

2003
PRESEASON
RIMINGTON & LOMBARDI AWARDS
AND OUTLAND TROPHY
CANDIDATE
Jake Grove

2003 OUTLOOK



A SNEAK PREVIEW

Here's what a few publications think of the 2003 Hokies

THE SPORTING NEWS

Kevin Jones — Second-Team Preseason All-American; No. 3 RB in the nation
Jake Grove — First-Team Preseason All-American; No. 1 center in the nation
Nathaniel Adibi — First-Team Preseason All-American; No. 2 DE in the nation
Kevin Lewis — No. 9 DT in the nation
Vegas Robinson — No. 10 MLB in the nation
DeAngelo Hall — No. 6 CB in the nation; No. 14 return man in the nation
Virginia Tech — defensive line is ranked No. 5 in the nation
Virginia Tech — secondary is ranked No. 8 in the nation
Virginia Tech — special teams are ranked No. 1 in the nation

ATHLON MAGAZINE

Virginia Tech No. 14 nationally
Virginia Tech No. 3 in the BIG EAST
Nathaniel Adibi — Second-Team Preseason All-American at DL;
preseason All-BIG EAST first team
DeAngelo Hall — Second-Team Preseason All-American at DB;
preseason All-BIG EAST first team at DB;
preseason All-BIG EAST second team at punt returner
Kevin Jones — Third-Team Preseason All-American at RB;
preseason All-BIG EAST first team
Jake Grove — preseason All-BIG EAST first team at center
Ernest Wilford — preseason All-BIG EAST first team at WR
Jim Davis — preseason All-BIG EAST second team at DL
Mikal Baaqee — preseason All-BIG EAST second team at LB
Garnell Wilds — preseason All-BIG EAST second team at DB
Cols Colas — preseason All-BIG EAST second team at DL
Vinnie Burns — preseason All-BIG EAST second team at punter
Virginia Tech — best defensive line group in the conference
Virginia Tech — No. 2 quarterback group in the conference
Virginia Tech — No. 2 linebacker group in the conference
Virginia Tech — No. 2 defensive back group in the conference
Virginia Tech — No. 2 recruiting class in the conference

COLLEGEFOOTBALLNEWS.COM

Virginia Tech No. 6 nationally
Kevin Jones — Preseason honorable mention All-American at RB;
No. 5 RB in the country; Preseason First-Team All-BIG EAST;
No. 1 RB in the BIG EAST
Ernest Wilford — Watch List Preseason All-America;
Preseason First-Team All-BIG EAST
Jake Grove — Watch List Preseason All-America;
Preseason First-Team All-BIG EAST
Nathaniel Adibi — Honorable Mention Preseason All-America;
Preseason First-Team All-BIG EAST
Cols Colas — Watch List Preseason All-America;
Preseason First-Team All-BIG EAST
DeAngelo Hall — Watch List Preseason All-America;
Preseason First-Team All-BIG EAST
Virginia Tech — No. 2 defensive line in the country
Virginia Tech — best quarterback group in the conference
Virginia Tech — best defensive line group in the conference
Virginia Tech — best special teams group in the conference
Virginia Tech — No. 2 linebacker group in the conference

PLAYBOY MAGAZINE

Kevin Jones — Preseason All-America running back



"Don't expect much of a drop-off in overall production from the offense that scored 30.6 points and averaged 371.5 yards per game. The running game will be as good as ever with Kevin Jones running behind an experienced line. The new wrinkle will be an upgraded passing game with a speedy receiving corps and a more mature Bryan Randall at quarterback. If Randall isn't the leader of the show, that means the time has arrived for Marcus Vick."

— collegefootballnews.com

MOVING FORWARD

Hokies carry momentum into new campaign



The Virginia Tech football team, coming off perhaps the best spring practice of the Frank Beamer era, appears poised to make its mark on the 2003 football season.

With 43 lettermen, 16 starters and both kickers returning from a team that went 10-4 and defeated Air Force in the San Francisco Bowl last year, the Hokies will field a much more experienced team this season. And following their highly competitive spring, the Hokies should also have better overall depth than a year ago.

"The thing I liked about our spring practice is that there was good competition at just about every position," head coach Frank Beamer says. "When you've got good competition, nobody is taking a day off because they are competing for playing time. Everybody gets better."

"Then, if one guy gets hurt, you're not going to have much of a drop off when the next guy goes in to play — and that's big. In a long football season you have to have depth to stay at a high level each and every week."

Beamer expects the competition to continue when practice resumes in August. That should be especially true at the defensive tackle and linebacker positions where the Hokies could look to add some additional depth from their incoming recruiting class.

While the public's eye was focused on the Hokies' quarterback competition

between returning starter Bryan Randall and redshirt freshman Marcus Vick during the spring, Beamer was addressing the Hokies' most pressing need. That need was a play-making receiver who could draw some attention away from record-setting split end Ernest Wilford. The possible solution appeared right in front of Beamer's eyes.

"When I was watching DeAngelo Hall returning punts last season, I kept thinking, this guy has a great knack of making the first guy miss," Beamer recalls. "Then I thought, if he can get that done out there as a wide receiver, there is a pretty good chance he can pick up some valuable yardage."

Hall spent the majority of the spring working at receiver and heads into the season with the real possibility of being a three-way player. The speedy junior is the returning starter at the boundary cornerback position. He is also the Hokies' starting punt return man. Following Hall's showing at receiver during the spring, Beamer and his staff are hoping to get 25-30 offensive plays a game out of him, too.

"DeAngelo Hall is a gifted athlete," Beamer says. "When you put him in there with Ernest, you've got two playmakers. If you put two great receivers in there — one on each side — with a good running game, I think you have a level playing field."

Defensively, the Hokies lost just two starters and have 15 players back who started at least three games last fall. This

year's unit has all the makings of a traditional Tech defense — speed, aggressiveness and toughness. But Beamer and his coaches haven't forgotten that the defense was susceptible to the run during the second half of last season.

"As we evaluated our film, it came back to fundamentals," says defensive coordinator Bud Foster. "Guys not securing their gap, guys getting cut off — just inconsistent play."

"Our players grew up a lot last year. Every snap was a learning experience. That experience is going to help us this season."

One of the team's strong points will once again be the defensive end positions, even though the status of senior Jim Davis won't be determined until August. Davis suffered a torn pectoral muscle just days before the start of spring practice.

The Hokies will also have quality depth at tight end and in the secondary. Beamer also believes the offensive line will be one of the most athletic in his time at Tech.

Tech will miss record-setting tailback Lee Suggs and free safety Willie Pile, but their departure will open the door for future stars. Junior Kevin Jones, who has rushed for 1,828 yards over two seasons despite starting just three regular-season games, will become the main man at tailback.

Sophomore Jimmy Williams, who has size, speed and unlimited potential, is prepared to take Pile's place. Both figure

to be exciting players to watch this fall.

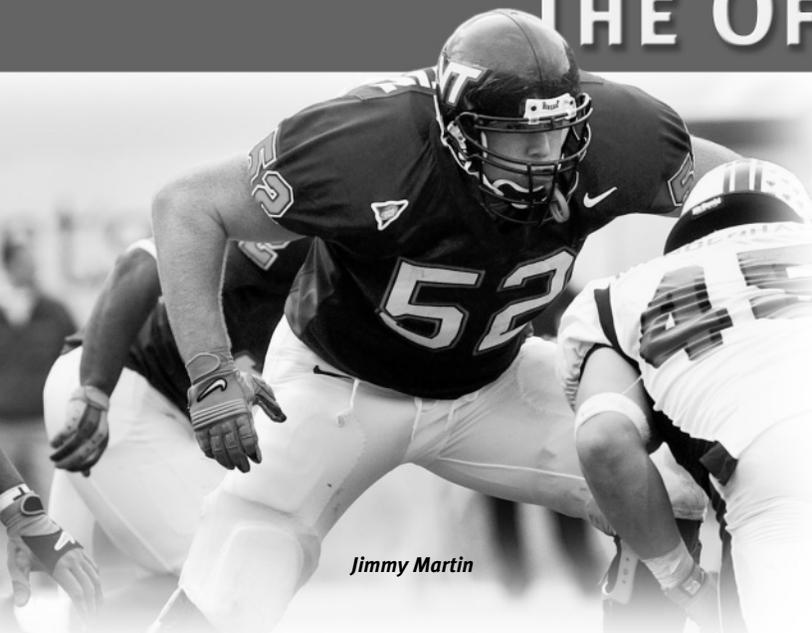
And what about the quarterback situation?

"We are fortunate to have two great quarterbacks," says Beamer. "Bryan Randall is going to be hard to beat out. He competes, he continues to get better and of course he has the advantage of having a year of experience. Marcus Vick is a gifted athlete who things just come natural to. He is coming on fast. They are going to compete hard and they know whoever gives us the best chance of winning is the guy who we are going to have in the ballgame."

The 2003 Hokies have a good mix of young talent like Williams and Jones to go with some key veterans like center Jake Grove and linebacker Vegas Robinson. Their work habits in the strength and conditioning program have been good and they are riding the momentum of a bowl win. As with every football team, there are some key personnel who absolutely need to stay healthy, but with the team's improved depth and the level of competition for positions, Beamer likes what he sees.

"I feel good about how things are going," Beamer says. "We want to make sure during the preseason that our chemistry is right, but generally speaking, I feel like there are a lot of talented kids on this team who have worked very hard to be a good football team. We'll see what happens."

THE OFFENSE



Jimmy Martin

The loss of four starters from last year's offense hasn't detracted from the excitement heading into the 2003 season. A core nucleus of players and coaches return, with the addition of several players who are expected to provide excitement and productivity for the Hokies. With this group Tech has to work with this season, the word around the Hokies' camp is "confidence".

Among the returning starters are versatile quarterback Bryan Randall, speedy Kevin Jones at tailback and the record-breaking Ernest Wilford at receiver.

Jake Grove and Jacob Gibson will lead an experienced line, one that returns five players who saw significant action in 2002.

Bryan Randall and Marcus Vick will give the Hokies two viable options at quarterback. Both had outstanding springs and the coaches feel confident with either running the offense.

The trial run of cornerback DeAngelo Hall at the wide receiver spot was deemed a success and the speedy triple threat will be an asset opposite Wilford.

"DeAngelo gives us additional play-making capabilities," Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach Bryan Stinespring says. "There wasn't a practice or a scrimmage where DeAngelo didn't make a big play down the field or a bigger play with a

short play turned into a long run."

Stinespring now has a year of play-calling under his belt and the playmakers in the backfield and on the edges to open up the offense and turn the Hokies' offense into a high-powered attack.

"We're excited about the possibilities. We're excited about the opportunities. We're excited about the capabilities," Stinespring says. "There's a certain level of confidence. Our players have confidence. Our staff has confidence. We're confident with what we want to do and can do offensively. That excites me. We're not handcuffed and now we can go out there and be a little more dimensional than we were last year."

OFFENSIVE LINE

Line Coach Bryan Stinespring has the luxury of returning three starters on a line that helped spring running backs Lee Suggs and Kevin Jones to big games last year.

"It helps a lot having three starters back, but we still have a young group," Stinespring says. "During the off-season we really wanted to get these guys bigger and stronger so they can play with more confidence and intensity. We also want to develop and solidify depth in our two-deep lineup at each position."

Stinespring will sleep well knowing that he has senior Jake

Grove back at center this year. Last season, Grove started all 14 games and graded out at over 90 percent for the season, reaching the Winner's Circle every game. He was able to capitalize on a full season without injury and his play improved greatly. While he wasn't named all-conference, he was named fourth-team All-America by *The Sporting News*.

