



2002 OUTLOOK

Returning starters Nathaniel Adibi (83), Ronyell Whitaker (2) and Willie Pile (35) will be key figures as Virginia Tech's fast, young defensive unit tries to uphold the Hokies' reputation for defensive excellence.

Sneak Preview

HERE'S WHAT A FEW PUBLICATIONS THINK OF THE 2002 HOKIES

Athlon Magazine

Virginia Tech No. 18 nationally
Virginia Tech No. 2 in the BIG EAST
Ronyell Whitaker — First-Team Preseason All-America defensive back; preseason All-BIG EAST
Lee Suggs — preseason All-BIG EAST
Jake Grove — preseason All-BIG EAST
Willie Pile — preseason All-BIG EAST
Virginia Tech — best running back group in the conference
Virginia Tech — best defensive backfield in the conference

The Sporting News

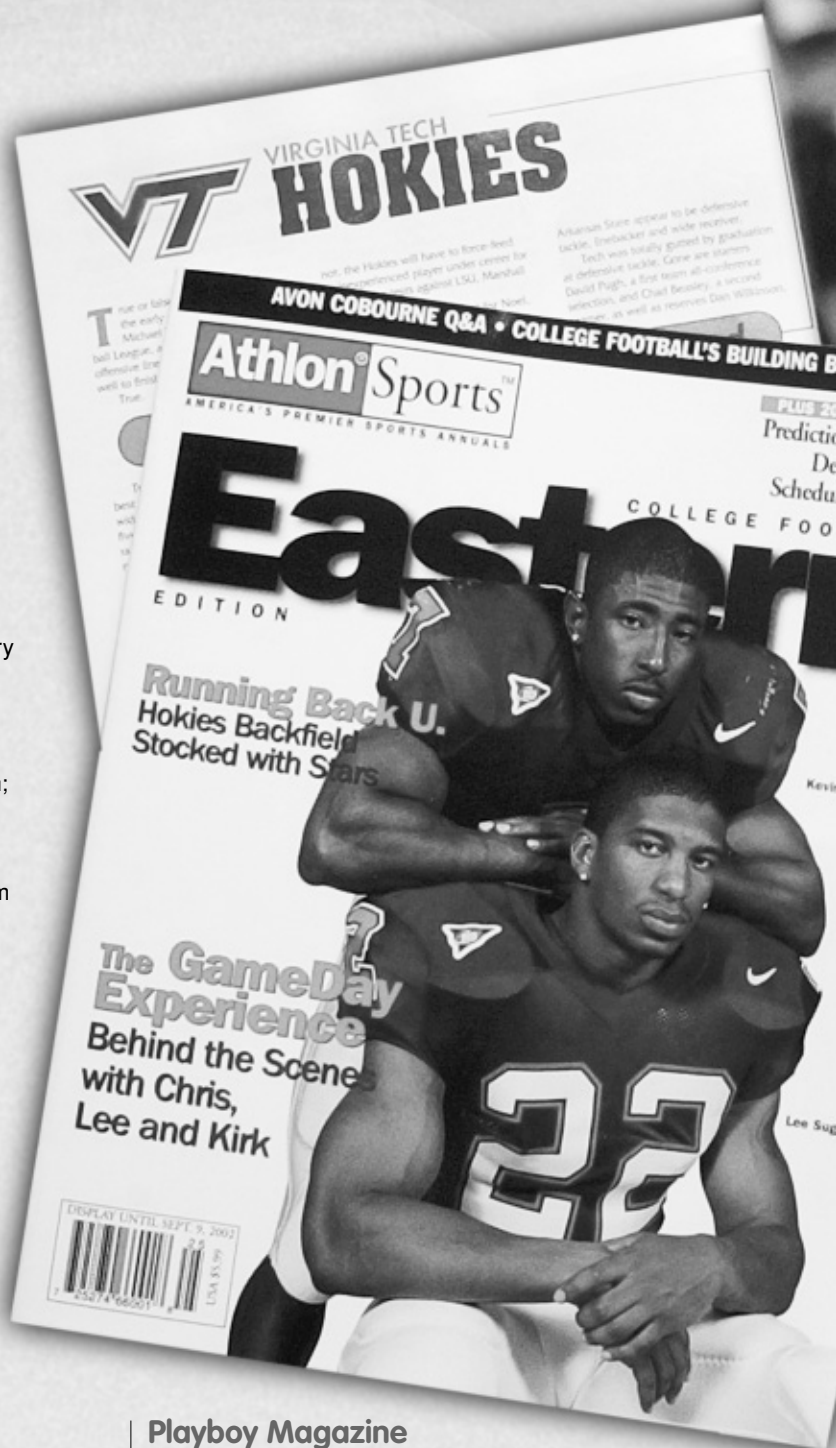
Virginia Tech No. 21 nationally
Virginia Tech— No. 10 defensive backfield in the country
Anthony Davis — preseason All-BIG EAST first team; No. 21 offensive tackle in the nation
Lee Suggs — preseason All-BIG EAST first team; No. 5 running back in the nation
Ronyell Whitaker — preseason All-BIG EAST first team; No. 8 cornerback in the nation
Willie Pile — preseason All-BIG EAST first team; No. 10 free safety in the nation
Ernest Wilford — preseason All-BIG EAST second team
Luke Owens — preseason All-BIG EAST second team; No. 23 offensive guard in the nation
Kevin Jones — preseason All-BIG EAST second team; No. 18 running back in the nation
Kevin Lewis — preseason All-BIG EAST second team; No. 22 defensive end in the nation
DeAngelo Hall — preseason All-BIG EAST second team
Jake Grove — No. 6 center in the nation
Jimmy Williams — BIG EAST Defensive Newcomer of the Year

Lindy's

Virginia Tech No. 14 nationally
Virginia Tech — No. 10 defensive backfield in the nation
Kevin Jones — No. 12 running back in the nation
Ronyell Whitaker — No. 10 cornerback in the nation
Willie Pile — No. 13 safety in the nation

Collegefootballnews.com

Kevin Jones — Third-Team Preseason All-America running back; preseason All-BIG EAST; No. 7 overall player in the conference
Ronyell Whitaker — preseason All-BIG EAST; No. 14 overall player in the conference
Willie Pile — preseason All-BIG EAST; No. 12 overall player in the conference
Lee Suggs — No. 10 overall player in the conference
Nathaniel Adibi — No. 24 overall player in the conference
Jim Davis — No. 26 overall player in the conference



Playboy Magazine

Lee Suggs — Preseason All-America running back

Street & Smith's

Virginia Tech ranked no. 21 nationally
Kevin Jones — most elusive running back in the conference
Lee Suggs — running back with best instincts in the conference; preseason All-BIG EAST
DeAngelo Hall — best athlete in the conference; preseason All-BIG EAST
Cols Colas — preseason All-BIG EAST
Willie Pile — preseason All-BIG EAST

2002 Outlook

HOKIES HOPE TO BE UP TO THE TEST IN CRITICAL YEAR

Riding the wave of nine consecutive bowl games and a BIG EAST Conference-leading 83 wins over the last nine seasons, the Virginia Tech football team is entering what head coach Frank Beamer calls a critical year for the program.

The Hokies will open 2002 preseason practice with several issues that still need attention. There are questions surrounding the Hokies' quarterback position, the middle of the Tech defense and the wide receiver positions. There are also continuing adjustments being

made to a new offensive coordinator and a new quarterbacks coach.

With perhaps the toughest football schedule in school history ahead of them, it all adds up to a challenging season for the coaching staff and the team.

"Overall, I think this is a critical year for the program," Beamer says. "Not only do we have to replace 11 players who are now in NFL camps, we are also getting ready to play probably the toughest schedule we've ever played here. When you put those two things together, this will be a

critical year for us to see if we are a consistent football team ... to see if we can just replace guys and keep on moving."

Beamer has a list of priorities and the first thing on that list is getting a handle on the quarterback position. The Hokies' returning starter Grant Noel had a solid hold on the quarterback duties when he suffered a torn ACL in his left knee just days before Tech's 2002 spring game. Noel, who closed out his first season as a starter by passing for 269 yards against Florida State in the 2002 Gator Bowl,

Grant Noel started all 12 games at quarterback for Tech last season.

Safety Willie Pile will lead a strong Virginia Tech secondary.

opted to forego surgery and has spent the past few months strengthening his knee and leg in preparation for the season. Noel was inconsistent at times during the 2001 season but showed leadership and toughness on the way to picking up valuable experience for his senior year.

If Noel is unable to play, sophomore Bryan Randall has worked hard to be ready. Randall had an outstanding spring, showing improved technique and poise. The Hokies will also take a look at freshman Marcus Vick when practice opens. Vick, whose older brother, Michael, was a Tech All-American and the first player picked in the 2001 NFL Draft, will be given the opportunity to show what he can do during the preseason.

Overall, the Hokies must replace 11 starters, including six on defense. The losses on the defensive side, however, go deeper than just the starters. The team's top five defensive tackles were all seniors, as were the top three inside linebackers.

"Right up the middle of our defense is where all the new guys are," Beamer says.

"That's where you would like to be a strong, veteran team and it's just the opposite. We have plenty of talented guys, but most of them are inexperienced and there is no way around it. How quickly are they going to play well is the issue."

The final solution to the tackle situation will not come until August. "We feel some of the people we have recruited fit into this situation, too," the Tech coach admits.

Several incoming recruits could also figure into the equation at the wide receiver spots where Tech lost big-play man André Davis and tall, athletic Emmett Johnson.

"We have some good receivers in the program," Beamer points out, "but right now, I think we need some people to step up and be productive."

Among Tech's strengths will be a deep, talented group of defensive ends, an experienced, athletic group of cornerbacks and free safeties and a stable of tailbacks that ranks among the best in the nation.

