

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2011

QUARTERBACKS - In'06 Sean Glennon (PS#21) started 13 and threw for 2,191 (56%, 11-11). In '07 VT signed Tyrod Taylor (PS#3) who drew many comparisons to Michael Vick. The two split time but Glennon took control by year's end and threw for 1,796 (61%, 12-5). Taylor threw for 927 (54%, 5-3, 429 rush). In '08 HC Frank Beamer made a surprising announcement that Taylor would RS. After losing the opener to EC, he 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). Taylor was the clear-cut starter in 09 and showed obvious improvement (2311, 56%, 13-5, 370 rush) as 32% of his comp's were for 20+ yds (11% in '08). 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). Last year Logan Thomas (PS#3TE) battled Clayton in Aug but RS. Taylor had a fine senior season and tied the school record for 100 yd rush gms by a QB (Bob Schweickert 6, 62-64). He was named ACC POY (27 of 57 votes) as he threw for 2,743 (59.7%, 24-5) and was the #2 rusher (659, 4.5). Thomas played in 7 (12-26-107). Taylor departs (#6DC BAL) as the career passing (7017) and total offense (9213) leader. Thomas is 6'6" 245 lb with a powerful arm and great mobility which sounds a little like Cam Newton. It did take Taylor a few years to hit his stride here

so I look for a drop in their pass effeciency numbers. **PUNNING BACKS** - In 2008 rFr Darren Evans (PS#16) set the ACC single season frosh rushing record with 1,265 (4.4) Evans tore his ACL in Aug '09 so the top returnee was soph Josh Oglesby (PS#75, 88, 2.3 08) and he battled rFr Ryan Williams (PS#11) and true frosh David Wilson (PS#8). All 3 RB's were banged up in Aug. They opted to play true frosh Wilson 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 he played with a vengeance and broke Evans' frosh record with 1,655 (5.6) and an ACC record 22 total td's (1st Fr to lead ACC in rush and scoring). LY RB coach Billy Hite called it the strongest backfield he's had in 32 yrs at VT. Wilson wanted to RS unless he got meaningful PT but the coaches opted to play him. They regretted that decision after 2 weeks but it turned out to be valuable as Williams was inj'd. Wilson finished #3 with 619 (5.5). Williams played in just 10 (5 st, 477, 4.3) and Evans led with 854 (5.7). Not in the PSL are James Hopper (5'9" 181 So, PS#217), Justin Ryals (5'4" 170 rFr), Greg Gaddell (5'10" 191 rFr) and Daniel Dyer (5'9" 201 rFr). With the early departure of both Evans and Williams (#2DC ARZ), this unit drops several notches as it would have been one on the nation's elite if they had returned

RECEIVERS - In '08 VT had to replace THREE NFL DC's with their top returning WR having 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 Wk11. True frosh Jarrett Boykin led with 441 (14.7) while rFr Danny Coale was #2 with 408 (11.3). In '09 the top 4 ret'd and Boykin improved to 835 (20.9) while Coale was #2 with 614 (20.5) and Dyrell Roberts had 390 (17.7). Boykin led again LY with 847 (16.0) while Coale was #2 (732, 18.8) and Roberts was #3 (303, 14.4). The 6'4" Marcus Davis (PS#50) was #4 (239, 12.6). TY they lose TE Andre Smith (12 st, 195, 9.8) and Xavier Boyce is very questionable (off field incident). Not in the PSL are Mark Carter (6'0" 177 So), Willie Byrn (5'10" 176 rFr), Drew Turgyan (6'0" 209 rFr), Chris Caver (5'6" 171 rFr) and Corey Fuller (6'2" 188 Jr). They will likely use more two TE sets and moved in Chris Drager (PS#21, 11 st DE) who played TE as a rFr. They also add in VHT rFr Jerome Lewis (PS#14). This is a unit with 5,362 career yds and I look for Davis to have a breakout year.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '06 VT had to replace 3 st'rs (all 1st or 2nd Tm ACC). They struggled with their lowest numbers since 1932 (107) with 113 ypg (3.2) while allowing 29 sks (9.0%). In '07 VT had to replace 2 st'rs and while they improved to 134 ypg (3.3), they allowed a mind-boggling 54 sks (14.2%). In '08 VT had to replace a #100 but moved. had to replace a #1DC but moved up to 174 ypg (3.8) while still all'g the highest sk % in the FBS (14.5%). In '09 they had to replace 2 multiyear st'rs and improved to 208 ypg (4.7) with 31 sks (12.4%). LY they had to replace two 2nd Tm ACC OL's and put up similar numbers (199, 4.9, 34 sk, 9.9%). TY VT loses C Beau Warren (14 st, 2 yr st'r) but has 9 of their top 10 back and goes from 54 to 98 career sts ret'g. I'll call for them to have their lowest sk% since '03 and improve their rush numbers.

