



Statistical Leaders

Passing						Rushing				Receiving			
Name	Comp	Att	Yds	TD	Int	Name	No.	Yds	TD	Name	No.	Yds.	TD
DeShazo	101	215	1504	12	11	Hebron	133	640	5	Freeman	32	703	6

Punt Returns				Kickoff Returns				Scoring				Interceptions				
Name	Ret	Avg	TD	Name	Ret	Avg	TD	Name	TD	PAT	FG	Total	Name	No.	Yds.	TD
Bo Campbell	20	6.8	0	Kennedy	16	24.1	1	Williams	0	28	12	64	Drakeford	7	121	1

Lettermen

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Alexander, Kirk | DePoy, James | Landrum, Ken | Reaves, Brian |
| Arrington, Marvin | DeShazo, Maurice | Lassiter, Greg | Rivers, John |
| Barry, Chris | Drakeford, Tyrone | Lewis, Lawrence | Sanders, Steve |
| Basham, Bernard | Ferrell, William | Malone, Chris | Smith, Eric |
| Bass, Trenton | Freeman, Antonio | Martin, Kevin | Smith, Mike |
| Brehey, Chris | Grayson, Shawn | Mays, Eugene | Stevens, Tewon |
| Brown, Ken | Hamlin, Jared | McClung, Marcus | Still, Bryan |
| Burke, John | Hebron, Vaughn | McMahon, Damien | Swarm, Billy |
| Byrd, Melendez | Henley, Stacy | Miller, Andy | Swarm, Joe |
| Campbell, Bo | Hodges, Mike | Moss, Bill | Thomas, Dwayne |
| Charlton, Leroy | Holmes, Jermaine | Nash, Joe | Verniel, Marc |
| Coleman, Hank | Holt, Chris | Peduzzi, Chris | White, Ranall |
| Colley, Robbie | Hudson, Robby | Pendleton, Rusty | Williams, Rafael |
| Cox, Mike | Jones, Calvert | Petrovich, Jim | Williams, Ryan |
| Crittenden, Ray | Kennedy, Tony | Poindexter, Mark | Wiltshire, Jack |
| Daniels, Sam | King, Chad | Preston, Jerome | Wimmer, David |
| Davis, Don | Knight, DeWayne | Preston, P.J. | Yarborough, William |
| DelRico, George | Koel, Treg | Price, J.C., Jim | |

The Games

Virginia Tech (1-0) 49
James Madison (0-1) 20

September 5, 1992
 Blacksburg, Virginia

Lane Stadium—James Madison was able to hang with Virginia Tech for three quarters before the Hokies were finally able to dispatch the 1-AA Dukes, 49-20.

The game was tied at 14 at halftime and the Hokies held a slim one point lead midway through the third quarter. But the Hokies tightened up defensively, started generating some offense consistently, and pulled away in the last 22 minutes of play.

“Things were tight, and they responded to the pressure,” Tech coach Frank Beamer said. “That’s extremely important.”

JMU got out to a 7-0 lead, converting a fumble by Hokie quarterback Maurice DeShazo, who was making his first college start, into a touchdown. The turnover came at the Tech 21 and it took the Dukes three plays, including a 15-yard gain on the old fumblerooski play by tackle Chris Thurman, for JMU to score on Eriq Williams’ eight-yard pass to Dion Foxx.

Later in the first, Tech tied it up when DeShazo threw a 69-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman. Actually, it was a few yards of passing and a lot of running as

Freeman caught the short toss, breaking a couple of tackles to make it to the end zone.

DeShazo capped an 80-yard drive with a two-yard keeper for a touchdown, but the Dukes came right back on Kenny Sims' 51-touchdown burst up the middle that knotted it up at intermission.

The Hokies were holding a slim 21-20 lead when DeShazo and Freeman struck again. The QB read a JMU blitz and changed the play at the line to a deep pass. Freeman caught it and raced into the end zone to complete the 64-yard play to give Tech a little breathing room at 28-21.