The return of senior tailback Lee Suggs, who suffered a season-ending knee injury

Continued ...



Outlook *continued* ...

during the Hokies' 2001 opener against UConn, drew plenty of attention during the spring. Suggs won All-America honors in 2000 when he rushed for 1,207 yards and led the nation in scoring (28 TDs). Suggs will join last year's freshman sensation, Kevin Jones, at the position. Jones was named the BIG EAST Rookie of the Year and a freshman All-America in 2001, after leading Tech with a freshman-record 957 yards rushing. The Hokies' depth at the position has allowed the coaches to temporarily move a pair of impressive freshman tailbacks — Cedric Humes and Justin Hamilton — to other positions where they have a chance to contribute immediately.

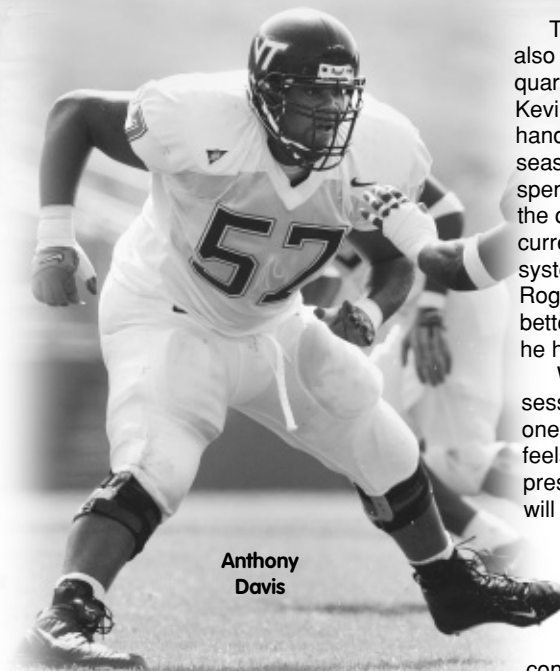
"There is no question that we have some great running backs in our program," Beamer says. "I thought Lee did well during the spring. He really wanted to get in there and get some scrimmage work, and we gave him just a very little so he could take a couple of shots and get it out of his mind. I think he feels like his knee is very strong, and from everything I've seen, it looks that way to me, too."

During the spring, new offensive coordinator Bryan Stinespring and quarterbacks coach Kevin Rogers experimented with some formations and schemes to take full advantage of Suggs and Jones and the rest of their personnel.

"When you consider we made changes at offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, and that we wanted to look into a couple of different ways of doing things ... this was probably the most important spring practice for an offense that we've had in a long time," Beamer says.

"We want to get our best people on the field during the course of a game, whether it's on offense, defense or special teams," he adds. "One of our overall strengths is there is good talent in our program."

How rapidly some of that talent develops will go a long way toward determining the Hokies' fate in 2002.



Anthony
Davis

2002 Offense

The loss of five starters from last year's offense hasn't detracted from the excitement heading into the 2002 season. With a new offensive coordinator, new quarterbacks coach and a solid corps of returning players, the Tech offense will look to put up big numbers in the 2002 season.

Among the returning starters are steady quarterback Grant Noel, speedy Kevin Jones at tailback and the sure-handed Shawn Witten at receiver.

Jake Grove, Anthony Davis and Luke Owens will lead an experienced line, one that returns six players who saw significant action in 2001.

The fall also means the return of record-setting tailback Lee Suggs, who tore his ACL in the 2001 opener against Connecticut. He is back to 100 percent and is ready to go this season.

New coordinator Bryan Stinespring used the spring session to test new formations and plays in an effort to get not only the offense, but himself, ready for the season. He will still coach the line, and should have a good group returning.

The Hokies will also have new quarterbacks coach Kevin Rogers on hand for the first season. After spending time with the quarterbacks currently in the system last spring, Rogers now has a better grasp of what he has to work with.

While the spring session was a big one, Stinespring feels the fall preseason camp will be just as important. A couple of items remain areas of concern, such as the health of Noel,

finalizing the depth chart at each position and determining which incoming freshmen can be ready for the opening game against Arkansas State.

"I thought our offense competed well in the spring," Stinespring says. "We wanted to implement a more attacking style of offense and I think we accomplished that goal. We moved some guys around and I think that's going to make a better offense in general."

"I think those moves have given us a chance to be a good offense. I think we helped ourselves talent-wise and we're going to have to use the fall to try to get these guys ready."

With the loss of 11 players to the NFL — five from the offense — there will be a lot of new faces on offense this year. Some will be seeing their first collegiate playing time and some will make their first starts.

"These young players have to step up and fill some voids, especially at the receiver spot," Stinespring says. "We want to get the best 11 athletes on the field, and that meant moving some guys around. Now we have to get them ready to play."

Offensive Line

Offensive coordinator/offensive line coach Bryan Stinespring has the luxury of three starters back on a line which helped spring several running backs to big games last year.

"It helps a lot having three starters back, but we still have a very young group," Stinespring says. "I really like this group. It has a nice mixture of experience and young talent. We had some guys step up and secure starting spots and now we have to work on becoming a cohesive unit. The depth was the biggest concern heading into spring and I think we helped ourselves, but we still have some questions that need to be answered."

Junior Jake Grove will make the move from guard to center this year. He started 10 games at right guard last season, as well as serving as the top backup to Steve DeMasi at center. Last season was the first Grove played through without his nagging back injury flaring up to the point where he had to miss playing time. He played 565 offensive plays a year ago, grading out at 84.9 percent on the year with a team-high 48 knockdown blocks.

"I think center is Jake's best position," Stinespring says. "Last year, we went with our best five linemen on the field, so we put Jake out there at guard. But I think he likes this position better and has a better feel of playing it."

Robert Ramsey, who saw limited action last year, along with Danny McGrath, who entered school in January, are the other candidates for the back-up spot at center.

At guard, Stinespring has the luxury of working with two returning players. Luke Owens and James Miller are both healthy and will enter the fall as the No. 1s at the guard spots.

Owens came in to start the West Virginia game last season and never relinquished the spot. The 6-3, 312-pounder played in all 11 games, averaging 46.5 snaps per game. He graded out at 81 percent for the year with 37 knockdowns. He had off-season surgery on his elbow and will enter the fall as the No. 1 man at right guard.

"We need a healthy Luke Owens in the fall," Stinespring says. "Luke brings a lot to the table. He's a tough guy who brings a lot of experience to

the line. We need to get him healthy and keep him healthy this season."

Another player in the mix is Miller, a true sophomore who saw plenty of action last year. He was the No. 2 man at right guard behind Grove and will enter the fall as the top man at left guard.

At 6-6, 310 pounds, Miller has good size, foot work and work ethic. He played 160 snaps last season, averaging nearly 18 plays per game.

"We put a lot on Jim this spring," Stinespring says. "He has great work habits and has a lot of size. He is learning the schemes of our offense and I'm real excited about what he can do."

Former walk-on Will Montgomery, who earned a scholarship this past off-season, will enter the fall as the No. 2 man at right guard.

Redshirt junior Anthony Nelson, will enter the fall as the No. 2 man at left guard. He has good size and strength and could contribute if he can get himself into playing shape.

Stinespring will have to replace one starter at tackle, but Anthony Davis returns to anchor the left side of the line. The 6-4, 320-pound senior started all 11 games last season at the position and will likely be the No. 1 man again this year. He led the line in total plays a year ago with 708 snaps. He recorded 29 knockdown blocks and has good quickness for his size.

"Anthony had moments of being a good college tackle last season," Stinespring says. "For him, he needs to learn to be in on every play and be more consistent. If he does that, he's going to help our offense out immensely. He had a very good spring and we're hoping he can establish himself as one of the best linemen in the BIG EAST."

Redshirt freshman Reggie Butler, who entered school in January, will battle for the top backup spot. The 6-5, 324-pounder has played just three years of organized football, but the coaches feel he has a lot of potential.

"Reggie has only had 15 college practices," Stinespring says. "If he can help us this year, then that will be a bonus. Right now, we have to work on some aspects of his game if he's

going to be able to contribute this year."

At right tackle, the No. 1 man heading into fall practice will be Jon Dunn. At 6-7, 324 pounds, the redshirt sophomore is the biggest man on the team. He has made nice progress in two seasons, but will be pushed hard to get ready for the fall. Last year, he averaged nearly 26 snaps per game and played a total of 231 offensive snaps.

"At times, Jon is exactly what you're looking for at a right tackle," Stinespring. "He has outstanding size, but he needs to get a little bit stronger and more physical. But he has the chance to be an outstanding tackle."

Jacob Gibson started the first four games of the season at left guard and played in nine contests, but missed the Gator Bowl due to a back injury. At 6-4, 288, the redshirt junior has good size and quickness. He played a total of 286 offensive snaps last season and registered 17 knockdown blocks.

"Jacob's really like a utility infielder for us," Stinespring says. "He can play a lot of positions and is really the top backup at both tackle spots. But he could also move and play at guard if we need him to."

Redshirt freshman Curtis Bradley, who earned a reputation as a tough player in the "middle drills" at practice, will also compete for playing time at this position.

"Our offensive line should be improved over last year, but I think some of the things that concerned me last year concern me again this year," Stinespring says. "We have to stay healthy and we have to play at a high level."

"A lot of pressure is being exerted on our quarterback with his health so I feel we need to be able to help him any way we can. We're in a position to do that, but we need to go out and produce on the field."

"We have the opportunity to be a better offensive line than we were last year and I certainly hope we will be better than last year."

