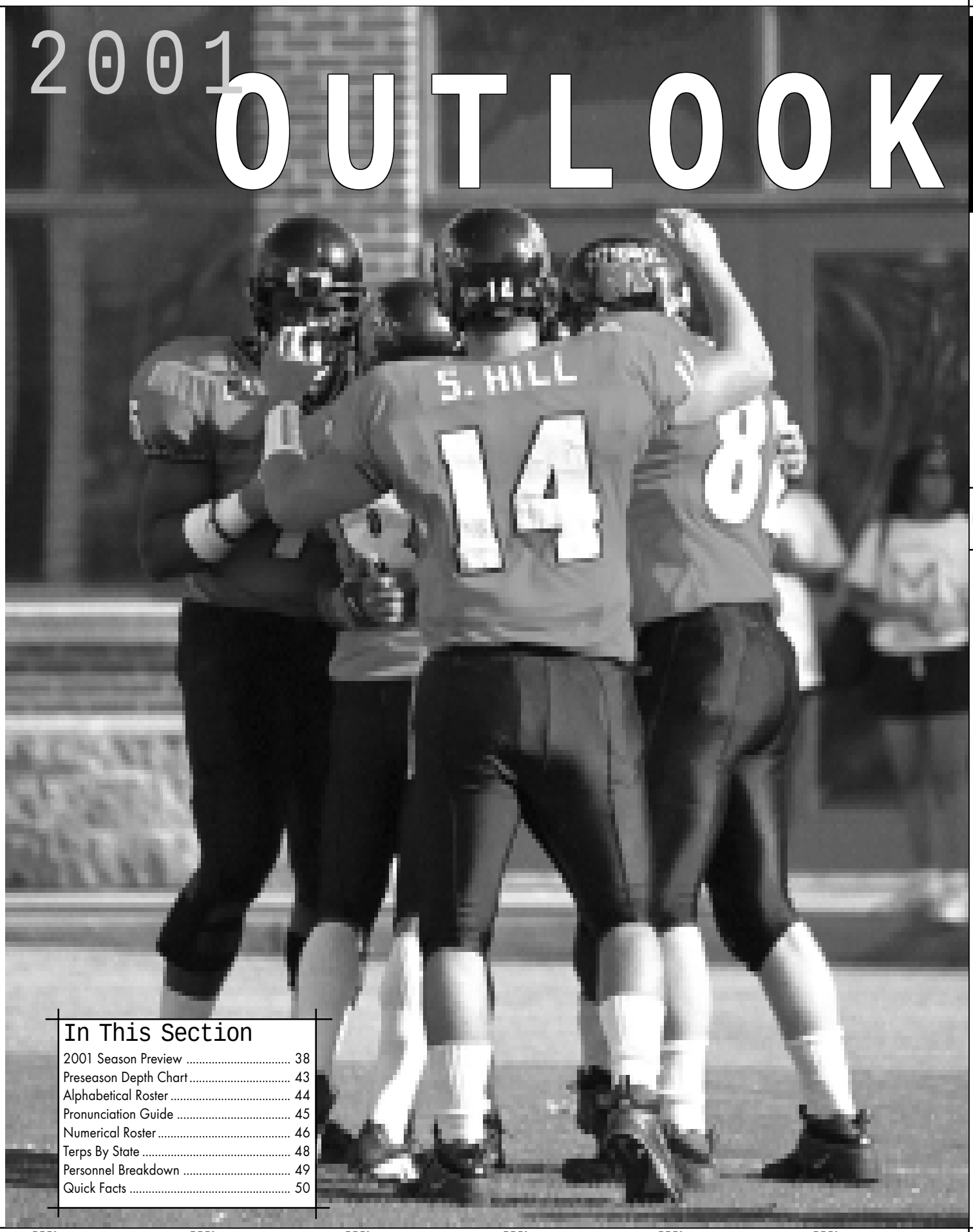
2001 OUTLOOK



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2001 SEASON PREVIEW

Excitement is in the air in College Park and soon, footballs will be joining it. The Ralph Friedgen era of Maryland football starts here.

Friedgen will take the field as the University of Maryland's 33rd head coach with a season-opening ACC showdown versus North Carolina on September 1st. The game will mark the official homecoming of sorts for Friedgen, the 1969 Maryland graduate who is in his third stint as a coach in College Park.

Most recently at Georgia Tech, Friedgen will bring a multiple offense known for its aerial attack to Byrd Stadium in hopes of leading the Terrapins to their first bowl appearance since 1990 and their first winning season since 1995.

Friedgen is joined by one of the most experienced staffs in college football, as offensive coordinator Charlie Taaffe and defensive coordinator Gary Blackney alone bring 59 years of coaching experience to the table and 22 between them as head coaches.

This year's Maryland squad returns eight offensive and eight defensive starters from last year's team that finished 5-6 and at one point seemingly controlled its own bowl destiny with a 5-4 record. It is a team with experience on both sides of the ball but needing some key roles to be filled, including the task of replacing the school's all-time leading rusher, LaMont Jordan.

The following is a position-by-position breakdown of the Terps as they head into the 2001 season:

OFFENSE

The Maryland offensive unit had some questions answered this off-season with Shaun Hill taking a rather commanding lead in the quarterback race and players like Bruce Perry and Marc Riley having success at tailback.

The Terrapins return eight starters from last year's squad and have some intriguing battles shaping up for the fall.

In Friedgen's estimation, the team still has a long way to go in terms of learning his offensive system, but he is encouraged by their progress in the spring.