Tech could take a deep breath following a couple of touchdown runs. First Vaughn Hebron broke a 41-yard run to the end zone to put the Hokies up 35-20 with 3:21 left in the third quarter. Then, early in the fourth period, Tony Kennedy made it 42-20 with a 14-yard jaunt to the goal line. Kennedy finished off the scoring when he threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Steve Sanders on an option play.

East Carolina (1-1) 30

Virginia Tech (1-1) 27

September 12, 1992

Greenville, North Carolina

Ficklen Stadium—It was right there for the taking.

Virginia Tech had a first and goal at the seven and a 24-22 lead with 5:24 left to play. All the Hokies had to do was push in a touchdown and they could emerge with a confidence-boosting road win over an East Carolina team that was 11-1 last year.

But after some botched plays Tech had to settle for a field goal. That opened the door for a game-winning, 71-yard drive for the Pirates, who took a 30-27 win.

"We kind of let it get away from us in the last three minutes," said Frank Beamer.

No kidding.

Things went pretty well for the Hokies for most of the first 57 minutes of play. They jumped on top 3-0 in the first quarter with a 24-yard Ryan Williams field goal. By the time halftime rolled around, the Pirates were up 10-3 thanks to a touchdown pass on a fake field goal.

Tech started to take control in the third quarter. First quarterback Maurice DeShazo capped a drive with a one-yard touchdown run, tying the game at 10-10. Then Tyrone Drakeford picked off a pass and dashed 40 yards to put Tech up by a touchdown.

ECU responded with a 39-yard touchdown pass from Michael Anderson to Clayton Driver. The Hokies, however, maintained the lead at 17-16 when Bernard Basham blocked the extra point attempt.

Back came the Hokies, expanding their lead to 24-16 on a three-yard touchdown run by Tony Kennedy early in the fourth quarter. Drakeford's second interception of the day set up that score.

The leaks that were present in the Tech pass defense all day — ECU passed for 426 yards, a record for a Tech opponent — really began to hurt. The Pirates drew to within 24-22 with a quick, seven-pass, 92-yard drive with Anders going to Pete Zophy for 17 yards and the touchdown. A two-point conversion failed, so the Hokies were clinging to a 24-22 lead with 6:36 left to play.

Tech had to punt on its ensuing possession but on ECU's first play Stacy Henley picked off an Anderson pass and the Hokies had that first and goal at the seven.

A penalty and a fumbled snap pushed Tech back. The Hokies had to settle for Williams' 22-yard three-pointer.

It wasn't enough — the Pirates zipped downfield on Anderson's arm. Anderson capped the comeback with a 21-yard touchdown pass to Carlester Crumpler.

Virginia Tech (2-1) 26

Temple (1-1) 7

September 19, 1992

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Veterans Stadium—Virginia Tech overcame a ragged first half of play to beat Temple 26-7.

Both teams were rather lethargic in the first half. Part of the reason, according to some Tech players, was that the game was being played in front of a small "crowd." The word is in quotes because it's difficult to call a gathering of some 6,000 folks in a stadium that has over 66,000 seats a "crowd," unless you're using the old rule of thumb about two's company.

"That was not football in the first half. It was the worst," said Tech running back Vaughn Hebron. "You can feel it as a player, but there's nothing you can do about it. You get in a trance."

The Hokies got out of their daze long enough to take a 10-7 lead into the locker room, but they needed some help to do so. With the score tied at 7-7 late in the second period, Tech quarterback Maurice DeShazo lost a few yards on a run, but Temple linebacker Lance Johnstone hit him well after the whistle. The personal-foul penalty moved the Hokies down to the Owl 33 with 40 seconds left until halftime. A few plays later, Ryan Williams booted a 35-yard field goal to put Tech up at the break.

Temple made what would prove to be its last bid to get back into the game by driving down to the Tech nine in the third quarter. From there, however, two running plays lost a total of five yards before the Hokies' Ken Brown nailed quarterback Chris Palisack as he was throwing. The ball went to an offensive lineman, who instinctively but foolishly caught the ball for a 12-yard loss. A field goal attempt was wide and the Owls came up empty.