Tight Ends

The Hokies will have to adjust quickly to the loss of the duo of Bob Slowikowski and Browning Wynn at the tight end position. The two have been a

constant in the lineup the past three seasons and combined to catch 33 passes in that time — most of which went for first downs. Tight ends coach Danny Pearman knows what he lost, but he's also excited about the four men he has in the program.

"Losing the experience Browning and Bob brought is big," Pearman says. "But they were also good people, good leaders and solid citizens. Both of them had good careers here. That's part of the excitement of college football. Players leave and the others guys have to step up."

Tech has four tight ends in its program right now, all with limited or no game experience. All bring excellent size and good hands to the position and Pearman knows it will be a battle between them.

Redshirt junior Keith Willis has the most experience at the position. He caught two passes last season, one of which was a touchdown.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what Keith matures into," Pearman says. "He's been here the longest and has played the most at the position. I'm not sure he's played enough to say he has an edge, but he has played more than the rest of them and probably knows the offensive schemes more so than the rest of them."

Redshirt sophomore Jared Mazzetta was a standout on the punt and kickoff coverage teams but has seen only limited action on offense. He had nine tackles on special teams and brings a physical presence to the position. He will enter the fall as a co-No. 1 with Willis.

Also battling for the starting spot will be redshirt freshman Jeff King. The Pulaski native is the biggest of the three at 6-5, 258 pounds and has excellent hands. Pearman says King could have played last year if needed,

but Tech had the luxury of redshirting him.

Greg Burnop is a walk-on from Blacksburg who has added weight to try and be a factor at the position. He was slowed by a sprained MCL in his knee during the spring but is looking to work his way into the mix.

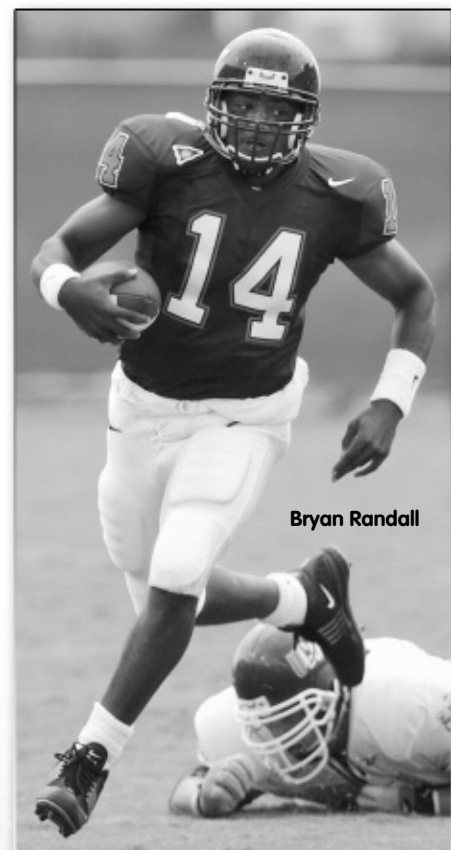
"I have to develop a guy we're comfortable with not only at the beginning of the year, but at the end in the thick of the conference," Pearman says. "We have to develop a kid who can get us the edge on the corner, be a stout blocker, but also be a good receiver."

Quarterbacks

New quarterbacks coach Kevin Rogers started the spring session with four healthy quarterbacks to work with. By the spring game, he was down to one.

Chris Clifton was moved to wide receiver and Will Hunt suffered a sprained shoulder early in the session. But the big blow came when returning starter Grant Noel tore his left ACL and was lost for the spring. That left Bryan Randall to direct both teams in the spring game.

Continued ...



Bryan Randall

"At the beginning of the spring, Grant's injury would have been devastating," Rogers says, "but he had most of the spring to compete and Bryan really came on to step up and help us out."

Noel opted to forgo surgery, which would have ended his season before it started, and instead rehab the knee all summer. He is likely to be back for August practice, but his level of play is yet to be determined.

The rising senior started all 11 regular season games and the bowl game for the Hokies in 2001. He completed 57 percent of his passes for 1,826 yards and 16 touchdowns.

"Grant's injury puts us in a tenuous situation," Rogers says. "We'll have four quarterbacks on campus this fall, two of which have never played a snap of college football. So we need Grant to be able to play. Grant is the guy and is the number one quarterback until someone takes it away from him."

If Noel isn't able to play, Randall is ready to step in as the main man. He will enter the fall as the No. 2 quarterback. He saw limited action in eight games as a true freshman last year. He possesses a good arm and is a threat to break a long run at any time.

"The old coaching cliché is that you try to get better each day and I think Bryan came pretty close to achieving that," Rogers says. "He developed the confidence in himself that the coaches have had all along and he worked extremely hard. He's gotten a lot better since last January and, as a coach, you have to like that."

Rogers will also have a familiar name to work with this fall as freshman Marcus Vick looks to follow in the footsteps of his older brother.

"If we feel Marcus is ready and able to compete this fall, Marcus will play," Rogers says. "If he's able to be successful and we need to play him to win, Marcus will play. If he's not ready, he won't play. It's that simple and I think Marcus feels the same way."

Hunt will be the other QB battling for reps in the fall. He was redshirted last year and is

regarded as a smart player who makes good, strong throws.

"Will needs to come in this fall in excellent shape and prove to me he's able to play at Virginia Tech," Rogers says. "We focussed on two quarterbacks in the spring and that hurt Will, but we need for him to be healthy and ready to go."

While the spring was important for the quarterbacks, it was equally important for the new coach and a chance to get acclimated with a new program.

"This past spring was a big one for the quarterbacks and myself," Rogers says. "I had to learn a whole new offense and a whole new language. It's like jumping into French II without taking French I; you have to start slowly and work your way up."

"But, as a whole, I thought it went really well. I feel good about our situation at quarterback, and about the offense. We're going to take every day this fall and make it a competitive situation. The guy who plays will be the guy who we feel is in the best position to help us win."

Running Backs

It's going to be hard to wipe the smile off of running backs coach Billy Hite's face this fall. You see, Hite has a problem that every coach would love to have. That problem is that he has a ton of talented backs, maybe too many.

"I think it's a problem you like to have," Hite says. "I think that was proven in the third quarter of the opening ball game last year when Lee went down. You never know what's going to happen, so we're happy to have four great backs."

He has 2001 BIG EAST Rookie of the Year Kevin Jones returning at tailback. And don't forget about the 2000 BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year in Lee Suggs. Suggs is back to full strength and will enter the fall as the No. 1 back.

"I think Lee had an outstanding spring," Hite says. "I think it was an important spring for him from a mental standpoint. Although I limited him in what he could do, I was very pleased with his work. He got knocked around some and I think it made him more



While Suggs will likely be the starter for Arkansas State, both will play a lot and each week's starter will be determined by who's the hotter back at that time.

"Right now, both will play a lot and we'll decide week-to-week who's going to start," Hite says. "For me, it's not who starts the game, but who's in at the end. It's created a great situation where they push each other and make each other better."

John Candelas, a walk-on from Blacksburg, will provide depth at the tailback position and is working hard to work his way into the rotation.

"I'm really pleased with the way John came along during the spring," Hite says. "He has good speed and will probably help us out on special teams."

Candelas will battle with incoming freshman Mike Imoh for the No. 3 spot. Imoh was the Virginia AAA State Player of the Year and will see action if he isn't redshirted.

If Hite has any work to do, it is at the fullback position. Gone is four-year starter Jarrett Ferguson, who was a blocking force and a receiving threat for the Hokies.

"Jarrett is definitely one of the most special football players I've had the pleasure of working with in my 24 years at Virginia Tech and I'm going to miss him," Hite says. "He brought so much to the table and I hate like heck to think I'm going into this season without him. But we have some good young players who I think will be able to fill in nicely for Jarrett."

Leading the way at the position is redshirt junior Doug Easlick, who served as the No. 2 man last season. He is a strong blocker who has excellent hands. He caught four passes for 54 yards and a score last year.

"Doug had a good spring," Hite says. "He did an outstanding job in the weight room this past off-season."

comfortable with his knee."

He has quietly made a remarkable recovery from a torn ACL in the season opener against Connecticut. He was off to an impressive start to the season when the injury occurred. In the third quarter, he had 99 yards rushing and two scores, making him the all-time leader at Tech in career rushing TDs with 31.

Although he could have gone at full speed this spring, the trainers kept a leash on him for most of the spring.

After the injury, Suggs was eventually replaced by Jones, who went on to have a big year. In his last three regular-season games, all of which he started, the rising sophomore ripped off games of 155 yards against Temple, 181 yards versus Virginia and finished up with 160 yards against the eventual national champion Miami Hurricanes. With a full year of college football, as well as strength training, the sky is the limit for Jones.

"Kevin made a lot of improvement from the end of the season and through spring practice," Hite says. "He got better each week of practice and that's what we asked him to do. Our defensive coaches were shaking their heads every day at practice and saying how much better he is right now as opposed to last fall."

Doug is basically a tailback with tailback skills playing at the fullback position. He's strong and tough and there's no reason he can't be an outstanding football player for us."

Cedric Humes spent the 2001 season terrorizing the defense as a member of the scout team. He spent the spring as a tailback, but was moved to fullback following the spring. He has excellent size and speed and should be a factor at his new position.

"Even though they weren't running our plays, you could see what he was capable of," Hite says. "[Defensive coordinator] Coach [Bud] Foster and his staff would come in after practice each week saying great things about him. Cedric is a great talent who runs and catches well. He has great speed, but he's not as physical as the other two; but that will come."

Pushing him for time will be the off-moved Josh Spence. Spence came in as a tailback and moved to linebacker last year, but seems to have found a home at fullback. He is a big, strong back who could be a great fullback for the Hokies.