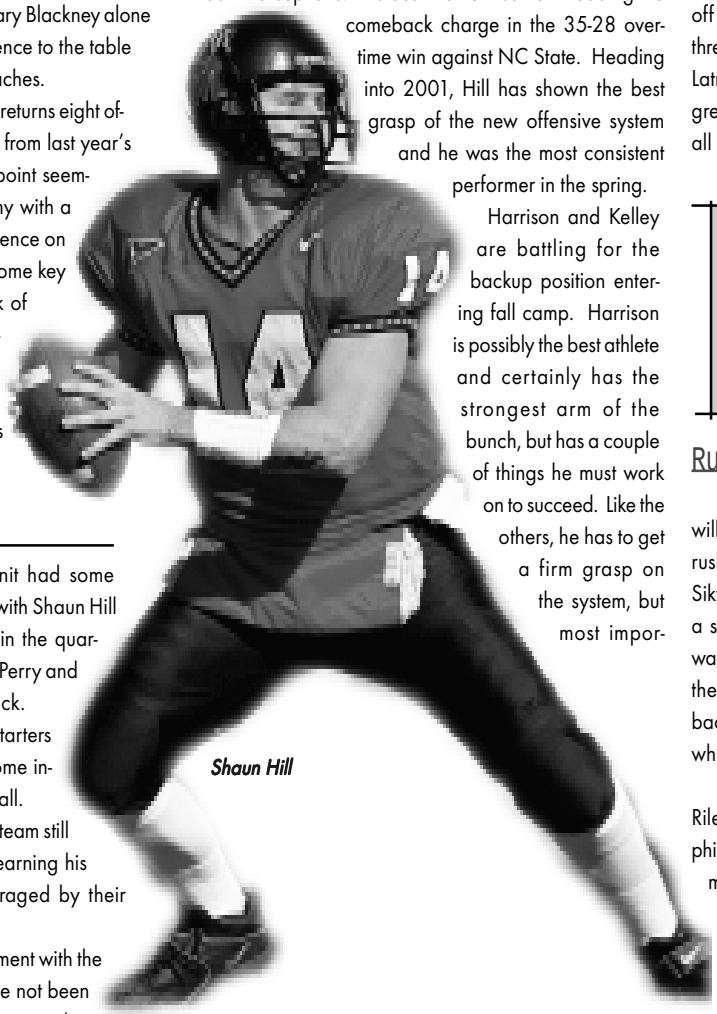
"It has really been an adjustment with the offense," said Friedgen. "They have not been accustomed to the in-depth throwing game that we try to install with multiple formations and personnel groups. I feel like we finished strong in the spring and got the sense that the more they get used to the system and the attention to detail, the better they will get. It was very similar to what we went through at Georgia Tech."

Quarterback

The Terrapins went into spring practice with a good deal of attention being paid to the quarterback position. Maryland had three players in senior Shaun Hill (Parsons, Kan.), sophomore Latrez Harrison (Atlanta, Ga.) and redshirt freshman Chris Kelley (Germantown, Md.) getting all of the snaps this spring. The extra repetitions seemed to help players like Harrison and Kelley improve, while Hill solidified his stronghold on the starting job.

Hill opened and closed the 2000 season as the starter but was injured from games two through nine. He is an intelligent quarterback with a solid arm, good accuracy and surprising mobility who has pleased the new staff with his work effort and leadership. Last season, he was 73-of-126 passing for 778 yards with six TDs and four interceptions. His best moment came in leading the comeback charge in the 35-28 overtime win against NC State. Heading into 2001, Hill has shown the best grasp of the new offensive system and he was the most consistent performer in the spring.

Harrison and Kelley are battling for the backup position entering fall camp. Harrison is possibly the best athlete and certainly has the strongest arm of the bunch, but has a couple of things he must work on to succeed. Like the others, he has to get a firm grasp on the system, but most important, coaches feel that he needs to work on his touch and learn to harness his throwing arm at times. He showed improvement in the spring in all areas, especially late in the spring session in his grasp of the offense.



Shaun Hill

Kelley redshirted a year ago after suffering a knee injury prior to his arrival at Maryland. He is, quite simply, a football player. Though he struggled somewhat in the spring game, Kelley's off-season could be labeled nothing less than a success. The 15 practices of this spring were his first as a collegian and he showed why he was so highly thought of as a prep. He ran well on the rehabilitated knee and showed an arm that was stronger and more accurate than was initially anticipated. Of the three quarterbacks, he is the one who – understandably – needs the most work learning the system.

In the fall, the Terrapin QBs will get a little more rest at practice with the additions of walk-on freshmen Brian Ramey (Upper Arlington, Ohio) and Shai Warsaw (Sandy Spring, Md.).

"Shaun Hill has gained confidence in the offense and I think he is going to do a good job with it, and his experience and his work this off-season is going to pay off for him," said Friedgen. "The fact that we only had three quarterbacks on the roster in the spring really helped Latrez (Harrison) and Chris (Kelley) because they got a greater number of repetitions. I think there is potential for all of our quarterbacks to have great success."

Quarterback

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
4	Latrez Harrison	QB	6-3	223	So.-1V
7	Chris Kelley	QB	6-2	198	Fr.-RS
11 (d)	Brian Ramey	QB	6-0	185	Fr.-HS
12 (d)	Shai Warsaw	QB	6-1	195	Fr.-HS
14	Shaun Hill	QB	6-3	225	Sr.-1V

Running Back

The tailback spot is the other position that all eyes will be on this fall. Gone is Maryland's all-time leading rusher, LaMont Jordan, as well as his backup, Mukala Sikyala, Jr. Both players are in pro camps as Jordan was a second-round pick of the New York Jets and Sikyala was a free agent signee of the San Diego Chargers. What their loss leaves is a great opportunity for a number of backs, some of whom were here in the spring and some who were not.