Tech took possession and cranked out a 15-play, 73-yard touchdown drive to make it 17-7. The drive also came with some help from Johnson, who speared He-

bron after the play was over. That moved the ball down to the Owl 19 and, six plays later, Hebron blasted over from the one.

Temple mustered just 84 yards rushing against the Tech defense.

West Virginia (3-0-1) 16

Virginia Tech (2-2) 7

September 26, 1992

Blacksburg, Virginia

Lane Stadium—The Virginia Tech offense, a strength of the team during its 2-1 start, turned up missing as the Hokies fell to West Virginia 16-7.

Certainly, Tech's ranking as the tenth best rushing team will take a hit when the stats come out again. The Hokies were averaging 264 yards a game coming in; you don't have to be a math major to figure out that the 86 they mustered that day would drag that down considerably.

They didn't make up for it with prowess in the passing game, either. Their only score did come on an 83-yard bomb from Treg Koel to Antonio Freeman, but they passed for just 68 yards the rest of the game.

"Everywhere we went, it seemed like they had an extra man," said tailback Tony Kennedy.

"They studied our film well," said quarterback Maurice DeShazo.

The issues were more fundamental, according to Tech coach Frank Beamer.

"You've got to block up front and create some holes," he said.

Jon Jones put West Virginia on top 7-0 with just over eight minutes left in the first quarter. A short time later Tech's Bo Campbell gave the Hokies a golden opportunity to score when he returned a punt 41 yards to the WVU 35.

Tech immediately embarked on a drive — backwards. After a trio of penalties, the last one an intentional grounding call on DeShazo, the Hokies were punting on fourth and 38 from their own 37.

That first-down snap at the 35 would prove to be the closest Tech would come to the WVU goal line, except for the long pass to Freeman.

The Mountaineers went about expanding their lead in the third quarter. A 54-yard run by tailback Adrian Murrell keyed a 74-yard drive culminating in a nine-yard Jones touchdown run. The extra point was blocked and WVU led 13-0 with two and a half minutes left in the third.

Koel, a little-used junior who had replaced an ineffective DeShazo, found Freeman behind everyone and launched it to him. The receiver outran the safety and suddenly it was a one-score game at 13-7 with over ten minutes left.

The defense held, but Koel threw an interception and a clinching field goal. That 28-yarder by Mike Vanderjagt came with 2:21 left to play.

Louisville (2-4) 21

Virginia Tech (2-3) 17

October 10, 1992

Louisville, Kentucky

Cardinal Stadium—Virginia Tech blew an 11-point fourth-quarter lead and lost to Louisville 21-17. The frustration of the defeat spilled over in the locker room afterward, with the players blowing off some steam before reporters were allowed to talk to them.

"It wasn't a good conversation," receiver Antonio Freeman said. "There were a lot of negative remarks. Some of us still have a lot of growing up to do."

Things were looking positive for Tech for much of the game. First the Hokies stuffed the Cardinals on a fourth and goal at the three, killing a scoring threat. They then embarked on a 96-yard touchdown drive, with Maurice DeShazo throwing a dart to Freeman from eight yards out for the score.

Tech's 7-0 lead held until midway through the third quarter when Louisville booted a field goal to cut it to 7-3. Tony Kennedy immediately stretched the Hokies' lead to 14-3 as he returned the ensuing kickoff 91 yards for a touchdown. Tech was in command with an 11-point lead with 6:23 left in the third.

Or so it appeared. "You think you've got it under control, and all of a sudden you don't," said Tech coach Frank Beamer.

After another Cardinal field goal, the Hokies drove to a first and goal at the seven. All they could muster out of it, however, was a Ryan Williams field goal. The 11-point margin was maintained. Later in the fourth quarter, P. J. Preston intercepted Jeff Brohm's pass at the Louisville 31, but Williams missed a 30-yard field goal.

The door was left open and Brohm and the Cardinals walked right through it. With 9:09 left to play Brohm scored on a bootleg from the two and then threw for the two-point conversion, making it 17-14.

