

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES



QB Tyrod Taylor

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2010

QUARTERBACKS - In '06 Sean Glennon (PS#21) started all 13 and threw for 2,191 (56%, 11-11). In '07 VT signed Tyrod Taylor (PS#3) who drew many comparisons to Michael Vick. Due to injuries and coaches decisions, Glennon and Taylor split time. Glennon took control by year's end and threw for 1,796 (61%, 12-5). Taylor threw for 927 (54%, 5-3) with 429 rush (4.2). In '08 HC Frank Beamer made a surprising announcement that Taylor would RS. After losing the opener to EC, Beamer reversed his decision. Taylor started 10 and threw for 1,036 (57%) but with a poor 2-7 ratio (738 rush, 5.0). Glennon (4 st) threw for 743 (60%, 3-5). They also used TE Greg Boone in the "Wild Turkey" formation (1 pass, 76 rush yds). Taylor was the clear-cut starter in '09 and showed obvious improvement (2311, 56%, 13-5, 370 rush) as 31.6% of his comp's were for 20+ yds (11.1% in '08). He had streaks of 105 and 84 att's without an int. Without an exp'd bkp Taylor ran less. RfR Ju-Ju Clayton's (PS#185) first collegiate pass was an 80 yd TD vs BC but that was his only completion on 5 att's (5 gm). Logan Thomas (PS#378) battled Clayton in Aug but RS. Not in the PSL is Will Cole (6'0" 195 rF, PS#267). VT did not run the Wild Turkey until late in the yr (Boone 2 rush, 1 pass). Taylor should be one of the ACC's top QB's in 2010.

RUNNING BACKS - In 2008 rF Darren Evans (PS#16) took the starting job and set the ACC single season rushing record with 1,265 (4.4). Unfortunately Evans tore his ACL in Aug '09 so the top returnee was soph Josh Oglesby (PS#75, 88, 2.3 '08) and he battled rF Ryan Williams (PS#11) and true frosh David Wilson (PS#8). All 3 RB's were banged up in Aug so they moved in WR Tony Gregory (6'0" 186 rF, PS#113) and prepped walk-on rF Zac Evans (5'10" 194 So) for PT. They opted to play true frosh David Wilson (5'10" 211 So) more in Wk 2 and he along with Williams, became the first VT duo ever to top 160 each in the same game. Williams did have a costly fumble vs NC (4Q) but after that played with a vengeance and broke Evans' rush record with 1,655 (5.6) with an ACC record 22 total TD's (1st Fr in ACC to lead conf in rush and scoring). QB Taylor was #2, Oglesby was #3 (335, 4.3) and Wilson #4 (334, 5.7). Not listed below is Kenny Lewis (5'9" 206 Sr, PS#49, 657 career yd, inj LY). This yr the only loss is FB Kenny Jefferson (2 st) and RB coach Billy Hite calls this his strongest backfield in 32 years and I rank it the #2 overall RB unit in '10 (pg 12).

RECEIVERS - In '08 VT had to replace THREE NFL DC's and their top returning WR had just 3 rec. The inexp showed as there were numerous games with key dropped passes. VT was one of just 2 teams left in the FBS that did not have a WR with a TD catch when they finally got one in Wk 11. True frosh Jarrett Boykin led with 441 (14.7) while rF Danny Coale was #2 with 408 (11.3). TE Greg

Boone added 278 (12.6) while true frosh Dyrell Roberts (PS#94) had 227 (13.4). Last year all 4 ret'd and Boykin improved to 835 with an outstanding 20.9 ypc and Coale was #2 with 614 (20.5). Roberts had 390 (17.7) and rF Xavier Boyce added 88 (11.0). This year they lose TE's Boone (12 st, 7 rec) and Sam Wheeler (2 st, 2 rec). Not in the PSL are Nubian Peak (5'11" 183 rF, PS#125), DJ Coles (6'3" 222 So, PS#38), Ben Barber (5'11" 212 rF, PS#92), Austin Fuller (6'2" 205 So, PS#126) and TE's George George (6'3" 265 So), Randall Dunn (6'2" 245 So) and Rob Stanton (6'5" 234 Sr). This is VT's most experienced rec corps in 3 yrs.