Among those battling for the job are senior Marc Riley (Coram, N.Y.), sophomore Bruce Perry (Philadelphia, Pa.), junior Chris Downs (Philadelphia, Pa.) and freshmen Jason Crawford (Forestville, Md.), Mario Merrills (Columbia, Md.) and Rich Parson (Newark, Del.).

The biggest of all the backs vying for playing time at tailback is Riley who enters fall camp with a narrow lead in the race to claim a starting role. At 6-3, 225, he can break tackles and he will be expected to see action at both tailback and fullback, depending on the formation the Terps are in. Perry is a quick back with very good acceleration who Friedgen thinks would excel in an option attack. At 5-9, 190, he is not real big but he is surprisingly strong and hits the hole hard. Downs (5-8,

189) is more similar in size to Perry and has impressed coaches with his work ethic.

The freshmen all bring different skills to the table, but all could challenge for playing time. Crawford is the type of big back with good running skills that Friedgen prefers, but like Merrills, he was not here for spring ball. Merrills is a back with game-breaking speed who could get in the game – if nothing else – as a receiver out of the backfield. Parson is the lone freshman of the three who was here in the spring. He is slight at 180 pounds, but is a smooth runner and has a burst once he finds an opening.

"I think we are in pretty good shape at tailback," said Friedgen. "Marc Riley runs hard and had a solid spring. Bruce (Perry) was more of an east-west runner at the start of spring but he really changed by the end of camp. I don't know if he just figured out what we were looking for or what, but he really has started running well. We have some young runners who were here in the spring in Downs and Parson who struggled learning the offense but have seen improvement. We expect Jason Crawford and Mario Merrills to challenge for playing time depending on how they pick up the system."

At fullback, James Lynch (Washington, D.C.) is the favorite to replace another talent in 36-game starter Matt Kalapinski, a free agent signee of the Miami Dolphins. Lynch has good size and was solid in the action he saw last year. He is a talented runner and blocker who caught a touchdown pass a year ago.

Vying for playing time with Lynch will be Chad Killian (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and Bernie Fiddler (Swedesboro, N.J.). Killian played in 11 games in his first two years, seeing action exclusively on special teams, but really came on in the spring as a runner and a blocker. He could be the best blocking back of the bunch and is one of the strongest players, pound-for-pound, on the team. Fiddler is an all-around player with good blocking, rushing and pass-catching skills.

"I feel good about the fullback position," said Friedgen. "Lynch is a multi-talented back and Killian really came on this spring, especially as a blocker. Fiddler has shown some skill as well. I feel very fortunate that we have three fullbacks who I feel are capable of competing this fall."

Tailback

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
1	Bruce Perry	TB	5-9	190	So.-1V
2	Marc Riley	TB/FB	6-3	225	Sr.-2V
8	Mario Merrills	TB	5-10	180	Fr.-HS
9	Jason Crawford	TB	6-2	215	Fr.-HS
20	Chris Downs	TB	5-8	189	Jr.-RS
22	Rich Parson	TB	5-10	180	Fr.-HS

Fullback

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
5	James Lynch	FB	5-11	261	So.-1V
31	Chad Killian	FB	6-2	256	Jr.-SQ
44	Bernie Fiddler	FB	6-1	241	So.-SQ

Wide Receiver

The Maryland wideouts form a group that will be counted on heavily in 2001 when it comes to the success of the offense. The Terps have returning starters Guilian Gary (Horseheads, N.Y.) and Scooter Monroe (Abington, Md.), but by and large the group is short on experience.

Gary was Maryland's leading receiver in 1999 and 2000. He showed good strength and an innate ability to come down with the ball. He has pretty good size at 6-0, and he can also return punts. As one of the lone seniors in this year's receiving corps, he will be counted on heavily.

Monroe had 14 catches last year and will compete for playing time behind Gary with freshman Steve Suter (Manchester, Md.) and Daryl Whitmer (Waldorf, Md.), both of whom had their moments in the spring.

Jafar Williams (Philadelphia, Pa.) is another returnee who will be in competition for a starting spot, but the player who emerged as the starter opposite Gary in the spring was redshirt freshman Rob Abiamiri (Randallstown, Md.).

Abiamiri is a coachable player who added 18 pounds in the off-season and has the size (6-3, 213) to shed defenders at the line. He will be joined in competition by fellow freshmen Maurice Shanks (Hampton, Va.) and Ike Roberts (Staten Island, N.Y.). Shanks (6-4), like Abiamiri, has excellent size while Roberts is one of the quickest players at the position.

All told, of the nine players listed on the depth chart, more than half are freshmen.

"We are very young at wide receiver," said Friedgen, "but I feel we came along nicely in the off-season. We just need to have them learn all of the intricacies of being a good wide receiver; understanding their splits and steps and that everything is timed out – that they can't just vary and be in gray areas. They have to be exact and have a precise pattern. I am pleased with the way it is going right now; they just have to continue working on it."

