



# 2004 OUTLOOK

*Defensive end Jim Davis, who sat out the 2003 season with an injury, joins nine returning starters and a host of young players as the Hokies begin play in the Atlantic Coast Conference*

*INAUGURAL SEASON IN THE ACC*

# Preseason Depth Chart

(subject to change)

## Offense

- SE 16 Chris Clifton (6-4, 205, r-Jr.)  
81 Justin Harper (6-3, 203, Fr.)
- LT 52 Jimmy Martin (6-5, 289, Jr.)  
61 Reggie Butler (6-6, 339, Jr.)
- LG 77 Brandon Gore (6-5, 351, r-So.)  
or 61 Reggie Butler (6-6, 339, Jr.)
- C 66 Will Montgomery (6-3, 298, r-Jr.)  
69 Danny McGrath (6-2, 294, r-So.)  
or 57 Tripp Carroll (6-4, 325, r-Fr.)
- RG 76 James Miller (6-6, 299, Sr.)  
or 72 Jason Murphy (6-2, 301, r-Jr.)
- RT 79 Jon Dunn (6-7, 341, r-Sr.)  
74 Brandon Frye (6-4, 290, r-So.)
- TE 90 Jeff King (6-5, 256, r-Jr.)  
or 85 Jared Mazzetta (6-4, 259, r-Sr.)
- QB 3 Bryan Randall (6-0, 222, Sr.)  
5 Marcus Vick (6-0, 213, r-So.)
- TB 32 Cedric Humes (6-1, 230, r-Jr.)  
or 20 Mike Imoh (5-7, 196, Jr.)
- FB 43 John Kinzer (6-2, 246, r-Fr.)  
Jesse Allen (6-0, 227, r-So.)
- FL 19 Josh Hyman (5-11, 191, r-Fr.)  
87 David Clowney (6-1, 178, So.)



*Will Montgomery is slated to take over the starting center position this fall.*

## Kickers

- PK 46 Brandon Pace (5-10, 199, r-So.)  
23 Nic Schmitt (6-1, 260, r-So.)
- P 38 Vinnie Burns (5-11, 202, r-Sr.)  
23 Nic Schmitt (6-1, 260, r-So.)

## Defense

- DE 96 Noland Burchette (6-2, 245, r-So.)  
49 Chris Ellis (6-4, 257, r-Fr.)
- DT 70 Kevin Lewis (6-1, 288, r-Sr.)  
99 Carlton Powell (6-2, 287, r-Fr.)
- DT 56 Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 300, Jr.)  
71 Tim Sandidge (6-1, 304, r-Jr.)
- DE 55 Darryl Tapp (6-1, 264, Jr.)  
or 95 Jim Davis (6-3, 276, r-Sr.)
- OLB 42 James Anderson (6-2, 222, r-Jr.)  
36 Aaron Rouse (6-3, 210, r-So.)
- ILB 45 Mikal Baaqee (5-10, 225, r-Sr.)  
9 Vince Hall (6-0, 237, r-Fr.)
- ILB 40 Blake Warren (6-3, 246, r-Jr.)  
11 Xavier Adibi (6-2, 229, r-Fr.)
- FC 1 Eric Green (6-0, 197, r-Sr.)  
25 D.J. Parker (5-11, 171, Fr.)
- FS 8 Vincent Fuller (6-1, 184, r-Sr.)  
31 Mike Daniels (6-0, 212, r-Sr.)
- ROV 22 James Griffin (6-1, 198, Sr.)  
30 Cary Wade (5-10, 179, r-So.)
- BC 2 Jimmy Williams (6-3, 213, Jr.)  
15 Roland Minor (6-0, 196, r-Fr.)



*James Anderson tackles a Texas A&M runner during Hurricane Isabelle last season.*



# 2004 Outlook

## Young Hokies hope chemistry is right for first ACC season

The departure of a productive senior class, combined with the early exit of junior stars and first-round NFL Draft picks Kevin Jones and DeAngelo Hall, left Virginia Tech with a lot of holes to fill following the 2003 season. And that was only part of the challenge for Coach Frank Beamer and his staff as they began preparations for the 2004 campaign.

Following a disappointing late-season slide in 2003 that saw Tech fall out of the national polls for the first time since 1998, Beamer and company were also faced with getting the Hokies focused for a new beginning. A beginning in what the Tech coach calls the best collegiate football league in the nation — the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Beamer feels his team made progress on both fronts during the spring. There are still a number of concerns to be sure, but it seems the chemistry may be right.

“At this very moment, I would say the strong point of this team is our chemistry,” Beamer says. “And I don’t take that lightly because I do think we work hard and we work well with each other. We are trying to get better as a football team.

If that continues, then I think we are talented enough that we will be a good football team.”

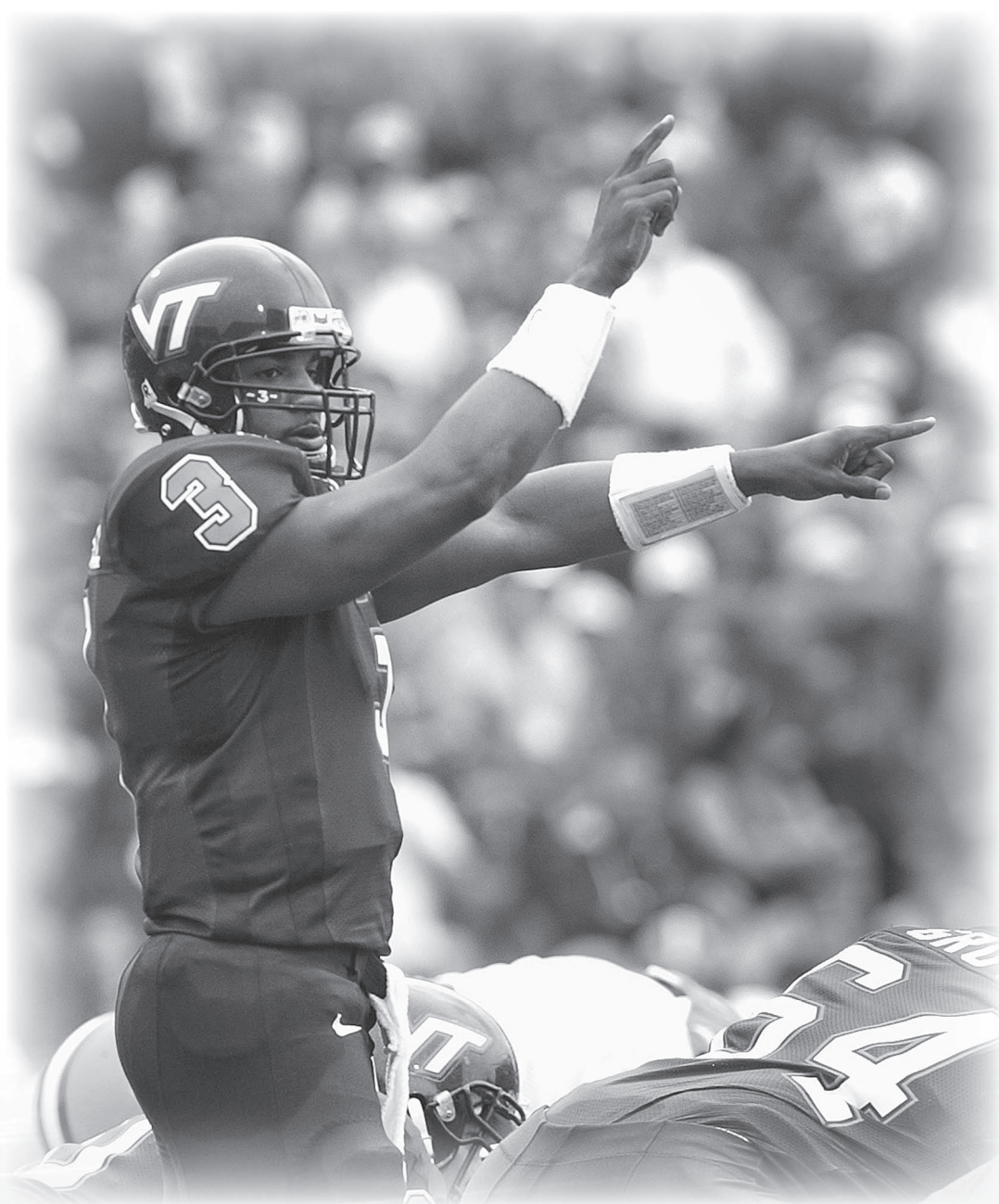
Exactly when that will happen, the Tech coach isn’t sure. The reason can be summed up in one word — youth. Tech returns just nine starters from last year’s team that went 8-5, including a 52-49 loss to California in the Insight Bowl — the Hokies’ 11<sup>th</sup> straight bowl. Two of those returning starters will be opening at new positions, while at least one other returnee might lose his starting spot. A look at a preliminary depth chart shows as many as 20 freshmen and sophomores on the team’s two-deep.

“Youth usually leads to inconsistency,” Beamer says. “When you are playing good teams early, inconsistency is not what you really want. But the truth is, there is no way around it. You just have to get out there and practice, gain experience and keep getting better ... and that will be our goal.”

The Hokies are working to fill some big shoes, including those of Rimington Award winner and unanimous All-America center Jake Grove, consensus All-America tailback Kevin Jones, All-BIG EAST cornerback and return man DeAngelo Hall and Tech career pass reception leader Ernest Wilford. The departure of fullback Doug Easlick, rover Michael Crawford and linebacker Vegas Robinson also left key holes to fill.

In an effort to solidify the center position and strengthen the secondary, the coaches did some experimenting during the spring. On offense, junior guard Will Montgomery, a 2003 starter, got a long hard look at the center spot. On the other side of the ball, the coaches switched starting free safety Jimmy Williams to Hall’s old boundary corner position and moved Vincent Fuller from corner to safety where he started his Tech career. Both experiments appear to have been successes.