"Jake has all of the nuts and bolts that you want a center to have," Stinespring says. "He is tough, physical, aggressive and has the intangibles needed to play the position well. He's a great leader and he really sets the pace for the rest of the offensive line."

Robert Ramsey and Danny McGrath, who have both seen limited action, are candidates for the back-up spot at center.

At the guard positions, Stinespring has a talented and focused group returning this season. Jacob Gibson will return as a starter at the left guard spot, while James Miller goes into the season as No. 1 at right guard.

Gibson started 11 games for the Hokies in 2002 and graded out at 85 percent for the season. He has the versatility to play either tackle position but will go into his last season as a guard.

"Jacob has had a great off-season and is really working hard," Stinespring says. "He's a really tough guy and has experience that he brings to the table. He had a great spring and is becoming a leader for us on the line."

Former walk-on Will Montgomery will enter the fall as the No. 2 man at the left guard spot. Montgomery played in four games during the 2002 season, recording two knockdown blocks.

"Will is what Virginia Tech football is all about," Stinespring says. "He is aggressive, workmanlike, serious and overachieving. He had a really good spring."

Miller saw action at both

left and right guard in 2002. The 6-6, 304-pound junior has gained a good understanding of the Tech system and will be looked to for leadership on the line this season.

"James is a guy who is very determined," Stinespring says. "He's moving from a vital back-up role to where he has to be a vital starter for us. His lower body strength is outstanding, but we have to get his upper body strength caught up with his lower half."

Jason Murphy, who has moved to the offensive line from the defensive side of the ball, will work behind Miller at right guard along with redshirt-freshman Brandon Gore, who, at 6-5 and over 300 pounds will bring strength and size to the guard spot.

At the tackle positions, Stinespring returns several players with playing or starting experience. Jon Dunn and Jimmy Martin will head into spring practice at the No. 1 spots at left and right tackle, respectively.

Dunn started seven games last season and graded out at 80.3 percent for the year. The 6-7, 343-pound junior has worked on becoming more consistent and physical at the point of attack during spring practice.

"Jon had a really good spring," Stinespring says. "We held him to a greater standard than we've ever held him to before and he responded well. We just need to work on him becoming a consistently dominating player."

Backing up Dunn will be January enrollee Tripp Carroll and sophomore Reggie Butler. Butler saw limited action last season as a freshman. With a great off-season, he will be counted on to help a lot at the left tackle spot.

"One of them is going to play and one is going to redshirt," Stinespring says. "That makes for great competition. Reggie is maturing quickly and Tripp is a mature kid. One of those two has to carry it over to the

field and whoever gives us the best chance to win is going to be the one who will play."

Martin, who started several games at the right tackle position last season, brings athleticism and experience to the position.

"Jimmy is one of the best athletes we have on the offensive line," Stinespring says. "He struggled a little bit at the beginning of spring. We moved him to the left tackle and back to right tackle and forgot about his youthfulness. We don't want to slow him down and we're excited about his future."

Backing up Miller will be Chris Pannell, who has made the move from defensive tackle to the offense.

Stinespring feels the starting five linemen are solidified heading into the preseason, but is also confident about the reserves and the group as a whole.

"I'm really excited about this offensive line group," Stinespring says. "I just can't say enough about how hard they've worked so far in the off-season. I think if they continue to push themselves to get stronger and more confident then we will see a bigger, more intense group on the field going into the fall."

TIGHT ENDS

The Hokies will return all three tight ends from 2002, including Keith Willis and Jeff King, who split time as the starter last year, and Jared Mazzetta, who will also be battling for the starting job.

"We're in a good position in that all three got playing time last year," says tight ends coach Danny Pearman. "They each bring something slightly different to the table that we'll be able to use."

Willis, a redshirt senior, had the most impressive stats last year and started the first eight games. The Norfolk, Va., native had seven catches for 168 yards and a score. Against Syracuse, he hauled in two passes for 113 yards, including an 87-yarder.

"We expect Keith, as a senior, to step in and be a leader for us in both work ethic and on the field performance," Pearman says. "He's really

dedicated himself here in the off-season and I've seen some really positive results from him."

King will be right with Willis for the starting job ... when not at fullback. The Pulaski native is the biggest of the three at 6-5, 258 pounds and has excellent hands, but spent most of the spring working at the fullback position. He came in and started the last six games of the 2002 season, including the bowl game. The redshirt sophomore caught just one pass — a 19-yarder — but it went for a touchdown in Tech's opener against Arkansas State.

"Jeff left as the starter and if he comes back, he'll be right back in there as one of our starters," Pearman says. "Jeff is an unselfish guy who brings a lot to the table, both blocking and catching the ball. He's a very dependable person who will help us a lot at tight end."

Mazzetta, a redshirt junior, was competitive with Willis and King in the 2002 preseason before an ankle injury sidelined him for a couple of weeks. He was never able to catch up and was used mostly on special teams. He had one catch for 19 yards last season.

"Jeff moving to fullback did nothing but increase Jared's reps this spring," Pearman says. "He had surgery this spring to clean up a shoulder injury, but he should be back and will benefit from the extra work he got this spring."

The Hokies will also have the services of newcomer Matt Roan, a January enrollee from Hargrave Academy. He played behind King at Pulaski County High School and will bring more depth to the position. Two signees — John Kinzer and Duane Brown — will also battle for playing time, but could end up redshirting.

"We're going to make a conscious effort to throw them the ball more, but if you throw it to them, they have to catch it," Pearman says. "It's a two-way street. So they're going to have some chances. They have to

make some plays, but this group is going to get some opportunities."

QUARTERBACKS

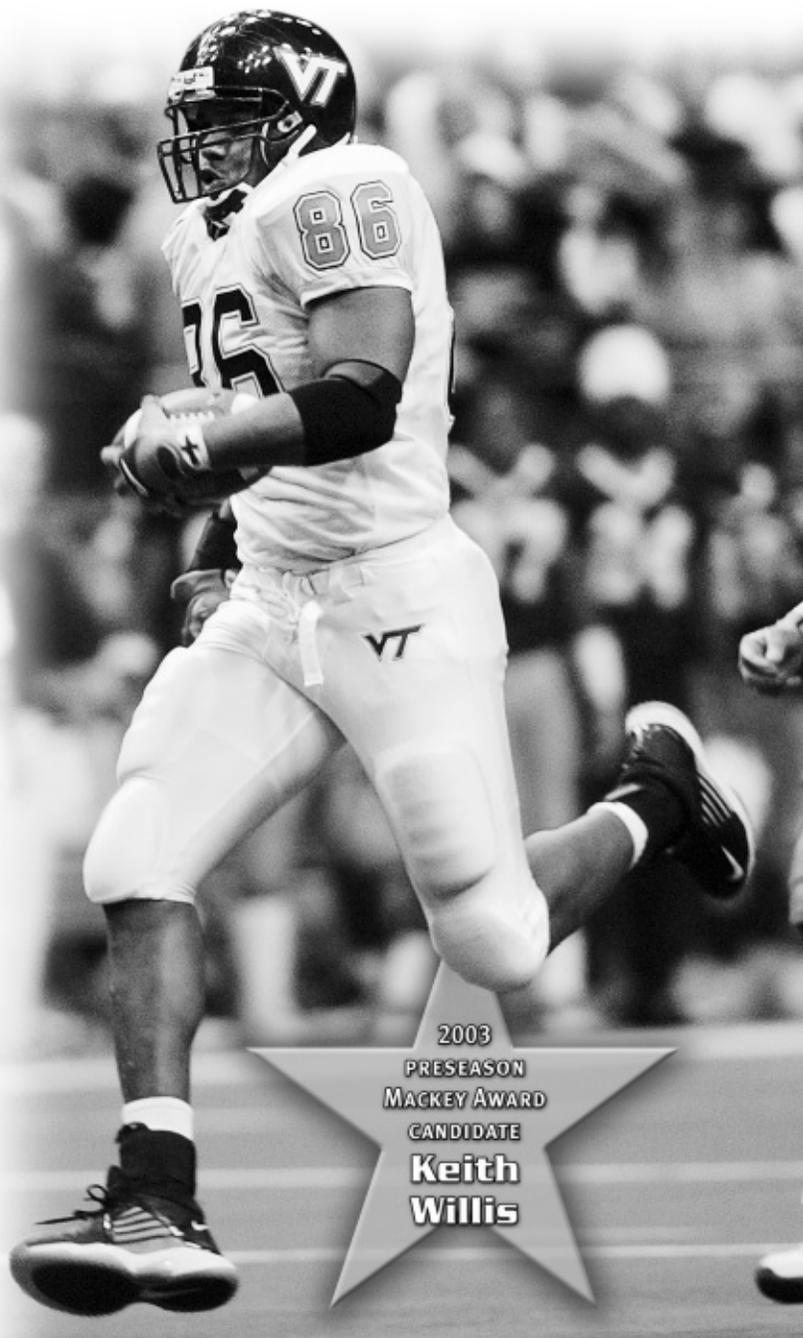
All eyes will be on the quarterbacks this fall as coach Kevin Rogers has the luxury of having two talented players ready to battle it out.

The job is Bryan Randall's and he is considered the starting quarterback, but that doesn't mean he won't be pushed for the job. The junior came in last season and started the final 12 games. He threw for 2,134 yards and ran for 507 and finished ranked 10th in the nation in pass

efficiency. He showed leadership and maturity in guiding the Hokies to a 10-win season.

"Bryan had an excellent spring," Rogers says. "He ended the spring a much better player than he finished last season in the bowl game. He had an outstanding semester, academically, so I'm anticipating him continuing his improvement. He's developed a little bit of a swagger and I like that and I can see him becoming a leader for us."

In the other corner is redshirt freshman Marcus Vick, who has added nearly 20-pounds of muscle since arriving



in Blacksburg and spent last year soaking in the college game. Vick is an exciting player with a strong arm and a knack for the game. He passed his first true test in the college game this past spring and Rogers is looking forward to seeing how he progresses.

"Marcus is ahead of the learning curve right now," Rogers says. "The question isn't 'Is he a good football player?' I know he's a good football player. Can he be a great player is what we have to find out and I don't know if we'll know that until he's in a game.

"I'm going to watch both Bryan and Marcus compete, but I don't want to make any bones about it, Bryan Randall is our quarterback right now. It is incumbent on Marcus to take that job away from him. Bryan is going to be very competitive with that job and I expect good competition from both of them."

Chris Clifton, who has been working at wide receiver, will be the No. 3 man. He came in as a quarterback and will be moved over if necessary.

"We didn't get any work with him in the spring, but he came in as a quarterback so he is ahead of anyone else," Rogers says. "He is an excellent athlete who can throw the ball well."

RUNNING BACKS

Billy Hite has had a great tailback each of the last four years. This year should be no different. Despite losing Lee Suggs, who will go down as one of the greatest backs in Tech history, Hite will once again have the services of Kevin Jones.

"Kevin had an outstanding spring and continues to get better in all phases of the game," Hite says. "He was an outstanding running back who was great with the ball in his arms when he came in, but now he's doing the other things also. I'm expecting him to be a great player for us this year. He's been a role player for us the last two years and now it's his turn.

"That's the first thing I told him after the bowl game was that it was his turn and he got a big smile on his face and I think he's very excited about his opportunity. He has all the tools to be the best running back to ever play at Virginia Tech, but it's up to him."

Jones was having a great 2002 campaign before a hamstring pull against Pittsburgh slowed him for the year. Once back, Jones developed a fumbling habit, one that Hite promises he took care of this past spring.