Guilian Gary

Wide Receiver

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
3	Rob Abiamiri	WR	6-3	213	Fr.-RS
10	Ike Roberts	WR	5-11	168	Fr.-RS
18	Maurice Shanks	WR	6-4	184	Fr.-RS
19 (d)	Jafar Williams	WR	6-2	193	So.-1V
21	Guilian Gary	WR	6-0	187	Sr.-3V
25	Scooter Monroe	WR	6-1	185	Jr.-2V
34 (d)	Steve Suter	WR	5-9	186	Fr.-RS
43	Daryl Whitmer	WR	6-0	183	Sr.-3V
85	Aaron Smith	WR	6-4	190	Fr.-HS

Tight End

At tight end, Maryland has a nice mix of youth and experience. In one player, Jeff Dugan (Allison Park, Pa.), the Terps have both. The sophomore started 10 games his freshman season and finished second on the team in receiving (25 rec./319 yds.). Despite his success catching the ball a year ago, Dugan's true strength is his blocking. Like some of the young receivers, he needs a little seasoning with his route running.

Dugan is one part of a triumvirate of players who will man the position, as seniors Matt Murphy (New Haven, Mich.) and Eric James (Washington, D.C.) will also see their share of playing time.

Friedgen has been impressed with the combination of athleticism, strength and speed that Murphy has shown. Now firmly entrenched at tight end, Murphy can work to utilize his size and speed while focusing on one position. In the past, he had been moved back and forth between offense and defense.

James is the third part of the "three-headed monster" and he will see more time at H-back than the other two. He lacks Dugan's blocking skills and Murphy's ability to get down the field, but he is an all-around talent who has good hands and runs well after the catch.

"We have three pretty solid tight ends, each with different strengths," said Friedgen. "Jeff Dugan is a real good blocker, I mean, he puts a defender away. And he has pretty good hands. Matt Murphy is a guy who is 6-5, 260-lbs., and runs a 4.7 (40-yard dash) and has good hands. He has the potential to be a heck of a player. And Eric James is big and runs well and he should play a big role for us as an H-back this year. As a group, there is a ton of potential here."

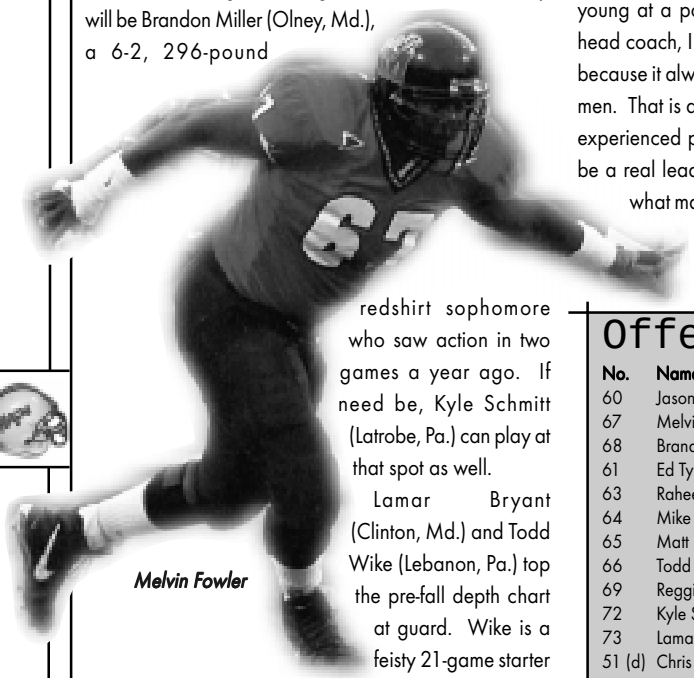
Tight End

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
80	Eric James	TE	6-2	263	Sr.-3V
82	Jeff Dugan	TE	6-4	263	So.-1V
83	Jimmie Gibson	TE	6-2	245	Fr.-HS
84	Derek Miller	TE	6-8	240	Fr.-HS
87	Ryan Flynn	TE	6-4	238	Fr.-RS
88	Matt Murphy	TE	6-5	261	Sr.-3V

Offensive Line

The Terrapins enter 2001 in pretty good shape on the offensive front. Six players have significant playing experience and another, Matt Crawford (Moravia, N.Y.), started 20 games before going down to injury last year.

The centerpiece of the offensive line will again be center Melvin Fowler (Wheatly Heights, N.Y.). Entering his senior season, Fowler has now started in all 33 games of his collegiate career in the pivot. He is a leader off the field who excels on it with good quickness and the ability to check to the right blocking scheme. Fowler's backup will be Brandon Miller (Olney, Md.), a 6-2, 296-pound redshirt sophomore who saw action in two games a year ago. If need be, Kyle Schmitt (Latrobe, Pa.) can play at that spot as well.



Melvin Fowler

Lamar Bryant (Clinton, Md.) and Todd Wike (Lebanon, Pa.) top the pre-fall depth chart at guard. Wike is a feisty 21-game starter who did not miss a game last year while Bryant started six of the last seven games at right guard a year ago. Bryant is a very talented player who coaches believe has the talent to play at the next level if he can eliminate some of the mistakes that showed up on game film last year. Included in the mix at guard this year will be Ed Tyler (Franklinville, N.J.) and Reggie Kemp (Hyattsville, Md.) on the left side, while Schmitt is penciled in as the backup on the right. Bob Krantz, who started half of last year on the right side, has had his career cut short by a herniated disk in his back.

At tackle, the Terps are not long in the tooth but make up for in talent what they lack in experience. On the left side, Eric Dumas (Atlanta, Ga.) will likely protect the quarterback's blind side. The 300-pound sophomore missed some of spring after injuring his left foot, but he is an athletic talent who saw action in five games a year ago. Redshirt freshman Lou Lombardo (Baltimore, Md.) came on strong in the spring and worked with the first team after Dumas' injury and is another player the Terrapins will be counting on heavily down the road.

