... Had a team-high 3 sacks vs. LSU ... Had 6 total stops, 1 TFL, 2 QB hurries and caused a FF</p>
<p>DT 70 Kevin Lewis (6-1, 287, r-So.) Had 3 solo stops, a TFL and an assist vs. TAMU ... Had 6 stops, a TFL, a sack and a FF vs. ASU ... Had 5 tackles and 2 QBH vs. LSU</p>	<p>DT 71 Tim Sandidge (6-1, 273, r-Fr.) Played briefly against TAMU, recording an assist ... Had a sack and a PBU against MU ... Had 3 tackles and a FR vs. Arkansas St.</p>
<p>DT 91 Jason Lallis (6-0, 254, r-So.) Had 4 tackles and a TFL at TAMU ... Returned a fumble 59 yards for a TD vs. ASU ... Had 6 tackles and a QB hurry against LSU</p>	<p>DT 56 Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 3000, Fr.) Had 4 tackles, a TFL and 2 QBH at TAMU ... Had 2 solo stops vs. LSU ... Had 5 tackles and a TFL in the win over Arkansas State</p>
<p>DE 99 Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.) Got the start vs. TAMU, his 1st of the year ... Had 3 solo stops, a sack and 2 QBH ... Had 4 QB hurries and a sack vs. Louisiana St.</p>	<p>DE 28 Lamar Cobb (6-2, 236, r-Sr.) Registered 2 solo stops and 3 quarterback hurries in the win at Texas A&M ... Had 4 tackles, including 1 for a loss against LSU</p>
<p>LB 48 Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.) Registered 9 total stops against LSU ... Also recovered a fumble ... Recorded 6 stops, a TFL and a PBU in his 1st career start (ASU)</p>	<p>LB 31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 201, r-So.) Got the start vs. Marshall ... Had 5 tackles - two solo - vs. the Thundering Herd ... Had 2 solo stops and a TFL vs. Arkansas St.</p>
<p>LB 45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 217, r-So.) Had 6 stops in the win at Texas A&M ... Had a team-high 10 stops vs. LSU ... Had 9 tackles — 3 solo — and an INT vs. Marshall</p>	<p>LB 39 Alex Markogiannakis (5-9, 204, r-Sr.) Had 3 solo stops, a FR and a TFL against ASU ... Had 3 stops at Texas A&M ... Saw limited action vs. both LSU and Marshall</p>
<p>LB 6 Vegas Robinson (6-0, 245, r-Jr.) Had 7 stops and a FR vs. Marshall ... Had 6 stops and an INT at Texas A&M ... Had 9 total stops, 2 QBH and an INT against LSU</p>	<p>LB 47 James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Fr.) Had a solo stop and an assist against Arkansas State ... Had 3 tackles and caused a fumble vs. LSU ... Had 2 solo stops vs. MU</p>
<p>BC 4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 194, So.) Had 7 total tackles vs. LSU ... Also had a PBU ... Returned a punt and an INT for TDs vs. ASU ... Had 5 stops and 2 PBU vs. TAMU</p>	<p>BC 17 Garnell Wilds (5-11, 192, r-Jr.) Recorded 4 tackles against LSU ... Also had 2 PBUs ... Had a solo stop against Arkansas State ... Had 4 total stops against Marshall</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 11 career INTs</p>	<p>FS 18 Jimmy F. Williams (6-2, 203, Fr.) Had a big game in his 1st collegiate action ... Played 37 snaps on defense, registering 5 solo stops, 5 assists and a pass broken up</p>
<p>ROV 21 Michael Crawford (5-11, 206, r-Jr.) Had 5 stops, including 1 for a loss, a sack, a PBU and caused a fumble at TAMU ... Had 6 stops vs. MU ... Had 2 stops vs. LSU</p>	<p>ROV 25 Billy Hardee (5-11, 203, r-Sr.) Recovered a fumble and had 2 tackles vs. Marshall ... Had a solo tackle vs. Arkansas St. ... Recorded a solo stop vs. Louisiana State</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>FC 8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.) Had 2 tackles against LSU ... Also broke up a pass and caused a fumble ... Recorded 3 tackles and 2 passes broken up vs. Marshall</p>
<p>P 38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 194, r-So.) Is averaging 42.7 yards per punt ... Was named the BIG EAST S.T. POW after LSU game ... Had a long of 58 yds w/11 inside the 20</p>	<p>P 23 Nic Schmitt (6-3, 238, Fr.) Pressed Burns for playing time in the preseason ... Has a very strong leg ... Will likely redshirt this year, unless needed in a pinch</p>