Louisville, which had averaged 13 points per game coming into the contest, finished off the rally after taking possession at the Tech 37 with 5:08 left to play. Ralph Dawkins broke off a 29-yard run to the eight. On third down from the six, Brohm rolled left, found all of his receivers covered and took off. He made it to the corner with 3:07 left to play.

A sack from the Louisville 36 terminated Tech's best chance to pull it out at the end.

Virginia Tech (2-3-1) 13
#21 North Carolina State (5-2-1) 13

October 17, 1992

Blacksburg, Virginia

Lane Stadium—This is what they're talking about when they say it's a game of inches.

Virginia Tech safety Kirk Alexander got a hand on North Carolina State kicker Steve Videtich's 37-yard, game-tying field goal attempt. But it wasn't enough to spike the try, which limped over the crossbar to lift the Wolfpack into a 13-13 tie with the Hokies.

"I had a good shot at it," Alexander said. "I thought I hit it enough. I just couldn't believe it."

Had Alexander been able to stretch his left hand just a bit further, to where the ball would have hit more on the meatier part of his hand rather than near the fingertips, the Hokies may well have walked off the field winners against the No. 21 Wolfpack.

Regardless, Frank Beamer wasn't having any of this kissing your sister stuff. "I don't care whether we won or whether we tied — I couldn't be more proud," the Tech coach said.

Certainly, Beamer had reason to be proud. The Hokies started the game without leading rusher Vaughn Hebron, who was out with a knee injury, and the team lost quarterback Maurice DeShazo to a hip injury in the second quarter. The tandem of tailback Tony Kennedy and fullback Mike Hodges carried the rushing load for Tech, combining for 112 yards on the ground. Treg Koel was solid in relief of DeShazo, going 9-14 for 109 yards and a touchdown.

The TD came late in the third quarter and tied the game at 10-10. From the Tech 48, a fake end around was supposed to draw double coverage away from star receiver Antonio Freeman. It didn't, but Koel launched to ball to Freeman anyway.

"I knew I had to do something special to get open," said Freeman.

He managed to do it, hauling in the pass for 52 yards and the score.

The Hokies got the late lead on a drive starting from their own 40 after a Stacy Henley interception. They got as close as the N.C. State 14, but the drive stalled. Ryan Williams' 31-yard field goal put Tech up 13-10 with 1:21 left to play.

The defense couldn't hold, however, and, by a couple of inches, Videtich's kick got the tie for the Wolfpack.

#1 Miami (7-0) 43
Virginia Tech (2-4-1) 23

October 24, 1992

Blacksburg, Virginia

Lane Stadium—Miami's Gino Toretta passed for 249 yards and three touchdowns as the top-ranked Hurricanes thumped Virginia Tech 43-23.

The game wasn't even as close as the lopsided final score would indicate. Miami racked up 497 yards of total offense and rolled up a 31-3 halftime lead.

Not that the 'Canes needed the help, but the Hokies made enough mistakes to lose to Prairie View. It seemed like every time the Hokies would accomplish something positive, some manner of screw-up ensued.

For example, with the score a somewhat-manageable 17-0 in the second quarter, it appeared linebacker Ken Brown's interception had thwarted a Hurricane drive at the Tech 14. However, there was some yellow laundry on the ground and an offside call against Tech negated the play. Four plays later, Toretta threw a touchdown pass, making it 24-0.

The Hokies moved into position to get on the scoreboard with what would have been a chip shot 27-yard Ryan Williams field goal. He never got to try it, though, as the holder bobbled the snap and was buried under a pile of 'Canes.

After Toretta's third touchdown pass of the half, the Hokies finally got on the board. A roughing the passer call aided the advance to a 36-yard Williams field goal.

The penalty was not an isolated incident for the Hurricanes. On the day they were guilty of 18 infractions for 160 yards in walk offs.