On the right side, Maryland is hoping that a healthy Crawford can return to form and challenge to regain his starting position after missing the spring but should he struggle, C.J. Brooks (Rex, Ga.) looks like the answer. Brooks opened eyes in the spring with his athleticism, improved size (6-5, 304) and technical prowess and worked his way to the top of the depth chart despite being only a redshirt freshman.

Chris Snader (Bishopville, Md.), the only player at tackle other than Crawford who is not an underclassman, returns for his senior year after playing in every game last year and will serve as a backup at both tackle spots.

"I think that our offensive line is going to be a real strength for us in the long run," said Friedgen. "We have so many good, young players, and if you have to be young at a position when you are first coming in as a head coach, I would want it to be (on the offensive line) because it always takes a while to develop offensive linemen. That is also what makes it so important to have an experienced player like Melvin Fowler because he can be a real leader. The thing I like about this group and what makes me really want to watch them develop is that they are all big kids who are athletic and they will only get better."

Offensive Line

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl-Exp.
60	Jason Holman	C	6-2	270	Fr.-HS
67	Melvin Fowler Jr.	C	6-3	292	Sr.-3V
68	Brandon Miller	C	6-2	296	So.-SQ
61	Ed Tyler	OG	6-3	300	So.-SQ
63	Raheem Lewis	OG	6-3	335	Fr.-HS
64	Mike Steele	OG	6-4	275	Fr.-HS
65	Matt Powell	OG	6-4	315	Fr.-HS
66	Todd Wike	OG	6-3	295	Jr.-2V
69	Reggie Kemp	OG	6-4	332	Fr.-RS
72	Kyle Schmitt	OG	6-5	298	Fr.-RS
73	Lamar Bryant	OG	6-3	307	So.-1V
51 (d)	Chris Snader	OT	6-5	293	Sr.-2V
74	C.J. Brooks	OT	6-5	304	Fr.-RS
75	Eric Dumas	OT	6-6	300	So.-1V
76	Tim Donovan	OT	6-6	316	Fr.-HS
77	Russell Bonham	OT	6-4	339	Fr.-HS
78	Matt Crawford	OT	6-6	311	Jr.-2V
79	Lou Lombardo	OT	6-6	301	Fr.-RS

DEFENSE

The Terrapins are feast or famine this year when it comes to experience on defense. The linebacking corps is among the deepest and most talented units in the ACC with at least three starters returning while the defensive backfield will return three seniors and a sophomore who started every game last year.

The defensive line was a bit of a question mark heading into spring but showed marked improvement throughout under the tutelage of Dave Sollazzo, and the group will likely be infused with some youth come fall practice to add to the competition.

Overall, the defense should be solid and, like the offense, it should only get better as the season progresses and players become more familiar with the new system. "We have some experienced players returning on defense and I think that will be key to our success because at certain positions, we will likely have some younger players mixed in," said Friedgen. "The linebackers will be one of the strengths of the team and the other groups improved their understanding of the overall scheme as the spring progressed."

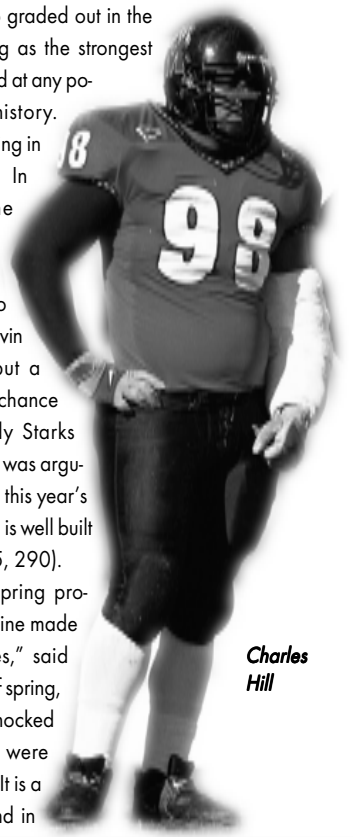
Defensive Line

The top defensive loss of last year came with the graduation of Kris Jenkins, the defensive tackle who parlayed a strong senior season into becoming a second round draft choice of the Carolina Panthers.

The Terps were relatively thin on the line with Jenkins still around; the task now is to find some new faces. The spring produced several changes on the defensive front and the fall will see the injection of more youth.

At the tackle spot vacated by Jenkins, C.J. Feldheim (Parkton, Md.) and Landon Jones (Marion, Ohio) will enter 2001 as one-two on the depth chart. For both players, defensive tackle is a new position as Feldheim was an end last year and Jones played on the nose. Both players are young and talented and lack only game experience. At nose tackle, Charles Hill (Palmer Park, Md.) is a returning starter and is coming off of a season that saw him notch three sacks and six TFLs. Hill will be counted on for leadership on the line and will be backed up by junior William Shimé (Ft. Washington, Md.) and sophomore Tosin Abari (Mt. Ranier, Md.).

At defensive end, Durrand Roundtree (Baltimore, Md.) came on strong in the spring to move ahead of Scott Smith (Philadelphia, Pa.) on the depth chart. Roundtree is a physical force who graded out in the weight room this spring as the strongest player (pound-for-pound at any position) in Maryland history. Smith returns after playing in five games as a frosh. In his limited action, he ended up with 12 tackles, 25 percent of which were sacks (3). The duo will be backed up by Kevin Eli (Deptford, N.J.) but a player who will get a chance is true freshman Randy Starks (Waldorf, Md.). Starks was arguably the prize recruit of this year's class. He is athletic and is well built for a young player (6-5, 290).