OFFENSIVE LINE - VT had mostly exp'd O-lines in the first six years of the decade with the avg ypc during that span being 4.55. In '06 they had to replace 3 st's (all 1st or 2nd Tm ACC). The less exp'd unit had their worst ypg (113, 3.2) rush since '72 (107) while allowing 9% sks (29). In '07 VT had to replace 2 st's and RT Ed Wang only started the last 8. The rush total improved to 134 ypg (3.3), but VT allowed a mind-boggling 54 sks (14.2%). In '08 VT had to replace a #1DC but moved up to 174 ypg (3.8) but still allowed the highest sk% (14.5) in FBS. Last year they had to replace 2 multi-yr starters but returned 4th yr starter OG Sergio Render. They were more athletic with 4 ex-TE's in the spg 2 deep. VT improved to 208 ypg rush (4.7) with 31 sks (12.4%). This year they lose 2nd Tm ACC LG Render (12 st, 4Y st), 2nd Tm ACC LT Ed Wang (13 st, 3Y st, #5DC BUF) and C Richard Graham (5 gm). Six return with starting exp and while their career starts dropped from 90 to 54, this unit should be just as solid as the '09 version.

DEFENSIVE LINE - VT always has an exceptional run defense but in '08 they had to replace 3 st's (1st Tm ACC DT, #5DC DT, #3DC DE). Their numbers slipped to their "worst" in 4 yrs at 104 ypg (3.2) with 35 sks. In '08 they rotated 3 DT's and 3 DE's and 5 of the 6 ret'd in '09 so it was very surprising to me that VT allowed 128 ypg rush and 3.6 ypc (highest S/'92!) This year the losses are heavy as gone are 2nd Tm ACC DE Jason Worilds (13 st, 49 tkl, 4.5 sk, #2DC PIT), DT Cordarroy Thompson (13 st, 25 tkl, 1.5 tfl), DE Nekos Brown (13 st, 56 tkl, 6.5 sk) and DT Demetrius Taylor (5 st, 31 tkl, 5 tfl). Not in the PSL is Andrew Hutchings (6'2" 275 Sr). This unit is not as exp'd or talented as '09 and will not match the last 2 years' sack totals but could actually improve vs the rush.

LINEBACKERS - In both 2008 & '09 VT had to replace their #1 and #2 tk'l's. While they had just one starter ret last year, backup Cody Grimm was actually the #3 tk'l (71, 7.5 sks) in '08. Cam Martin (13 st '08) was not 100% and lost his job (20 tkl). This year they lose their #1 tackler in 3rd Tm AA Grimm (13 st, 106 tkl, 12.5 tfl, #7DC TB), Martin, Mark Muncey (6 tkl, 1 sk) and Jake Johnson (8 sts, #6 tk'l) who transferred. Not in the PSL is Jack Tyler (5'11" 223 rF, PS#329). Grimm was ACC POW 3 times and was tied for 1st in the FBS with 7 FF. This time they return their #2 and #7 tk'l's making them equal to '09.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - VT always has a solid pass D and in the last 6 years they have finished #11, #2, #13, #2, #25 and #9. Last year's unit had 3 st's back and yielded 47.4% (9-11 ratio). This year they lose 2nd Tm ACC FS Kam Chancellor (13 st, 68 tkl, 2 int, 5 pbu, #5DC SEA), CB Stephan Virgil (10 st, 36 tkl, 1 pd), ROV Dorian Porch (9 st, 42 tkl, 4 pd) and ROV Matt Reidy (21 tkl), CB Rashad Carmichael snagged 6 int LY (4.26 spd) and is one of the ACC's top CB's. Not in the PSL is Mark Carter (6'0" 177 rF). Three return who started in the bowl. ROV Davon Morgan started the last 4 and had more tkls (47) than Porch. Despite all that, this unit figures to drop a few notches in my PDR.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Beamer coaches this unit himself and VT almost always finishes near the top of my ST rankings (#1 finish in '07). In '08 they had to replace their K and top KR and it was shocking to me that VT finished a lowly #79. They gave up 3 PR TD's for the first time in over 50 yrs and also had 2 punts bk'd incl one that was ret'd for a TD vs EC. VT did lose their 2 gunners Zach Luckett (susp) and Brandon Dillard (inj) unexpectedly. Last

year I called for them to be one of the most improved ST units in the country and VT did not disappoint (#13). For the 3rd straight year they had a 1st time senior starter at K and Matt Waldron (PS#17) hit 20-23 (long 46). P Brent Bowden improved his net from 33.2 to 37.6. True frosh PR Jayron Hosley (PS#60) did well (11.2) while David Wilson (19.1) and Dyrell Roberts (31.9) split the KR duties. This year they lose both their K and P (#6DC TB) but I am sure Beamer will field another solid unit.