CHARTING THE HOKIES

On The Move

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Drives</u>				<u>Drives Ended By</u>						<u>Points Scored</u>	<u>Pts. Drive</u>	<u>Drive Efficiency</u>
	<u>Started</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>FGA</u>	<u>Punt</u>	<u>Downs</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>Clock</u>	<u>Safety</u>				
Randall	42	13	5	8	16	0	3	2	0	105	2.5	42.9%	
Noel	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	21	3.5	50.0%	
Hunt	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0.0	0.0%	
VT Offense	53	16	5	8	22	0	3	4	0	126	2.4	39.6%	
Opp. Offense	57	5	1	2	27	5	13	4	1	39	0.7	10.5%	

What Happens On First Down

<u>Team</u>	<u>Plays</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Rush</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>
VT	119	594	4.9	99	496	5.0	20	98	4.9
Opp.	110	462	4.2	54	129	2.4	56	333	5.9

Times Gained 10+ Yards (on any down): VT 49/Opponents 39

Times Gained 5+ Yards (on any down): VT 105/Opponents 85

Negative Yardage Attempts on First Downs: VT 15/Opponents 7

Own Penalty on First Down: VT 6/Opponents 4

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

Opponents are 15 for 55 (27%) on third-down conversions and 0 for 6 (0%) on fourth-down conversions

Virginia Tech is 18 for 51 (35%) on third-down conversions and 2 for 3 (67%) on fourth-down conversions

Capitalizing On Turnovers

Virginia Tech's 3 total turnovers have led to 0 points for the opposition

Opponents' 13 total turnovers have led to 48 points for Virginia Tech

Field Position

	Virginia Tech	Opponents
Drives Started	53	57
Cumulative Starting Yardlines	2,145	1,319
Average Starting Field Position	Own 40.5	Own 23.1
Times Started Inside 20	8	18
Drives Started in Plus Territory	17	4

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	27	17	0	0	10	1	0	1.6-yd. line (44)	21.6-yd. line (584)

Inside The Red Zone

	Virginia Tech	Opponents
Times Penetrated Opponent 20	20	6
Total Scores	17	4
Touchdowns	15	4
Field Goals	1	0
Lost on Downs or Turnovers	1	1
Lost on Missed Field Goals	2	1
Lost on Expiration of Time	0	0
Scoring Percentage	85.0%	66.7%
Scoring Percentage (TDs out of total red zone scores)	88.2%	100%
Percent of total drives (All Scores In Red Zone)	32.1%	7.0%

Longest Scoring Drives:

	By Tech	By Opponent
# Plays	15 (85 yds, 8:02-TD) vs. MU	10 (82 yds, 4:02-TD) by LSU
# Yards	90 (9 pl, 4:18-TD) vs. MU	86 (6 pl, 3:54-TD) by ASU
Possession Time	8:02 (15 pl, 85 yds-TD) vs. MU	4:02 (10 pl, 82 yds-TD) by LSU

2002 Virginia Tech Depth Chart for Western Michigan (9/28/02)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FL 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.) OR
95, Jim Davis (6-3, 265, Jr.)

DT 70, Kevin Lewis (6-1, 287, r-So.)
71, Tim Sandidge (6-1, 273, r-Fr.)

DT 91, Jason Lallis (6-0, 254, r-So.)
56, Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 300, Fr.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Teams

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

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

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

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

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

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

KR 12, Richard Johnson (5-10, 180, r-So.)
7, Kevin Jones (6-0, 212, So.) OR
22, Lee Suggs (6-0, 198, r-Sr.)

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