DEFENSIVE LINE - VT always has an exceptional run defense but in '09 with a veteran D-line (5 of top 6 back), they allowed 128 ypg rush and 3.6 ypc (worst S/'03). LY they had to replace 3 st'rs (#2DC) and a bkp (5 sts). With just 1 st'r back, the rush numbers got even weaker to 156 ypg (worst S/'92) and a remarkable 4.7 ypc, the worst in the Beamer era (4.6 in 1987). This year they lose 2nd Tm ACC DT John Graves (14 st, 37 tkl, 1.5 sk), 2nd Tm ACC DE Steven Friday (14 st, #4 tkl'r, 8.5 sk) and they also move DE Drager (11 sts, 34 tkl, 6 tfl) to TE. Despite having just 1 str back (same as LY), I look for an improved rush D after an extremely poor 2010.

LINEBACKERS - In both '08 & '09 VT had to replace their

#1 and #2 tkl'rs. In '10 they had to replace their #1 tkl'r (#7DC) again along with their #6 tkl'r. The lone ret st'r, Barquell`Rivers (PS#42), missed the year with injury and Lyndell Gibson was the only ret LB who had over 17 tkls in (53) '09. The inexp'd LB corps was part of the reason VT allowed 20.6 ppg (worst S/'03). This year they lose Gibson (13 st, #4 tkl'r) and Zach Luckett (4 tkl). They have 2 st'rs back (#1 & #8 tkl'rs) and also get Rivers back making them vastly more experienced.

DEFENSIVE BACKS-VT always has a solid pass D and in the last 7 years they have finished #11, #2, #13, #2, #25, #9 and #9 in my PDR. LY they had to replace 3 DB's (comb 32 sts) but I listed them as having 2 st'rs back as ROV Davon Morgan started the last 4 and had more tackles than the departed ROV. First time starting CB Jayron Hosley snagged 9 int's, which tied the school record set in 1967 by Ron Davidson. VT had an AA DB every year from 1999 to 2008 and after not having one in '09, Hosley was named 1st Tm AA by Walter Camp. This year the Hokies lose CB Rashad Carmichael (12 st, 40 tkl, 4 int, 7 pbu, #4DC HOU) and 2nd Tm ACC ROV Morgan (14 st, #2 tkl'r, 5 int). LY they had a comb'd 26 career sts ret to the unit and now have 40 incl their star and will once again finish near the top.

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SPECIAL TEAMS - Beamer coaches this unit himself and VT almost always finishes near the top of my ST rankings (#1 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 had 2 punts blk'd. VT did lose their 2 gunners unexpectedly. In '09 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 yr they had a 1st time senior starter at K and Matt Waldron (PS#17) hit 20-23 (L46). LY they had to replace both their K and P (#6DC, 37.6 net) but with Beamer as the head man, they improved to #6. Chris Hazley, a Sr walk-on, set a school record for consec FG's in a season with 21 after missing his first. New P Brian Saunders avg'd 44.0 (38.3 net!) and Justin Myer had an outstanding 30 TB on 94 KO's (#4 FBS). David Wilson was a top-notch KR (26.5, 2 td) and Jayron Hosley led on PR's (12.6, 1 td). This year they lose their P and K but Beamer should fashion another fine 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 bowls prior to his arrival ('87). Beamer had four losing seasons in his first six, including 2-8-1 in '92 but he's taken them to 18 bowls since '93 and has won the ACCTitle 3 of the L4Y. OC Bryan Stinespring is entering his 19th year here (OC S/02). Bud Foster has been with V 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 award's history). Foster's defense was #1 in the FBS in '05 and '06, #4 in '07, #7 in '08, #12 in 09 but fell off LY (#52) due to injuries and inexperience.