"Josh has accepted the transition to fullback," Hite says. "He also has tailback skills and he's pretty good with the ball in his arms. It's a new position for him, so he has some things to learn. It's been a slow process for him, but he's coming along. He has all the tools — speed, size and strength — to be an outstanding fullback for us."

It's become an annual tradition for Hite to claim each year's class as "the best group of Stallions I've ever had" and this year will be no different.

"At tailback, obviously this is the best group yet," Hite says. "The fullbacks still have some work to do, but it could become a great class. It all depends on the three fullbacks and how they come along. But if they do, and I think they can, I believe we could have a chance to have the best backfield ever at Virginia Tech."

Wide Receivers

The Hokies must replace all everything wide receiver André Davis and steady Emmett Johnson, but the cupboard isn't

totally bare for receivers coach Tony Ball heading into the fall.

"André and Emmett were good athletes with tremendous speed and we don't have that at the position so we can't replace them right now," Ball says. "We are different at the position. We have to start all over and find our niche as a group."

Ball says the goal for this group is simple. He feels they must concentrate on the details of the position.

"We've got some older guys with some experience, but we have a lot of work to do. You can put all of these guys in a pot and they're almost the same," Ball says. "They all are about the same size with about the same experience. We have to bring them along quickly and while we're doing that, we need to learn to be good team players and fundamentally sound wide receivers."

Leading the troops will be Shawn Witten, who missed the second half of the season with a broken leg. He will enter the fall as the co-No. 1 man at the flanker position.

The rising senior has perhaps the best hands on the team and rarely drops a ball. Before suffering the injury in the Pittsburgh game, Witten had 16 catches for 161 yards and a touchdown.

"He's going to have to be a leader for us," Ball says. "He's a leader in his own way because he's quiet, but the guys respect him. He's got to work on getting off the line of scrimmage and creating space in his route running."

This season will be a big one for Ernest Wilford. The redshirt junior has the size at 6-4 to be an outstanding receiver and must develop some consistency in his game. Last season, he caught eight passes for 100 yards and a TD. He will head into the fall as the No. 1 man at split end.

Two players who were playing other positions last season will battle for playing time at receiver this fall. Chris Clifton and Justin Hamilton make the move from the backfield to the wide receiver position.

Clifton started the spring at quarterback, but quickly made the move to split end. He has good size at 6-4 and speed, but

needs to learn the position. He played there on the scout team last fall, but did not move to the position full-time until the spring. He will enter the fall battling for playing time at split end.

Hamilton spent last season as a scout team running back. He was moved to the wide out in early spring and made great strides every day. He brings size (6-3, 217) and athleticism to the position and will enter the fall as the co-No. 1 at the flanker position.

"Justin showed a lot of ability, but he still has a way to go," Ball says. "Things were pretty vanilla to him for the spring game, but he studies and he wants to be good. I think his future is bright, but people need to be patient because he's never played that position."

Redshirt sophomore Richard Johnson, walk-on Chris Shreve and redshirt senior Terrell Parham are all working to find their way into the rotation.

"This group worked extremely hard this summer," Ball says. "I'm being realistic with this group. This is a good group that I enjoy being around. They work hard and want to get the job done. It's a young group with some great athletes. My job is to turn them into a great group of receivers."

Parham has the most experience of the three, seeing action the past three seasons. He is a good possession receiver who caught 14 passes for 155 yards and a touchdown last season.

Johnson is a player who can go the distance at any time. He has blazing speed and good hands, but has been hampered by injuries. He returned kickoffs for the Hokies last season, averaging 22.2 yards per return. He also caught four passes for 34 yards a season ago. If he stays healthy, he could be a big threat for the Hokies this year.

Shreve, who joined the team last

season, is perhaps the hardest-working receiver in the bunch, often staying after practice to work on technique or route running. He had one catch for 13 yards a season ago, but played a lot on special teams before an ankle injury slowed him.

Ball is also excited about the arrival of Fred Lee, who enrolled at Tech for both summer sessions. Lee originally signed with the Hokies prior to last season, but had to go to prep school. He reaffirmed his commitment and is finally a Hokie.

"I'm going to throw him right in there," Ball says. "I'm going to feed him and see how much he can absorb. When he hits the wall, we'll see why he did and try to simplify it. The one advantage he has is he is a true receiver. He is the one guy in the receiving corps who played receiver in high school, so I think he'll be right in the mix."

Lee is a speedster who, although doesn't have great size, does run good routes and has good hands. He could be a big threat for the Hokies at the split end position because of his good speed and quickness, but could end up at flanker if needed.

Continued ...



Shawn Witten

2002 Defense

This shapes up to be one of Coach Bud Foster's most challenging seasons as defensive coordinator. Gone from last year's highly-ranked defense are all five tackles who lettered, along with the top three inside linebackers and two starting members of the secondary.

The key losses include starting tackles Chad Beasley and David Pugh, who anchored the defensive line the past three seasons, and linebacker Ben Taylor, the Hokies' leading tackler in 2000 and 2001. The Hokies will also miss mike linebackers Jake Houseright and Brian Welch, rover Kevin McCadam and cornerback Larry Austin.

"I think we have some athletic ability at the positions where we need people to step up," says Foster. "The thing that we just don't have is the experience. Fifteen days of spring practice isn't going to give you the experience you need.

"As a group, though, I was pleased with how we progressed through spring practice. Are we where we want to be? No ... but our goal was to improve every day and I thought we did that. The big thing was getting some of the younger players in our defensive tackle and linebacker spots to understand their position and their position expectations along with the defense's expectations."

The defense will certainly have its share of strong points, too. There is plenty of talent and outstanding depth at both end positions, where senior Lamar Cobb and juniors Jim Davis, Cols Colas and Nathaniel Adibi all saw starting time last season. There is also experience and excellent ability at cornerback and free safety where returning starters Ronyell Whitaker and Willie Pile will be expected to play leadership roles.

With only six seniors on the defensive depth chart, Foster is looking for leaders. "We would like everybody to be a leader through their work ethic," he says. "But I'm hoping there will be some natural leaders who will rise to the occasion. With such a small senior class, sometimes those leaders may not be seniors."

Foster's first order of business when practice resumes will be making sure the Hokies' interior line and linebacker play is going to be solidified. The biggest part of that will be making sure some depth is created, especially at the tackle positions.

"The fall will be a learning experience for some of these guys," says Foster, "but they have athletic ability, they want to be good football players and they want to carry on the tradition that we've developed defensively.

"We have high expectations here, and that is something that is not going to change," he adds. "Because of the mixture of experience and youth on this defense, we need to grow and develop as a unit. If this group is willing to make the commitment and work together to be successful, I like our chances."

Defensive Line

Tech defensive line coach Charley Wiles finds himself heading into preseason

practice with mixed emotions ... and for good reason.

Wiles welcomes back five lettermen at defensive end, including four who have seen extensive playing time and starting duty. At the same time, he will begin the season with just two players who have seen any action on the collegiate level at the defensive tackle positions. The Hokies' top five defensive tackles in 2001 were all seniors.

"The ends are the strength of our defense," Wiles says. "They continued to improve during spring practice. I am excited about the possibilities we have at those positions.

"Obviously, losing the kids and the depth that we did at defensive tackle, has made those positions a priority," he adds. "We did improve during the spring, but we have got to get better faster."

The returnees at end include redshirt junior Nathaniel Adibi, who has played in 24 games, 21 as a starter; senior Lamar Cobb, who has played in 28 games, 20 as a starter; redshirt junior Cols Colas, who has played in 22 games, four as a starter; and junior Jim Davis, who has played in 21 games, three as a starter. Last season, those four players combined for 49 quarterback hurries, 25 tackles for loss and 11 of the Hokies' 30 sacks. Redshirt sophomore Jason Lallis also returns, but will likely be tried at tackle.

Wiles moved Adibi to the stud end position during the spring in an effort to get him and Davis on the field at the same time on occasion. Adibi (6-3, 254) worked at the end position as a sophomore registering 41 tackles, 15 hurries and a sack. He earned Iron Hokie honors in February, posting a 400-pound bench press and running a 4.55 forty. Adibi won the President's Award for outstanding leadership during spring practice.

Colas (6-0, 239) is expected to share the starting duties with

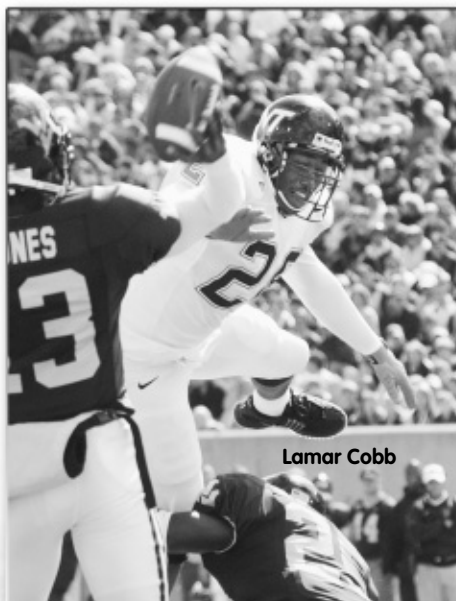
Adibi at the stud position. The former high school running back has shown steady improvement as a defensive player. His explosive speed and power – 4.41 forty and 390 bench press – make him tough to handle on the corner. Colas started the Hokies' last four games last fall and led the team in quarterback hurries with 17. He contributed 37 tackles, 3.5 sacks and 10 total tackles for loss. Walk-on Bob Ruff, a rising sophomore, is also slated to work at the stud end position.

"I thought Nathaniel and Cols both played well in the spring," Wiles says. "Nathaniel has gotten bigger and stronger and he's much more physical now than he was. Cols is so much improved from when he first got here. He plays with speed and has shown he can make plays. It will be a week-to-week battle with those two."