Quarterback Bryan Randall will be joined in the backfield by a new supporting cast, but some of the roles have yet to be filled. Tech’s



Quarterback Bryan Randall returns for his senior season and is expected to provide great leadership for the young Hokies.

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*Jimmy Martin returns on the offensive line.*

plans for the tailback position were clouded somewhat when talented junior Cedric Humes, the top backup to Jones a year ago, broke his left fibula during the Hokies' first spring scrimmage. The spring also ended without a clear-cut starter at the fullback position, although redshirt freshman John Kinzer is currently the frontrunner.

Along the offensive front, returning starters Montgomery, Jon Dunn and Jimmy Martin join with a deep group of tight ends to form the nucleus for a line that has good potential, but still raises some concerns. Meanwhile, the wide receivers, one of the team's major concerns in March, were one of the biggest surprises of the spring.

"What the receivers do from spring practice to fall practice is critical," Beamer points out. "I go back and think about Ernest Wilford and how much improvement he made over the summer. If we have those same kind of individuals here now, then we have a chance for those positions (split end and flanker) to be very good."

Defensively, the talent is present for another fast, athletic unit. The Hokies will keep their basic plan in place, but look to utilize some personnel a little differently and scheme-wise put themselves in good matchups. Again, consistency will be a key factor.

"I think we are doing some things with our defense right now that help us personnel-wise," Beamer says. "And, I felt we were very good, for the most part, during spring practice. Now, we have to take that to the field this fall."

The defense will benefit from the return of end Jim Davis, who

made a strong showing during the spring after missing the entire 2003 season. A talented group of redshirt freshmen is also expected to have an impact. That group, led by linebackers Xavier Adibi and Vince Hall, linemen Carlton Powell and Chris Ellis and cornerback Roland Minor, brought new energy and some much-needed competition to the defense during spring practice.

"I'm really high on our redshirt freshmen, especially on defense," Beamer says. "Getting them into the equation is going to be interesting."

Tech returns punter Vinnie Burns, but there will still be competition for the place-kicking duties vacated by four-year starter Carter Warley when preseason practice begins. Sophomore Brandon Pace currently has the edge, but will likely be pushed by Nic Schmitt, who was redshirted last season. Schmitt will also challenge Burns for the punting duties and will be considered, along with Jud Dunlevy, for the kickoff duties.

Eight players who enrolled in January gained the benefit of participating in spring workouts. Several, including running back George Bell, cornerback D.J. Parker and receivers Justin Harper and Josh Morgan, took advantage of the opportunity to put themselves in the running for playing time this fall.

With an opening date against defending national champion Southern Cal and the challenge of the ACC lying ahead, Tech's youth will be tested early and often. Beamer is counting on the Hokies to maintain their focus and chemistry and channel what they learned from last season into a sense of purpose for the future.

"If you're competitive and have pride about you, and you don't achieve at the level you should, I think there is something about you that turns up the intensity a little bit," Beamer says. "I love the word relentless. To me, that is kind of what it is about here. We (may) get beat, but we'll be right back ... and I plan for us to be right back shortly."



*Talented rookie linebackers Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi redshirted last season and should benefit from a year of practice and be ready to contribute for the Hokies this fall.*

The loss of seven starters from last year's team — including All-Americans Kevin Jones and Jake Grove, along with Tech's all-time leading receiver in Ernest Wilford — can't take away from the excitement in the offensive huddle heading into the fall.

The cupboard may not be as full, but it certainly isn't empty. Tech's coaching staff is looking forward to the challenge of starting anew, and that started with spring practice and carries over into August.

Among the goals for offensive coordinator Bryan Stinespring heading into spring were finding an explosive playmaker at the

wide receiver spot, replacing Jones and a talented fullback, and building depth along the offensive line.

One area that only needed light work was the quarterback spot as Tech's top two signal callers return, including two-year starter Bryan Randall, who will be one of the most experienced quarterbacks not only in the ACC, but in the nation.

Three starters return on the offensive line, led by Jon Dunn and Jimmy Martin. This group experimented with different lineups and positions in an effort to make everyone more versatile and to build depth.

The big areas of concern heading into the spring were at the receiver and running back spots, but after a solid spring by both groups, confidence is high.

Leading the way at tailback are Cedric Humes and Mike Imoh, who although talented, haven't had to be the workhorse in Tech's offense yet. True freshman George Bell and converted receiver Justin Hamilton also got plenty of work, giving Tech four tailbacks ready to go in the fall. The receiving positions cleared up a bit in spring practice, but position coach Tony Ball will use the preseason practices to evaluate and position his players for the season opener.

## Offensive Line

Returning four players with valuable starting experience from 2003, and a plethora of young guys, line coach Bryan Stinespring spent the majority of the spring getting the offensive line to work together, while finding replacements for three-year starter and Rimington Award winner Jake Grove and versatile Jacob Gibson.

At the center spot, former walk-on Will Montgomery looks like the frontrunner at the position after a solid spring. He makes the move over from the left guard spot, where he started 10 games a year ago.

"Will is a guy who is never selfish," Stinespring says. "He is an extremely hard worker and a guy who you can always count on. He loves the game and is willing to do whatever it takes to win the game. I need him to work on his body control, but that will improve with experience."

Tripp Carroll, Mike Parham and Danny McGrath will contend for a spot in the two-deep rotation. None have extensive game experience, so the battle for reps this preseason could swing in the favor of any of the three. True freshman Ryan Shuman will also look to work his way into the mix here.

If anyone other than Montgomery can step up to the challenge, it will allow Montgomery to move back to the guard position.

"Tripp, Mike and Danny have a chance to get in there," Stinespring says. "Tripp has the size (6-4, 325 pounds) and the work ethic to be a hugely successful player for us. I need Tripp Carroll. He's had injuries that have held him back, but it's time. He has all the tools, but I need him to mature and start doing the things I know he's capable of. And Shuman is a true center who could help us out."

At the guard positions, Stinespring has the services of two players with excellent size along with the help of younger players who could challenge for playing time.

With the move of Montgomery to center, Reggie Butler has made the move to the top at the left guard spot. At 6-6, 339, he brings size and reach to the position. If Montgomery moves back to guard, it will allow Butler to move back outside, making Tech's line that much stronger.

"Reggie Butler has improved dramatically, and he's a guy we can count on," Stinespring says. "He's big, strong and fast, but he's not turning it loose. When he does that, Reggie's going to be able to help us."

Brandon Gore will also enter the fall at the top at left guard. He and Butler will continue their battle through August to determine who gets the starting nod in the opener. Gore missed some of spring with an injury. When healthy, he gives Tech a huge body (6-5, 351) to plug the middle.

"Brandon gives you one of those aircraft carrier bodies," Stinespring says. "He's still learning the offense and I need him in better condition. He has to get rid of some bad habits and use his size and technique to allow him to maximize his assets."

Stinespring will look at a large group of guys, including Parham, an impressive walk-on, and highly recruited Matt Welsh, to battle for time at left guard.

At the other guard spot, James Miller will look to build on his experience, having started six games in 2003. The 6-6, 299-pound senior has the



Starting right tackle Jon Dunn will be looked to for leadership.

size and experience to lock down the position over Jason Murphy.

"Miller hasn't consistently started for us, but he has consistently played," Stinespring says. "Jimmy is dependable, hard working and knows the game. But Jason Murphy has really improved since coming to the offensive line [from the defense], so I'm excited to see what he can do, too. Football is important to Jason, so when I ask him to dedicate himself to becoming a full-time guy, I know he will."

At the tackle positions, Stinespring is lucky enough to return two full-time starters at the left and right spots. Jimmy Martin started 13 games at left tackle in 2003, while Jon Dunn started 12 at right tackle.

Martin, a 6-5, 289-pound junior, graded out at 85.3 percent with 24 knockdown blocks in 2003, and has a firm grasp on the starting job.

"Martin is a guy I have a lot of confidence in," Stinespring

says. "He's been out there, he's played and he knows what he's doing. He's terrific in the open field and he's a good pass protector."

Butler will also back up Martin while playing left guard and freshman Nick Marshman (6-5, 333) will look to move up the depth chart.

At right tackle, Dunn, a 6-7, 341-pound senior, will provide the most experience, after starting 12 games in 2003 and seven in 2002. He has become more physical with his imposing size and has worked to improve his concentration on the field.

"Jon really improved last year, as far as concentration is concerned," Stinespring says. "He came a long way, but that is still something we need to focus on, because if he concentrates and plays physically, he could be a great player for us. He's experienced and has become a very good pass blocker."

Behind Dunn, Stinespring is looking for a backup who he can count on. Sophomore Brandon Frye is the leader for that position, but it's not locked up.

While Stinespring will have a big challenge in replacing Grove and Gibson, he is excited about the returning players, and the young players in the program.

"We lost the best center in the country and a very important player for us," Stinespring says. "Not only was he outstanding, but he made his teammates better. Gibson brought a lot of that as well. Finding replacements for those two was critical for us. We laid some groundwork, but I'm not sure we've found our replacements. We've thrown some dirt in the hole, but it's not full yet."

"Some of these guys are capable of going and getting themselves some real playing time. I know we have the right pieces, I just need to make them fit."

tight end and fullback position in 2003, will see the majority of his reps come at the tight end spot. King is a hard worker who, at 6-5 and 256 pounds, played in all 13 games last season, while starting two. He contributed six receptions for 109 yards and one touchdown, averaging 18 yards per catch.

"I really enjoy coaching Jeff King," Pearman says. "He's what Virginia Tech football is all about. He's a team player. He's tough, he has a great work ethic and I really enjoy being around him."