PHIL'S FORECAST

In 1999, the Hokies played in the National Title game and went 22-2 in a two year stretch. They are one of just 3 teams in the NCAA that have been to 18 straight bowls (Fla, Fla St). VT made the move to the ACC in 2004 and has been the dominant team in the league going 49-11 and playing in 4 of the 6 ACC Championship games, while winning ACC Titles in 2004 (no title game), '07, '08 and '10. They have finished in the AP Top 10 four of the last 7 years. Last year they opened with a National Title elimination game vs Boise St and came up short, then with a disappointed team had to play on a short week, in the rain, vs an FCS squad. Despite a 362-235 yd edge, they were stunned by James Madison 21-16. The season appeared lost, especially when they trailed EC 24-21 at the half the following week, but they rallied to win. VT then got their first shutout since '06 downing BC 19-0 in their ACC opener. The following week they had their biggest rally ever under Beamer trailing 17-0 in the 2Q, before getting 2 late scores for a 41-30 win at NCSt. After wiping out their next 3 foes by a combined 141-49, they trailed GT 14-7 when GT lost QB Joshua Nesbitt to injury and VT rallied for a 7 pt win. They were +11 in TO's at NC and Miami and in the ACC Title game, FSU played without QB Christian Ponder as VT won 44-33. VT was then whipped by Stanford in the bowl 40-12. VT was the first team to go unbeaten in ACC play since 2000 but benefitted from +19 in TO's and this year has just 12 ret st'rs. For most teams that would have me calling for a drop-off but with Beamer as the head man, this year's team has a great shot at its 5th ACC Title in 8 years and remember LY they only returned 11 starters and were +9 in TO's in '09. This team is not dominant but reminds me of the 2010 Auburn tm in terms of schedule. VT should be favored in all 6 road games and gets its toughest opp's at home (like eventual Nat'I Champ Auburn who had 4 of its 5 toughest at home). Despite only ranking #15 in my Power Poll, 8 of my 9 sets of power ratings calls for a 12-0 regular season!