Davis heads into the season as the starter at the end position, with Cobb battling for his share of playing time. Lallis could also fit into the plans if he is not used at tackle.

Davis has been among the team's leaders in sacks each of his first two seasons. He finished third as a freshman in 2000 with 3.5 sacks and was tied for the team lead with 4.5 last fall. At 6-3, 251 pounds, Davis has proven he has all the skills to be outstanding. He finished the 2001 season with 38 tackles, including eight behind the line. He was named one of the Hokies' most valuable defensive performers during the spring. Cobb (6-1, 223) contributed 46 total tackles in '01, including two sacks. He brings outstanding experience and good athleticism to the position.

One of the coaching staff's best moves during the fall was the decision to redshirt tackle Kevin Lewis (6-1, 281). Lewis saw action during eight games as a true freshman in 2000 and showed an outstanding ability to make plays. With five senior tackles on the 2001 roster, the Tech staff decided the best way to fully utilize Lewis' talents would be to hold him out a year and let him return with the opportunity to be a three-year starter. The





Kevin Lewis

move could also give Lewis the chance to play side-by-side with his younger brother Jonathan, who is one of several highly-regarded defensive line prospects in the Hokies' 2002 recruiting class.

"The decision to redshirt Kevin has really worked out well," Wiles says. "Now, he has three years to play and one of those starting defensive tackle jobs is his to lose."

Wiles will start off at the other tackle position with Mark Costen, the only returning tackle who saw any action last season. Costen, a 6-3, 275-pound redshirt junior, has made strides in his performance both on the field and in the weight room. He played in six games last season, registering 11 total tackles, two tackles for loss and a pair of quarterback hurries.

A group of talented young players saw considerable action at tackle during the spring and are expected to challenge for playing time when practice opens. Redshirt freshman Jason Murphy (6-2, 285) and Lallis are expected to battle Costen at the tackle spot, while redshirt freshmen Tim Sandidge (6-1, 272), Chris Pannell (6-3, 256) and Kevin Hilton (6-1, 272) join Lewis at the nose tackle position.

Murphy was the *Baltimore Sun* Defensive Player of the Year his senior season in high school and posted an amazing 60 sacks during his varsity career. He has changed his body dramatically, adding nearly 30 pounds through the

strength and conditioning program. Lallis (6-0, 250) saw increased playing time at end as the 2001 season progressed, including 45 snaps over the final three regular-season games. He finished with 15 tackles and a sack.

Sandidge, who played just two years of football in high school, has shown good promise and made steady improvement during spring practice. Pannell impressed the coaches with his leverage and instinctive play in the spring before being slowed by an ankle injury. The coaches have yet to get a good look at Hilton, who was sidelined most of the fall with a broken foot, and bothered during the spring by a dislocated elbow.

The tackle positions are expected to get a boost when Tech's 2002 recruiting class reports for practice. Joining prep All-American tackle Jonathan Lewis in the class is big junior college All-American Jimmy Williams, who at 6-4, 305, has a chance to make an immediate impact. Williams was rated the No. 5 junior college player in the nation by Tom Lemming, while Lewis was rated the nation's No. 3 prep defensive lineman by Max Emfinger of *USA Today*.

Two players who entered school in January may also fit in along the defensive line. Freshmen

Brandon Frye (6-4, 257) and Andrew Fleck (6-3, 258) both have the size and versatility to play several positions. Frye got his first work at end, while Fleck started out at tackle.

"It's still wide open," Wiles says about the tackle spots. "I like our talent level, we're just inexperienced. Right now, I would say we are adequate. Around here, we are not used to adequate. We are not going to be satisfied with that."

Linebackers

Three key seniors — Ben Taylor, Jake Houseright and Brian Welch — are gone from the linebacker corps, leaving big shoes to fill at both the mike and backer positions. Questions also surround the depth at whip linebacker, where four-game starters Deon Provitt and T.J. Jackson are gone.

Taylor led the Hokies in tackles each of the last two seasons from the backer position, earning All-America honors both seasons. Houseright and Welch handled almost all of the snaps at mike linebacker during that same span.

Coach Bud Foster begins preseason practice with a nucleus of four players who have had limited experience at the inside linebacker positions — redshirt juniors Vegas Robinson and Chris Buie, redshirt sophomore Mikal Baaqee and senior Alex Markogiannakis. Another promising young player with time in the system, redshirt sophomore Chad Cooper, sat out spring semester while recovering from Guillain-Barré syndrome, a serious disorder of the nervous system.

"After that group, we've got redshirt freshmen, some of whom were highly-recruited kids and are talented players," Foster says. "Now it's time for them to get a better understanding of their position and the expectations that go with it. As a linebacker, they have to learn the entire defense because they are involved in the run aspect and the coverage aspect. So far, I've been pleased with the their work ethic."

Robinson and Baaqee, who Foster labels a pair of athletic play-makers, emerged from spring practice as the leaders at the backer and mike positions, respectively.

Robinson, who was the No. 2 man behind Taylor at backer last season, played outstanding football during the spring. He is a physical player with both speed and strength. A two-year letterman, he saw action on defense in eight games last season and was a regular on special teams. He finished the season with 18 tackles.

"I think Vegas is ready and excited about the opportunity to step up and be the starting backer," Foster says. "He has a chance to continue the tradition we've established at that position. He possesses all the tools you're looking

Continued ...



Vegas Robinson

for to be a play-maker against the run and the pass. He's seen how the guys before him have worked and understands the defense. I think he's got a big future."

Baaqee practiced at backer during the fall, then moved to mike linebacker for spring practice. His only game experience to date has been on special teams, but Foster is confident in his ability.

"Mikal is an extremely active player who brings outstanding quickness and athleticism to the mike position," Foster says. "He is a guy who is good in the running game and good in coverage. He lacks experience, but I think he has a lot of promise."

Joining Baaqee at mike linebacker will be Markogiannakis, Buie, redshirt freshman Jordan Trott and Cooper. Transfer Steve Canter and walk-on J.D. Zeigler could also work at the position.

Markogiannakis has a nose for the football and the only game experience at the mike position among the returning players. Buie possesses the physical ability to be successful but must show more consistent play. Trott is a big, rangy, athletic player with a lot of promise.

Cooper is expected to move to the mike spot after spending his first two seasons at the backer position. The move will help bring more speed and athleticism to the mike spot.

Robinson's competition at the backer position will come from a pair of inexperienced, but talented, young players. Redshirt freshmen Blake Warren and James Anderson both got a lot of work at backer during the Hokies' 15 spring workouts.

Warren, a safety in high school, has made steady progress in his transition to linebacker. He brings football savvy and toughness to the

position and has shown the ability to see things developing from the linebacker position. He impressed the coaches with his aggressive play during the spring when he was named the Hokies' top defensive newcomer.

Anderson has already added 15 pounds of muscle to his frame. He also has good speed and athletic ability. Foster wants him to become a little more physical at the point of attack and fully expects that to happen as he gets more time at the position.

"I've got a big job ahead of me getting all these young guys ready," Foster says. "The good thing is they got a lot of reps during the spring. The bottom line is finding who can best help us beat Miami, beat Syracuse, beat Boston College, beat Pittsburgh ... that's what I've got to determine."

Last season, three players saw starting time at the whip position. Deon Provitt earned the starting job and was beginning to excel at the position when he suffered a torn ACL in his left knee against UCF. T.J. Jackson took over the starting duties for four

games before freshman Mike Daniels won the job for the final three regular season games and the Gator Bowl.

With Provitt and Jackson gone, whip linebackers coach Jim Cavanaugh's attention will be focused on Daniels and redshirt sophomore Brandon Manning, who joined the team as an invited walk-on in 2000. Cavanaugh might also pick up some help from the Hokies' incoming recruiting class.

Daniels moved from free safety to whip following Provitt's injury and made a rapid adjustment. He moved into the starting lineup at Temple and gave the Hokies solid play.

"I thought Mike did a great job adjusting," says Cavanaugh. "He's got a pretty good feel for things out there. He's always around the ball. He'll run and he'll hit you."

Manning excelled as a special teams player last fall and found things falling into place for him at linebacker during the spring when he earned a scholarship. His work ethic and toughness will be positives as he works to earn more playing time at the position.

"Brandon had a solid spring," Cavanaugh says. "He has a chance to help us ... he has shown potential."

Another player who could work some at the position is redshirt freshman walk-on Tommy Morgan.

Defensive Secondary

With the return of starting free safety Willie Pile, his top backup and four experienced cornerbacks led by All-American Ronyell Whitaker, the Hokies should be extremely solid in the secondary. The only real question – finding a replacement for starter Kevin McCadam – was answered in the spring with the emergence of senior Billy Hardee.

McCadam's departure following an outstanding senior season left some big shoes to fill. The Lakeside, Calif., product started all 12 games in 2001 and finished third on the team in tackles with 83. He also contributed eight tackles for loss, six

passes broken up, three interceptions, two sacks and two fumble recoveries. He scored touchdowns on a 69-yard interception return and a 9-yard fumble return.

Hardee, returning from a knee injury that sidelined him for much of the fall, performed well during spring practice and was named the team's top defensive hustler. His size and aggressive style of play are well suited for the rover position. Hardee has also seen playing time at cornerback and free safety during his Tech career.

"I was pleasantly surprised with Billy," says Jim Cavanaugh, who coaches the Hokies' strong safeties and outside linebackers. "He was solid and consistent during the spring. He's a good football player. He works hard, he's tough and he has a knack for being around the football."

