



# GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

**Location:** Atlanta, GA

**Conference:** ACC - Coastal

**2011 Record:** 8 - 5



## THE RAMBLIN WRECH

In 2011, the Jackets started red hot going 6-0 in their first 6 games. Many thought they might even break the AP poll top 10. However, after an upset loss to UVA, Georgia tech went 2-5 the rest of the way out including an unfortunate overtime loss to Utah in the Hyundai Sun Bowl. Humiliated and hungry for revenge, the Jackets are poised to end on a better not in 2012.

There's no debate as to what makes Georgia Tech go these days. Over four seasons, Paul Johnson's triple-option offense has averaged 301.7 yards per game, and the Yellow Jackets have never ranked lower than fourth in the nation in rushing. That success breeds a lot of confidence - a feeling that remains unshaken even though Georgia Tech lacks any receivers with even one career reception. However, with the recent turnout of first round receivers in Calvin Johnson and Stephen Hill, we expect Paul Johnson has done some recruiting for yet another stellar receiver.

The biggest concern for the Jackets is it's defense. Although not the worst in the league, it is most certainly not the best. With lots of room for improvement, the defense must fill it's potential for Georgia Tech to go anywhere this season.

With a deadly offense and a hopeful defense, Tech has the makings of a possible dark-horse team. Their schedule is not very hard, but has just enough difficulty that can give this team some credit. We will find out what exactly the Jackets are made of when they square off against ACC rival Virginiana Tech on Sep 3rd. For the past 4 seasons, the winner of this game goes on to win the ACC championship.

It will be an interesting year for the Jackets, but they have the talent and skill to make a run.

## 2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	at Virginia Tech
Sept. 8	Presbyterian
Sept. 15	Virginia
Sept. 22	Miami
Sept. 29	Middle Tennessee
Oct. 6	at Clemson
Oct. 20	Boston College
Oct. 27	BYU
Nov. 3	at Maryland
Nov. 10	at North Carolina
Nov. 17	Duke
Nov. 24	at Georgia

\*Gold signifies an ACC game

## OFFENSE: TRIPLE THREAT

There are plenty of misconceptions still surrounding Paul Johnson's spread-option offense, despite the fact he's been using it for oh, about two decades. While there is a definite emphasis on the run, the offense is built around misdirection and has the potential to rack up yards and points in a hurry. The system is varied enough to adapt to the personnel he has. While he was offensive coordinator at Hawaii, the Warriors weren't afraid to throw the ball. At Navy, they ran it more. Georgia Tech provides the potential for more balance.

With senior Tevon Washington at the head of the offense, the option is in good hands. He has been the starting QB for the past 2 seasons, and is looking for an ACC title to end his college career. The only concern for the Georgia Tech offense is their lack of receivers. They have an intriguing candidate in 6-foot-2 sophomore Jeff Greene, who played in 12 games last fall., but whether he is the real deal is yet to be known.

## DEFENSE: POTENTIAL

The foundation of Paul Johnson's game philosophy is running the ball and stopping the run. Although the Jackets have become masters of the run, they have had issues doing the opposite. Ranking 66th against the run last year, it was one of the weaker run defenses. It's secondary has been the better side of the defense, ranking 22 against the pass in the nation. Most teams will be looking to pound the ball inside on the jackets.

The biggest concern for the Georgia Tech defense is it's longevity. In 2011, The defense faded down the stretch, allowing an average of 30-plus points over its last four games, including the overtime loss in the Sun Bowl to Utah. On the bright side, the Jackets are returning seven defensive starter from last year. All-conference linebacker Jeremiah Attaochu (left) is back, along with the six other starters, and are poised to show they are not a unit to mess with.



## SPECIAL TEAMS

Tech has a decent kicker and punter in Chris Tanner and Sean Poole. The Kickreturn unit, led by Tony Zenon, will look to get the offense in good field position. Because the offense is a methodical, run-the-ball-on-almost-all-three-downs kind of team, the punt return and kick return units must do well.

### OFFENSE [7]

QB	13	Tevin Washington*	6-0	205	Sr.
RB	27	David Sims*	6-0	222	Jr.
AB	17	Orwin Smith*	6-0	205	Sr.
AB	25	Robert Godhigh	5-7	188	Jr.
WR	81	Jeff Greene	6-2	210	So.
WR	83	Jeremy Moore	6-3	183	Jr.
LT	64	Ray Beno*	6-3	290	Jr.
LG	77	Omoregie Uzzi*	6-3	300	Sr.
C	50	Jay Finch*	6-3	285	Jr.
RG	52	Will Jackson*	6-3	390	Jr.
RT	72	Morgan Bailey	6-4	295	So.