"The fumbles are a mental thing and most of them come on second-effort," Hite says. "He needs to make better decisions on getting down and holding the ball close to his body. We took care of that problem this spring. But before his hamstring injury, he was having a great season for us and we're excited about what he can do for this program."

In all, he rushed for 871 yards and nine touchdowns while sharing the ball with Suggs. Jones, a rising junior, will be the feature back this fall and it's now his time to shine.

Cedric Humes emerged as the No. 2 man at tailback after finishing spring practice strong, but will be pushed by Mike Imoh for that spot.

"Cedric moved back to tailback and started slow, but his last few weeks of spring practice were outstanding," Hite says. "He did a great job running the ball and is a load to tackle. I was really pleased with the way he progressed through spring."

Humes, a redshirt sophomore, spent last season as a fullback. The Virginia Beach native served as the No. 2 man last year, but has the speed and skills to play tailback. He carried the ball 16 times for 68 yards last year and also caught seven passes for 76 yards.

Imoh, a sophomore from Fairfax, rushed just 10 times for 38 yards last season, but was the odd-man-out when it came to carries. He started the season at tailback, but was moved to wide receiver, where he caught a touchdown pass in the opener. He was eventually moved back to tailback and saw most of his action on special teams.

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. The sophomore scored a touchdown last year against Marshall.

The fullback position appears to be in good hands as redshirt senior Doug Easlick returns. Deemed "one of the biggest surprises of last season" by Hite, Easlick came in and didn't miss a beat in filling in for four-year starter Jarrett Ferguson.

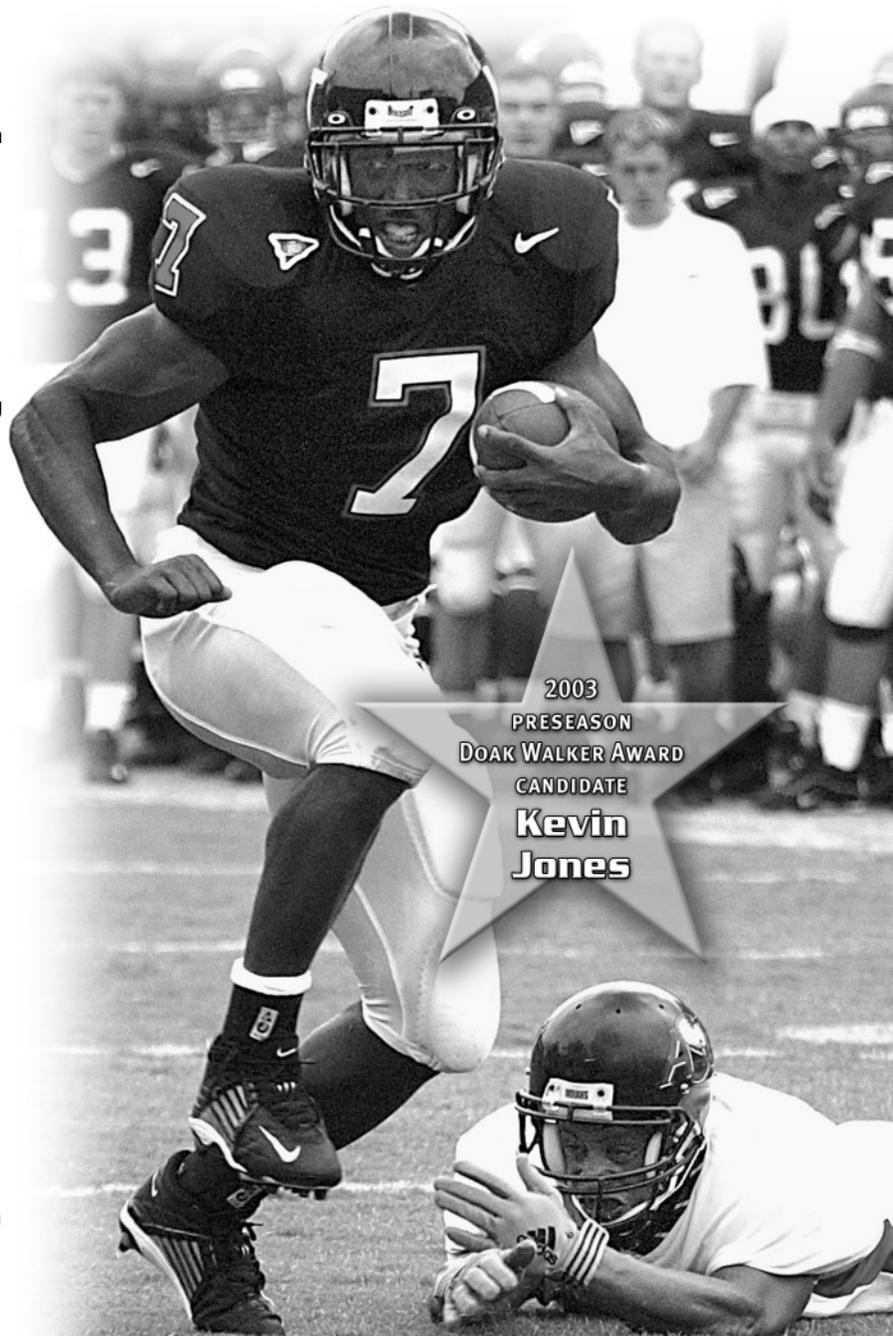
"For him to come in and play the way he did was outstanding and amazing," Hite says. "I'm tickled to death to have him back again. I didn't think anyone could come in and replace Jarrett, but Doug

Easlick did just that and had a great year."

The bruising back from Marlton, N.J., started all 14 games and opened most of the holes for one of the best rushing offenses last year. He also carried the ball 19 times for 92 yards and showed excellent hands, catching 16 passes for 168 yards and a touchdown.

Jeff King, who started the last six games of the season at tight end, made the move to fullback this spring and impressed the coaches. He has the size (6-5, 256) to give opposing defenses matchup problems, but will also still be used at the tight end position.

"He was a pleasant surprise this spring," Hite says. "I think



2003
PRESEASON
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CANDIDATE
**Kevin
Jones**

we've helped ourselves out offensively with him back there because we can put him at fullback or tight end and teams won't know which offensive package we're running."

A pair of walk-ons, Jesse Allen and Steve Canter, will battle for reps in hopes of seeing action in the fall.

Overall, Hite is once again excited about his stable of Stallions. "I like this group. It's a group that has worked and has provided great competition amongst each other and I'm excited about getting them on the field this fall."

WIDE RECEIVERS

Receivers coach Tony Ball has the luxury of having record-setting split end Ernest Wilford back, but he also has to replace sure-handed Shawn Witten at flanker.

"We have a good group of young players coming back, but we lose a guy like Shawn Witten who knew the offense and it's hard to replace those kind of players who you can depend on," Ball says.

Leading the troops will be Wilford, who set a new Tech record with 51 catches a year ago. The redshirt senior has the size at 6-4 to be an outstanding receiver and will be counted on for bigger things this year. Last season, he had 925 yards and seven touchdowns.

"We have to look at Ernest and figure out what we can do to help him get better for this year," Ball says. "This past year, he was a guy going into the season where there was a lot of talk questioning him. Now he had a real good year.

"He was consistent, he worked hard and as a result, he had great success. He's going to play a big part of getting these young players on track."

While the starting split end position is solidified, Ball says the flanker position is wide open and any one of four players — Richard Johnson, Justin Hamilton, Chris Shreve or Chris Clifton — could fill the spot.

Richard Johnson, a speedy receiver from Baltimore, had ankle surgery during the spring, but is expected to be back in time for fall practice. The redshirt junior started two games last season and caught 14 passes for 147 yards.

"Richard did the little things I asked of him this spring," Ball says. "Richard is smart, has real good hands and catches the ball well, but I need him to become a blur."

Justin Hamilton saw his playing time increase last season and was pushed by Ball this past spring. He was moved from tailback to receiver in 2002 and made great strides every day. He brings size (6-3, 209) and athleticism to the position and steadily improved as a receiver in the spring before getting hurt.

"Justin still has a lot to learn," Ball says. "He wasn't a receiver, so he's still learning how to be a receiver. He's working on becoming more comfortable at the position, but now he has to develop that receiver mentality and work ethic. But Justin started looking like a receiver before he got hurt this past spring."

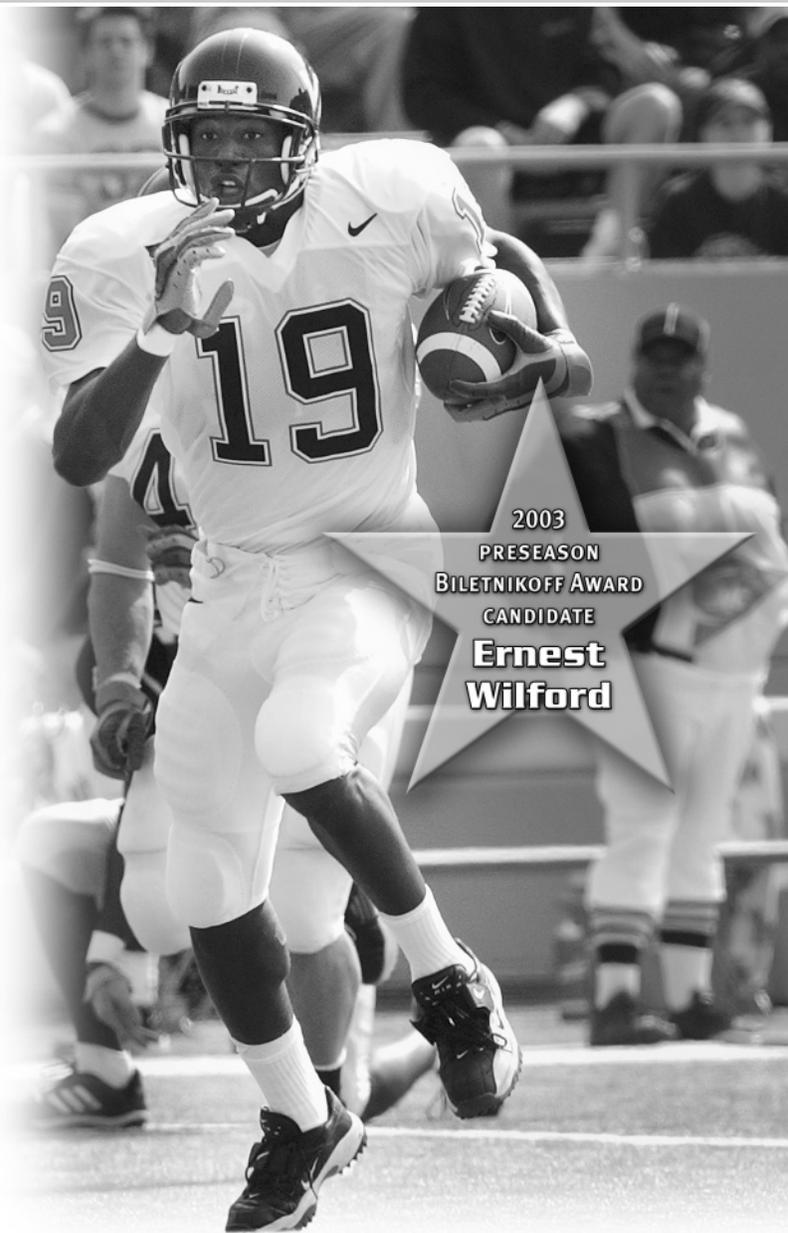
Clifton, a redshirt sophomore, and Shreve, a redshirt senior, will also get looks this preseason. Clifton has good size, at 6-4, and speed, but needs to learn the position. He came on late in the spring and is expected to be in the hunt for the job. Shreve is one of the fastest players on the team and is considered the most dependable of the four by Ball.