<u>OFFENSE</u>

2011 PROJECTED STARTING

DEFENSE IN MAROON

6-6 245 PS#3TE. 107 (46%, 0-0) rFr. 5 Ricardo Young (6'0" 176 rFr) PS#22. DE 95 Zack McCray rFr. QB 3 Logan Thomas So. 6 Mark Leal (6'0" 199 rFr) PS#83. Ju-Ju Clayton (6'1" 220 Jr) PS#185. 5 gm LY. 16 Trey Gresh (6'0" 209 rFr) PS#383. 5-10 201 PS#8. 334 (5.7) true. 2 st, 619 (5.5), 1stTm ACC KR LY.2 Josh Oglesby RB 4 David Wilson Jr. '09. 49 (8.2) LY. 22 Tony Gregory (6'0" 187 So) PS#113. 102 (4.4), 10 gm (ACL) rFr (5'11" 210 Sr) PS#75, 423 (3.6) 6-4 231 PS#50QB. 125 (25.0) rFr. 3 st, 239 (12.6) LY. FB 39 Martin Scales
Phillips (5'11" 214 Jr) 10 gm 2Y. 32 Riley Beiro (5'9" 227 rFr) Super Iron Hokie LY. WR 7 MARCUS DAVIS JR. (5'11" 216 Jr) 14 gm LY. **45** Joey WR **19** DANNY COALE SR. 6-0 196 PS#162.26 st, 1022 (15.5) '08-'09.14 st, 732 (18.8) LY.11 Dyrell Roberts .8) 2Y. 4 st, 303 (14.4) LY. 29 Xavier Boyce (6'4" 225 Jr) PS#83. 3 sts LY. ? for '11. WR 81 JARRETT BOYKIN SR. 6-2 219 PS#118.18 st, 1276 (18.2) 2Y.14 st, 847 (16.0), 2ndTm ACC LY.18 DJ Coles (6'3" 225 Jr) **PS#38.** 13 gm true. 27 (9.0) LY. **85** EL Smilling (6'3" 194 rFr) PS#172. Robert Lockhart PS#200. **TE 33 Chris Drager Sr.** 6-3 256 PS#21. 1 st, 37 (12.3) rFr. 11 st at DE, 56 tkl, 12.5 tfl '09-'10. **80** Jerome Fric Martin (6'2" 261 So) PS#42. 1 st, 7 gm rFr. 13 Randall Dunn (6'2" 243 Jr) 1 rec 2Y. Lewis (6'3" 240 rFr) PS#14.8 6-4 290 PS#148. 11 gm rFr. 67 Michael Via (6°7" 285 Jr) PS#105. 3 st, 7 gm 299 So) no gm action rFr. LS 50 Collin Carroll (6'3" 248 Sr) 41 games '08-'10. 6-2 307 PS#132.14 st RG, '08-'09.14 st RG, 2ndTm ACC LY.60 Laurence Gibson C 74 Andrew Miller So. rFr. 4 games LY. Tyler Barfield (6'1' RG 68 JAYMES BROOKS SR. (6'4" 299 rFr) PS#131. 79 Caleb Farris (6'3" 306 Fr) PS#100 '10. IFS. Dale Davis (6'2" 292 rFr). Bo Gentry (5'9" 228 Jr). LG 75 GRÉG NOSAL SR. 6-6 281 PS#51TE. 2 gm rFr. 1 st LG, 12 gm '09. 14 st LG LY. 76 David Wang (6'1" 301 So) PS#82DL. 5 gm rFr. 64 Matt Arkema (6'3" 290 rFr) PS#88. 59 Courtney Prince (6'2" 286 Jr) PS#179. RT 62 BLAKE DeCHRISTOPHER SR. 6-5 312 PS#100. 11 st RT (inj) rFr. 12 st RT (inj) '09. 14 st RT, 2nd Tm ACC LY.
71 Vinston Painter (6'6" 296 Jr) PS#21.70 Kory Gough (6'5" 296 rFr) PS#233. Darian Fisher (6'4" 267 So) PS#268. LT 72 ANDREW LANIER SR. 6-5 282 PS#52TE. DNP '08. 1 st RT, 9 gm '09. 14 st LT LY. 54 Nick Bector (6'6" 313 Jr) PS#82. 4 gm rFr. 12 gm LY. 69 Mark Shuman (6'7" 301 rFr) PS#54. Patrick Williams (6'2" 308 rFr). 5-11 167 PS#4. No gm action rFr. 48 Justin Myer (6'1" 212 Sr) PS#69 144 KO K 89 Cody Journell So. (64.0), 22 TB '08-'09. 94 KO (67.2), **30 TB** LY. Conor Goulding (5'9" 174 rFr) PS#76. Tyler Weiss (5'10" 169 Sr).