Joining Hardee at the position are redshirt junior Michael Crawford and redshirt sophomore Sam Fatherly, who both showed progress during spring practice. The preseason will be important for Crawford and Fatherly. Both players possess ability, but neither has developed consistency in their play to date. Crawford showed signs of more consistent play while pressuring Hardee for the top spot early in the spring but ended up missing some valuable time with an ankle injury. He worked a total of 40 plays at rover during Tech's first six games in 2001 and finished the season with 14 tackles, including one quarterback sack. Fatherly's only varsity action last season came on special teams against UCF and West Virginia. He also played on the jayvee and scout teams.

There are a number of players returning who have been successful at the other three secondary positions, including senior starters Pile and Whitaker.

Pile, who has started 24 consecutive games at free safety, missed most of Tech's contact work during the spring due to a shoulder injury. He spent the time helping with the Hokies' younger players and will return to contact work when practice resumes. Pile





Billy Hardee

was second on the team in tackles last season with 94. He topped the team in interceptions for the second straight year with a total of four.

"Willie does a lot of good things and has made a lot of plays for us, but we're looking for him to make more," secondary coach Lorenzo Ward says. "Unfortunately, he was injured in the spring, but I think he will come back in good shape and be ready to play. We want him to become more dominating in his open-field tackling."

Pile's top backup during the fall, Vincent Fuller, also returns. A redshirt sophomore, Fuller possesses a little more speed and quickness than Pile, but is still developing strength-wise. He collected 12 tackles and broke up a pair of passes while playing in 10 of Tech's 11 regular-season games. Fuller has done a good job of picking up the Tech system and could push Pile this fall. Freshman walk-on Jackson Dismukes will also work at the position.

At cornerback, Whitaker moved from boundary corner to field corner when spring practice opened. The senior performer earned first-team All-BIG EAST and third-team AP All-America honors in 2001. He finished the season with 53 tackles, an interception and a team-leading 10 passes broken up. He also returned a blocked field goal 71 yards for a touchdown. Whitaker started several games at field corner

during the 2000 season when starter Larry Austin was sidelined.

"When Ronyell is concentrating on his technique, there's none better," says Ward. "He played really well last season when he concentrated. During the spring we harped on him about concentrating on technique 100 percent of the time."

Also competing at the field corner spot will be junior Eric Green, who has earned some starting time in each of his first two collegiate seasons, and freshman D.J. Walton, who was redshirted last season. Green has shown steady improvement at the position and will head into preseason practice as a co-starter on the depth chart following a strong showing in the spring. He has been concentrating his efforts on becoming a more physical player. Green contributed 18 total tackles in 2001 and blocked two punts. Walton is a smart player who showed a lot of improvement during his first year. He is expected to continue that improvement as he gets more attention in the fall.

Sophomore DeAngelo Hall and redshirt junior Garnell Wilds will hold down the boundary cornerback position. Both players saw action in every game last season and each got one start — Hall on the boundary side and Wilds at field corner.

Hall moved into the starting job with an outstanding spring that saw him named one of the team's most valuable defensive players. He has tremendous physical skills and is beginning to understand the defense more and more. He registered 42 tackles and three interceptions last season to earn fourth-team Freshman All-America honors from *The Sporting News*.

"DeAngelo Hall had a great spring," Ward says. "He had great practices every day. He just needs to pick up where he left off and he'll have an outstanding fall."

Wilds improved more than anyone in the secondary in 2001. He doesn't have the speed that some of the Hokies' other corners possess, but he works the hardest on the little

things it takes to be successful. He posted 27 tackles, four passes broken up and two interceptions last fall.

"I thought we had a good spring," Ward says. "We improved in the areas where a lot of these young men needed to improve. With six experienced players who can play returning, I feel very good about these positions."

2002 Special Teams

The Hokies have a reputation for outstanding special teams play, but head coach Frank Beamer wasn't completely satisfied with Tech's efforts in the kicking game during the 2001 season.

"I don't think we kicked the football as well as it takes to win championships," Beamer says. "We also had a punt returned for a touchdown against us and two punts blocked. That means our punt coverage and punt protection teams also need attention."

With most of the same performers returning from last season, Beamer will be looking for improved consistency this year.

Junior Carter Warley didn't see any competition for the place-kicking duties during the spring with senior Jon Mollerup nursing a sore knee. Things should heat up this fall, however, when Mollerup returns and highly-regarded freshman recruit Nic Schmitt joins the squad.

Warley struggled during the 2001 season but still managed to lead the team in scoring with 77 points. He connected on all 44 of his extra point kicks, but saw his field goal accuracy drop. He connected on just 11 of 21 field goals last season after making seven of his nine tries in 2000. Warley is hoping to carry over his success from the spring when he made his first seven field goals during scrimmages.

Redshirt sophomore Vinnie Burns returns as the starting punter, but he can count on

renewed competition from redshirt junior Bobby Peaslee, who held the starting job in 2000. Burns finished his first season with a 37.8-yard average on 59 punts. He has the leg and the ability to be an all-star punter. All he needs is consistency.

Along with his work as a punter, Peaslee will also continue as Tech's holder for placements. Senior receiver Shawn Witten will serve as his backup.

Both snappers from last season return and several new faces will join the competition. Ken Keister and Travis Conway split the snapping duties for most of the 2001 season, with Keister snapping for field goals and PATs and Conway snapping for punts. Keister took over both duties late in the year. Another player who will see some work at the positions during the preseason is freshman Nick Leeson.

Kickoff return man Richard Johnson is back, but the Hokies must replace record-setting punt returner André Davis. Cornerback Ronyell Whitaker, who finished 16th nationally in punt returns while subbing for an injured Davis during the 2000 season, will be available. The most likely starter, however, is Whitaker's running mate at corner, sophomore DeAngelo Hall. Johnson, who averaged 22.2 yards on kickoff returns for the season, set a Tech bowl record for kickoff return yards with 118 in the Gator Bowl. Hall is a phenomenal athlete who excelled as a return man in high school.

Tech will miss the play of special teams demon Wayne Ward, who blocked punts, broke wedges and leveled would-be tacklers during his four seasons with the Hokies. Two of the top returning players to watch will be junior Eric Green and redshirt sophomore Brandon Manning. Green has blocked three punts over the past two seasons, including two last season. Manning blocked one punt last season and returned one of Green's blocks for a touchdown against No. 1-ranked Miami. Tech finished the 2001 season with seven blocked kicks and three special teams touchdowns.

Hokie Preseason Rosters

No.	Name	vl	Pos	B'date	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	High School	H.S. Coach
83	Nathaniel Adibi	2	DE	1/25/81	6-3	254	r-Jr.	Hampton, Va.	Phoebus	Bill Dee
47	James Anderson	-	LB	9/26/83	6-3	218	r-Fr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
45	Mikal Baaqee	1	LB	12/20/81	5-10	223	r-So.	Columbia, Md.	DeMatha	Bill McGregor
	Kofi Boateng	-	FL	7/19/83	5-8	170	So.	Knoxville, Tenn.	Austin East	Richard Gasper
59	Curtis Bradley	-	OT	7/21/83	6-2	299	r-Fr.	Summerville, S.C.	Summerville	John McKissick
46	Chris Buie	1	LB	11/16/79	6-0	225	r-Jr.	Tampa, Fla.	Armwood	Sean Callahan
	Greg Burnop	-	TE	11/25/82	6-1	241	r-Fr.	Blacksburg, Va.	Blacksburg	Mike Crist
38	Vinnie Burns	1	P	2/2/82	5-11	190	r-So.	New Orleans, La.	St. Augustine	Anthony Biagas
61	Reggie Butler	-	OT	8/21/82	6-5	324	Fr.	Keswick, Va.	Monticello	Brud Bicknell
	John Candelas	-	TB	4/21/83	6-0	197	Fr.	Blacksburg, Va.	Blacksburg	Mike Crist
	Steve Canter	-	LB	2/15/81	6-0	241	r-Jr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Kempsville	John Bowles
	Chris Ceasar	-	FL	12/20/82	5-10	160	Fr.	Delray Beach, Fla.	Spanish River	Bill Bretherick
	Chris Clifton	-	SE	10/27/82	6-4	201	r-Fr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
28	Lamar Cobb	2	DE	1/11/80	6-1	223	r-Sr.	Hurt, Va.	Gretna	Robert Prunty
99	Cols Colas	2	DE	5/16/80	6-0	239	r-Jr.	Plantation, Fla.	South Plantation	Dan Margurit
62	Travis Conway	1	DS	6/3/82	6-5	260	r-So.	Richmond, Va.	J.R. Tucker	Rusty Curle
33	Chad Cooper	1	LB	6/10/81	6-2	214	r-So.	Herndon, Va.	Oakton	Pete Bendorf
92	Mark Costen	-	DT	3/13/81	6-3	275	r-Jr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Kempsville	John Bowles
21	Michael Crawford	2	ROV	2/20/81	5-11	210	r-Jr.	Baltimore, Md.	Patterson	Roger Wrenn
31	Mike Daniels	1	LB	9/18/81	6-0	197	r-So.	Fairfax, Va.	Fairfax	Tom Verbanic
57	Anthony Davis\$	3	OT	3/27/80	6-4	320	Sr.	Victoria, Va.	Central-Lunenburg	Chippie Chappell
95	Jim Davis@	2	DE	10/4/81	6-3	251	Jr.	Highland Springs, Va.	Highland Springs	Randy Stokes
	Jackson Dismukes	-	FS	2/18/83	6-0	198	So.	Vienna, Va.	Marshall	Pete Salvano
79	Jon Dunn	1	OT	12/12/81	6-7	324	r-So.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Tallwood	Thad Harold
43	Doug Easlick	1	FB	12/4/80	5-11	230	r-Jr.	Marlton, N.J.	Cherokee	John Scott
29	Sam Fatherly	-	ROV	6/13/81	5-10	209	r-So.	Williamsport, Pa.	Williamsport	Tim Montgomery
93	Andrew Fleck	-	DT	10/11/82	6-3	258	Fr.	Edmond, Okla.	Sante Fe	Brian Kelly
	Brandon Frye	-	DE	1/23/83	6-4	257	Fr.	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Myrtle Beach	Scott Early
8	Vincent Fuller	1	FS	8/3/82	6-1	184	r-So.	Baltimore, Md.	Woodlawn	Reggie White
60	Jacob Gibson	1	OT/OG	1/29/81	6-4	288	r-Jr.	Rocky Mount, Va.	Franklin County	Jerry Little
	Lance Goff	-	SE/P	3/29/82	5-11	195	r-So.	Wytheville, Va.	George Wythe	Larry Russell
1	Eric Green	2	CB	3/16/82	6-0	186	Jr.	Clewiston, Fla.	Clewiston	Al Morrell
64	Jake Grove	2	C	1/22/80	6-3	286	r-Jr.	Forest, Va.	Jefferson Forest	Ed Landis
4	DeAngelo Hall	1	CB	11/19/83	5-11	200	So.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
27	Justin Hamilton	-	FL	9/17/82	6-3	217	r-Fr.	Clintwood, Va.	Clintwood	Bob Meade
25	Billy Hardee†	2	ROV	6/30/80	5-11	191	r-Sr.	Winter Haven, Fla.	Winter Haven	Maxie Hunter
75	Kevin Hilton	-	DT	10/13/83	6-1	272	r-Fr.	Silver Spring, Md.	Good Counsel	Tom Kolar
32	Cedric Humes	-	FB	8/7/83	6-1	218	r-Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Princess Anne	Jeff Ballance
13	Will Hunt	-	QB	6/4/82	6-0	212	r-Fr.	Springdale, Ark.	Springdale	Jarrell Williams