COACHES - I think Frank Beamer is one of the most outstanding coaches in the NCAA. He was a DB at VT from '66-'68 and the Hokies were in just 6 bowl games prior to his arrival ('87). Beamer filled the large shoes of Bill Dooley who went 64-37-1 from '78-'86. Beamer had four losing seasons in his first six including 2-8-1 in '92, but amazingly VT stuck with him and has been greatly rewarded. Beamer has not only taken them to 17 bowls since '93 but has made them a National Title contender. He has been the ACC COY twice. OC Bryan Stinespring is entering his 18th year here (OC S/'02). Stinespring has been much maligned recently with VT's offense ranking #100 and #103 in '07 and '08 but they improved to #50 in '09. Bud Foster has been with VT S/'87 and the DC since 1995. He was a Broyles Award finalist in '99, '01 and '05 and won the Award in '06 (only 4x finalist in awards history). Foster's defense was #1 in the FBS in '05 and '06, #4 in '07, #7 in '08 and #12 last year. He interviewed for the Clemson HC job in '08 and turned down a DC offer from Georgia in Dec.

PHIL'S FORECAST

In 1999, the Hokies played in the National Title game going 22-2 in a two year stretch. They are one of just 3 teams in the NCAA that have been to 17 straight bowls (Fla, Fla St). In their first year in the ACC (2004) they had just 10 st's back and were actually picked to finish 6th, 7th or 8th. I had them rated higher than all the others at #4 and they even exceeded my expectations as they won the ACC Title. VT almost knocked off undefeated Auburn in the Sugar Bowl finishing #10 at 10-3. The Hokies were 8-0 and #3 in '05 but lost to #5 Miami at home and later dropped the ACC Title game. After the Gator Bowl win they finished #7. VT outgained ACC foes by a conf best +128.8 ypg. In '06 they had just 9 ret st's (fewest ACC) but went 6-2 in the conf and 10-3 overall. Their D allowed just 9 FD's in the bowl but VT came up short vs UGA and finished #19. In '07 the Hokies had 14 fifth year seniors and were the preseason pick to win the ACC (#9 AP). They were destroyed by eventual Nat'l Champ LSU 48-7 and they also had some unimpressive wins early but got back to the ACC Title game and beat BC for their 2nd title in four years. Surprisingly, they fell short in selling their allotment of bowl tickets and lost the Orange Bowl to Kansas finishing #9. Beamer came into '08 at 5-24 vs Top 10 teams (only 2 wins vs #8 or better). VT was +11 in TO's in '07 and lost its top rusher, top 4 rec and top 3 tacklers and had just 10 ret st's (2nd fewest ACC). Despite those factors, I still picked them first in the Coastal. Beamer may have done his best coaching job yet. With a very young team they had numerous close wins incl getting an int vs Virginia in the EZ. Despite a 3-3 start in the ACC they won their final 2 and had the right teams lose to amazingly get to the ACC Title game where they throttled BC 30-12. VT was 0-4 in BCS bowls since 1996 but in the least anticipated BCS bowl, beat Cincy 20-7. Despite the Hokies' 5-3 reg ssn record in the ACC they were only +34.0 ypg (5th best). Last year Tech had 15 ret st's as they lost 1,000 yard rusher Darren Evans (ACL) over the summer. They did have to play their 2 toughest games on the road (in Atlanta) facing eventual National Champ Alabama and ACC Champ GT. VT is almost unbeatable on Thurs night games but lost at home to NC and finished the regular season 9-3. They had climbed as high as #4 in the polls (prior to GT) but dropped as low as #22. They won their last 5 by 24 ppg and finished #10 in the AP poll. This year VT only has 12 ret st's but their +126.4 ypg was the best mark in the ACC (34.4 ypg better than GT). They now have 2 RB's that have topped 1,000 yards and an exp'd QB. VT faces Boise St, NC and Miami all away from home and loses 8 of their top 13 tacklers but still remains a legitimate National Title contender.