It was 40-3 going into the last quarter and the Hokies made the score a bit more respectable with three touchdowns against the Hurricane reserves. Mark Poindexter scored on a one-yard run and then Maurice DeShazo, who did not start the game due to a hip pointer injury, threw a pair of touchdown passes. The first one went to John Rivers for 20, the other a seven-yarder to Bryan Still.

Rutgers (5-3) 50
Virginia Tech (2-5-1) 49

October 31, 1992

Piscataway, New Jersey

Rutgers Stadium—"You can't put it into words," said Virginia Tech linebacker Ken Brown following his team's 50-49 loss to Rutgers.

He's right, it can't be put into words, but that's what is done here, so here goes:

In a bizarre game that was befitting of Halloween Day, the Hokies scored 28 first-quarter points, intercepted six Rutgers passes, had a 42-23 lead in the third quarter and a 49-37 lead with less than four minutes to play — and still lost.

Two of Tech's four first-quarter touchdowns came because of Scarlet Knight turnovers. The points were spread around as Mark Poindexter, Vaughn Hebron, and Tony Kennedy each scored rushing touchdowns from close in, with linebacker Ken Brown logging a TD on an 18-yard interception return.

After Brown's runback made it 28-7, Rutgers showed they had plenty of fight left in them as they ran off 16 unanswered points, making it 28-23. Tech got back on

track with a 48-yard touchdown pass from Maurice DeShazo to Bo Campbell before halftime.

It looked like the Hokies were cruising to an easy win when DeShazo uncorked another touchdown pass, this one covering 49 yards to Antonio Freeman, to put Tech up 42-23. But that's when the ship started to run into choppy waters.

Chris Brantley caught a three-yard touchdown pass from Ray Lucas to make it 42-30, and then another Scarlet Knight TD early in the fourth cut the Tech lead down to 42-37.

Again, it looked like the Hokies were back in control as they drove to a five-yard Poindexter touchdown run to restore the two-score margin.

Even after the Scarlet Knights scored again with 3:31 to go to make it 49-44, it looked like Tech would hang on after safety Kirk Alexander intercepted Bryan Fortay's pass with 2:50 left to play.

The Hokies couldn't get a first down but forced Rutgers to burn the rest of its time outs before punting. The Scarlet Knights took over on their own 22 with 1:36 left.

A few plays later from the Rutgers 39 with 14 seconds left, Fortay heaved a prayer downfield. Although receiver Mario Henry was surrounded by three Tech defenders, he came down with the ball at the Hokie 15. Fortay spiked the ball and killed the clock with five seconds left.

Brantley ran to the right corner of the end zone, getting a step on Alexander. Fortay's pass was on the money and Brantley made the catch to stun the Gobblers.

#10 Syracuse (8-1) 28
Virginia Tech (2-6-1) 9
 November 7, 1992
 Syracuse, New York

Carrier Dome—The will was there for Virginia Tech, but there was no way the Hokies were going to beat No. 10 Syracuse in the Carrier Dome. Tech fell to the Orangemen 28-9.

"I couldn't be more proud of how hard we played," said Tech coach Frank Beamer. "The bottom line now is we've got to play smarter."

The part about smarter play stemmed from some penalties in the kicking game. Three times flags flew on Tech punt return plays, causing the Hokies to lose a total of 61 yards of field position due to the infractions.

"It's inexcusable," said Tech defensive coordinator Mike Clark, who also coaches the special teams. "You denied the offense good field position three times."

It's not that Syracuse needed the help. The Orangemen averaged over five yards per rush and pretty much controlled the game from start to finish.

Tech's best chance to make it a competitive game came after Syracuse quarterback Marvin Graves threw a touchdown pass to Antonio Johnson, giving his team a 21-3 lead with 6:20 left in the third. Following the kick-

off, quarterback Maurice DeShazo scrambled and found Tony Kennedy, who had snuck past the linebacker. The tailback made the catch and rolled 62 yards for a touchdown. Although the two-point conversion failed, Tech had hope with the score 21-9 with 6:20 left in the third quarter.