### DEFENSE [6]

DE	94	Izaan Cross*	6-4	200	Sr.
NT	90	T.J. Barnes	6-7	345	Sr.
DE	99	Euclid Cummings	6-4	275	Jr.
OLB	45	Jeremiah Attaochu*	6-3	240	Jr.
ILB	54	Quayshawn Nealy*	6-1	232	So.
ILB	30	Daniel Drummond	6-3	245	Jr.
OLB	11	Brandon Watts	6-2	238	Jr.
CB	8	Louis Young*	6-1	296	Jr.
CB	6	Rod Sweeting*	6-0	187	Sr.
S	1	Isiah Johnson*	6-2	208	Jr.
S	15	Red Holton	6-1	208	So.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	86	Justin Moore	5-10	165	Jr.
P	82	Sean Poole	6-1	160	Jr.
KR	9	Tony Zenon	5-8	173	So.
PR	4	B.J. Bostic	5-11	170	So.

### RETURNING LEADERS

**Passing:** T. Washington, 1,625 yds, 11TDs, 8INTs  
**Rushing:** T. Washington, 243 car., 987 yds, 14 TDs  
**Receiving:** O. Smith, 13 rec., 306 yds, 1 TD  
**Tackles:** I. Johnson, 78, 48 solo  
**Sacks:** J. Attoachu, 6  
**Interceptions:** Three players tied with 3

### MAKE IT OR BREAK IT

**Key Game:** Virginia Tech - This game has decided who wins the ACC for the last four years. With a win in Blacksburg, it will earn the Jackets some credibility on what kind of team they are.

**Who to Watch: Tevin Washington** - The starting Quaterback for the Jackets almost broke 1,000 yards rushing last year as a junior. This year, he hopes to pass that marker and lead his team. He controls the option, so he is the key player in the offense. He can lead the Jackets to a stellar season if he plays well

**Result: ACC Title Game** - We think GT can pull off the upset over VT. The rest of the season isn't too hard for the Jackets, so they control their own destiny. They will most likely play Clemson or Florida State for a bid to the Orange Bowl in Florida.

An (\*) next to a players name indicates a returning starters

# VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

Location: Blacksburg, VA  
Conference: ACC - Coastal  
2011 Record: 11-3

## IN BEAMER WE TRUST

The Hokies were not at all pleased with the way last season ended, losing to Clemson in the ACC Championship Game and Michigan in the Sugar Bowl. This offseason has been all about clearing the air, and charting a new course for 2012.

The Hokies will be in a very familiar position when Georgia Tech visits on Labor Day evening, contending for a league championship and one of the coveted spots in a BCS bowl game. Under Frank Beamer, this has become a program folks can set their watches to, stringing together eight consecutive seasons of at least 10 wins.

However, despite playing in five major postseason games over the last eight years, the Hokies are still trying to reach a new level of prosperity—namely competing for a national title. Bud Foster's championship-caliber defense figures to hold up its end of the bargain, especially after so many talented sophomores were employed in 2011.

The offense? It could take time since only a couple of starters are back from a year ago. The pressure will firmly be on junior QB Logan Thomas. His biggest challenge, besides tuning out the buzz regarding his NFL future, will be to carry a youthful attack that will have no proven players in the backfield and four new starters in the trenches.

Few programs in America can match the year-in, year-out consistency of Virginia Tech. The Hokies will be one of the frontrunners to win an ACC crown, side-by-side with co-favorites Clemson and Florida State out of the Atlantic Division.

In a year when the defense is going to be vintage Tech, and the quarterback is special, anything less than another BCS bowl appearance will be as deflating as last season's finish.

## 2012 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	Gerogia Tech
Sept. 8	Austin Peay
Sept. 15	at Pittsburgh
Sept. 22	Bowling Green
Sept. 29	vs. Cincinnati*
Oct. 6	at North Carolina
Oct. 20	Duke
Oct. 27	at Clemson
Nov. 3	at Miami
Nov. 10	Florida State
Nov. 17	at Boston College
Nov. 24	Virginia

\*Played in Landover, MD

\*\*Maroon signifies an ACC game

## OFFENSE: UNPROVEN

QB Logan Thomas (bottom) was eased into the offense a year ago, his first as the starter. The junior is an emerging superstar behind center, a 6-6, 262-pounder with a great fastball and uncommon mobility for a big man. However, he lost a ton of last year's support staff, including the Hokies' 1,700-yard rusher, top two receivers and four starting offensive linemen. Thomas complemented his teammates in 2011. In 2012, he'll be hoisting them on his shoulders.