The wildcard in the mix is DeAngelo Hall, who spent the spring learning the offense in hopes of taking pressure off of Wilford. While he is still a defensive back, the coaches are expecting to get him 20-30 plays per game on the offensive side of the ball.

"We wanted to give him a solid foundation of the offense," Ball says. "Athletically, he's very talented and gifted. When he has the ball in his hands, he's very dangerous.

"I don't consider him a wide receiver. When he's over there, he's in the game, it's that simple. He's not a starter, but if we want to start the game in a four-wide set with him, he'll start in that set."

Two players who will report in the fall could also find their way into the mix if they pick up the college game quick enough. Josh Hyman and David Clowney are both big receivers who are expected to eventually be big-time players.



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BILETNIKOFF AWARD
CANDIDATE
**Ernest
Wilford**

"I'm looking forward to working with Josh and David," Ball says, "and seeing how much they can handle, mentally. I can handle teaching them fundamentally, but we'll have to see how things go with them. You never know with freshmen. But if they can demonstrate maturity, I wouldn't have a problem playing them."

Ball says Robert Parker, Fred Lee, Brenden Hill and Michael Malone all have the potential, but still have a ways to go before they're ready to play.

Parker has the coaches excited about his potential. He's another receiver with good size (6-1, 207) who has a good work ethic on the field and in the classroom.

Lee is a speedster who, although he doesn't have great

size, does run good routes and has good hands. He could be a big threat for the Hokies at either position because of his good speed and quickness.

Malone has the size (6-3, 202) and the pedigree (son of NBA Hall of Famer Moses Malone) to be a great player, but is lacking the experience. If he can get stronger and used to the college game, he could be a factor for the Hokies down the road.

"I went into the spring with the mind set that the flanker position was wide open and I came out of the spring with the same mind set," Ball says. "Right now, there is no starter at flanker; it's wide open. Right now, no position is solid except for one, and I'm going to push that one."

THE DEFENSE

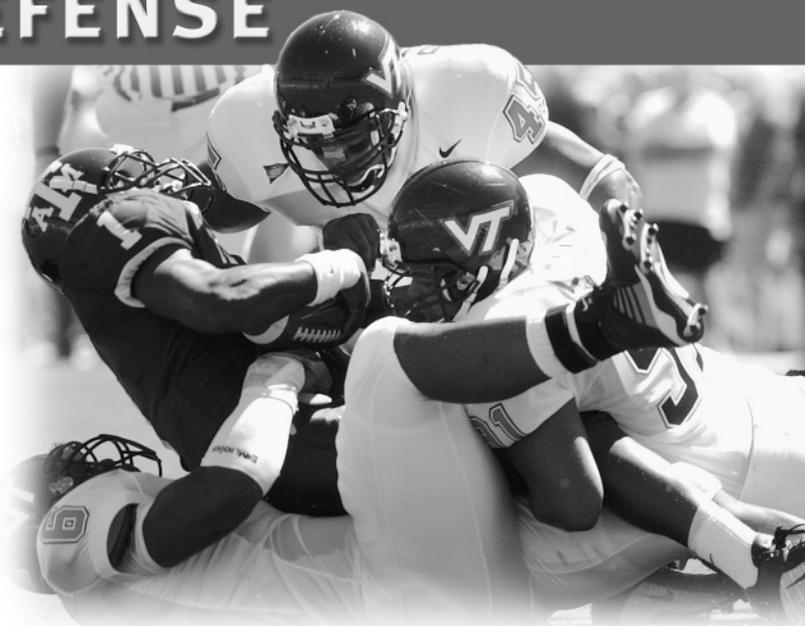
Defensively, this will be a much different season than last year for coordinator Bud Foster. A year ago, Foster and his defensive staff had to replace their top five defensive tackles, their top three inside linebackers and two starters in the secondary.

This year, the Hokies return nine defensive starters and most of their backups. Only five players are gone from last year's unit — starting free safety Willie Pile, starting cornerback Ronyell Whitaker, end Lamar Cobb, rover Billy Hardee and linebacker Alex Markogiannakis.

The Hokies went through spring contact work without

four prominent defensive players who were recovering from injuries. Linebacker Vegas Robinson (ankle), end Cols Colas (knee) and tackle Kevin Lewis (torn pectoral muscle) will be ready when practice resumes. A decision on end Jim Davis, who tore a pectoral muscle just days before the start of spring practice, will be made in August.

"We had some veteran guys out this spring with injuries, but that allowed us to really get the younger players the reps they needed," Foster says. "Some key players who we are counting on to contribute were able to get



Tech returns 23 lettermen and nine starters on defense.

better thanks to the extra attention.

"I think this defense has the potential to be very good," adds Foster. "I like the experience we have. I like the depth that we have. I like the athletes that we have. We have a good mix right now of some experienced players and some hungry youth."

Despite the uncertainty surrounding Davis' status, one of the strong points of the defense should once again be the ends. With seniors Davis, Nathaniel Adibi and Cols Colas being joined by youngsters Darryl Tapp and Noland Burchette, the Hokies have one of their most talented group of ends.

Foster will be looking for the senior ends to be leaders for a group of tackles who are still young, but far more experienced than a year ago. Every player who saw extensive action at tackle for Tech last season is back and there is a big addition in transfer Isaac Montgomery. There may not be a position on the team with more competition.

Another strong point for the Hokies should be the secondary. The competition there was also stiff during the spring, especially at cornerback, where junior DeAngelo Hall figures to be one of the nation's best.

Several of the starting jobs may not be settled until the fall due to a good pool of talented candidates.

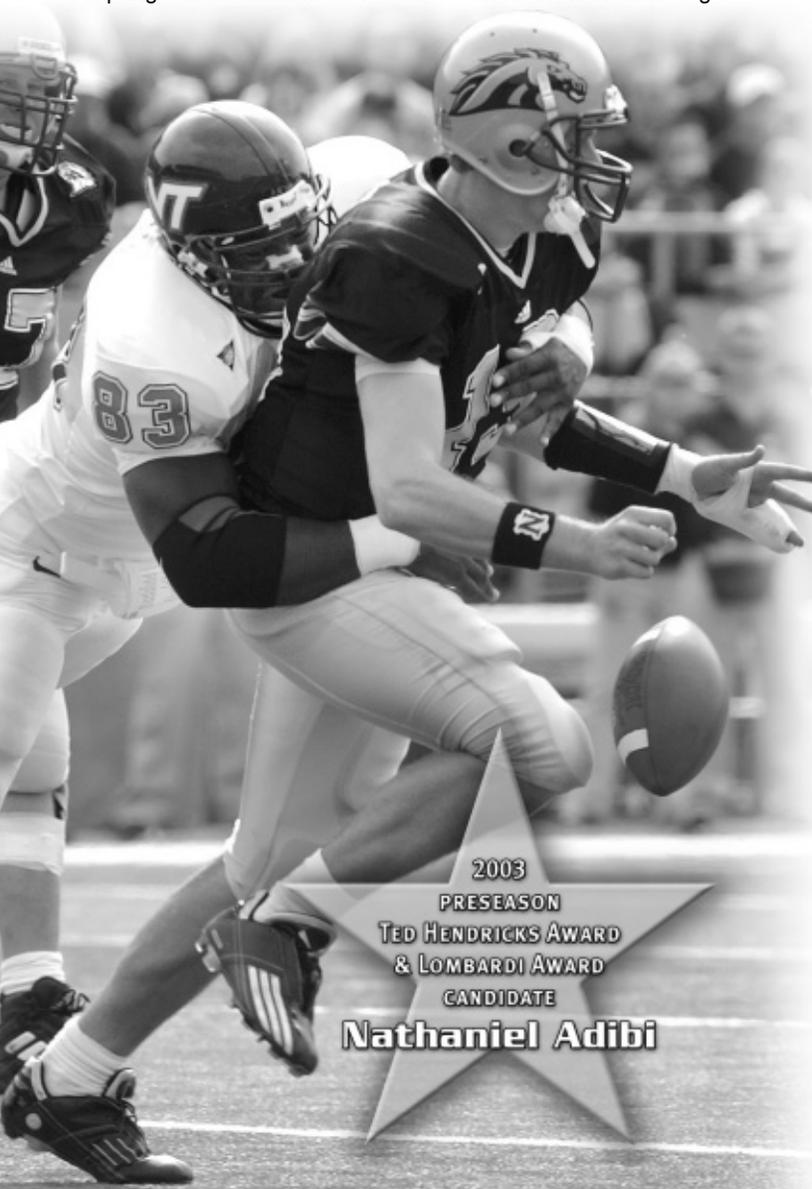
The defense also returns all three starting linebackers. Developing more depth at those positions was one of the focal points of the spring and will continue to be a key issue when practice resumes.

"We need some positions to step up for us," Foster says. "At defensive tackle, we need some of those younger players to mature and be ready for this year. We also need some young linebackers to step up in backup situations.

"I think the ability of our young players to become more consistent, to develop into every-down players is going to be the key for us," he adds. "I feel good about our first line guys. So now, being consistent and having some depth are extremely important. I think the spring allowed us to make progress in both areas and obviously, we need to continue that during the early weeks of preseason practice."

DEFENSIVE LINE

When assessing Tech's strong points for 2003, there is no better place to start than with the defensive ends. The senior trio of Nathaniel Adibi, Cols Colas and Jim Davis is as good as it gets, although Davis' status remains a



2003
PRESEASON
TED HENDRICKS AWARD
& LOMBARDI AWARD
CANDIDATE
Nathaniel Adibi

question mark. The Hokies should also be improved at the tackle spots where a bevy of young players picked up some valuable experience in 2002.

"Overall, it was a very enjoyable spring," says defensive line coach Charley Wiles. "I think we did get better. We got down to where we had four defensive tackles and basically four ends, but I saw a lot of improvement. I saw a lot of enthusiasm. These players want to get better, want to win, want to do what is necessary to get it done."

There were certainly no signs of complacency at defensive end during the 2002 season when Adibi, Colas, Davis and senior Lamar Cobb combined for 24.5 quarterback sacks and 62 quarterback hurries.

Adibi was a standout on the Hokies' young defense, posting 55 tackles, nine sacks and 15 total tackles for loss. The 6-3, 255-pound performer added 16 hurries, three forced fumbles and two passes broken up on the way to second-team All-BIG EAST Conference honors. One of his forced fumbles was returned for a touchdown at Western Michigan. During his Tech career, Adibi has started 34 of the 38 games in which he has played, including three bowl games. He turned in a 575-pound back squat and ran a 4.5 forty during off-season testing.

Colas, who was held out of contact work during the spring after surgery to repair a patella tendon, was equally as effective in 2002. He contributed 51 tackles and, like Adibi, forced three fumbles. His team-leading 19 tackles for loss included nine sacks. He also topped the team with 24 quarterback hurries. At 6-0, 226, Colas has a combination of power (390 bench press) and explosive speed (4.41) that makes him hard to handle on the corner.

Davis, who is considered the Hokies' most talented end when healthy, has been

bothered by nagging injuries the past two seasons. During the 2002 season, he suffered an ankle injury against LSU that limited his effectiveness. The 6-3, 255-pound Davis finished the season with 37 tackles, including 5.5 sacks and nine total tackles for loss. He had 10 hurries and broke up three passes.