Mazzetta, after battling injuries for much of his career, played in all 13 games in 2003, contributing three catches for 44 yards. Also offering great size, at 6-4 and 259 pounds, he will contend with King for the first-team spot.

"King and Mazzetta are co-starters," Pearman says. "They both work hard and push each other. It's good competition. Mazzetta had a good spring and he's going to be a senior leader for us. This football team means a lot to him and he brings toughness to us. I like what he's all about. He and Jeff are going to be back and forth, and I look forward to seeing them push each other a lot."

Brown and Roan both redshirted in 2003, but offer size and athleticism to the tight end spot. Pearman says that with experience, the two players will show a lot of promise at the position.

"Duane is a big guy (6-5, 264 pounds), and he's a smart player," Pearman says. "He just needs to get in there and get some quality repetitions and he's going to be a good one. He's made quite a bit of progress, but he still has a long way to go. He has soft hands and can really catch the ball."

"Also, Matt Roan has had a year to get bigger and stronger. He picked up a lot of reps in the spring and I think if he continues on the path he's on, he'll be able to contribute to this football team down the road."

Both in practice and in the scrimmages, the tight ends saw significantly more balls thrown to them, something that Pearman and the offensive staff made a conscious effort to improve on.

"We've spent a lot of time visiting with people and learning ways to get the ball to the tight end," Pearman says. "I think we've

## Tight Ends

At the tight end position, Coach Danny Pearman loses a veteran in Keith Willis, but has four quality athletes to battle for playing time. Junior Jeff King and senior Jared Mazzetta have both seen significant game experience, while freshmen Duane Brown and Matt Roan had the chance to redshirt last season to learn the offense while getting stronger.

"We're lucky to have two guys who aren't strangers to being on the field," Pearman says. "We wanted to improve their games and expand the offense with them this spring and I think we did that. Also, we needed to develop depth with Duane Brown, so we gave him as much work as we could. Roan is coming along as well, so we're in good shape at the tight end position."

King, who split time between the



Jeff King has gained valuable game experience the past few seasons off the bench.



been productive and we're going to do a lot of different things. We want to get them involved in the passing game. We have two guys in King and Mazzetta who have proven they can catch the ball.

"When you look at our receivers, they're young. That means the quarterbacks will be looking more to our tight ends. If those guys show that they can get open and catch it, they'll get the balls thrown at them."

## Quarterbacks

Quarterbacks coach Kevin Rogers has the luxury of returning two gifted athletes who each saw significant playing time in 2003. Senior Bryan Randall and redshirt sophomore Marcus Vick will battle it out for the starting spot. Freshmen Cory Holt and Sean Glennon will also get a lot of reps on the practice field, providing good competition throughout the depth chart.

"Bryan and Marcus are two of the most experienced guys we have on offense and we wanted to put more in their hands this past spring," Rogers said. "I thought we made great strides, but we have to have a great summer and turn the position of experience into a position of leadership, as well."

Randall started all 13 games in 2003, amassing nearly 2,000 passing yards, including 398 against California in the Insight Bowl. The Williamsburg, Va., native also ran for 404 yards and five touchdowns over the season, giving him more than 5,000 total yards in his three seasons at Virginia Tech. The team will count on Randall to provide experience and leadership during the fall.

"Bryan is a very calm, poised player," Rogers says. "He is a leader by nature, and I think we will see him become the prototypical senior quarterback — one who provides leadership and focus to the rest of the team. Aside from continuing to improve on his skills as a player, I want to see him really develop the leader in himself."

Vick, in addition to his back-up duties at quarterback, also saw time at wide receiver during 2003 in an effort to utilize his natural athletic ability. With blazing speed and a head for the quarterback position, Rogers expects Vick to challenge for the starting role.



*Cedric Humes should be ready to run after recovering from a broken leg.*

"Marcus is about as athletic as anyone I've ever seen, and he's done a terrific job of learning the game," Rogers says. "He needs to have a great summer and make good decisions both on the field and off."

"I really think Marcus developed his football IQ and has developed a confidence and swagger with the way he plays. I think he believes he can be the starting quarterback and I'm not sure that was true in the previous two years."

In addition to the veterans, Holt enrolled at Tech for the

spring semester and got a jump start on his development.

"It was great to have Cory here because we had a chance to get his feet wet," Rogers said. "We got him familiarized with the system and that will allow him to take off with his ability to learn when we come into training camp. He can throw the ball accurately, but he still has a long ways to go."

Glennon, the top-rated quarterback in the state a year ago, will join the team this fall and is expected to redshirt this year, but will still need to be

ready in case his number gets called in a game.

"The goals for Sean and the goals for Cory are very similar," Rogers said. "We have to develop a third quarterback and one of them will be that guy. I'm pretty excited about working with both of those guys. One of those guys has to be ready and we have to be able to win a football game with them."

Rogers says he has several goals for his group heading into the fall.

"We have to clean it up and be more consistent on offense," he says. "We have to develop a chemistry where we're all fighting for each other and don't want to let each other down. Overall I think we have an excellent group. I'm excited that for the first time in a while, we have more than two guys out there working. They'll all push each other and give us more depth at the position than we've had in a while."

## Running Backs

The past few seasons, spring practice has been just a formality for running backs coach Billy Hite. He's had Shyrone Stith, Lee Suggs and Kevin Jones, along with talented and tough fullbacks.

This year won't be so easy. He has to replace both his starting tailback and starting fullback. Jones, a consensus All-American last year at the tailback spot, opted to leave Tech one year early for the National Football League, while three-year starting fullback Doug Easlick was lost to graduation.

Despite losing these two impact players, Hite is confident that he has players who will step up and fill these roles nicely during the fall.

"The cupboard is not bare," Hite says. "We lost two tremendous players in Jones and Easlick, but we also have players who have been in the program and are ready to step up to the challenge of replacing them."

The challenge of replacing Jones became a little more difficult early in spring practice when leader Cedric Humes broke his leg in the first scrimmage. He missed the rest of spring and summer, but is expected to be back by fall practice. The 230-pound junior played in all 13 games in 2003, rushing for 380 yards and five touchdowns.



"We had some big shoes to fill and I was really counting on Cedric," Hite says. "He's been with us for a while and he's very talented. I probably would have limited his reps this spring, but I would have liked for him to be in there some just to go through it. He kept up with everything mentally, so I think we'll be fine there."

Battling Humes for the starting spot will be Mike Imoh, a junior from Fairfax, Va. Imoh, while rushing only 22 times for 86 yards in his back-up tailback role last year, gobbled up the ground on kickoff returns, amassing 549 yards in 18 attempts, including a 91-yard return for a touchdown against Connecticut. He also added three touchdown receptions, as he became an offensive jack-of-all-trades for the Hokies.

"Mike is more of a scat back," Hite says. "Sometimes, he can just scurry past big defensive linemen because they can't see him until it's too late. He is a guy who can really help our offense in a lot of ways. He can hurt you running the ball and catching the ball. I thought he had an outstanding spring."

Also thrown into the mix will be highly touted newcomer George Bell, who graduated high school early in order to join the Hokies in the spring, and Justin Hamilton, who makes the move back to tailback from the receiver spot.

"George started at fullback, but we moved him back to tailback," Hite says. "He's a big, strong, powerful kind of kid who can run. He's a load to tackle and I thought he showed some real promise as the spring went on. For a guy who was supposed to be in his final semester of high school, I couldn't have asked for more."

"The other thing we did was move Justin back to tailback. I think he had a great time this spring and enjoyed himself. He's still a little rusty as far as finding his holes, but that will come back."

Hamilton, a junior from Clintwood, Va., was second on the team last season with 23 catches for 282 yards, allowing Tech to be more versatile in its offensive sets.

"The thing we can do with Justin, as with Imoh, is move

them out to receiver," Hite says. "So we can have them in the game and defenses don't know if we're lining them up at back or receiver, giving us about four different sets. I think we added another dimension to our offense with that move."

Also seeing time at tailback will be junior walk-on John Candelas from Blacksburg, Va. Candelas, who saw action in four games last season and scored a touchdown against James Madison, will try to work himself into the tailback rotation.

"Candelas has gotten better and better since he's been here," Hite says. "I like what he's done and I told him he will need to help us out on special teams as well as offense this year."

Freshman Branden Ore, from Chesapeake, Va., will also get a look this fall to see where he fits in. He is a very talented player who could help the Hokies right away.

"Branden has good speed and quickness," Hite says. "He reminds me of a young Lee Suggs. He might be a freshman who has to play this year, but we'll see in August."

At the fullback position, Hite will have his work cut out for him, as none of the candidates for the job have any game experience. The post-spring depth chart is as unclear as the pre-spring chart.

Competing for the fullback spot will be freshman John Kinzer, sophomore Jesse Allen

and junior Mike Perlozzo, who have all been in the system for several years.

"Kinzer has all the tools on paper," Hite says. "He just has to concentrate on learning the game and his assignments. He's the leader heading into the fall, but he needs to become more physical and develop a nasty demeanor."

Battling Kinzer will be Allen and Perlozzo, both of whom have had the benefits of being in Tech's strength and conditioning program. Both need to work on the mental aspect of the game as well, and will battle one another for quality reps.

"These guys are hard workers in the weight room," Hite says. "Jesse came on the last two weeks of spring, but still has a ways to go. I'm pleased with his progress. He's starting to play with leverage and finding out it makes a big difference when you're getting up under those pads. Mike had a great first two weeks of spring ball, but suffered a concussion and had to pull back a little bit. Both of them will battle Kinzer, but the spot is open."

Hite also says that walk-on freshman Carlton Weatherford shows great promise at the fullback spot. Weatherford sustained a knee injury during 2003 bowl practices and had surgery to repair it. He may also factor in as a contender when the knee is fully healed.