TOP NEWCOMERS FOR 2010

DL Zack McCray 6-5 235 PS#25
DL Nick Acree 6-5 295 PS#49
QB Ricardo Young 6-0 174 PS#22
LB Nick Dew 6-2 210 PS#34
TE Jerome Lewis 6-3 235 PS#14
OL Mark Shuman 6-7 285 PS#54
OL Chase Williams 6-1 228 PS#50
DL DeAntre Rhodes 6-3 280 PS#77
LB Brian Lital 6-3 210 PS#61
DL Theron Norman 6-3 196 PS#76
OL Matt Arkema 6-3 284 PS#88
LB Tahir Kham 6-7 205 PS#82
OL Caleb Farris 6-4 295 PS#100
DL Derrick Hopkins 6-0 275 PS#126
OL Laurence Gibson 6-4 288 PS#131
QB Mark Leal 6-0 190 PS#82
DL Kyle Fuller 6-0 170 PS#158
DL Dominique Patterson 6-2 215 PS#179
WR Justin Taylor 6-2 218 PS#189
WR EL Smiling 6-3 180 PS#227
DL Detrick Bonner 6-0 180 PS#227
OL Kory Gough 6-5 282 PS#233 09

2010 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE **JERSEY # IN MAROON**
QB 5 TYROD TAYLOR SR. 6-1 217 **PS#3.** 15 st, 1963 (56%), 7-10 ratio, 2Y, 13 st, 2311 (56%), 13-5 LY. 3 Logan Thomas (6'6" 238 rF) **PS#3TE.** Ju-Ju Clayton (6'1" 218 So).
RB 34 RYAN WILLIAMS SO. 5-10 211 **PS#11.** 13 st, 1655 (5.6), **1st Tm Fr AA** rF.
32 Darren Evans (6'0" 223 Jr) PS#16. 9 st, 1265 (4.4), 2nd Tm ACC rF. DNP (ACL inj LY).
FB 25 Josh Oglesby Jr. 5-11 216 **PS#75.** 88 (2.3) rF, 335 (4.3) LY. **31 Kenny Younger (6'0" 235 Sr).** 13 gm LY. Josh Call (5'10" 245 So). DNP rF. **27 Joey Phillips (5'11" 219 So).**
WR 19 DANNY COALE JR. 6-0 208 **PS#162.** 14 st, 408 (11.3) rF, 12 st, 614 (20.5) LY.
11 Dyrell Roberts (6'2" 196 Jr) PS#94. 5 st, 227 (13.4) true, 5 st, 390 (17.7), 3rd Tm ACC KR LY.
WR 81 JARRETT BOYKIN JR. 6-2 210 **PS#118.** 18 st, 1276 (18.2) rF, 2nd Tm ACC LY.
7 Marcus Davis (6'4" 234 So) PS#50. 125 (25.0) rF, Xavier Boyce (6'4" 225 So) **PS#83.** 88 (11.0) rF.
TE 88 ANDRE SMITH SR. 6-5 271 **PS#18.** 8 st, 216 (13.5) 2Y, 6 st, 27 (9.0) LY. Jerome Lewis **PS#14.** 87 Prince Parker (6'6" 264 Sr), 19 gm 2Y. **86 Eric Martin (6'2" 261 rF) PS#42.**
C 60 BEAU WARREN SR. 6-3 292 **PS#116.** 2 st C rF, 5 gm '08, 10 st C (inj), 3rd Tm ACC LY. **67 Michael Via (6'7" 287 So) PS#105.** 3 st C rF. **LS Collin Carroll (6'3" 234 Jr).**
RG 68 JAYMES BROOKS JR. 6-2 298 **PS#132.** 1 st RG, 3 gm rF, 13 st RG, 538 pl LY. **71 Winston Painter (6'6" 317 So) PS#21.** 3 gm rF, Tyler Barfield (6'1" 298 rF) **PS#859.**
LG 75 Greg Nosal Jr. 6-6 278 **PS#51TE.** 1 st LG, 14 gm, 2Y. **76 David Wang (6'1" 295 rF) PS#82.** 74 Andrew Miller (6'4" 282 rF) **PS#148.** Bo Gentry (5'9" 240 So).
RT 62 BLAKE DeCHRISTOPHER JR. 6-5 304 11 st RT rF, 12 st RT, HM ACC LY. **72 Andrew Lanier (6'5" 291 Jr) PS#52TE.** 1 st, 8 gm, 2Y. **59 Courtney Price (6'3" 277 So) PS#179.** 70 Kory Gough IFS.
LT 54 Nick Becton So. 6-6 307 **PS#82.** 5 gm as a rF. **63 Laurence Gibson IFS.**
61 Darian Fisher (6'4" 248 rF) PS#268. David Overstreet (6'6" 285 So), Matt Baldwin (6'6" 312 Jr).
K 89 Cody Journell rF. 5-11 181 **PS#4.** Chris Hazley (6'1" 192 Sr). #1 PK post-spg. **48 Justin Myer (6'1" 212 Jr) PS#69.** 144 KO, 22 TB, 2Y. Zack Pickard (5'11" 175 rF).