When healthy, Davis is a playmaker who can disrupt a game. As a sophomore he intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown and forced two fumbles that were returned for TDs. The coaches were hoping he could avoid injuries this year and become an every-down player. With Davis having a redshirt year to burn, those hopes could be put off for another season.

Tech's talent at the end position doesn't stop with the seniors. Sophomore Darryl Tapp and redshirt freshman Noland Burchette, a pair of extremely promising newcomers, got the bulk of the

reps at the end positions during spring practice. Bob Ruff, a steady, dependable walk-on, also got his share of work.

Tapp started on five different special teams last year as a true freshman and saw some limited work at end. He increased his weight to 246 pounds during the winter and turned in a 380-pound bench press on the way to Super Iron Hokie honors. Burchette (6-2, 240) impressed Tech's coaches with his quickness, athletic ability and football instincts while redshirting during the fall. Both players were among the Hokies' most impressive performers during 2003 spring practice.

The incoming recruiting class will also provide Wiles with a couple of talented end candidates if he needs additional depth. Freshmen Chris Ellis and Michael Brown are likely to get a close look when practice opens.

"I'm really pleased with the way we have come along at

end," Wiles says. "During the spring, Darryl Tapp and Noland Burchette really played well. Colas didn't participate in drills, but he is a guy we know we can depend on. Nathaniel Adibi is certainly a player we can depend on and win with."

"The question is where Jim Davis stands in the mix," he adds, "and that is something we will talk about in August. If he is not in the mix for this year, it will probably open the door for a freshman to play."

The stability at end will allow Wiles some extra time to concentrate on the competition at tackle.

"We have a heavily competitive situation going on inside," Wiles says. "It's year-to-year, game-to-game. If you started last year, it doesn't mean you're going to start this year. And if you started last week, it doesn't mean you are going to start this week. The guys who are going to give us the best



2003
PRESEASON
TED HENDRICKS AWARD
& LOMBARDI AWARD
CANDIDATE
Colas Colas

chance of winning are going to play.”

Every player who saw extensive action at tackle last season is back, led by starters Kevin Lewis (6-1, 292) and Jason Lallis (6-0, 250). Lewis was having an outstanding season until a torn pectoral muscle sidelined him for the final three games of the year. He contributed 49 tackles, including five behind the line of scrimmage, and registered six quarterback hurries. Lewis did not participate in spring contact drills, but will be ready to go when practice resumes. Lallis is an instinctive, tough player, who finds a way to get off blocks and make plays. He led the defensive tackles in quarterback hurries with seven, while contributing 48 tackles and two quarterback sacks. He also returned a fumble 59 yards for a touchdown against Arkansas State. Lallis suffered an injury in the same game as Lewis and missed two games, but

returned to participate in spring practice.

Sophomores Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 292) and Tim Sandidge (6-1, 283) are expected to be in the thick of the battle for playing time along with transfer Isaac Montgomery.

Lewis and Sandidge moved into the lineup last year in the absence of Kevin Lewis and Lallis. Jonathan Lewis, Kevin's younger brother, saw action in every game and ended up leading the defensive line in tackles with 56. The younger Lewis had seven tackles for loss, including two sacks, and five hurries. He still has some things to learn, but has an extremely bright future.

Sandidge, who has shown steady improvement during his time at Tech, led the tackles in sacks (4) and passes batted down (3) last season. He closed out the season with 30 total tackles. During winter workouts, Sandidge turned in

a personal-best 605-pound back squat and a 4.79 clocking in the forty.

The Tech coaches liked what they saw in Montgomery when he practiced with the team during the fall after transferring from the University of North Carolina. During winter workouts, Montgomery led the defensive line with a 415-pound bench press and posted a 600-pound back squat. Montgomery suffered a setback, however, when he was injured just seven practices into the spring. The 6-4, 297-pound junior will be ready for the start of practice. He still has some work to do, but he has the potential to give the defensive line a boost.

“I'm encouraged by where we are,” Wiles says. “I like our talent level and I like the group of freshmen we have coming in. We should have a chance to be pretty good as long as we stay away from injuries. During preseason practice, we need to continue to grow our depth at tackle.”

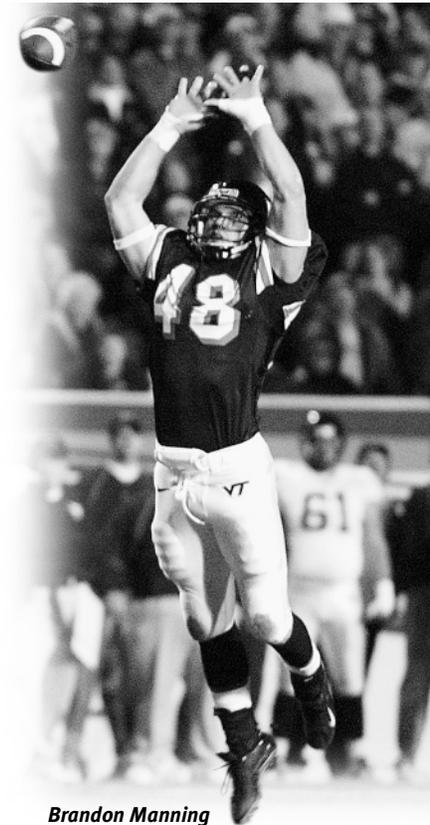
Growing that depth could lead back to the recruiting class, which includes three players — Kory Robertson, Carlton Powell and Barry Booker — who could play tackle.

LINEBACKERS

Unlike last season, the emphasis at the linebacker positions this year will be establishing depth rather than determining starters. After playing the 2002 season with newcomers handling the mike, backer and whip positions, the Hokies now have three tested starters.

Last season, mike linebacker Mikal Baaqee led the team in tackles with 112 in his first season as a regular. Backer Vegas Robinson finished fourth in tackles (71), despite missing three games. Brandon Manning, the starter at whip, finished third on the team in tackles with 75.

“The guy who really performed well was Mikal Baaqee,” says inside linebackers coach Bud Foster. “He was always around the football. Mikal has good speed and a good motor. During the off-season and spring, he really worked hard to get bigger so he is better at the point of attack



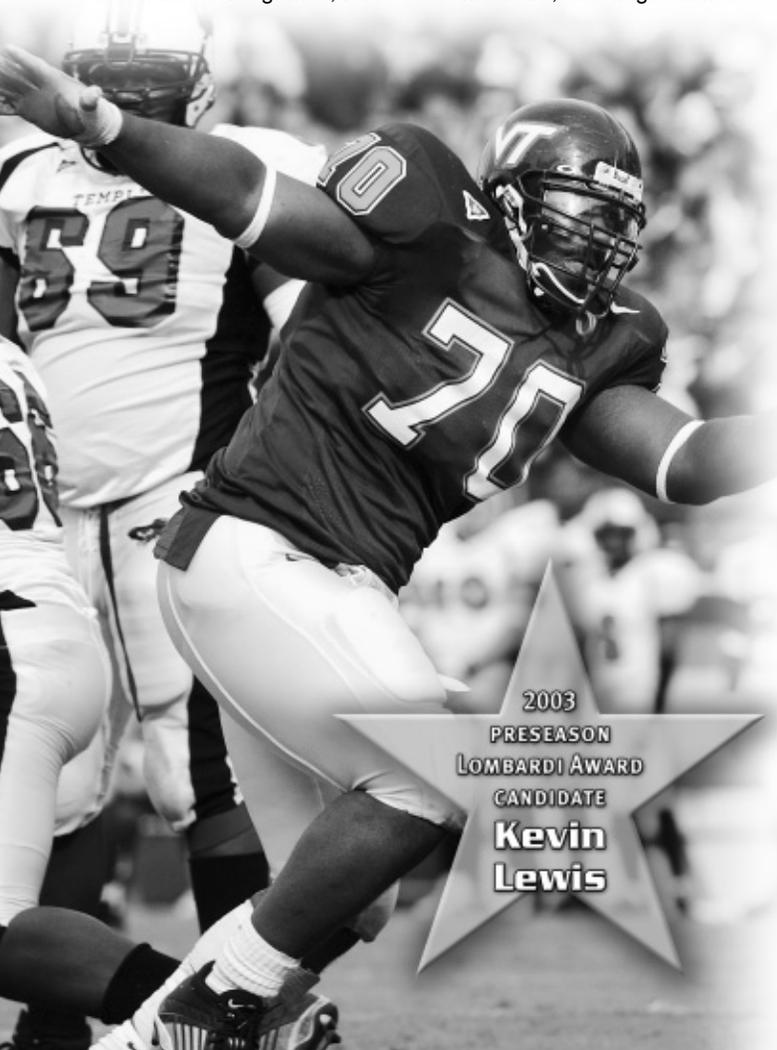
Brandon Manning

than he was a year ago. I really have high expectations for him.”

Baaqee, a redshirt junior, is up to 227 pounds from his playing weight of around 215 last season. He started every game but one during the 2002 season, edging out safety Willie Pile for the team lead in tackles and finishing third on the team in tackles for loss with 12. Baaqee had 3.5 quarterback sacks, eight quarterback hurries, five pass breakups and one interception. He earned Super Iron Hokie honors during preseason athletic performance testing.

At 6-0, 244, Robinson gives the Hokies a physical presence at backer. He had three pass interceptions to go with his 71 tackles. After playing just 78 defensive plays in 2001, Robinson was in on over 500 plays last fall. He was missed while sitting out three games with an ankle injury, especially in losses to Pittsburgh and Syracuse.

Robinson underwent surgery to alleviate his ankle problems after the season and sat out spring contact work. He will be ready to resume his starting duties when practice opens in



2003
PRESEASON
LOMBARDI AWARD
CANDIDATE
**Kevin
Lewis**

August. As the lone senior in Tech's group of linebackers, Robinson will be counted on for leadership.

"Vegas is a solid football player," Foster says. "When he was out, it hurt us. He is a physical guy who can run. He's been in our defense for several years, so he understands it. When he is in there playing, we are a different football team. He should be at full speed in the fall. I have challenged him to come back in the best shape he can be in. I expect him to be a leader."

Manning is another successful product of Tech's walk-on program, having already earned a scholarship and a starting position. He had five tackles for loss last season, including a sack, and broke up two passes. The redshirt junior joined Baaqee and Robinson as a Super Iron Hokie during spring testing.

"Manning has really worked hard to get where he is," says whip linebackers coach Jim Cavanaugh. "He's tough, he's smart and he has played."

Manning's experience gives him a definite edge, but there will still be good competition at the position when practice resumes. Redshirt freshman Aaron Rouse is a talented young player who should become a factor at the whip position at some point during the upcoming season. Rouse, who is 6-3, 203, has all the skills to be an outstanding player for the Hokies, but must continue to become more accomplished at the position.

"Rouse will play, but I don't know how much yet," Cavanaugh says. "The carry-over from spring to fall will be very important for him."

Prior to the start of spring practice, the coaches moved redshirt sophomore James Anderson from inside linebacker to outside linebacker, which is always a big adjustment. He had a good spring for his first time at the position and could put himself in the mix for playing time if he has a good preseason. Anderson, another Super Iron Hokie, was pressed into starting duty for three games last season at the backer position replacing Robinson. He finished the season with 48

tackles and 1.5 sacks. The coaches are hopeful that his size (6-2, 217) and speed (4.43) can become a good fit for the new position.

Jordan Trott and Chad Cooper are competing for the No. 2 spot behind Baaqee at mike linebacker. Neither player has any appreciable game experience at linebacker, but they both have lots of potential.