"Carlton was really showing a lot of promise," Hite says. "When he recovers, he has a bright future ahead of him at fullback. If he didn't get hurt, he would have been right in the mix for that starting spot, so he has a bright future ahead of him."

Two incoming freshmen, Purnell Sturdivant and Michael Green, will also get looks. It's not clear what side of the ball Sturdivant will end up on, but Hite says he would love to have him as a fullback. Green is a big athlete who could be a factor at the position if he's ready to play as a true freshman.

Overall, Hite is excited about his new stable of "Stallions."

"Some of these guys at tailback have been waiting for their chance, and here it is," Hite says. "And the guys I have at fullback are getting the opportunity to show their stuff, because they will all be going at it head-to-head for playing time."



Justin Hamilton brings his receiving skills to the tailback position for 2004.





*Richard Johnson is the lone senior among the receivers and his experience could be a plus for the Hokies.*

### Wide Receivers

At the wide receiver position, Coach Tony Ball knows that he has a lot to accomplish with his group of young, inexperienced receivers. Losing Ernest Wilford, a 13-game starter from 2003 and Chris Shreve, a dependable starter of four games, took a toll on the receiving corps, but Ball is fortunate to have a large group of young players to help fill the void.

Coming out of spring practice, Ball believes he has his top six receivers, but will have to wait until the fall to solidify those spots.

At the flanker position, redshirt freshman Josh Hyman entered the spring as the No. 3 man, but exited as the top man at the position.

"Josh Hyman is a young man who I am very pleased with," Ball says. "I enjoyed working with him this spring. I moved him from split end to flanker because I want to be able to move him around and get the ball in his hands on reverses and such. This

summer will be big for him. He'll see some things for the first time and we need to come out of preseason running."

David Clowney was the only true freshman to play last season and will be battling Hyman for that starting spot. Clowney's playing time dwindled as the season went along, but he finished the season with five catches for 67 yards and a score.

"David is a raw talent, but, he's tough," Ball says. "I really like that about him. He's tough minded, has a lot of confidence and he really pushes himself. He got injured a

couple times this spring. Where the average guy would have sat out, he refused to. I loved that about him and I appreciate that. He's going to bring that to the table."

Richard Johnson sat out spring with an injury, but could factor into the mix at flanker. The lone senior in the receiving corps started three games for Tech last season and finished with 141 yards and a touchdown on just 13 receptions in 2003.

"Richard is a senior, so he knows what he's doing out there," Ball says. "He's been here for four years, and his comfort level on the field might be higher than the other guys. He didn't go through spring but I'm not going to count Richard out. He can help these youngsters get better. He can catch it and he's good in his routes."

Sophomore Brenden Hill is the other returner at the flanker position. He dressed for several games last season, but did not play. A good summer of preparation will determine his playing time this fall.

"Brenden is a young man who's been in the program for two years," Ball says. "He's not our fastest guy but he really showed a lot of toughness this spring. He showed a lot of heart. He wants to be a contributor in this program and believes he can. He's another guy who could figure in. I'm not counting any of these guys out."

The split end spot has five returnees on the roster heading into the fall, led by Chris Clifton and freshman Justin Harper.

Clifton, a 6-4 junior leads the way heading into the fall. He had an excellent spring session and will look to carry that momentum into the fall. Last season, he had just three catches, but has the size and ability to be a big-time contributor.

"Clifton was a pleasant surprise," Ball says. "He brought maturity and took the reigns as the leader. I have a lot of confidence in him. Now, he still has a ways to go in order to be the receiver he needs to be on game day, but he's really developing. I like his work ethic and his maturity."

Hot on Clifton's heels is Harper, who enrolled at Tech in January as a freshman and impressed in the spring. He brings great size at 6-3 and made several big plays in practice and scrimmages.

"Justin Harper is in the mix as he is a player who has true receiver skills," Ball says. "He's athletic and has a knack for the game. My biggest concern for him this spring was how quickly he could adjust to our pace. Also, could he handle the physical aspect of it all? I know he's young. I wanted to make sure I kept things simple for him and taught him how to practice and play with great effort."

Along with Clifton and Harper at split end is Josh Morgan, another freshman who enrolled in January after spending a semester at prep school.

"Morgan has tremendous upside as well," Ball says. "He's very athletic, but he's very raw. If I put him on the field right now on game day, he would struggle. He hasn't seen it enough, doesn't have the body control and he doesn't understand it, but, he will in time. Josh is going to be a good football player at Virginia Tech."

Robert Parker is also looking to work his way into the rotation at the position. The redshirt sophomore had a good spring, but still has a ways to go in learning the collegiate receiver position.

Parker was hampered by injury for most of the 2003 season, but has the size and good work ethic to be successful if he stays healthy.

"I love Robert's attitude and his character," Ball says. "I knew when he came to Virginia Tech that he was raw and would need a lot of work. He's battled some nagging injuries, but I hope he'll build his body up this summer and make himself more durable."

Michael Malone, along with incoming freshmen Jeremy Gilchrist and Eddie Royal, will be battling for playing time this fall. Malone is a redshirt sophomore who contributed on the punt block team a year ago. Royal was the state's AAA player of the year while Gilchrist had one of the most productive seasons in state history. The two met in the state championship game with Royal's team coming out on top.

"Michael looked like he was really turning the corner this past fall," Ball says. "I want him to continue to bring a positive attitude every day. I'm going to coach him as hard as I can."

"The two freshmen are very athletic and they both have good speed. The thing I like most about them both is their character. They're bright eyed and they're eager to learn. I love that about them. I'm going to feed Royal and Gilchrist as much as they can handle. We'll see how they do mentally and physically. If they show they can compete and play, they'll play."

Ball has a group of developing, but inexperienced, players at both receiver positions, and a good preseason practice will be essential to their development.

"We have our work cut out for us," Ball says. "We need these guys who have experience to step it up a notch, but we also need these young guys to pick up their games. Building consistency and depth at these positions is critical for this fall."

After going through late-season defensive slumps the past two seasons, the Hokies looked at a couple of wrinkles to tweak their scheme, but their main focus during the spring was simply to improve. The defense lost six starters from the 2003 squad, including both defensive ends and three players in the secondary.

"The big thing was looking at our personnel," defensive coordinator Bud Foster says. "We had to find some playmakers, people who can perform at this level, and I think we did that. We've rotated some guys around to maximize their abilities and minimize their liabilities. That has allowed us to be more productive."

Foster feels good about the defensive end positions despite the loss of both starters.

"With Darryl Tapp and Noland Burchette back, we have two good young prospects at end who have shown playmaking ability," Foster notes. "Chris Ellis is an up-and-coming guy who has really made strides physically. And, you have Jim Davis back after missing a season, and Jordan Trott who made the move over from linebacker."

Davis is a proven playmaker who missed the entire 2003 season with a torn pectoral muscle. He has 23 career tackles behind the line, has caused two fumbles that were returned for touchdowns and has returned an interception for a TD. He will help bring stability to the end position.

With all five players who saw action last season returning and four talented newcomers, the tackle positions already had stability. But Foster was looking for something more during the spring.

"We have a lot of people at defensive tackle," Foster says, "but we need them to control the line of scrimmage and rush the passer on a more consistent basis. We have to be able to come off blocks and make plays at those positions."

If spring is any indication, Foster got his message across. The younger players provided healthy competition at the position, and one of those newcomers, redshirt freshman Carlton Powell, put himself in position to see a lot of playing time.

Youngsters also sparked plenty of competition at the linebacker positions, leaving returning starters Brandon Manning and Mikal Baaqee fighting for their jobs and the backer position closely contested. One of the top performances of the spring came from redshirt junior James Anderson who went from third to first on the depth chart at the whip linebacker position.

Jimmy Williams, who moved from free safety to cornerback in the spring, is the lone returning full-time starter in the secondary. Seniors Eric Green, Vincent Fuller and James Griffin all have experience and are expected to fill the other starting roles. As at the other defensive positions, there is also a skilled group of newcomers poised to make an impact.

"Every year is critical," Foster says. "That is how we've always looked at it. We've got a good team here. Now we have to go out, focus and perform. We need our younger players to step up and our veterans to give us consistent play."

"We are committed to doing things the right way and to being consistent at doing it. That has been the key to our success in the past and it is going to be the key to our success in the future."

### Defensive Line

Starting defensive ends Nathaniel Adibi and Cols Colas are the only players missing from last year's defensive line. Even with their loss, the Hokies figure to be strong at the end positions.

One of the main reasons is the return of senior Jim Davis. Davis tore a pectoral muscle shortly before 2003 spring practice opened and had to sit out the entire year. He returned in the spring much bigger at 6-3, 276-pounds, and quickly showed he felt no ill effects from his layoff. Davis gives the Hokies a proven playmaker who can affect a game. Even so, he will have to earn a starting position.

Following spring practice junior Darryl Tapp (6-1, 264) and redshirt sophomore Noland Burchette (6-2, 245) held the starting jobs. Both have size and speed, and made plays all spring. Tapp was second on the team in quarterback hurries last fall with

17. He had 58 tackles and three sacks. Burchette had 41 tackles, a sack and nine hurries.

"Jim Davis is ultra-talented, but I told him that he's going to have to beat out either Darryl or Noland," defensive line coach Charley Wiles admits. "I'm not going to start Jim just because he is a senior."

"Darryl plays hard, he plays fast and he plays with a great motor," Wiles says. "Noland is a guy who just keeps making big plays. He is athletic and, like Darryl, he plays with a super motor."

The talent at the end positions doesn't stop there. Wiles can also call on redshirt freshman Chris Ellis, redshirt junior Jordan Trott and dependable senior Bob Ruff. Ellis has a chance to become a special player. He brings excellent size to the position at 6-4, 257 pounds, and turned in the top 40-yard dash time among the ends during spring testing at 4.56 seconds. Meanwhile, Trott played in all 13 games at the mike linebacker position in 2003, getting one start. The 6-4, 238-pounder posted

48 tackles, including five behind the line.