It's been a long time since Virginia Tech has been unable to produce a capable back, but it's going to be challenged this fall. Right now it looks like Holmes will have the job, but it is unsure. Thomas should have no problem locating his targets this season; Marcus Davis, Dyrell Roberts and D.J. Coles are all at least 6-2. The line appears to have found the right combination, with four new starters getting promoted alongside holdover C Andrew Miller.

## DEFENSE: IMPRESSIVE

Bud Foster is at it again. The longtime Hokies' coordinator led a sophomore-dominated D to seventh nationally in points allowed in 2011. Now that all of those second-year players are gradually becoming upperclassmen, Virginia Tech expects to be one of the nation's nastiest units.

Only two starters are being replaced, Cornerbacks Antone Exum and Kyle Fuller are back, looking to reprise their roles as All-ACC performers. The newcomers on the last line of defense will be FS Detrick Bonner, a converted corner, and rover Kyshoen Jarrett. The line is top of the class, with ends like James Gayle and J.R. Collins On the inside, Derrick Hopkins, Luther Maddy and Antoine Hopkins are undersized and extremely hard to block. Besides the safeties, linebacker is the other pressing concern. Oh, the unit has talent, but it also has durability issues. If the linebackers can stay healthy all year, this team has the ingredients to become Foster's best D in years.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Known for their, special teams, the Hokies are looking to go back to what made them great years ago. With a new punter, they will be able to pin the oppsing team in their own end. The return game is still shaky, especially with the loss of all pro RB and KR Wilson, but new freshmen will look to add explosiveness.



### OFFENSE [3]

QB	3	Logan Thomas*	6-6	260	Jr.
TB	20	Michael Holmes	6-0	208	Fr.
FB	45	Joey Phillips	5-11	234	Sr.
TE	86	Eric Martin	6-2	258	Sr.
WR	7	Marcus Davis*	6-4	232	Sr.
WR	11	Dyrell Roberts	6-2	195	Sr.
LT	54	Nick Beeton	6-6	317	Sr.
LG	76	David Wang	6-2	288	Jr.
C	74	Andrew Miller*	6-3	285	Jr.
RG	55	Brent Benedict	6-5	304	So.
RT	71	Vinston Painter	6-6	309	Sr.

### DEFENSE [7]

DE	99	James Gayle*	6-4	269	Jr.
DT	98	Derrik Hopkins	6-0	306	Jr.
DT	56	Antoine Hopkins	6-1	313	Sr.
DE	42	J.R. Collins*	6-2	261	Jr.
OLB	43	Jeron Gouveia-Winslow	6-2	210	Sr.
ILB	51	Bruce Talyor*	6-2	244	Sr.
ILB	24	Tariq Edwards*	6-2	237	Jr.
CB	17	Kyle Fuller*	6-0	193	Jr.
CB	1	Antone Exum*	6-1	224	Jr.
S	34	Kyshoen Jarrett	5-11	295	So.
S	8	Detrick Bonner	6-0	198	So.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	89	Cody Journell	6-0	195	Jr.
P	27	A.J. Hughes	6-1	190	Fr.
KR	4	J.C. Coleman	5-8	192	Fr.
PR	11	Dyrell Roberts	6-2	195	Sr.

### RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: L. Thomas, 3,013 yds, 19TDs, 10INTs  
Rushing: The Hokies will have a new set of backs  
Receiving: M. Davis, 30 rec., 510 yds, 5 TD  
Tackles: A. Exum, 89, 43 solo  
Sacks: J. Gayle, 7  
Interceptions: Two players tied with 2

### MAKE IT OR BREAK IT

**Key Game:** Clemson - Revenge. The Clemson Tigers embarrassed the Hokies last year, and ruined there hopes at a BCS Bowl bid. A win will keep them in the hunt for a national title game.

**Who to Watch: Logan Thomas** - Logan is the leader of an unproven offense. If the Hokies want to go anywhere this season, they can't just rely on the defense. Thomas threw over 3,000 yards last year, and has shown good mobility out of the pocket. As long as he holds up his end of the job, the hokies will be in good shape.

**Result: Bowl Game** - The Hokies are a young team, on both offense and defense. Their lack of experience will bite them at some point in the season. They may win the big games against Clemson, but don't be surprised if they get upset by a dark horse team (Georgia Tech).

An (\*) next to a players name indicates a returning starters