Trott, a 6-4, 245-pound redshirt sophomore, was Tech's leading tackler on special teams. He has a good head on his shoulders, reads his keys well and has a good understanding of Tech's defensive scheme. He showed steady progress throughout the spring.

Cooper, a redshirt junior, returned to the team last summer following a bout with Guillain-Barré syndrome, a serious disorder of the nervous system. Like Trott, he played mostly on special teams during the 2002 season. A safety in high school, Cooper has good range and speed and can be an asset against both the running game and the passing game. Most of Cooper's previous experience at Tech has come at the backer position, but Foster is hoping he can become a swing player at both positions.

"They both bring something different to the table," Foster says. "Jordan is a bigger, more physical player at the point of attack. Chad is not as big as Jordan, but he is more athletic."

With Robinson sitting out the spring, redshirt sophomore Blake Warren worked with the first team at the backer position. Warren, a former high school safety, made a good transition to linebacker during spring 2002, but was slowed by nagging injuries during most of the 2002 season. He played in nine games and posted just 12 tackles. He intercepted a pass against West Virginia.

"It was disappointing last season that Blake was banged up," Foster says. "He was one of our award winners the spring before. He is really a very intelligent football player with good instincts. He's a rangy, athletic guy who is good

in coverage and is not bad in the run game. He just needs to be a little more physical."

At 6-3, 232, Warren is expected to see his share of action this fall. He benefited from getting a lot of reps this past spring and understands the position better. Cooper, who shared the spring reps with Warren at backer while also spending some time at the mike position, will be available for duty as well.

The search for depth at the linebacker spots will carry over to the opening of practice when Foster will welcome a recruiting class that features three of the nation's top 10 prep linebackers, including state Gatorade Player of the

Year Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi, the consensus No. 1 player in Virginia.

SECONDARY

Despite the loss of Pile, Whitaker and Hardee, Tech should still be solid in the secondary with a number of talented — and experienced — players returning.

Leading the way is DeAngelo Hall, who has all the tools to be a special player. The dynamic junior cornerback was a second-team All-BIG EAST pick last season as both a defensive back and a return man. He posted 55 tackles, four interceptions and a team-leading 12 pass break ups despite seeing only brief action



2003
PRESEASON
BUTKUS AWARD
CANDIDATE
**Vegas
Robinson**

in three of the Hokies' last four regular-season games due to a sore back. He was in on 16 tackles against Miami.

This season, some of Hall's downs will be spent at wide receiver, where he spent the majority of his time during the spring. His main job, however, will still be at the Hokies' boundary corner position.

"For the little time I had him in the spring, DeAngelo improved," says defensive backfield coach Lorenzo Ward. "I think playing receiver helped him understand the entire game and will make him a better player on defense. He's a defensive player first, but I'm sure we'll use him a lot on offense and he's willing to do what is best for the team."

Joining Hall at the boundary spot is senior Garnell Wilds, who has developed into one of Tech's most dependable players. Wilds was a spot starter in four games last season and led the team and the BIG EAST Conference in interceptions with five. He also contributed 44 tackles and broke up seven passes. His football savvy, knowledge of the Tech system and ability to play either cornerback spot makes him one of the most valuable members of the Hokies' secondary.

The battle for Whitaker's spot at the field corner produced some good competition between redshirt juniors Vincent Fuller and Eric Green during the spring, and it still isn't settled. Fuller was moved to corner from free safety last fall to help out when Whitaker was suspended for two games and Green was sidelined by a season-ending knee injury. Fuller played in every game, including four as a starter, and played extremely well at times. He intercepted four passes and posted 23 tackles. With a little added strength and discipline, Fuller has all the skills to be successful. He also provides

another backup at free safety if needed.

Green played in 23 of 24 games at corner during his first two seasons at Tech. He was running neck-and-neck with Whitaker for the starting duties at field corner before his injury. Green has worked hard to return to action and appears to be ready for the task physically. He is still polishing his technique and fundamentals, but will have every chance to win the position in the fall.

If neither Fuller nor Green steps to the front, Wilds could also be in line for some starting duty at field corner when Hall is handling the boundary duties. Additional depth at the position will be provided by redshirt freshman Brian McPherson.

Pile's safety position will go to impressive sophomore Jimmy Williams, who came on strong as his freshman year progressed and flourished during the spring. Williams saw most of his action on

special teams until near the end of the 2002 season when he saw extensive action at Miami and in the Hokies' San Francisco Bowl victory against Air Force. Williams finished the season with 46 tackles and one interception. He took full advantage of spring practice to gain an excellent grasp of the Tech defensive scheme.

"Jimmy has some big shoes to fill, but I feel he is capable of doing it," Ward says. "He is a big, physical safety with corner skills. He has no shyness about him. His ability to cover receivers and his confidence in that ability is going to improve our playing skills in one-on-one situations at the safety spot. I am excited about Jimmy and his promise for the future."

Williams could get a push at the free safety spot from Mike Daniels, especially in games against running teams. Daniels is a smart, physical player who moved over during the spring from whip linebacker where he

saw considerable action over the past two seasons. The junior started his Tech career working at free safety during a redshirt year. He started four games at whip in 2001 and one game last year.

Corey Gordon, who entered Tech in January after attending Hargrave Academy during the fall, gives Ward another talented player at free safety. Gordon is much like Williams — a big, physical player who can run. All he needs is to polish his cover skills and pick up a little more knowledge of the system.

Over at the rover position, 10-game starter Michael Crawford returns with a clean bill of health. The senior performer underwent a series of tests and biopsies late in the season for possible lymphoma, but missed just one game. He finished the season with 49 tackles, including two sacks and four total tackles for loss. He was found to be free of any form of cancer in January and had a good spring practice.

Crawford is joined at rover by JUCO All-American James Griffin, a member of Tech's recruiting class who entered school in January. Griffin had highly successful high school and junior college careers, but is still adjusting to the Tech system.

"Crawford's game experience from last season should make him a different player," says Jim Cavanaugh, who coaches the Hokies' rovers. "It should help him be more productive.

"Griffin had a very good spring," Cavanaugh says. "He has a good motor and good physical skills. He just has to learn what to do and play his spot."

Sophomore Cary Wade will get his first exposure to the rover position when practice opens. Wade, who played on special teams and saw limited action at cornerback last season, was moved to the position after spring practice.



2003
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JIM THORPE AWARD
CANDIDATE
**DeAngelo
Hall**

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SPECIAL TEAMS

The one thing Coach Frank Beamer will be looking for from his special teams this season will be more consistency. Last year, the Hokies didn't quite live up to the reputation for special teams excellence that has been established during Beamer's tenure in Blacksburg.

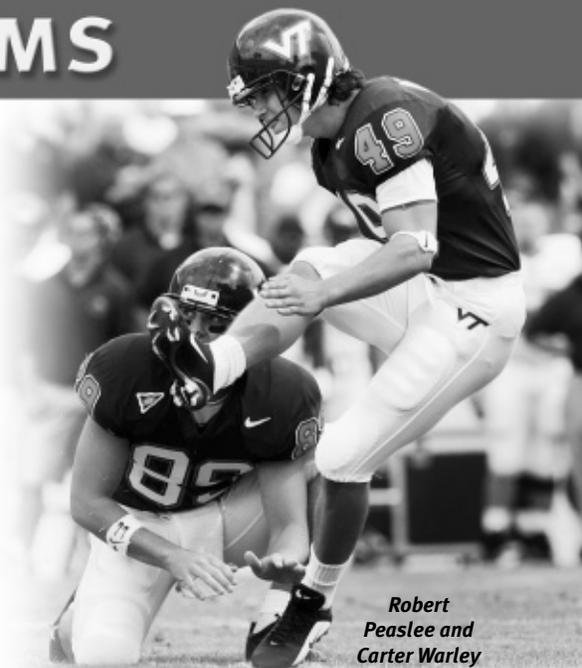
Even though the Hokies blocked seven kicks and finished among the national leaders in punt returns in 2002, Beamer was not satisfied with several phases of the special teams' operation, including kickoffs, coverage and field goal percentage.

A healthy Carter Warley could solve several of those shortcomings. Warley, who is entering his fourth season as the Hokies' starting place-kicker, is an extremely accurate kicker when he is healthy and can practice. His bouts with back problems, however, have had a major impact on his consistency as evidenced by last year's topsyturvy season that saw the Hokies use three different kickers.

"Carter didn't have any trouble with his back during the spring," says Beamer, who coaches the kickers and punters. "If he can hang in there and practice, he has a

chance to have a great year for us."

Competition at the position is provided by a pair of talented young kickers — Nic Schmitt and Brandon Pace. Schmitt, a strong-legged sophomore, got a brief kicking stint last season, but also struggled with his accuracy on field goals. Pace competed



Robert Peaslee and Carter Warley

for the kicking duties during the fall, but ended up taking a redshirt year. Like Schmitt, he has a good leg, but is still striving for consistency. Both Schmitt and Pace will get another shot at Warley during the preseason. All three will battle for the kickoff duties.

Junior Vinnie Burns, who was named second-team All-BIG EAST Conference last season, returns as Tech's punter. Burns averaged 40.5 yards on 64 punts last season and placed 22 punts inside the 20-yard line. Burns, who performed well during the spring will be backed up by either Schmitt or senior Bobby Peaslee.

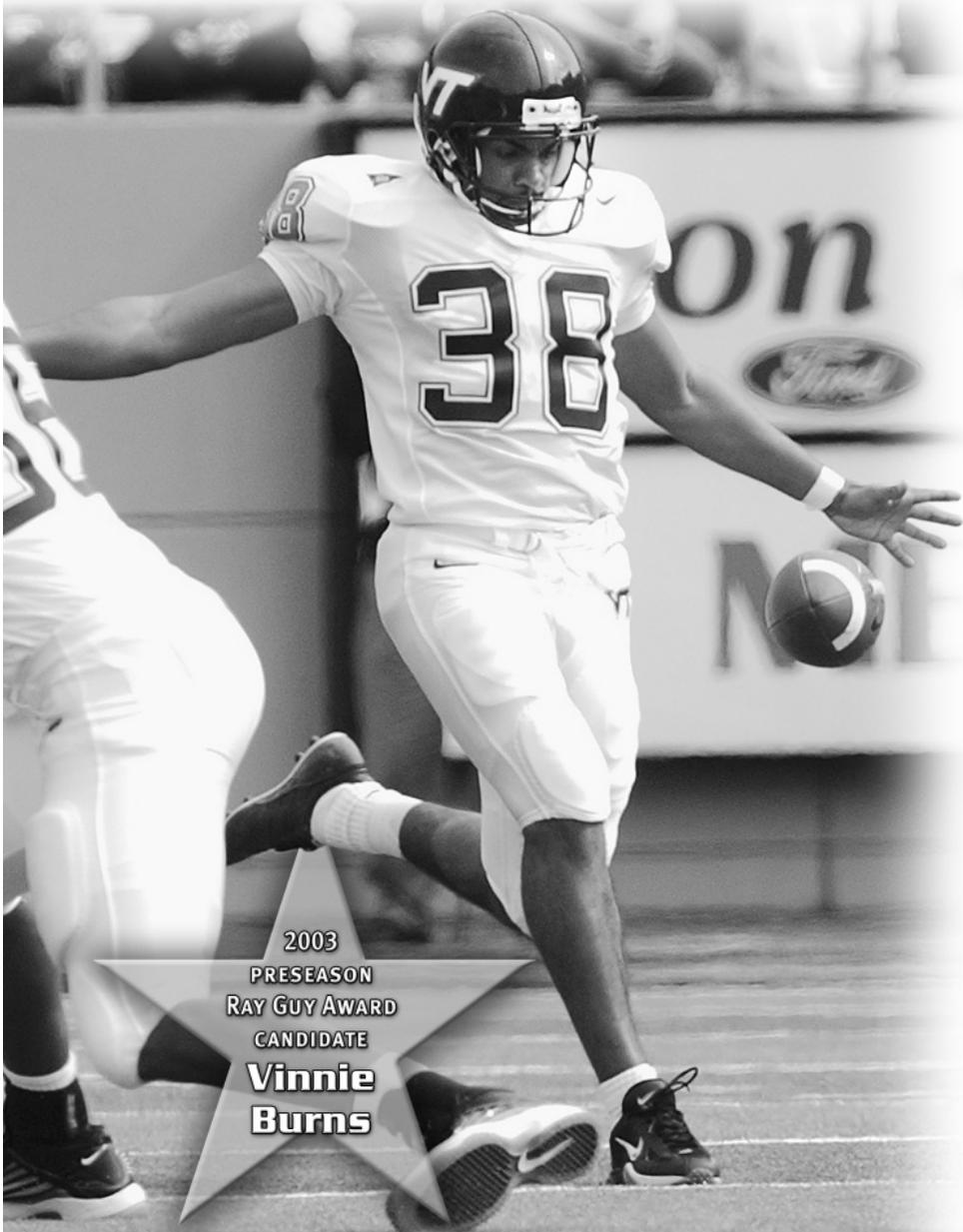
"We've changed a few little things in our punt protection and I think Vinnie

Burns is getting ready to have a great year," Beamer says.