The years the Hokies have been really good on defense, they have had productive defensive ends. Wiles is optimistic this year's group can develop into one of those units.

"We still need to develop Chris and Jordan a little bit more and get them ready to play," Wiles says. "When that happens, we will be very deep, very athletic and very talented at the defensive end positions. It is going to be a real competitive situation week-to-week."

That leaves the tackle position, where Wiles finally has the numbers.

"We've often had the depth at end," he says. "But the last two or three years we've had five kids at tackle going into the fall and we would get one or two of them hurt and end up shorthanded."

That shouldn't be an issue this fall, Wiles has 10 players to work with. Leading the returnees are brothers Kevin and Jonathan Lewis who handled the bulk of



Darryl Tapp, pressuring the QB during Tech's victory over No. 2 Miami last season, is one of a host of talented players on the Hokies' defensive line.



*Redshirt senior Jason Lallis is an athletic defensive tackle.*

the starting duties last season and retained their status with productive springs. Kevin, a 6-1, 288-pound senior, posted 43 tackles, four quarterback sacks and eight hurries last season. Younger brother Jonathan, a 6-1, 300-pound junior, had 69 tackles, four sacks, six hurries and a pass interception.

Also returning are redshirt senior Jason Lallis and redshirt junior Tim Sandidge, both of whom have seen some starting time during the past two seasons, and senior Isaac Montgomery. Lallis had 25 tackles and an interception return for a touchdown last season, but missed spring practice after undergoing shoulder surgery in January. One of the team's better interior pass rushers despite his undersized 6-0, 250-pound frame, Lallis is expected to return to full strength for preseason practice. Sandidge (6-1, 304) played in every game last season, registering 47 tackles, a sack and eight hurries. Montgomery, who is 6-4, 284 pounds, saw action in a reserve role last year after transferring from North Carolina. He contributed 14 tackles in eight games.

The competition for spots also includes a contingent of redshirt freshmen led by Carlton Powell, who put himself in the two-deep with a strong showing during spring practice. Powell is joined by Kory Robertson and Barry Booker. Redshirt sophomore Chris Burnett

also joins the mix after missing the 2003 season. The final candidate, true freshman Carl Howard, will get a close look when he joins the team in August.

Powell is the most advanced of the newcomers. He impressed the coaches with his work during the fall and off-season, as well as in the spring. The 6-2, 287-pounder bench pressed 415 pounds during spring testing and ran 4.85 in the 40.

"He (Powell) showed me something," Wiles admits. "He's a strong, smart, instinctive player. He's a guy who can get off blocks. He plays hard, too."

Robertson (6-2, 317) was sidelined much of the fall by a shoulder injury, but has attracted attention with his athletic ability. Booker is an instinctive player who reported at 266 pounds and is now 6-3, 295. Burnett has outstanding strength, but will have some catching up to do after being bounced around between offense and defense and missing last season.

With the Lewis brothers, Powell and Lallis, the front runners for the top four spots, the competition for playing time should be fierce when practice resumes.

"Competition always makes you better," Wiles says. "The fifth spot in our rotation is up for grabs. We need for some players to step up and make us better."

"I'd like to see the defensive line become more consistent," he adds. "Inconsistency killed us down the stretch last year. We need people who are going to rise to the occasion."

## Linebackers

Two-year starters Mikal Baaqee and Brandon Manning return at the mike and whip linebacker positions, respectively, but an infusion of young talent has made the competition for all three linebacker spots among the most interesting stories on the team.

Baaqee and Manning both faced stiff competition for their positions during the spring. Baaqee escaped still clinging to his top spot on the depth chart. Manning found himself third. Redshirt freshman Vince Hall kept the heat on Baaqee, while redshirt junior James Anderson moved by Manning and redshirt sophomore Aaron Rouse for the No. 1 spot at whip. Both competitions are expected to resume in August.

Baaqee has started 25 of Tech's last 27 games at mike linebacker. He led the team in tackles in 2002 with 112 and finished third on the team last season with 109. He trimmed down to 225 pounds for spring practice. Hall, who is 6-0, 237, is a natural at the position.

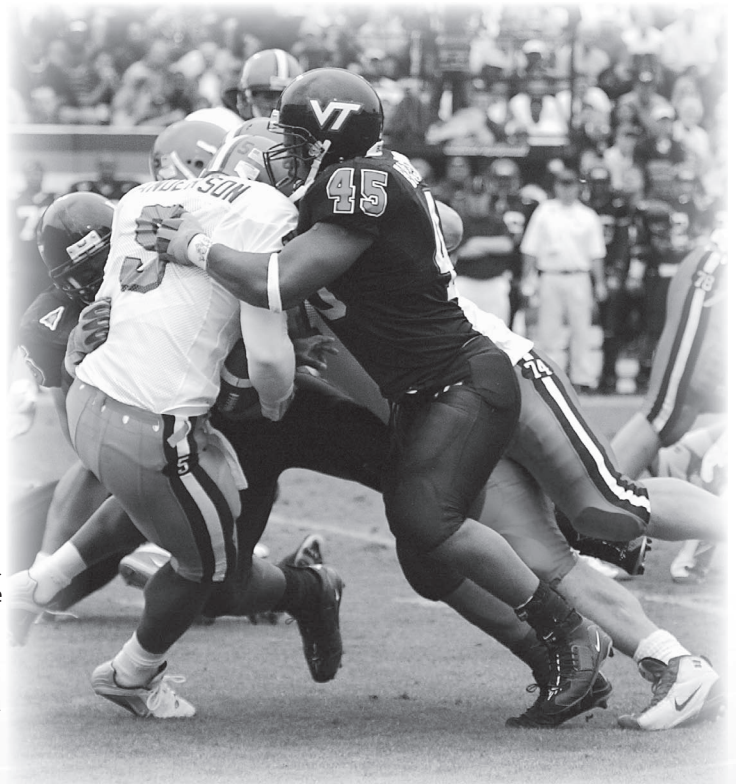
"Mikal had an outstanding spring," inside linebacker coach Bud Foster says. "He's got his weight right where it needs to be. Now he look's quicker and he's playing quicker."

"Vince shows a lot of playmaking skills and he's a good tackler. He has made Mikal a better player by pushing him."

Anderson got the top spot at whip the old fashion way, he earned it. Rouse and Manning both enjoyed good springs. Anderson excelled. The competition has given the Hokies' their best depth ever, top to bottom, at the whip position.

"James became more familiar with what he had to do and just became more comfortable at the position," whip coach Jim Cavanaugh explains, "He was able to put the experience of what he learned last fall into practice during the spring. He's playing with speed because he knows what to do. He closes hard in run support and he gets to a lot of balls in the passing game."

Anderson was Tech's top tackler on special teams last year, while making strides at the whip position. At 6-2, 222 pounds, he combines size with excellent speed and athleticism. Anderson earned the Excalibur Award, the highest honor in



*Mikal Baaqee's experience should help him at the mike backer position.*



Tech's strength and conditioning program, this spring.

Manning (6-0, 220) is a tough player who doesn't make many mistakes. He has started 25 of the Hokies' last 27 games. He finished third on the team in tackles with 75 in 2002 and was fourth last fall with 104. He is a Super Iron Hokie in the strength and conditioning program. Rouse, who is 6-3, 210, has turned plenty of heads with his speed and playmaking potential, and is coming off a solid spring. He played in all 13 games in 2003 and got a start against James Madison. He finished the season with 46 tackles and broke up a pair of passes.

"It's not that Brandon and Aaron didn't have good springs," Cavanaugh says. "They did. James has just been a little better. All those guys are pushing each other and that's what I want."

That leaves the backer position where perhaps the best battle of the spring developed to replace Vegas Robinson. Robinson was a physical player who finished fifth on the team in tackles with 101 and also contributed 11 quarterback hurries, eight tackles for losses and two pass interceptions.

The leading candidates for Robinson's spot are redshirt junior Blake Warren and redshirt freshman Xavier Adibi, with senior Chad Cooper also available.

Warren (6-3, 246), who picked up some valuable experience as the top backup at the position last season, finished the spring with a slight edge over Adibi. Warren contributed 43 tackles and intercepted a pass in 2003. Adibi (6-2, 229) drew rave reviews while working on the scout team as a redshirt. During off-season workouts, he led the inside linebackers with a 365-pound bench press and a 4.51 clocking in the 40. Cooper played solid football during the spring and gives the Hokies added versatility, having worked at both inside linebacker positions.

"Blake needed to improve his size and strength, and he's done that," Foster says. "He's a good tackler and he can be a solid cover guy. He has done everything I've asked of him, and I have a lot of confidence in him.

"Xavier is the complete package, he just needs experience. He is an intelligent player who



Seniors Brandon Manning (48) and Eric Green (1) should provide leadership to the Tech defense.

has an attitude when he's on the football field. He plays sideline to sideline and he's got the speed to play in coverage and to blitz."

Freshman Brett Warren, Blake's younger brother, heads a group of young players who will help provide depth at the linebacker positions and could prove to be strong candidates for special teams action. The younger Warren entered school in January and made a favorable impression while working at mike linebacker during spring practice.

Joining Warren are sophomore walk-on Chad Grimm and redshirt freshman walk-on Stevie Ray Lloyd. Grimm, who played on special teams last fall, is working at whip, while Lloyd joins Warren on the depth chart at mike. Prep All-American recruit Andrew Bowman is likely to draw attention when he joins the team in August.

The spring left both Foster and Cavanaugh pleased with the progress at their positions.

"We had an energetic, fiery spring," Foster says. "I'm excited about what we accomplished.

We still have work to do, but I think things will only get better as the younger guys gain more experience."