Charles Hill

"I thought as spring progressed, the defensive line made some significant strides," said Friedgen. "At the end of spring, they weren't getting knocked off the ball and they were playing to their ability. It is a hard-working group and in the fall there should be some added competition from players like Randy Starks who will compete for playing time."

Defensive End

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
41	Kevin Eli	DE	6-4	253	Fr.-RS
54	Scott Smith	DE	6-4	260	So.-1V
57	Randy Starks	DE/DT	6-5	290	Fr.-HS
71	Durrand Roundtree	DE	6-3	250	Jr.-1V
90	Will Ferguson	DE	6-3	255	Fr.-HS

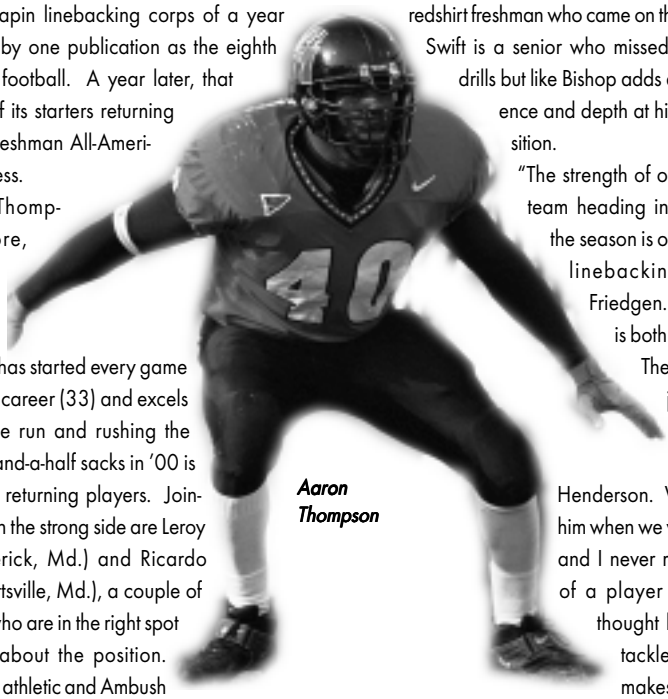
Defensive Tackle

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
57	Randy Starks	DE/DT	6-5	290	Fr.-HS
91	Akil Patterson	DT	6-3	260	Fr.-HS
95	William Shimé	DT	6-4	265	Jr.-1V
96	C.J. Feldheim	DT	6-3	263	So.-1V
97	Tosin Abari	DT	6-0	245	So.-SQ
98	Charles Hill	DT	6-2	292	Sr.-3V
99	Landon Jones	DT	6-4	256	So.-1V

Linebacker

The Terrapin linebacking corps of a year ago was rated by one publication as the eighth best in college football. A year later, that group has all of its starters returning and added a freshman All-American in the process.

Aaron Thompson (Baltimore, Md.) is back for his senior season on the strong side. He has started every game of his collegiate career (33) and excels both against the run and rushing the passer. His six-and-a-half sacks in '00 is most among all returning players. Joining Thompson on the strong side are Leroy Ambush (Frederick, Md.) and Ricardo Dickerson (Hyattsville, Md.), a couple of young players who are in the right spot to learn more about the position. Both players are athletic and Ambush is expected to experience a full recovery from a wrist injury suffered the first week of spring practice.



Aaron Thompson

In the middle, the team's leading tackler returns in E.J. Henderson (Aberdeen, Md.). Henderson is an instinctive player with a non-stop motor who can make plays from sideline to sideline. The 109 tackles he racked up came despite the fact that he missed a game-and-a-half with an ankle injury. If he can perform like he did in the spring, he will draw attention for postseason honors. Behind Henderson at middle linebacker is Monté Graves (Annapolis, Md.), a senior who played in all 11 games a year ago. Kevin Bishop (St. Petersburg, Fla.) is another senior who has a good deal of experience (10 career starts), but he missed spring ball and will have to work his way up the depth chart. When healthy, Bishop is a playmaker and will add talented depth to the position.

At weakside linebacker, Marlon Moye-Moore (Brandywine, Md.) missed spring ball which created some competition at the position. Leon Joe (Clinton, Md.) is a compact, athletic player who enters fall as the number one, but the preseason will determine who opens the season as the starter. Kenneth Jerry (Melbourne, Fla.) and surprise performer Andrew Henley enter 2001 listed as his backups, but Reggie Lewis (Chicago, Ill.) – who did not participate in contact drills in spring – is chomping at the bit while the possibility of Moye-Moore's return would add even more competition.

At the LEO position, Mike Whaley (Lexington, S.C.) returns after finishing third on the team in sacks and earning third team freshman All-American honors from *The Sporting News*. Also competing at the position are Jamahl Cochran (Morristown, N.J.), Jon Condo (Philipsburg, Pa.) and Ryan Swift (Hinsdale, Ill.). Cochran was moved from defensive end to better accommodate his size (6-0, 243) while Condo is a redshirt freshman who came on this spring. Swift is a senior who missed spring drills but like Bishop adds experience and depth at his position.