Peaslee returns as the Hokies' holder, but the snapping duties will be wide open with the departure of three-year starter Ken Keister. Redshirt junior Travis Conway, redshirt freshman Nick Leeson and true freshman Tripp Carroll will be among the candidates for the snapping duties.

Punt return man DeAngelo Hall and kickoff returner Richard Johnson are both back. Hall finished seventh nationally in punt returns in 2002 and was named second-team All-BIG EAST as a return man. He averaged 16 yards per return and brought two returns back for touchdowns. Johnson, who had a 91-yard kickoff return against Miami, averaged 21.1 yards on 23 returns.

Tech continued its tradition for blocking kicks last season with seven blocks. Every player who had a block returns this season, including redshirt sophomore Justin Hamilton, who had two blocks. The return of Eric Green, who missed the 2002 season with a knee injury, should give Tech's kick block team an added boost. Green blocked three punts during his first two seasons.



2003
PRESEASON
RAY GUY AWARD
CANDIDATE
**Vinnie
Burns**

HOKIE PRESEASON ROSTERS

No.	Name	vl	Pos	B'date	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	High School	H.S. Coach
83	Nathaniel Adibi	3	DE	1/25/81	6-3	255	r-Sr.	Hampton, Va.	Phoebus	Bill Dee
	Jesse Allen	-	FB	10/22/83	6-0	241	r-Fr.	Monson, Mass.	Pathfinder Regional	Chris Pope
42	James Anderson	1	LB	9/26/83	6-2	217	r-So.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
45	Mikal Baaqee	2	LB	12/20/81	5-10	227	r-Jr.	Columbia, Md.	DeMatha	Bill McGregor
96	Noland Burchette	-	DE	3/23/83	6-2	240	r-Fr.	Richmond, Va.	Highland Springs	Scott Burton
38	Vinnie Burns	2	P	2/2/82	5-11	202	r-Jr.	New Orleans, La.	St. Augustine	Anthony Biagas
61	Reggie Butler	-	OT	8/21/82	6-5	333	So.	Keswick, Va.	Monticello	Brud Bicknell
44	John Candelas	-	TB	4/21/83	6-0	199	So.	Blacksburg, Va.	Blacksburg	Dave Crist
37	Steve Canter	-	FB	2/15/81	6-0	232	r-Sr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Kempsville	John Bowles
57	Tripp Carroll	-	OT	9/18/84	6-4	306	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C.	Andrew Jackson (Fla.)	Gil Carroll
	Chris Ceasar	-	SE	12/20/82	5-10	165	r-Fr.	Delray Beach, Fla.	Spanish River	Bill Bretherick
16	Chris Clifton	1	SE	10/27/82	6-4	197	r-So.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
99	Cols Colas	3	DE	5/16/80	6-0	226	r-Sr.	Plantation, Fla.	South Plantation	Dan Margurit
62	Travis Conway	1	DS	6/3/82	6-5	240	r-Jr.	Richmond, Va.	J.R. Tucker	Rusty Curle
33	Chad Cooper	2	LB	6/10/81	6-2	211	r-Jr.	Herrndon, Va.	Oakton	Pete Bendorf
21	Michael Crawford	3	ROV	2/20/81	5-11	209	r-Sr.	Baltimore, Md.	Patterson	Roger Wrenn
31	Mike Daniels	2	FS	9/18/81	6-0	205	r-Jr.	Fairfax, Va.	Fairfax	Tom Verbanic
95	Jim Davis@	3	DE	10/4/81	6-3	255	Sr.	Highland Springs, Va.	Highland Springs	Randy Stokes
79	Jon Dunn	2	OT	12/12/81	6-7	343	r-Jr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Tallwood	Thad Harold
43	Doug Easlick	2	FB	12/4/80	5-11	238	r-Sr.	Marlton, N.J.	Cherokee	John Scott
	Rashad Ferebee	-	OG	3/18/84	5-8	272	So.	Norfolk, Va.	Granby	Dave Hudak
63	Andrew Fleck	-	C	10/11/82	6-3	275	r-Fr.	Edmond, Okla.	Santa Fe	Brian Kelly
65	Brandon Frye	-	OT	1/23/83	6-4	268	r-Fr.	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Myrtle Beach	Scott Early
8	Vincent Fuller	2	CB	8/3/82	6-1	181	r-Jr.	Baltimore, Md.	Woodlawn	Reggie White
60	Jacob Gibson	2	OG	1/29/81	6-4	306	r-Sr.	Rocky Mount, Va.	Franklin County	Jerry Little
82	Lance Goff	-	FL	3/29/82	5-11	202	r-Jr.	Wytheville, Va.	George Wythe	Larry Russell
28	Corey Gordon\$	-	FS	6/9/84	6-3	207	Fr.	Gainesville, Fla.	Gainesville	Rick Swain
77	Brandon Gore	-	OG	11/7/83	6-5	328	r-Fr.	Warrenton, Va.	Liberty	Joe Trabucco
1	Eric Green	2	CB	3/16/82	5-11	190	r-Jr.	Clewiston, Fla.	Clewiston	Al Morrell
22	James Griffin‡	-	ROV	12/28/81	6-1	193	Jr.	Memphis, Tenn.	East	Wayne Randall
64	Jake Grove	3	C	1/22/80	6-3	300	r-Sr.	Forest, Va.	Jefferson Forest	Ed Landis
4	DeAngelo Hall	2	CB/FL	11/19/83	5-11	198	Jr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
27	Justin Hamilton	1	SE	9/17/82	6-3	209	r-So.	Clintwood, Va.	Clintwood	Bob Meade
82	Brenden Hill	-	SE	7/7/84	6-1	200	r-Fr.	Newport News, Va.	Warwick	Tommy Reamon
32	Cedric Humes	1	TB	8/7/83	6-1	223	r-So.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Princess Anne	Jeff Ballance
20	Mike Imoh	-	TB	7/21/84	5-7	185	So.	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf
12	Richard Johnson	2	FL	6/17/82	5-10	189	r-Jr.	Baltimore, Md.	Milford Mill Academy	Reggie Brooks
25	Kevin Jones	2	TB	8/21/82	6-0	209	Jr.	Chester, Pa.	Cardinal O'Hara	George Stratts
	Greg Kezmarsky	-	DE	10/1/83	6-3	236	So.	Voorhees, N.J.	Eastern	Dan Spittal
90	Jeff King	1	TE/FB	2/19/83	6-5	258	r-So.	Pulaski, Va.	Pulaski County	Joel Hicks
91	Jason Lallis	2	DT	2/4/82	6-0	250	r-Jr.	Mitchellville, Md.	DeMatha	Bill McGregor
14	Fred Lee§	-	FL	3/10/83	5-8	186	r-Fr.	Harrisburg, Pa.	Bishop McDevitt	Jeff Weachter
53	Nick Leeson	-	LB/DS	10/29/82	6-1	235	r-Fr.	Abingdon, Va.	Abingdon	Scott Allen

2003 NUMERICAL ROSTER

Following are the preseason number assignments for 2003. Changes are expected to occur before the season opens.

1 Eric Green CB	28 Corey Gordon FS	52 Jimmy Martin OT	72 Jason Murphy OG
2 Jimmy Williams FS	29 Brian McPherson CB	53 Nick Leeson LB/DS	76 James Miller OG
3 Bryan Randall QB	30 Cary Wade ROV	54 Bob Ruff DE	77 Brandon Gore OG
4 DeAngelo Hall CB/FL	31 Mike Daniels FS	55 Darryl Tapp DE	79 Jon Dunn OT
5 Marcus Vick QB	32 Cedric Humes TB	56 Jonathan Lewis DT	80 Robert Parker FL
6 Vegas Robinson LB	33 Chad Cooper LB	57 Tripp Carroll OT	81 Chris Shreve SE
8 Vincent Fuller CB	36 Aaron Rouse LB	58 Chris Pannell OL	82 Brenden Hill SE
12 Richard Johnson FL	37 Steve Canter FB	60 Jacob Gibson OT/OG	82 Lance Goff FL
14 Fred Lee FL	38 Vinnie Burns P	61 Reggie Butler OT	83 Nathaniel Adibi DE
16 Chris Clifton SE	40 Blake Warren LB	62 Travis Conway DS	85 Jared Mazzetta TE
17 Garnell Wilds CB	41 Jordan Trott LB	63 Andrew Fleck C	86 Keith Willis TE
19 Ernest Wilford SE	42 James Anderson LB	64 Jake Grove C	88 Michael Malone SE
20 Mike Imoh TB	43 Doug Easlick FB	65 Brandon Frye OT	89 Robert Peaslee H/P
21 Michael Crawford ROV	44 John Candelas TB	66 Will Montgomery OG	90 Jeff King TE/FB
22 James Griffin ROV	45 Mikal Baaqee LB	68 Robert Ramsey C	91 Jason Lallis DT
23 Nic Schmitt PK/P	48 Brandon Manning LB	69 Danny McGrath C	95 Jim Davis DE
25 Kevin Jones TB	49 Carter Warley PK	70 Kevin Lewis DT	96 Noland Burchette DE
27 Justin Hamilton SE	50 Mike Parham C	71 Tim Sandidge DT	97 Isaac Montgomery DT
			99 Cols Colas DE

VIRGINIA TECH'S 2003 FOOTBALL RECRUITING CLASS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Last School	Hometown
Xavier Adibi	Linebacker	6-3	215	Phoebus H.S.	Hampton, Va.
Barry Booker	Defensive End	6-5	270	Amherst H.S.	Amherst, Va.
Duane Brown	Tight End	6-6	248	Hermitage H.S.	Richmond, Va.
Michael Brown	Linebacker	6-3	218	Palm Beach Gardens H.S.	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
David Clowney	Wide Receiver	6-1	175	Atlantic H.S.	Delray Beach, Fla.
Chris Ellis	Defensive End	6-4	245	Bethel H.S.	Hampton, Va.
Vince Hall	Linebacker	6-1	240	Western Branch H.S.	Chesapeake, Va.
Michael Hinton	Athlete	6-3	200	Hargrave Academy (Va.)	Burlington, N.C.
Cory Holt	Quarterback	6-4	205	Lexington H.S.	Lexington, N.C.
Josh Hyman	Wide Receiver	6-0	180	Fork Union Military (Va.)	Chesapeake, Va.
John Kinzer	Tight End	6-5	255	Robinson H.S.	Fairfax, Va.
Kenny Lewis	Running Back	5-9	185	George Washington H.S.	Danville, Va.
Nick Marshman	Offensive Line	6-5	270	Turner Ashby H.S.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Roland Minor	Defensive Back	6-1	175	H.D. Woodson H.S.	Washington, D.C.
D.J. Parker	Defensive Back	6-0	180	Phoebus H.S.	Hampton, Va.
Carlton Powell	Defensive Tackle	6-3	290	Great Bridge H.S.	Chesapeake, Va.
Kory Robertson	Defensive Line	6-3	295	Magna Vista H.S.	Martinsville, Va.
Brett Warren	Linebacker	6-1	212	Centreville H.S.	Clifton, Va.
Matt Welsh	Offensive Line	6-5	280	Centreville H.S.	Clifton, Va.