2002 Numerical Roster

Following are the preseason number assignments for 2002. Changes are expected to occur before the season opens. This roster should not be used in game programs for the 2002 season. An updated roster will be available from the SID office prior to the season.

1	Eric Green	CB	26	Shawn Witten	FL	48	Brandon Manning	LB	74	Luke Owens	OG
2	Ronyell Whitaker	CB	27	Justin Hamilton	FL	49	Carter Warley	PK	75	Kevin Hilton	DT
3	Bryan Randall	QB	28	Lamar Cobb	DE	54	Bob Ruff	DE	76	James Miller	OG
4	DeAngelo Hall	CB	29	Sam Fatherly	ROV	55	Ken Keister	DS	79	Jon Dunn	OT
6	Vegas Robinson	LB	31	Mike Daniels	LB	57	Anthony Davis	OT	81	Chris Shreve	SE
7	Kevin Jones	TB	32	Cedric Humes	FB	59	Curtis Bradley	OG/OT	83	Nathaniel Adibi	DE
8	Vincent Fuller	FS	33	Chad Cooper	LB	60	Jacob Gibson	OT/OG	85	Jared Mazzetta	TE
9	Terrell Parham	SE	35	Willie Pile	FS	61	Reggie Butler	OT	86	Keith Willis	TE
11	Grant Noel	QB	38	Vinnie Burns	P	62	Travis Conway	C/DS	89	Robert Peaslee	P
12	Richard Johnson	FL	39	Alex Markogiannakis	LB	64	Jake Grove	C	90	Jeff King	TE
13	Will Hunt	QB	40	Blake Warren	LB	66	Will Montgomery	OG	91	Jason Lallis	DT
16	Chris Clifton	SE	41	Jordan Trott	LB	67	Anthony Nelson	OG	92	Mark Costen	DT
17	Garnell Wilds	CB	42	Josh Spence	FB	68	Robert Ramsey	C	93	Andrew Fleck	DT
19	Ernest Wilford	SE	43	Doug Easlick	FB	69	Danny McGrath	C	94	Chris Pannell	DT
21	Michael Crawford	ROV	45	Mikal Baaqee	LB	70	Kevin Lewis	DT	95	Jim Davis	DE
22	Lee Suggs	TB	46	Chris Buie	LB	71	Tim Sandidge	DT	97	Jon Mollerup	PK
24	D.J. Walton	CB	47	James Anderson	LB	72	Jason Murphy	DT	99	Cols Colas	DE
25	Billy Hardee	ROV									

Virginia Tech's 2002 Football Recruiting Class

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School
Noland Burchette	6-3	225	DE	Richmond, Va.	Highland Springs H.S.
Chris Burnett	6-2	250	DT	Blue Ridge, Va.	Liberty-Bedford H.S.
Brandon Gore	6-5	300	OL	Warrenton, Va.	Liberty-Bealeton H.S.
Brenden Hill	6-3	190	WR	Newport News, Va.	Warwick H.S.
Mike Imoh	5-8	180	RB	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson H.S.
Fred Lee	5-10	180	WR	Harrisburg, Pa.	Bishop McDevitt H.S., Milford (Conn.) Prep
Jonathan Lewis	6-2	290	DT	Richmond, Va.	Varina H.S.
Jimmy Martin	6-5	270	OL	Fairfax, Va.	Chantilly H.S., Fork Union Military Academy
Brian McPherson	5-11	200	DB	Madison Heights, Va.	Amherst County H.S.
Robert Parker	6-1	200	WR	Chesapeake, Va.	Oscar Smith H.S.
Aaron Rouse	6-4	200	LB	Virginia Beach, Va.	First Colonial H.S.
Antoine Rutherford	5-11	185	CB	Miramar, Fla.	Chaminade Madonna Prep
Nic Schmitt	6-1	230	PK	Salem, Va.	Salem H.S.
Darryl Tapp	6-2	225	DL	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek H.S.
Lamar Veney	6-4	270	DL	Stuarts Draft, Va.	Stuarts Draft H.S.
Marcus Vick	6-1	190	QB	Newport News, Va.	Warwick H.S.
Cary Wade	5-11	180	DB	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson H.S.
Jimmy F. Williams	6-3	195	FS	Hampton, Va.	Bethel H.S.
Jimmy E. Williams	6-4	305	DL	Memphis, Tenn.	Pasadena (Calif.) City College

No.	Name	vl	Pos	B'date	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	High School	H.S. Coach
12	Richard Johnson	1	FL	6/17/82	5-10	191	r-So.	Baltimore, Md.	Milford Mill Academy	Reggie Brooks
7	Kevin Jones	1	TB	8/21/82	6-0	211	So.	Chester, Pa.	Cardinal O'Hara	George Stratts
55	Ken Keister	2	DS	8/13/80	6-1	238	r-Sr.	Radford, Va.	Radford	Norm Lineburg
90	Jeff King	-	TE	2/19/83	6-5	258	r-Fr.	Pulaski, Va.	Pulaski County	Joel Hicks
91	Jason Lallis	1	DT	2/4/82	6-0	250	r-So.	Mitchellville, Md.	DeMatha	Bill McGregor
	Nick Leeson	-	LB/DS	10/29/82	6-1	229	Fr.	Abingdon, Va.	Abingdon	Scott Allen
70	Kevin Lewis	1	DT	4/26/80	6-1	281	r-So.	Richmond, Va.	Varina	Ed Bulheller
48	Brandon Manning+	1	LB	5/12/81	6-0	214	r-So.	Harrisburg, Pa.	Central Dauphin	George Chaump
39	Alex Markogiannakis	-	LB	1/22/80	5-9	209	r-Sr.	Chantilly, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf
85	Jared Mazzetta	1	TE	6/4/81	6-4	254	r-So.	Flemington, N.J.	Hunterdon Central	Jim Meert
69	Danny McGrath	-	C	3/19/83	6-2	293	Fr.	Herndon, Va.	Herndon	Tom Meier
76	James Miller	1	OG	8/13/81	6-6	310	So.	Pompano Beach, Fla.	Ft. Lauderdale	John Timmons
97	Jon Mollerup	1	PK	11/15/79	5-11	205	r-Sr.	Lyndhurst, Va.	Stuarts Draft	Tom Goforth
66	Will Montgomery	-	OG	2/13/83	6-3	286	r-Fr.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
	Tommy Morgan	-	LB	3/17/83	6-0	206	r-Fr.	Roanoke, Va.	Northside	Jim Hickam
72	Jason Murphy	-	DL	8/7/82	6-2	285	r-Fr.	Baltimore, Md.	Edmondson Westside	Pete Pompey
67	Anthony Nelson\$	1	OG	2/18/79	6-4	334	r-Jr.	Kingsport, Tenn.	Sullivan South	Lonnie Messick
11	Grant Noel	1	QB	6/11/80	6-2	221	r-Sr.	Ridgeley, W.Va.	Frankfort	Greg Phillips
74	Luke Owens	3	OG	5/12/79	6-3	312	r-Sr.	Grundy, Va.	Grundy	Greg Rowe
94	Chris Pannell	-	DT	12/27/82	6-3	256	r-Fr.	Staunton, Va.	Robert E. Lee	David Tibbs
9	Terrell Parham	2	SE	10/1/79	6-0	187	r-Sr.	Bartow, Fla.	Bartow	Kenny Wells
89	Robert Peaslee	2	P	6/28/81	6-1	199	r-Jr.	Pulaski, Va.	Pulaski County	Joel Hicks
35	Willie Pile	2	FS	5/25/80	6-3	205	r-Sr.	Alexandria, Va.	West Potomac	Dale Eaton
68	Robert Ramsey	-	C	4/13/82	6-2	306	r-So.	Coraopolis, Pa.	Montour	Don Morgan
3	Bryan Randall	1	QB	8/16/83	6-0	213	So.	Williamsburg, Va.	Bruton	Kyle Neve
6	Vegas Robinson	1	LB	5/19/81	6-0	239	r-Jr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
54	Bob Ruff	-	DE	9/23/82	6-1	229	So.	McMurray, Pa.	Peters Township	Garry Cathell
71	Tim Sandidge	-	DT	6/12/83	6-1	272	r-Fr.	Madison Heights, Va.	Amherst County	Mickey Crouch
81	Chris Shreve	-	SE	7/15/81	6-0	184	r-Jr.	Mouth of Wilson, Va.	Grayson County	Bill Strong
42	Josh Spence	-	FB	12/8/81	6-0	233	r-So.	Riner, Va.	Floyd County	Winfred Beale
22	Lee Suggs	2	TB	8/11/80	6-0	201	r-Sr.	Roanoke, Va.	William Fleming	George Miller
	John Thibodeau	-	WR	9/7/82	6-0	171	r-Fr.	Springfield, Va.	Hayfield	Roy Hill
41	Jordan Trott	-	LB	6/26/83	6-4	233	r-Fr.	Torrance, Calif.	Loyola	Steve Grady
24	D.J. Walton	-	CB	10/19/82	5-9	197	r-Fr.	Woodbridge, Va.	C.D. Hylton	Bill Brown
49	Carter Warley	2	PK	2/14/80	6-0	190	r-Jr.	Richmond, Va.	Fork Union	Mickey Sullivan
40	Blake Warren	-	LB	10/10/82	6-3	221	r-Fr.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
2	Ronyell Whitaker	3	CB	3/19/79	5-9	197	r-Sr.	Norfolk, Va.	Lake Taylor	Dan Newell
17	Garnell Wilds	2	CB	6/8/81	5-11	194	r-Jr.	Tampa, Fla.	Hillsborough	Earl Garcia, Jr.
19	Ernest Wilford@	2	SE	1/14/79	6-4	216	r-Jr.	Richmond, Va.	Armstrong/Franklin	Otis Brayboy
86	Keith Willis	2	TE	12/14/80	6-5	241	r-Jr.	Norfolk, Va.	Norview	Carleton Thomas
26	Shawn Witten	3	FL	5/18/80	6-0	197	Sr.	Elizabethton, Tenn.	Elizabethton	Dave Rider
	J.D. Zeigler	-	LB	11/13/82	6-2	219	r-Fr.	Oakton, Va.	Oakton	Pete Bendorf