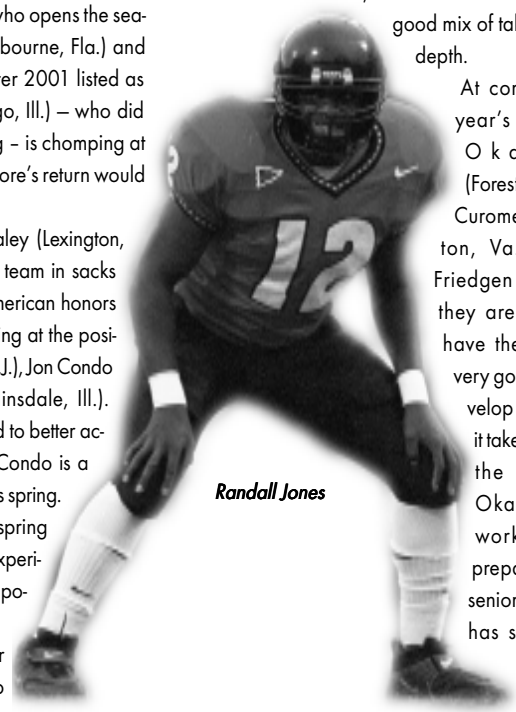
"The strength of our team heading into the season is our linebacking corps," said Friedgen. "It is a group that is both talented and deep. The guy who has really jumped out at me amongst the linebackers is E.J. Henderson. We played against him when we were here with Tech and I never realized how good of a player he really was. I thought he was a tackle-to-tackle guy but he really makes plays all over the field. I think he is a heck of a football player."

Linebacker

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
32	Leon Joe	ILB	6-1	217	So.-1V
35	Marlon Moye-Moore	ILB	6-1	230	Sr.-3V
39	Kevin Bishop	ILB	6-2	223	Sr.-1V
42	E.J. Henderson	ILB	6-2	238	Jr.-2V
50	Nick Farver	ILB	6-1	232	So.-SQ
51 (d)	Andrew Henley	ILB	5-11	215	So.-RS
52	Monté Graves	ILB	6-0	238	Sr.-2V
53	Reggie Lewis	ILB	6-0	233	Sr.-2V
59	Maurice Smith	ILB	6-0	210	Fr.-HS
93	Kenneth Jerry	ILB	6-2	217	Fr.-RS
24	Leroy Ambush	OLB	6-1	220	So.-1V
40	Aaron Thompson	OLB	6-1	234	Sr.-3V
47	Jon Condo	OLB	6-3	232	Fr.-RS
48	Ryan Swift	OLB	6-1	238	Sr.-3V
49	Jamahl Cochran	OLB	6-0	243	Fr.-RS
55	Mike Whaley	OLB	6-1	233	So.-1V
58	Ricardo Dickerson	OLB	6-3	238	Fr.-HS

Defensive Back

Like linebacker, the defensive backfield has a good mix of talent, youth and depth.



Randall Jones

At cornerback, last year's starters Tony Okanlawon (Forestville, Md.) and Curome Cox (Arlington, Va.) are back. Friedgen believes that they are players who have the talent to be very good but must develop the confidence it takes to succeed at the position. Okanlawon has worked hard in preparation for his senior year and Cox has shown leadership not usually seen out of a sophomore. The coaching staff put Cox in some high-pressure situations this spring, and he performed well, excelling in press coverage schemes.

The primary backups at corner will be sophomore Dennard Wilson (Upper Marlboro, Md.) and true freshman Domonique Foxworth (Randallstown, Md.). Wilson is a supremely confident player whose mental approach transcends his skills. It is not out of the question that he challenge for a starting job. Foxworth graduated high school early and spent the spring with the Terps and has already impressed coaches with a work ethic not common among younger players.

"I think we have a pretty good group of cornerbacks," said Friedgen. "On one side, we have experience with Tony Okanlawon and on the other, we have a real strong, physical corner in Curome Cox. Another player, Dennard Wilson, is just a football player who will push to see the more playing time. We could use more depth, but overall, I am happy with what we've got."

At safety, Tony Jackson (Ellicott City, Md.) was an All-ACC performer at strong safety last year after having his first injury-free season. He was seemingly all over the place, running up 101 tackles while breaking up four passes. Jackson is joined by three-year letterwinner Rod Littles (Gainesville, Fla.) and Raymond Custis (Germantown, Md.) at strong safety. Littles is a physical player who has played in all 33 games of his three years at Maryland while Custis switched from cornerback to safety in the spring.

Former quarterback Randall Jones (Frederick, Md.) returns for his senior year at free safety. He and

junior Tyrone Stewart (Washington, D.C.) are proven players at the position although Stewart missed spring due to injury. Redshirt freshman Curtis Williams (Huntington Station, N.Y.) moved to second on the depth chart in the spring due to the combination of Stewart's injury and flashes of playmaking ability in scrimmages. Williams still needs work learning the defense but his instinctive play suggests he may be a player to watch down the road.

"Safety is a position that we are in good shape at now; and we also have some guys who are battling for the future," said Friedgen. "We have good, experienced players in Tony Jackson, Randall Jones and Rod Littles, and then there is this next tier of players who will play big roles next year. Curtis Williams had a solid spring at free safety, and we really look forward to seeing transfer Madieu Williams – who has to redshirt this year – on the field. Overall, we are pretty deep at the position, with good talent."