DEFENSE **JERSEY # IN MAROON**
DE 33 Chris Drager Jr. 6-3 260 **PS#21TE.** 1 st TE rF, 13 gm DE, 22 tkl LY. Zack McCray is **PS#25.** 99 James Gayle (6'3" 246 rF) **PS#217.** **96 Josh Eadie (6'4" 235 Sr).**
DT 91 JOHN GRAVES SR. 6-4 283 **PS#25.** 14 st, 37 tkl, 6.5 tfl 2Y, 8 st, 15 tkl, 2 tfl LY. Nick Acree **PS#49.** 89 Christian Reed (6'1" 250 rF) **PS#182.** Andrew Hutchings (6'3" 275 Sr).
DT 56 Antoine Hopkins So. 6-0 296 **PS#92.** 16 tkl rF. **93 Kwamaine Battle (6'0" 297 Jr) PS#150.** 7 tkl 2Y. **46 Joe Jones (6'2" 265 So) PS#273.** Dwight Tucker (6'1" 284 So) **PS#357.**
DE 82 Steven Friday Sr. 6-4 235 **PS#91.** 12 gm, 8 tkl 2Y, 12 gm, 11 tkl LY. Tyrell Wilson (6'1" 221 rF) **PS#163.** JR Collins (6'2" 255 rF). **55 Isaiah Hamlette (6'4" 247 So) PS#178.**
WHP 43 Jeron Gouvia-Winslow So. 6-2 210 **PS#76.** 8 gm, 3 tkl rF. **16 Zach Luckett (6'3" 209 Sr) PS#85.** 14 gm WR rF. Susp '08, 12 gm (inj), 17 tkl LY. **28 Alonzo Tweedy (6'2" 191 So).**
LB 52 BARQUELL RIVERS JR. 6-0 235 **PS#42.** 1 st, 10 tkl rF, 13 st, 96 tkl LY. OFS '10.
51 Bruce Taylor (6'2" 252 So) PS#28. 6 tkl rF, 1 of MIP spg. Telvion Clark (6'1" 227 rF) **PS#62.**
LB 39 Lyndell Gibson So. 5-11 230 **PS#55.** 5 st, 53 tkl rF. Chase Williams **PS#50.** IFS. **24 Tariq Edwards (6'2" 224 rF) PS#56.** 38 Quillie Odum (6'1" 244 Jr) **PS#124.** 6 tkl 2Y.
CB 17 Jayron Hosley So. 5-10 172 **PS#60.** 11 tkl, 31 PR (11.2), 3rd Tm Fr AA PR true.
27 Jerrold Williams (6'0" 197 rF) PS#171. Detrick Bonner **PS#227.** Germond Oatmeal (5'11" 184 Jr).
CB 21 RASHAD CARMICHAEL SR. 5-11 190 **PS#153.** 1 st, 20 tkl, 2Y, 13 st, 55 tkl LY. **9 Cris Hill (5'11" 181 Jr) PS#101.** 15 tkl rF, 2 st, 11 tkl LY. Jacob Sykes (6'0" 190 Jr) **PS#173.** 5 tkl 2Y.
ROV 2 DAVON MORGAN SR. 6-0 198 **PS#64.** 5 st, 29 tkl, 2Y, 4 st, 13 gm, 47 tkl LY.
26 James Hopper (5'9" 183 rF) PS#217. Kyle Fuller **PS#158.** Nick Sheehan (6'1" 203 rF).
FS 15 Eddie Whitley Jr. 6-1 191 **PS#82.** 8 tkl true, 1 st, 18 tkl LY. **1 Antoine Exum (5'11" 207 rF) PS#45.** Theron Norman IFS. Wiley Brown (5'10" 196 So). Jerome Williams (6'0" 214 So).
P 92 Grant Bowden rF. 6-4 182 **PS#83.** Brother is former P Brent. **30 Brian Saunders (6'0" 212 Sr).** No action 3Y. Scott Demler (5'11" 192 So). No gm action as a rF.