\$also attended Hargrave Military Academy (Va.); @also attended Fork Union Military Academy (Va.);

† also attended Florida Southern College; +attended the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School

Depth Chart

(Depth chart is subject to change)

OFFENSE (Multiple)

SE 19 Ernest Wilford (6-4, 216, r-Jr.)
16 Chris Clifton (6-4, 201, r-Fr.)

LT 57 Anthony Davis (6-4, 320, Sr.)
61 Reggie Butler (6-5, 324, Fr.)

LG 76 James Miller (6-6, 310, So.)
67 Anthony Nelson (6-4, 334, r-Jr.)

C 64 Jake Grove (6-3, 286, r-Jr.)
68 Robert Ramsey (6-2, 306, r-So.)

RG 74 Luke Owens (6-3, 312, r-Sr.)
66 Will Montgomery (6-3, 286, r-Fr.)

RT 79 Jon Dunn (6-7, 324, r-So.)
60 Jacob Gibson (6-4, 288, r-Jr.)

TE 86 Keith Willis (6-5, 241, r-Jr.)
or 85 Jared Mazzetta (6-4, 254, r-So.)

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

FB 43 Doug Easlick (5-11, 230, r-Jr.)
or 32 Cedric Humes (6-1, 218, r-Fr.)

TB 22 Lee Suggs (6-0, 201, r-Sr.)
or 7 Kevin Jones (6-0, 211, So.)

FL 26 Shawn Witten (6-0, 197, Sr.)
or 27 Justin Hamilton (6-3, 217, r-Fr.)
12 Richard Johnson (5-10, 191, r-So.)

PK 49 Carter Warley (6-0, 190, r-Jr.)
97 Jon Mollerup (5-11, 205, r-Sr.)

DEFENSE (4-3)

DE 83 Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 254, r-Jr.)
or 99 Cols Colas (6-0, 239, r-Jr.)

DT 70 Kevin Lewis (6-1, 281, r-So.)
71 Tim Sandidge (6-1, 272, r-Fr.)
or 94 Chris Pannell (6-3, 256, r-Fr.)

DT 92 Mark Costen (6-3, 275, r-Jr.)
72 Jason Murphy (6-2, 285, r-Fr.)
or 91 Jason Lallis (6-0, 250, r-So.)

DE 95 Jim Davis (6-3, 251, Jr.)
28 Lamar Cobb (6-1, 223, r-Sr.)

OLB 31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 197, r-So.)
48 Brandon Manning (6-0, 214, r-So.)

ILB 45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 223, r-So.)
39 A. Markogiannakis (5-9, 209, r-Sr.)
or 33 Chad Cooper (6-2, 214, r-So.)

ILB 6 Vegas Robinson (6-0, 239, r-Jr.)
40 Blake Warren (6-3, 221, r-Fr.)

FC 2 Ronyell Whitaker (5-9, 197, r-Sr.)
or 1 Eric Green (6-0, 186, Jr.)

FS 35 Willie Pile (6-3, 205, r-Sr.)
8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-So.)

ROV 25 Billy Hardee (5-11, 191, r-Sr.)
21 Michael Crawford (5-11, 210, r-Jr.)

BC 4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 200, So.)
17 Garnell Wilds (5-11, 194, r-Jr.)

P 38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 190, r-So.)
89 Robert Peaslee (6-1, 199, r-Jr.)

2001 Lettermen & Returning Starters

Total Lettermen: 69; Lost 28/Returning 41
(Starts in parentheses)

Offense

Lost - 12

Emmett Johnson (4)
Bob Slowikowski (12),
Browning Wynn
Matt Wincek (12),
Tim Selmon

Steve DeMasi (12)

Jarrett Ferguson (12),
Wayne Briggs,
#Joe Wilson
Keith Burnell (7),
Wayne Ward
André Davis (12)

Returning - 17

SE Shawn Witten (7),
Ernest Wilford (1)
TE Keith Willis,
#Jared Mazzetta
OT Anthony Davis (12),
Jon Dunn
OG †Jake Grove (11),
Luke Owens (8),
Jacob Gibson (5),
James Miller,
#Anthony Nelson

C Grant Noel (12),
QB Bryan Randall
Doug Easlick

TB+ Kevin Jones (4)

FL Terrell Parham,
Richard Johnson

Defense

Lost - 15

Jeff Thompson

Chad Beasley (12),
David Pugh (11),
Dan Wilkinson (1),
Channing Reed,
Derrius Monroe
Deon Provitt (4),
T.J. Jackson (4),
#Dirk Taylor
Ben Taylor (12),
Jake Houseright (7),
Brian Welch (5)
Larry Austin (10)

Kevin McCadam (12),
#Chris Krebs

Returning - 18

E Nathaniel Adibi (9),
Lamar Cobb (8),
Cols Colas (4),
Jim Davis (3),
Jason Lallis

T

OLB Mike Daniels (4),
#Brandon Manning

ILB Vegas Robinson,
#Mikal Baaqee,
#Chad Cooper
CB Ronyell Whitaker (11),
Eric Green (1),
Garnell Wilds (1),
DeAngelo Hall (1)

ROV Billy Hardee,
#Michael Crawford
S Willie Pile (12),
Vincent Fuller

Specialists

Lost - 1

Matt Felber

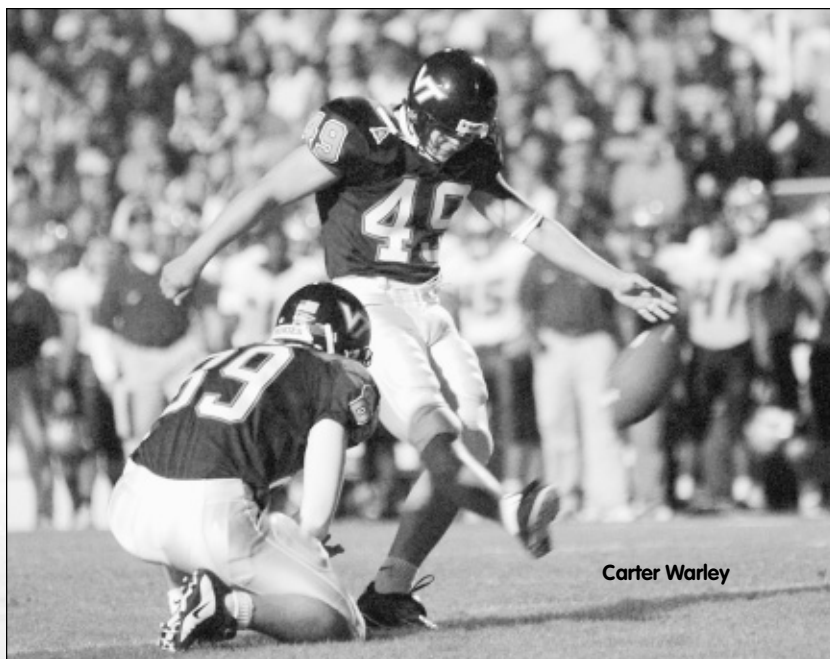
Returning - 6

PK Carter Warley (12)
KO Jon Mollerup (12)
P Vinnie Burns (12)
H Robert Peaslee (12)
DS Ken Keister (12)
Travis Conway (9)

#Lettered mainly for play on special teams

†Has changed positions for 2002 season

+Lee Suggs started one game at TB but did not letter



Carter Warley