Cornerback

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
6	D. Foxworth	CB	5-11	175	Fr.-HS
11 (d)	Tony Okanlawon	CB	5-11	186	Sr.-3V
13	Dennard Wilson	CB	5-11	183	So.-1V
17 (d)	Sal Aragona	CB	5-8	180	So.-RS
19 (d)	Richard Harrigan	CB	5-8	184	Sr.-RS
23	Andrew Smith, Jr.	CB	6-0	193	So.-1V
30	Curome Cox	CB	6-1	185	So.-1V
38	Gerrick McPhearson	CB	5-11	185	Fr.-HS

Safety

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
26	Raymond Custis	SS	5-8	180	Fr.-RS
27	Tony Jackson	SS	6-1	209	Sr.-3V
33	Rod Littles	SS	5-11	204	Sr.-3V
34 (d)	Madieu Williams	SS	6-1	185	Jr.-TR
12 (d)	Randall Jones	FS	6-2	223	Sr.-3V
15	Curtis Williams	FS	6-2	192	Fr.-RS
29	Tyrone Stewart	FS	6-0	199	Jr.-2V
36	Marcus Wimbush	FS	5-11	180	Fr.-HS
37	Jamal Chance	FS	6-1	190	Jr.-TR

SPECIALISTS

The Terrapins enter fall with some questions on special teams, most of which have to do with placekicking.

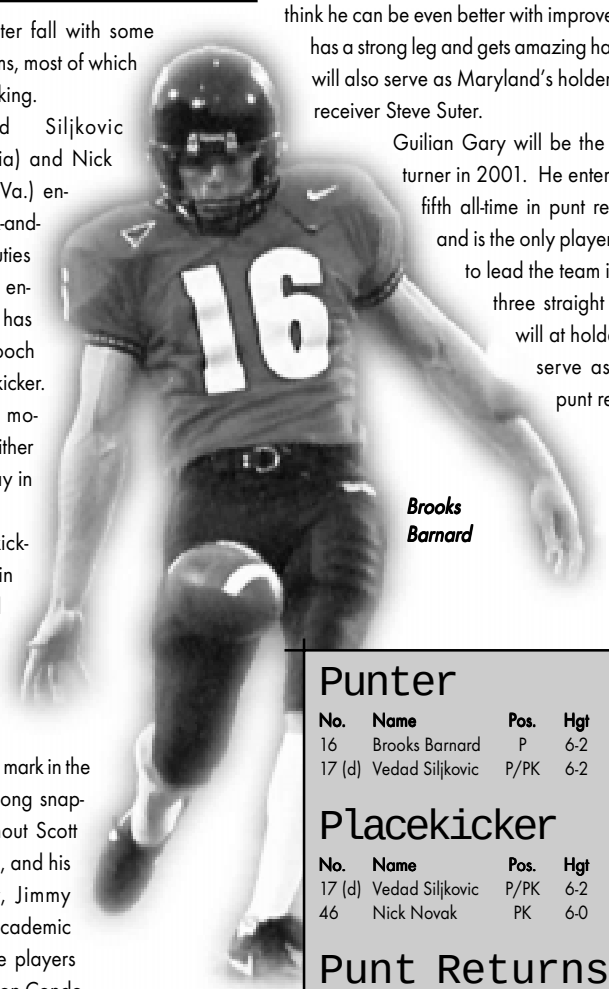
Senior Vedad Siljkovic (Montenegro, Yugoslavia) and Nick Novak (Charlottesville, Va.) entered spring practice neck-and-neck for placekicking duties and that is how they will enter fall workouts. Siljkovic has game experience as a pooch punter, but very little as a kicker. Both players had their moments in the spring, but neither made significant headway in the race to start.

"We will put the kickers in pressure situations in practice this fall," said Friedgen, "and whoever is able to perform best in those situations will win the job."

The other question mark in the kicking game comes at long snapper. The Terps are without Scott Rudolph, who graduated, and his replacement last year, Jimmy Connolly, who was an academic casualty this year. Three players will vie for the spot, with Jon Condo, Jafar Williams and Tony Jackson all entering fall as possibilities. The Terrapins will also give incoming players a look at the position.

The one position where there are no worries is at punter, where standout junior Brooks Barnard (Arnold, Md.) returns. Barnard finished fourth in Division I-A last season with a 44.7 yards per punt average, and coaches think he can be even better with improved technique. He has a strong leg and gets amazing hang time. Barnard will also serve as Maryland's holder along with wide receiver Steve Suter.

Guilian Gary will be the primary punt returner in 2001. He enters his final season fifth all-time in punt return yards (476) and is the only player in school history to lead the team in punt returns for three straight seasons. As he will at holder, Suter will also serve as the backup on punt returns.



Brooks Barnard

Punter

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
16	Brooks Barnard	P	6-2	182	Jr.-2V
17 (d)	Vedad Siljkovic	P/PK	6-2	218	Sr.-1V

Placekicker

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
17 (d)	Vedad Siljkovic	P/PK	6-2	218	Sr.-1V
46	Nick Novak	PK	6-0	186	Fr.-RS

Punt Returns

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
21	Guilian Gary	WR	6-0	187	Sr.-3V
34 (d)	Steve Suter	WR	5-9	186	Fr.-RS

Kickoff Returns

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	Cl.-Exp.
1	Bruce Perry	TB	5-9	190	So.-1V
34 (d)	Steve Suter	WR	5-9	186	Fr.-RS

2001 PRESEASON HONORS

Brooks Barnard, Punter

Second Team All-America, *Football Action Magazine*
First Team All-ACC, *The Sporting News*
First Team All-ACC, *Athlon Sports*
First Team All-ACC, *Preview Sports Magazine*

Matt Crawford, Tackle

Second Team All-ACC, *The Sporting News*

Melvin Fowler, Center

Second Team All-ACC, *The Sporting News*

Tony Jackson, Safety

Second Team All-ACC, *The Sporting News*

Aaron Thompson, Linebacker

Second Team All-ACC, *The Sporting News*
No. 19 Outside Linebacker, *The Sporting News*