No.	Name	vl	Pos	B'date	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	High School	H.S. Coach
56	Jonathan Lewis	1	DT	7/12/84	6-1	292	So.	Richmond, Va.	Varina	Gary Chilcoat
70	Kevin Lewis	2	DT	4/26/80	6-1	292	r-Jr.	Richmond, Va.	Varina	Ed Bulheller
88	Michael Malone	-	SE	3/9/84	6-3	202	r-Fr.	Friendswood, Texas	Friendswood	Steve Vanmeter
48	Brandon Manning+	2	LB	5/12/81	6-0	216	r-Jr.	Harrisburg, Pa.	Central Dauphin	George Chaump
52	Jimmy Martin@	1	OT	10/19/82	6-5	283	So.	Fairfax, Va.	Chantilly	Bob Herb
85	Jared Mazzetta	2	TE	6/4/81	6-4	260	r-Jr.	Flemington, N.J.	Hunterdon Central	Jim Meert
69	Danny McGrath	-	C	3/19/83	6-2	297	So.	Herndon, Va.	Herndon	Tom Meier
29	Brian McPherson	-	CB	5/11/84	5-10	190	r-Fr.	Madison Heights, Va.	Amherst County	Mickey Crouch
76	James Miller	2	OG	8/13/81	6-6	304	Jr.	Pompano Beach, Fla.	Ft. Lauderdale	John Timmons
97	Isaac Montgomery†	-	DT	3/3/82	6-4	297	r-Jr.	Princeton, W. Va.	Princeton	Ted Spadaro
66	Will Montgomery	-	OG	2/13/83	6-3	298	r-So.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
72	Jason Murphy	1	OG	8/7/82	6-2	296	r-So.	Baltimore, Md.	Edmondson Westside	Pete Pompey
	Brandon Pace	-	PK	11/11/83	5-10	193	r-Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Kellam	Mike Dewitt
58	Chris Pannell	-	OT	12/27/82	6-4	274	r-So.	Staunton, Va.	Robert E. Lee	David Tibbs
50	Mike Parham	-	C	9/13/84	6-0	274	r-Fr.	Petersburg, Va.	Petersburg	Remus James
80	Robert Parker	-	FL	3/10/84	6-1	207	r-Fr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Oscar Smith	Bill Lyons
89	Robert Peaslee	3	H/P	6/28/81	6-1	210	r-Sr.	Pulaski, Va.	Pulaski County	Joel Hicks
68	Robert Ramsey	-	C	4/13/82	6-2	307	r-Jr.	Coraopolis, Pa.	Montour	Don Morgan
3	Bryan Randall	2	QB	8/16/83	6-0	222	Jr.	Williamsburg, Va.	Bruton	Kyle Neve
	Matt Roan\$	-	TE	3/13/84	6-4	243	Fr.	Dublin, Va.	Pulaski County	Joel Hicks
6	Vegas Robinson	2	LB	5/19/81	6-0	244	r-Sr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
	Winston Roett	-	QB	3/30/84	6-2	200	So.	Vienna, Va.	O'Connell	Darrel Snyder
36	Aaron Rouse	-	LB	1/8/84	6-3	203	r-Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	First Colonial	Sam Scarborough
54	Bob Ruff	-	DE	9/23/82	6-1	231	Jr.	McMurray, Pa.	Peters Township	Garry Cathell
71	Tim Sandidge	1	DT	6/12/83	6-1	283	r-So.	Madison Heights, Va.	Amherst County	Mickey Crouch
23	Nic Schmitt	-	PK/P	1/5/84	6-1	242	So.	Salem, Va.	Salem	Willis White
81	Chris Shreve	1	FL	7/15/81	6-0	188	r-Sr.	Mouth of Wilson, Va.	Grayson County	Bill Strong
55	Darryl Tapp	1	DE	9/13/84	6-1	246	So.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
41	Jordan Trott	1	LB	6/26/83	6-4	245	r-So.	Torrance, Calif.	Loyola	Steve Grady
5	Marcus Vick	-	QB	3/20/84	6-0	203	r-Fr.	Newport News, Va.	Warwick	Tommy Reamon
30	Cary Wade	1	ROV	5/12/84	5-10	173	So.	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf
49	Carter Warley	3	PK	2/14/80	5-11	198	r-Sr.	Richmond, Va.	Fork Union	Mickey Sullivan
40	Blake Warren	1	LB	10/10/82	6-3	232	r-So.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
17	Garnell Wilds	3	CB	6/8/81	5-11	196	r-Sr.	Tampa, Fla.	Hillsborough	Earl Garcia, Jr.
19	Ernest Wilford@	3	SE	1/14/79	6-4	221	r-Sr.	Richmond, Va.	Armstrong/Franklin	Otis Brayboy
2	Jimmy Williams	1	FS	3/8/84	6-3	213	So.	Hampton, Va.	Bethel	Tracy Parker
86	Keith Willis	3	TE	12/14/80	6-5	264	r-Sr.	Norfolk, Va.	Norview	Carleton Thomas

\$ also attended Hargrave Military Academy (Va.);
 @ also attended Fork Union Military Academy (Va.);
 + attended the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School;

§ also attended Milford (Conn.) Prep
 ‡ also attended Pasadena City College (Calif.);
 † transferred from UNC

DEPTH CHART

Depth chart is subject to change.

OFFENSE (Multiple)

SE	19 Ernest Wilford (6-4, 221, r-Sr.)
	27 Justin Hamilton (6-3, 209, r-So.)
LT	79 Jon Dunn (6-7, 343, r-Jr.)
	57 Tripp Carroll (6-4, 306, Fr.)
LG	60 Jacob Gibson (6-4, 306, r-Sr.)
	66 Will Montgomery (6-4, 298, r-So.)
C	64 Jake Grove (6-3, 300, r-Sr.)
	68 Robert Ramsey (6-3, 307, r-Jr.)
RG	76 James Miller (6-6, 304, Jr.)
	72 Jason Murphy (6-2, 296, r-So.)
RT	52 Jimmy Martin (6-5, 283, So.)
	58 Chris Pannell (6-4, 274, r-So.)
TE	86 Keith Willis (6-5, 264, r-Sr.)
	85 Jared Mazzetta (6-4, 260, r-Jr.)
QB	3 Bryan Randall (6-0, 222, Jr.)
	5 Marcus Vick (6-0, 203, r-Fr.)
TB	25 Kevin Jones (6-0, 209, Jr.)
	32 Cedric Humes (6-1, 223, r-So.)
FB	43 Doug Easlick (5-11, 238, r-Sr.)
	90 Jeff King (6-5, 256, r-So.)
FL	4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 198, Jr.)
or	12 Richard Johnson (5-10, 189, r-Jr.)
PK	49 Carter Warley (5-11, 198, r-Sr.)
	23 Nic Schmitt (6-1, 242, So.)

DEFENSE (4-3)

DE	99 Cols Colas (6-0, 226, r-Sr.)
	96 Noland Burchette (6-2, 240, r-Fr.)
DT	91 Jason Lallis (6-0, 250, r-Jr.)
or	56 Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 292, So.)
DT	70 Kevin Lewis (6-1, 292, r-Jr.)
	71 Tim Sandidge (6-1, 283, r-So.)
DE	83 Nathaniel Adibi (6-3, 255, r-Sr.)
	55 Darryl Tapp (6-1, 246, So.)
ILB	6 Vegas Robinson (6-0, 244, r-Sr.)
	40 Blake Warren (6-3, 232, r-So.)
ILB	45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 227, r-Jr.)
	41 Jordan Trott (6-4, 245, r-So.)
OLB	48 Brandon Manning (6-0, 216, r-Jr.)
	36 Aaron Rouse (6-3, 203, r-Fr.)
BC	4 DeAngelo Hall (5-11, 198, Jr.)
	17 Garnell Wilds (5-11, 196, r-Sr.)
ROV	21 Michael Crawford (5-11, 209, r-Sr.)
	22 James Griffin (6-1, 193, Jr.)
FS	2 Jimmy Williams (6-3, 213, So.)
	31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 205, r-Jr.)
FC	8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 181, r-Jr.)
	1 Eric Green (5-11, 190, r-Jr.)
P	38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 202, r-Jr.)
	23 Nic Schmitt (6-1, 242, So.)

2002 LETTERMEN AND RETURNING STARTERS

Total Lettermen: 60; Lost 17/Returning 43
(Starts in parentheses)

OFFENSE

Lost - 7

Terrell Parham (1)
Anthony Davis (14)
Luke Owens (14)
Grant Noel (2)
Josh Spence
Lee Suggs (14)
Shawn Witten (12)

Returning - 17

SE	Ernest Wilford (13), Chris Shreve, #Chris Clifton
TE	Keith Willis (8), ‡Jeff King (6), #Jared Mazzetta
OT	Jon Dunn (7), Jimmy Martin (7)
OG	Jacob Gibson (12), James Miller (2), Jake Grove (14)
C	Jake Grove (14)
QB	Bryan Randall (12)
FB	Doug Easlick (14), †Cedric Humes
TB	Kevin Jones
FL	Richard Johnson (2), Justin Hamilton

DEFENSE

Lost - 8

Lamar Cobb
Jimmy E. Williams
Chris Buie
Alex Markogiannakis (1)
Ronyell Whitaker (10)
Billy Hardee (4), D.J. Walton Willie Pile (14)

Returning - 23

E	Nathaniel Adibi (13), Cols Colas (9), Jim Davis (6), Darryl Tapp
T	Jason Lallis (12), Kevin Lewis (11), Jonathan Lewis (3), Tim Sandidge (2), ‡Jason Murphy
OLB	Brandon Manning (13), †Mike Daniels (1)
ILB	Mikal Baaqee (13), Vegas Robinson (11), †James Anderson (3), #Chad Cooper, #Blake Warren, #Jordan Trott
CB	§DeAngelo Hall (10), Garnell Wilds (4), Vincent Fuller (4), #Cary Wade
ROV	Michael Crawford (10)
S	Jimmy Williams

SPECIALISTS

Lost - 2

Jon Mollerup
Ken Keister

Returning - 3

PK	Carter Warley
KO	
P	Vinnie Burns
H	Robert Peaslee
DS	

#Lettered mainly for play on special teams
†Has changed positions for 2003
§Will also play flanker
‡Will also play fullback



Justin Hamilton (27) blocks a punt that was picked up by Darryl Tapp (58) and returned for a touchdown in Tech's 2002 victory over Virginia.