## The Secondary

Despite the loss of three starters, there is still plenty of potential in Tech's secondary. The key is getting that potential transferred to the playing field.

"We have some young players who have what it takes ability-wise, agility-wise and speed-wise," secondary coach Lorenzo Ward says. "Now, they have to transfer that to the field. We are looking for the guys who have played and have experience to bring those younger guys along and try to help them get better."

Gone from last year are starting cornerbacks DeAngelo Hall and Garnell Wilds. The Hokies also lost rover Michael Crawford, who led the team in tackles with 131. Hall was a first-team All-BIG EAST selection and Crawford was a second-team pick. Wilds, who missed the last half of the season

with a knee injury, was Tech's most consistent performer.

The only returning starter is junior Jimmy Williams, and he will be starting at a new position this fall after moving from free safety to cornerback in the spring. Williams started every game in 2003 and was second on the team in tackles with 114. At 6-3, 213 pounds, he could become a force at the boundary corner position if he continues to adjust to the change.

"That will be a better position for Jimmy," defensive backfield coach Lorenzo Ward says. "He won't have as many responsibilities as he did at safety so he'll be able to focus on his job. He is a big, physical kid who has a lot of cover ability. As far as his technique goes, he's not there yet, but if he picks up where he left off in the spring, he'll be fine."

With Williams' move to corner, senior Vincent Fuller will return to the free safety spot where he served as the No. 2 man in 2001.

Fuller has seen the majority of his playing time at cornerback the past two seasons, earning eight starts and intercepting five passes.

"Vinnie fits right in at safety because he already has a good understanding of what we are doing," Ward says. "He's a natural back there. He's a smart player with a lot of speed and range."

Senior Eric Green is slated to be the starter at the field corner position. Green saw plenty of action there last fall after missing the entire 2002 season with a torn ACL. He started five games and led the team in interceptions with three. Green returned two of those picks for touchdowns, including a key 51-yard TD return during Tech's 31-7 win against No. 2 Miami. He has the experience and ability to be a leader in the secondary.

"I thought Eric had a super spring, the best since he's been here," Ward points out. "He's fully healthy and he's dedicated himself. He has totally prepared himself to have a great season."

At rover, senior James Griffin enters the season as the starter

after a solid spring. Griffin, a junior college transfer, played in every game last year and contributed 27 tackles, a quarterback sack and two pass breakups.

"He can be a playmaker," rover coach Jim Cavanaugh says. "He plays fast and he's starting to play under control. At times, he is still inconsistent, but every day he got better."

The competition at all the positions will come from young players with the exception of senior Mike Daniels who is the No. 2 man at free safety. Daniels saw action at safety as a backup last season after spending his first two seasons as a contributor at the whip linebacker position. He contributed 27 tackles over 12 games in 2003.

The coaches have been impressed by an athletic group of freshmen who all have good size. That group includes free safety Corey Gordon (6-2, 212) and cornerbacks Roland Minor (6-0, 196) and D.J. Parker (5-11, 171).

Gordon is a big hitter who has already gone through two spring

practices after entering school in January 2003. He joins Daniels in backing up Fuller at free safety. Walk-on Jake Patten will also work at the position.

Minor, who showed a tremendous amount of ability in the spring, will join returning backup Brian McPherson at the boundary corner. McPherson has shown flashes of potential, but has seen only limited playing time on defense and special teams. Parker entered school in January and earned the right to play this fall with a solid spring performance that moved him into the No.2 spot at the field cornerback position. Walk-on Ryan Hash will also be available.

"Roland and D.J. could play a lot for us this season if they pick up in preseason camp where they left off in the spring," Ward says.

One of the team's priorities in August will be deciding its depth at rover. Redshirt sophomore Cary Wade and redshirt junior D.J. Walton are battling for the backup duties. Wade was redshirted in 2003 after seeing some playing time on special teams and at

cornerback as a freshman in 2002. Walton also began as a cornerback before moving to rover during the final games of the 2002 season. He did not play last season.

Three players who worked at wide receiver last fall — redshirt sophomore Chris Ceasar, sophomore Chris Albright and redshirt freshman Cory Price — moved to the secondary during the spring and will be on hand this season. Ceasar is working at field corner, Albright at rover and Price at the boundary corner spot.

"I think if we can pick up where we left off during the 15 days of spring practice, we will be fine by the time we play Southern Cal," Ward says. "We need to be prepared mentally, as well as physically. Three weeks after we start practicing we go play the No. 1 team in the country. If that doesn't get their attention, I don't know what will."

"I think our kids are hungry," he adds. "They want to get back to playing Virginia Tech style defense. It's important to them."

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Hokies still have plenty of competition in their special teams, too, after having their share of ups and downs in the kicking game last season.



Vinnie Burns

"The specialists are kind of like our football team," head coach Frank Beamer says. "We've got some talent, we just have to get the job done in a game."

With four-year letterman Carter Warley gone, the Hokies' place-kicking duties are still up for grabs. Another point of emphasis will be finding a dependable kickoff man. The leading candidates are sophomore Brandon Pace, along with redshirt sophomore Nic Schmitt and redshirt freshman Jud Dunlevy.

Pace saw some action in 2003, making all four of his extra-point kicks and working part of the season as the kickoff man. He finished the spring as the leading candidate, but was streaky at times. Schmitt, who was redshirted last fall after being pressed into duty as a true freshman in 2002, concentrated mainly on punting during the spring and spent a little time on kickoff. When practice resumes, however, Beamer is planning to get him involved in the place-kicking competition with Pace.

"Nic Schmitt is back in the competition," Beamer says. "Nic didn't kick field goals this year

until the last week of spring practice. He really kicked well. His leg isn't an issue, it's just a matter of technique and consistency."

Schmitt may be busy during the preseason. He is also expected to compete with Dunlevy for the kickoff duties and pressure senior Vinnie Burns for the punting job.

"I'm putting heavy emphasis on who our kickoff guy is going to be," Beamer admits. "That is something we spent a lot of time on last season and changed two or three times. But, we never really kicked the ball well as consistently as we needed to on kickoffs."

Burns, who has averaged 39.4 yards over his three seasons as the starting punter, has been a steady performer for the Hokies. He has been a semifinalist for the Ray Guy Award for the nation's top punter each of the past two seasons. Burns and Schmitt both put on punting displays during the 2004 Maroon-White spring game. Burns averaged 44 yards on seven punts while Schmitt boomed five punts for a 52.6-yard average.

Starting snappers Travis Conway and Nick Leeson both return. Conway handled all the snaps for punts during the 2003

season, while Leeson took care of most of the snaps for extra points and field goals. Redshirt freshmen Bart McMillin and Tripp Carroll could also get some work. When not concentrating on their snapping, Leeson and McMillin may spend some time working with the inside linebackers.

Senior Lance Goff is expected to replace four-year starter Robert Peaslee as the Hokies' holder this fall. That could change, however, if the left-footed Schmitt sees action. In that case, Burns, who punts left-footed, would likely handle the holding duties.

While Tech had its ups and downs in the kicking game last season, it did produce two of the nation's top kick return men.

DeAngelo Hall, who ranked fifth nationally in punt returns, is gone, but junior Mike Imoh, who finished third in kickoff returns, is back. Imoh is also likely to be one of the candidates for the punt return duties along with senior Richard Johnson, junior Jimmy Williams and incoming recruit Eddie Royal.



