



How 'Gobblers' Came To Be

New residents in the area may not have heard the story about "Hard Times," and the way in which the Va Tech football teams received the name of "Gobblers."

Floyd Meade, a young Negro, was chosen in 1896 as the VPI's team mascot and traveled with the group dressed as a clown. After several seasons in this garb, "Hard Times," was also was a one-made band, decided to discard his flashy suit and come up with something different.

To that end, he spent months training the "largest turkey in Montgomery County" to pull him around the playing field in a small cart. In 1912, "Hard Times" and his turkey made their debut at a game.

Although the name "Gobblers" had been used to refer to the VPI football team as early as 1908, it was not until sportswriters and fans were favorably impressed with "Hard Times" and his turkey that the name, "Gobblers" became the Techmen's nickname for all times.