The Hokies got the break they needed when Syracuse fumbled and P. J. Preston recovered at the Tech 39. DeShazo threw to Mark Poindexter to key a march to the 'Cuse 36. The drive stalled there, however, and the comeback train derailed when Ryan Williams was wide right on a 38-yard field goal try.

Syracuse moved in quickly to finish it off. Gaining yards in large chunks, they moved downfield to the Tech 15. From there Graves went to Johnson for the clinching touchdown with 9:52 left to play.

Southern Mississippi (7-4) 13
Virginia Tech (2-7-1) 12
 November 14, 1992
 Blacksburg, Virginia

Lane Stadium—We've seen this movie before. Virginia Tech appears to be on the verge of a much-needed win, but the Hokies can't hold on and someone on the other team makes a play to steal away the triumph. Today's villain stealing the victory from Tech was Mississippi State kicker Lance Nations, who kicked a 22-yard field goal with 1:34 left to give the Golden Eagles a 13-12 win.

It was the fifth time this season that Tech failed to hold a lead in the late going, resulting in four losses and a tie.

As has been the case in most of those games, there were moments the Hokies rued after the game. In particular, two holding calls cost the Hokies dearly: one nullified a 12-yard touchdown run, and the other called back a run that had set up a first and goal at the one.

And then there was the missed extra point that always comes back to haunt you. Late in the first half, Maurice DeShazo connected with John Rivers for five yards and a touchdown to give the Hokies a 6-3 lead. Ryan Williams' conversion attempt sailed right over the goalpost. Officials signaled it was no good.

Williams did expand Tech's lead to 12-3 with third-quarter field goals from 31 and 35 yards. The visitors from the South didn't seem to be responding very well to the windy, 25-degree conditions.

"It was a little chilly," said Southern Miss. quarterback Tommy Walters. "We were kind of dead for the first three quarters."

But they got warmed up in a hurry with a little trickery. Third-string quarterback Kevin Bentley entered the game on third and one at the Golden Eagle 36. He pitched out to Michael Welch, who threw back to Bentley. The freshman was wide open and eluded cornerback William Yarborough's tackle on the way to the end zone.

That cut the lead to 12-10 with 9:42 left in the third quarter.

Neither team threatened until the end.

Virginia (7-4) 41
Virginia Tech (2-8-1) 38

November 21, 1992

Blacksburg, Virginia

Lane Stadium—Virginia Tech was game, but Virginia was just too much for the Hokies. The Cavaliers won 41-38.

In particular, two players were too much for Tech. One was UVA running back Terry Kirby, who ran for 185 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries.

The other was Chris Slade. The Cavaliers' All-America defensive end was all over the field, making nine tackles and registering a pair of sacks.

Despite Slade's heroics, the Hokie offense posted some impressive stats. They ran 93 plays and racked up 573 yards of total offense.

However, Tech took many snaps and compiled a lot of yardage after the outcome of the game no longer was in doubt. The Hokies led 7-3 in the early going, but Virginia quickly took command. Middle linebacker Randy

Neal picked off a pass, returning it 37 yards for the touchdown which put the Cavaliers ahead to stay.

The game took a final turn in Virginia's favor in the second half. A two-yard touchdown pass from Maurice DeShazo to Mark Poindexter pulled the Hokies to within a touchdown at 24-17. After that, Tyronne Drakeford picked off a pass and the Hokies advanced into Virginia territory at the 45. Momentum clearly had swung the Hokies' way.

It took just two plays for the Cavs to reestablish control. Slade sacked DeShazo on third down, forcing a punt. Virginia had a return called but nobody blocked Kareem Martin, who broke in and blocked the punt. The ball rolled out of bounds at the Tech 16 and Kirby scored two plays later.

Less than 60 seconds later, Neal got another pick six, intercepting DeShazo and returning it 30 yards to pay dirt.

Although the cause appeared to be lost, the Hokies continued to battle. They executed three sustained touchdown drives to post 21 fourth-quarter points, making the final more respectable.

"I'm very proud of our players," said Tech coach Frank Beamer. "They could have folded when they got that far behind."