# Hokie Preseason Rosters

No.	Name	vl	Pos	Birthdate	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	High School	H.S. Coach
11	Xavier Adibi	-	LB	10/18/84	6-2	229	r-Fr.	Hampton, Va.	Phoebus	Bill Dee
	Chris Albright	-	ROV	10/9/84	6-0	190	So.	Grantville, Pa.	Lower Dauphin	Rob Klack
	Jesse Allen	-	FB	10/22/83	6-0	227	r-So.	Monson, Mass.	Pathfinder Regional	Chris Pope
42	James Anderson	2	LB	9/26/83	6-2	222	r-Jr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
45	Mikal Baaqee	3	LB	12/20/81	5-10	225	r-Sr.	Columbia, Md.	DeMatha	Bill McGregor
	Mason Baggett	-	OT	8/16/83	6-1	275	So.	Richmond, Va.	James River	Greg DeFrancesco
34	George Bell	-	TB	10/28/85	5-10	226	Fr.	Fayetteville, N.C.	Jack Britt	Richard Bailey
59	Barry Booker	-	DT	11/13/85	6-4	295	r-Fr.	Amherst, Va.	Amherst	Scott Abell
89	Duane Brown	-	TE	8/30/85	6-5	264	r-Fr.	Richmond, Va.	Hermitage	Patrick Kane
96	Noland Burchette	1	DE	3/23/83	6-2	245	r-So.	Richmond, Va.	Highland Springs	Scott Burton
60	Chris Burnett	-	DT	11/2/83	6-1	286	r-So.	Blue Ridge, Va.	Liberty-Bedford	Scott Abell
38	Vinnie Burns	3	P	2/2/82	5-11	202	r-Sr.	New Orleans, La.	St. Augustine	Anthony Biagas
61	Reggie Butler	1	OT	8/21/82	6-6	339	Jr.	Keswick, Va.	Monticello	Brud Bicknell
44	John Candelas	-	TB	4/21/83	6-0	211	Jr.	Blacksburg, Va.	Blacksburg	Dave Crist
57	Tripp Carroll	-	C	9/18/84	6-4	325	r-Fr.	Charlotte, N.C.	Andrew Jackson (Fla.)	Gil Carroll
37	Chris Ceasar	-	CB	12/20/82	5-11	177	r-So.	Delray Beach, Fla.	Spanish River	Bill Bretherick
16	Chris Clifton	2	SE	10/27/82	6-4	205	r-Jr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
87	David Clowney	1	FL	7/8/85	6-1	178	So.	Delray Beach, Fla.	Atlantic	Chris Bean
62	Travis Conway	2	DS	6/3/82	6-5	267	r-Sr.	Richmond, Va.	J.R. Tucker	Rusty Curle
33	Chad Cooper	3	LB	6/10/81	6-2	192	r-Sr.	Herrndon, Va.	Oakton	Pete Bendorf
31	Mike Daniels	3	FS	9/18/81	6-0	212	r-Sr.	Fairfax, Va.	Fairfax	Tom Verbanic
95	Jim Davis@	3	DE	10/4/81	6-3	276	r-Sr.	Highland Springs, Va.	Highland Springs	Randy Stokes
	Jud Dunlevy	-	PK	10/9/84	5-9	183	r-Fr.	Roanoke Rapids, N.C.	Roanoke Rapids	Tim Bennett
79	Jon Dunn	3	OT	12/12/81	6-7	341	r-Sr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Tallwood	Thad Harold
49	Chris Ellis	-	DE	2/11/85	6-4	257	r-Fr.	Hampton, Va.	Bethel	Tracy Parker
	Rashad Ferebee	-	OG	3/18/84	5-8	254	Jr.	Norfolk, Va.	Granby	Dave Hudak
63	Andrew Fleck	-	C	10/11/82	6-3	269	r-So.	Edmond, Okla.	Santa Fe	Brian Kelly
74	Brandon Frye	-	OT	1/23/83	6-4	290	r-So.	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Myrtle Beach	Scott Early
8	Vincent Fuller	3	FS	8/3/82	6-1	184	r-Sr.	Baltimore, Md.	Woodlawn	Reggie White
13	Lance Goff	-	QB	3/29/82	5-11	202	r-Sr.	Wytheville, Va.	George Wythe	Larry Russell
28	Corey Gordon\$	-	FS	6/9/84	6-2	212	r-Fr.	Gainesville, Fla.	Gainesville	Rick Swain
77	Brandon Gore	1	OG	11/7/83	6-5	351	r-So.	Warrenton, Va.	Liberty	Joe Trabucco
1	Eric Green	3	CB	3/16/82	6-0	197	r-Sr.	Clewiston, Fla.	Clewiston	Al Morrell
22	James Griffin‡	1	ROV	12/28/81	6-1	198	Sr.	Memphis, Tenn.	East	Wayne Randall
98	Chad Grimm	-	LB	5/18/85	5-10	182	So.	Fairfax, Va.	Oakton	Pete Bendorf
9	Vince Hall	-	LB	12/3/84	6-0	237	r-Fr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Western Branch	Lew Johnston
27	Justin Hamilton	2	TB	9/17/82	6-3	219	r-Jr.	Clintwood, Va.	Clintwood	Bob Meade
81	Justin Harper\$	-	SE	2/24/85	6-3	203	Fr.	Catawba, N.C.	Bandys	Randy Lowman
	Ryan Hash	-	CB	3/27/83	5-9	175	r-So.	Springfield, Va.	Robert E. Lee	Jerry Pannoni
82	Brenden Hill	-	FL	7/7/84	6-2	207	r-Fr.	Newport News, Va.	Warwick	Tommy Reamon
14	Cory Holt\$	-	QB	6/17/85	6-4	208	Fr.	Lexington, N.C.	Lexington	Billy Hunt
32	Cedric Humes	2	TB	8/7/83	6-1	230	r-Jr.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Princess Anne	Jeff Balance
19	Josh Hyman@	-	FL	4/18/83	5-11	191	r-Fr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
20	Mike Imoh	1	TB	7/21/84	5-7	196	Jr.	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf

## 2004 NUMERICAL ROSTER

Following are the preseason number assignments for 2004. Changes are expected to occur before the season opens.

1 Eric Green..... CB	28 Corey Gordon ..... FS	49 Chris Ellis ..... DE	74 Brandon Frye ..... OT
2 Jimmy Williams ..... CB	29 Brian McPherson ..... CB	50 Mike Parham ..... C	75 Kory Robertson ..... DT
3 Bryan Randall ..... QB	30 Cary Wade ..... ROV	51 Matt Welsh ..... OG	76 James Miller ..... OG
5 Marcus Vick ..... QB	31 Mike Daniels ..... FS	52 Jimmy Martin ..... OT	77 Brandon Gore ..... OG
8 Vincent Fuller ..... FS	32 Cedric Humes ..... TB	53 Nick Leeson ..... DS	79 Jon Dunn ..... OT
9 Vince Hall ..... LB	33 Chad Cooper ..... LB	54 Bob Ruff ..... DE	80 Robert Parker ..... SE
11 Xavier Adibi ..... LB	34 George Bell ..... TB	55 Darryl Tapp ..... DE	81 Justin Harper ..... SE
12 Richard Johnson ..... FL	35 Stevie Ray Lloyd ..... LB	56 Jonathan Lewis ..... DT	82 Brenden Hill ..... FL
13 Lance Goff ..... QB	36 Aaron Rouse ..... LB	57 Tripp Carroll ..... C	83 Matt Roan ..... TE
14 Cory Holt ..... QB	37 Chris Ceasar ..... CB	59 Barry Booker ..... DT	85 Jared Mazzetta ..... TE
15 Roland Minor ..... CB	38 Vinnie Burns ..... P	60 Chris Burnett ..... DT	86 Isaac Montgomery ..... DT
16 Chris Clifton ..... SE	40 Blake Warren ..... LB	61 Reggie Butler ..... OT	87 David Clowney ..... FL
17 Josh Morgan ..... SE	41 Jordan Trott ..... DE	62 Travis Conway ..... DS	88 Michael Malone ..... SE
19 Josh Hyman ..... FL	42 James Anderson ..... LB	63 Andrew Fleck ..... C	89 Duane Brown ..... TE
20 Mike Imoh ..... TB	43 John Kinzer ..... FB	66 Will Montgomery ..... C	90 Jeff King ..... TE
22 James Griffin ..... ROV	44 John Candelas ..... TB	67 Nick Marshman ..... OT	91 Jason Lallis ..... DT
23 Nic Schmitt ..... P/PK	45 Mikal Baaqee ..... LB	69 Danny McGrath ..... C	95 Jim Davis ..... DE
24 D.J. Walton ..... ROV	46 Brandon Pace ..... PK	70 Kevin Lewis ..... DT	96 Noland Burchette ..... DE
25 D.J. Parker ..... CB	47 John Thibodeau ..... SE	71 Tim Sandidge ..... DT	98 Chad Grimm ..... LB
27 Justin Hamilton ..... TB	48 Brandon Manning ..... LB	72 Jason Murphy ..... OG	99 Carlton Powell ..... DT

2004 OUTLOOK

# VIRGINIA TECH'S 2004 FOOTBALL RECRUITING CLASS

Name	Position	Ht.	Wt.	Last School	Hometown
Andrew Bowman	Linebacker	6-1	225	Hermitage H.S.	Glen Allen, Va.
Brandon Flowers	Cornerback	5-9	175	Hargrave	Delray Beach, Fla.
Jeremy Gilchrist	Wide Receiver	5-10	180	Landstown H.S.	Virginia Beach, Va.
Sean Glennon	Quarterback	6-3	185	Westfield H.S.	Centreville, Va.
Mike Green	Fullback/Linebacker	6-0	240	Deptford H.S.	Westville, N.J.
Brandon Holland	Offensive Lineman	6-4	280	Northside H.S.	Roanoke, Va.
Carl Howard	Defensive Tackle	6-4	290	Matawan H.S.	Cliffwood, N.J.
Theodore Miller	Cornerback	6-2	181	H.D. Woodson H.S.	Washington, D.C.
Branden Ore	Tailback	6-0	205	Indian River H.S.	Chesapeake, Va.
Maurice Reevey	Tight End	6-3	225	Fork Union	Highland Springs, Va.
Eddie Shum	Wide Receiver	5-10	170	Westfield H.S.	Herndon, Va.
Ryan Shuman	Offensive Lineman	6-3	262	Fork Union	Fork Union, Va.
Purnell Sturdivant	Fullback/Rover	5-10	220	Lake Taylor H.S.	Norfolk, Va.
Sam Wheeler	Fullback	6-3	235	Blacksburg H.S.	Blacksburg, Va.