6-5 248 **PS#25. 42** JR Collins (6'2" 253 So) 1 st, 25 tkl, 6.5 tfl rFr. **90** Duan 179. Matt Roth (6'3" 225 Fr) PS#180. Dewayne Alford (6'3" 225 Fr) PS#262. Perez-Means (6'4" 252 rFr) DT 92 Nick Acree rFr. 6-5 276 PS#49. 430 bench. 98 Derrick Hopkins (6'0" 298 So) PS#126. 13 gm 9 tkl, 1.5 tfl, 2 qbh, 169pl as true. 53 Dwight Tucker (6'1" 273 Jr) PS#357. 1 tkl, 2 gm rFr. 4 tkl, 1 tfl, 11 gm, 117pl LY. DT 56 ANTOINE HOPKINS JR 6-0 299 PS#92. 12 st, 45 tkl, 6.5 tfl, 7 qbh LY. 93 Kwamaine Battle (6'0" 301 Sr) PS#150.7 tkl '08-'09.2 st (ACL) 1 tkl LY. Kris Harley PS#39. 55 Isaiah Hamlette (6'4" 274 Jr) PS#178. 4 gm 2Y. DE 99 James Gayle So. 6-4 251 PS#217. 2 st, 13 tkl, 6.5 tfl rFr. Corey Marshall PS#43. 38 Quillie Odom (6'1" 242 Jr) PS#124. 6 tkl '08-'09. RS LY. 66 Tyrel Wilson (6'1" 214 So) PS#163. 3 tkl rFr. Justin Taylor PS#189 '10. IFS. WHP 27 NICK DEW rFR. 6-2 194 **PS#34.43 Jeron Gouveia-Winslow** (6'2" 195 Jr) PS#76.3 tkl rFr. 7 st, 185 Jr) PS#443. 24 tkl rFr. 18 tkl LY, **14** Dominique Patterson (6'2" 223 rFr) PS#180. 41 tkl IY 28 Alonzo Tweedy (6'2' MLB 51 BRUCE TAYLOR JR. 6-2 252 PS#28.6 tkl rFr. 14 st, 91 tkl, 15.5 tfl, 2nd Tm ACC LY. 52 Barquell Rivers (6'0" 241 Sr) PS#42. 14 st, 106 tk '08-'09. OFY (inj'd) LY. 58 Jack Tyler (5'11" 220 So) PS#329. 1 st, 25 tkl, 6 tfl rFr. ILB 24 Tariq Edwards So. 6-2 229 PS#56. 21 tkl rFr. 36 Chase Williams (6'1" 223 rFr) PS#50. 57 Telvion Clark (6'1" 214 So) PS#62. 5pl rFr. Luther Maddy PS#362. Brian Laiti (6'3" 205 rFr). Jonathan Halfhide (5'10" 209 rFr) CB 20 JAYRON HOSLEY JR. 5-10 170 **PS#60.** 11 tkl true. 13 st, 39 tkl, 8 pbu, **9 int (#1 NCAA), 1st Tm AA** LY. 9 Cris Hill (5'11" 176 Sr) PS#101 st, 31 tkl 3Y. 30 Adeboye Aromire PS#107. IFS. Germond Oatneal (5'11" 184 Sr). CB 17 Kyle Fuller So. 6-0 185 PS#159.6 st, 32 tkl, 6 pbu true. Kyshoen Jarrett (5'10" 175 Fr) PS#35. 8 Detrick Bonner (6'0" 183 rFr) PS#225, James Farrow (6'0" 170 Fr) PS#116, Nick Bush (5'10" 164 Fr), IFS ROV 1 Antone Exum So. 5-11 217 PS#45QB. 5 st, 45 tkl, 9 pbu, 4th Tm ACC rFr. 23 Lorenzo Williams '09. No action LY. 40 Wiley Brown (5'10" 196 Jr) Duquesne trans. 13 tkl LY. (6'2" 215 Jr) PS#136. 6 tkl true. FS 15 EDDIE WHITLEY SR. 6-1 187 PS#82.1 st, 26 tkl '08-'09. 13 st, 80 tkl, 8 pd LY. 21 Theron Norman (6'3' 209 rFr) PS#76. Ronny Vandyke (6'3" 200 Fr) PS#64. Carl Jackson (5'9" 174 rFr). Ryan Cassidy (5'10" 183 rFr) NA Scott Demler Jr. 5-11 194 RS here '08. No game action the last 2 yrs. 92 Ethan Keyserling (6'2 203 rFr) PS#68. Grant Bowden (6'4" 190 So) PS#83. No game action rFr. Conor Goulding (5'9" 174 rFr) PS#76.

Blacksburg, Virginia FRANK BEAMER (Career 198–95–2)

17-10

23-0 27-6

17-0

at Virginia - #16 † Boston College - #12

Clemson - #10 Miami. Fl

at Wake Forest - #14

Kent St

Virginia

#23 at Miami,

Virginia + Boston College - #18

Duke

33-21 30-16

#22 #20

#16

at

East Carolina

Maryland

at Virginia

-13 -19 16-3 36-9

-21 38-10

-15' 42-13 at North Carolina at Miami, FI - #24 Virginia † Florida St - #20