No.	Name	vl	Pos	Birthdate	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	High School	H.S. Coach
12	Richard Johnson	3	FL	6/17/82	5-10	187	r-Sr.	Baltimore, Md.	Milford Mill Academy	Reggie Brooks
	Greg Kezmarsky	-	DE	10/1/83	6-3	241	Jr.	Voorhees, N.J.	Eastern	Dan Spittal
90	Jeff King	2	TE	2/19/83	6-5	256	r-Jr.	Pulaski, Va.	Pulaski County	Joel Hicks
43	John Kinzer	-	FB	8/23/84	6-2	246	r-Fr.	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf
91	Jason Lallis	3	DT	2/4/82	6-0	250	r-Sr.	Mitchellville, Md.	DeMatha	Bill McGregor
53	Nick Leeson	1	DS	10/29/82	6-1	242	r-So.	Abingdon, Va.	Abingdon	Scott Allen
56	Jonathan Lewis	2	DT	7/12/84	6-1	300	Jr.	Richmond, Va.	Varina	Gary Chilcoat
70	Kevin Lewis	3	DT	4/26/80	6-1	288	r-Sr.	Richmond, Va.	Varina	Ed Bulheller
35	Stevie Ray Lloyd	-	LB	4/9/85	5-11	233	r-Fr.	Lynchburg, Va.	Jefferson Forest	Terry Smith
88	Michael Malone	1	SE	3/9/84	6-3	212	r-So.	Friendswood, Texas	Friendswood	Steve Vanmeter
48	Brandon Manning+	3	LB	5/12/81	6-0	220	r-Sr.	Harrisburg, Pa.	Central Dauphin	George Chaump
67	Nick Marshman	-	OT	2/13/85	6-5	333	Fr.	Harrisonburg, Va.	Turner Ashby	Joe Taylor
52	Jimmy Martin@	2	OT	10/19/82	6-5	289	Jr.	Chantilly, Va.	Chantilly	Bob Herb
85	Jared Mazzetta	3	TE	6/4/81	6-4	259	r-Sr.	Flemington, N.J.	Hunterdon Central	Jim Meert
69	Danny McGrath	-	C	3/19/83	6-2	294	r-So.	Herndon, Va.	Herndon	Tom Meier
	Bart McMillin	-	DS	2/25/85	6-0	221	r-Fr.	Bristol, Tenn.	Tennessee	Greg Stubbs
29	Brian McPherson	-	CB	5/11/84	5-10	189	r-So.	Madison Heights, Va.	Amherst County	Mickey Crouch
76	James Miller	2	OG	8/13/81	6-6	299	Sr.	Pompano Beach, Fla.	Ft. Lauderdale	John Timmons
15	Roland Minor	-	CB	8/1/84	6-0	196	r-Fr.	Washington, D.C.	H.D. Woodson	Greg Fuller
86	Isaac Montgomery†	1	DT	3/3/82	6-4	284	r-Sr.	Princeton, W. Va.	Princeton	Ted Spadaro
66	Will Montgomery	1	C	2/13/83	6-3	296	r-Jr.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
17	Josh Morgan@	-	SE	6/20/85	6-1	211	Fr.	Washington, D.C.	H.D. Woodson	Greg Fuller
72	Jason Murphy	1	OG	8/7/82	6-2	301	r-Jr.	Baltimore, Md.	Edmondson Westside	Pete Pompey
46	Brandon Pace	1	PK	11/11/83	5-10	199	r-So.	Virginia Beach, Va.	Kellam	Chris Dewitt
50	Mike Parham	-	C	9/13/84	6-0	273	r-So.	Petersburg, Va.	Petersburg	Remus James
25	D.J. Parker\$	-	CB	4/18/85	5-11	171	Fr.	Hampton, Va.	Phoebus	Bill Dee
80	Robert Parker	-	SE	3/10/84	6-1	210	r-So.	Chesapeake, Va.	Oscar Smith	Bill Lyons
	Jake Patten	-	FS	9/30/84	6-0	190	So.	Chantilly, Va.	Chantilly	Ken Kincaid
	Mike Perlozzo	-	FB	9/2/83	5-8	213	Jr.	Athens, Pa.	Athens	Jack Young
99	Carlton Powell	-	DT	8/14/85	6-2	287	r-Fr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Great Bridge	Noble Palmer
	Cory Price	-	CB	4/9/85	5-10	181	So.	Blacksburg, Va.	Blacksburg	Dave Crist
3	Bryan Randall	3	QB	8/16/83	6-0	222	Sr.	Williamsburg, Va.	Bruton	Kyle Neve
83	Matt Roan\$	-	TE	3/13/84	6-4	255	r-Fr.	Dublin, Va.	Pulaski County	Joel Hicks
75	Kory Robertson	-	DT	12/12/84	6-2	317	r-Fr.	Martinsville, Va.	Magna Vista	Joe Beckelheimer
36	Aaron Rouse	1	LB	1/8/84	6-3	210	r-So.	Virginia Beach, Va.	First Colonial	Sam Scarborough
54	Bob Ruff	1	DE	9/23/82	6-1	238	Sr.	McMurray, Pa.	Peters Township	Garry Cathell
71	Tim Sandidge	2	DT	6/12/83	6-1	304	r-Jr.	Madison Heights, Va.	Amherst County	Mickey Crouch
23	Nic Schmitt	-	P/PK	1/5/84	6-1	260	r-So.	Salem, Va.	Salem	Willis White
55	Darryl Tapp	2	DE	9/13/84	6-1	264	Jr.	Chesapeake, Va.	Deep Creek	David Cox
47	John Thibodeau	-	SE	9/7/82	6-0	180	r-Jr.	Springfield, Va.	Hayfield	Roy Hill
41	Jordan Trott	2	DE	6/26/83	6-4	238	r-Jr.	Torrance, Calif.	Loyola	Steve Grady
5	Marcus Vick	1	QB	3/20/84	6-0	213	r-So.	Newport News, Va.	Warwick	Tommy Reamon
30	Cary Wade	1	ROV	5/12/84	5-10	179	r-So.	Fairfax, Va.	Robinson	Mark Bendorf
24	D.J. Walton	1	ROV	10/19/82	5-9	193	r-Jr.	Woodbridge, Va.	C.D. Hylton	Bill Brown
40	Blake Warren	2	LB	10/10/82	6-3	246	r-Jr.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
	Brett Warren	-	LB	3/7/85	6-1	225	Fr.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
	Carlton Weatherford	-	FB	1/5/85	5-9	204	r-Fr.	Danville, Va.	Tunstall	Buddy Brown
51	Matt Welsh	-	OG	9/12/84	6-4	289	Fr.	Clifton, Va.	Centreville	Mike Skinner
2	Jimmy Williams	2	CB	3/8/84	6-3	213	Jr.	Hampton, Va.	Bethel	Tracy Parker

\$ also attended Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)

@ also attended Fork Union Military Academy (Va.)

+ attended the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School

‡ also attended Pasadena City College (Calif.)

† transferred from UNC



## 2003 LETTERMEN & RETURNING STARTERS

Total Lettermen: 57; Lost 16/Returning 41  
(2003 starters in **bold**; starts in parentheses)

### Offense

- |  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| <b>Lost - 8</b>                            |    | <b>Returning - 17</b>   |
| <b>Ernest Wilford (13)</b>                 | SE | Chris Clifton,<br>#Michael Malone                                     |
| <b>Keith Willis (11)</b>                   | TE | Jeff King (2),<br>Jared Mazzetta                                      |
|  | OT | <b>Jon Dunn (12),</b><br><b>Jimmy Martin (13),</b><br>Reggie Butler   |
| <b>Jacob Gibson (10)+</b>                  | OG | <b>*Will Montgomery (10),</b><br>James Miller (6),<br>Brandon Gore    |
| <b>Jake Grove (13)</b>                     | C  |   |
|  | QB | <b>Bryan Randall (13),</b><br>Marcus Vick                             |
| <b>Doug Easlick (13),</b><br>#Steve Canter | FB |   |
| <b>Kevin Jones (13)</b>                    | TB | Cedric Humes,<br>Mike Imoh  |
| <b>Chris Shreve (4)</b>                    | FL | Richard Johnson (3),<br><b>*Justin Hamilton (6),</b><br>David Clowney |

### Defense

- |  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>Lost - 6</b>  |          | <b>Returning - 20</b>   |
| <b>Nathaniel Adibi (13),</b><br><b>Cols Colas (11)</b> | E        | Darryl Tapp (2),<br>Noland Burchette,<br>#Bob Ruff  |
|  | T        | <b>Kevin Lewis (10),</b><br><b>Jonathan Lewis (13),</b><br>Tim Sandidge (3),<br>Jason Lallis,<br>Isaac Montgomery |
|  | OLB      | <b>Brandon Manning (12),</b><br>Aaron Rouse (1),<br>#James Anderson   |
| <b>Vegas Robinson (13)</b>                             | ILB      | <b>Mikal Baaqee (12),</b><br><b>*Jordan Trott (1),</b><br>Blake Warren,<br>#Chad Cooper                           |
| <b>DeAngelo Hall (12),</b><br><b>Garnell Wilds (6)</b> | CB       | Eric Green (5),<br><b>*Vincent Fuller (3)</b>   |
| <b>Michael Crawford (13)</b>                           | ROV<br>S | James Griffin<br><b>*Jimmy Williams (13),</b><br>Mike Daniels   |

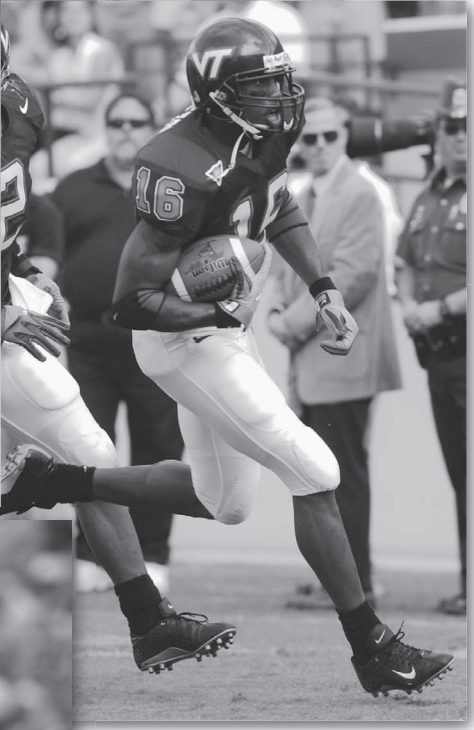
### Specialists

- |                       |    |   |
|-----------------------|----|---|
| <b>Lost - 2</b>       |    | <b>Returning - 4</b>                        |
| <b>Carter Warley</b>  | PK | Brandon Pace                                |
|                       | KO | <b>Vinnie Burns</b>                         |
|                       | P  |   |
| <b>Robert Peaslee</b> | H  |   |
|                       | DS | <b>Travis Conway,</b><br><b>Nick Leeson</b> |

#Lettered mainly for play on special teams  
\*Has changed positions for 2004  
+Gibson also started a game at tackle



Senior James Miller is a key player on the offensive line.



Junior Chris Clifton is Tech's top candidate at split end.



Linebacker Blake Warren figures to see plenty of playing time.



Aaron Rouse brings speed and athleticism to the whip position.

2004 OUTLOOK