

= 2006 Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl =

The 2006 Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl was a postseason college football match between the Georgia Bulldogs and the Virginia Tech Hokies at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta , Georgia . The University of Georgia represented the Southeastern Conference ( SEC ) and Virginia Tech represented the Atlantic Coast Conference ( ACC ) in the competition . The game was the final competition of the 2006 football season for each team and resulted in a 31 ? 24 Georgia victory , even though spread bettors favored Virginia Tech to win by three points . In exchange for the right to pick the first ACC team after the Bowl Championship Series selections , bowl representatives paid US \$ 3 @. @ 25 million to the ACC , while the SEC , whose fifth team was selected , received \$ 2 @. @ 4 million . The combined \$ 5 @. @ 65 million payout was the seventh @-@ largest among all college football bowl games , and the fourth @-@ largest non @-@ BCS bowl game payout .

In a game that was expected to be a defensive struggle , Virginia Tech took a 21 ? 3 lead in the first half . After halftime , Georgia answered Tech 's first @-@ half success , thanks in part to four second @-@ half turnovers by Tech quarterback Sean Glennon . Virginia Tech 's No. 1 ranked defense struggled in the second half , allowing 153 yards ( of 200 total ) in the final 30 minutes . As time ran out , Georgia held a one @-@ touchdown lead , 31 ? 24 , having beaten back a last @-@ second Tech rally . 75 @, @ 406 people attended the game , making it the 10th consecutive Peach Bowl sellout , the largest crowd to ever attend an event at the Georgia Dome , and the third @-@ largest bowl game in terms of attendance for the 2006 ? 2007 season . Each school sold out its allotment of 18 @, @ 500 tickets quickly . 31 @, @ 922 people attended the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A " fan fest " before the game , setting a new attendance record . Virginia Tech 's loss brought it to a final 2006 record of 10 ? 3 , while Georgia 's final @-@ game win earned it a record of 9 ? 4 .

= = Selection process = =

Beginning with the 2006 game , the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl had purchased the right to select the highest @-@ ranked Atlantic Coast Conference team after representatives from the Bowl Championship Series made their selection . According to the official selection rules still used today , the team chosen to represent the ACC must be within one conference victory of the remaining , highest @-@ ranked conference team or be ranked more than five spaces ahead of the ACC team with the best Conference record available in the final BCS Standings .

In choosing the SEC opponent , the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl selection committee had the right to select the first SEC school after the Bowl Championship Series , Cotton Bowl Classic , Capital One Bowl , and Outback Bowl made their selections . Just as in the ACC , the selection committee could not select an SEC team with two more losses than the highest available team . The bowl earned the right to select these teams via its multimillion @-@ dollar payout system , which guarantees a certain amount of money to the participating conferences . Prior to 2006 , the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl ( then known as the Peach Bowl ) matched the No. 5 team in the SEC versus the No. 3 team in the ACC . After the bowl increased its payout to \$ 2 @. @ 8 million per squad , it then was given the second pick from the ACC , with the Gator Bowl dropping to third .

Leeman Bennett , the former head coach of the Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers , served as chairman of the selection committee , which had the task of picking the best teams from those made available by the selection criteria set by the two conferences . The committee would have approximately one month to select the two teams that would attract the most people to the game and generate the largest possible television audience . This fact helped eliminate ACC runner @-@ up Georgia Tech from the selection process , as the Yellow Jackets had already played Georgia earlier in the season , thus making a potential Georgia @-@ Georgia Tech showdown less attractive . In addition , that matchup , while attractive to football fans in the Atlanta area ( the site of the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl and home to Georgia Tech ) , would have less appeal to television viewers outside the Georgia area . Supervising the selection committee was the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl Executive Committee , which consisted of representatives from various Atlanta businesses and the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A corporation .

= = Pregame buildup = =

On the morning of December 3 , 2006 , Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl representatives selected Virginia Tech to represent the ACC in the 2006 Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl . A few hours later , Georgia was selected as the second half of the matchup . Two days after the selections were announced , the game was declared sold out , the 10th consecutive sellout in the combined history of the Peach and Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowls . Georgia and Virginia Tech each were assigned initial allocations of 18 @,@ 500 tickets for distribution , and following the quick sales of those ticket blocs , each asked for and received additional tickets to distribute .

The game was the third time Virginia Tech and the University of Georgia faced each other on the football field . The two previous games ? one in 1931 and the other in 1932 ? resulted in one loss and one win for each team . Various casinos and betting organizations favored Virginia Tech by 2 @.@ 5 ? 3 points when setting their point spread .

= = = Media coverage = = =

Media discussion of the game in the weeks leading up to kickoff centered on the Hokies ' No. 1 @-@ nationally ranked defense and Georgia 's 5th @-@ ranked SEC defense . Most pundits predicted a low @-@ scoring game , and a few predicted an " all @-@ out defensive war " . A week before departing for Atlanta , Virginia Tech head coach Frank Beamer revealed that Ike Whitaker , Virginia Tech 's backup quarterback , would not be attending the game for undisclosed reasons . It was later revealed that Whitaker had been admitted to an alcohol treatment center in Salem , Virginia .

For Georgia , discussion centered on the play @-@ calling duties of assistant coach Mike Bobo . Bobo had been named the temporary offensive coordinator for the Bulldogs after then @-@ assistant coordinator Neil Calloway had been named the new head coach at the University of Alabama @-@ Birmingham . Calloway would remain with the Bulldogs as the offensive line coach during the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl , but Bobo would take over his role as offensive coordinator for the game . It was only the second time that Bobo performed as a play @-@ caller for the Bulldogs , the previous game having come in Georgia 's regular @-@ season closer , a 15 ? 12 win against Georgia Tech .

= = = Offensive matchups = = =

With the fifth @-@ ranked defense in the SEC going up against the number @-@ one ranked scoring defense in the nation , attention centered on the likelihood of a low @-@ scoring defensive struggle . Of particular interest were the two teams ' quarterbacks and how they would likely fare against such a tough defense . Georgia struggled on offense for much of the season , resulting in a battle for the starting quarterback position between senior Joe Tereshinski and freshman Matthew Stafford . Though Stafford was eventually given the starting role , he struggled in his first year , completing 126 of 235 passes ( 53 @.@ 6 % ) for 1 @,@ 620 yards , with six touchdowns and 12 interceptions heading into the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl . On the opposite side of the field , Virginia Tech would be starting redshirt sophomore Sean Glennon . Named the starting quarterback at the beginning of the 2006 season , Glennon replaced Marcus Vick , who had been expelled from Virginia Tech at the end of the previous year . While not as statistically successful as Marcus Vick , Glennon still managed to lead the Hokies to their third consecutive 10 @-@ win season , and had the edge over Stafford in terms of experience .

On the ground , it appeared that Virginia Tech had the edge in experience , forcing Georgia 's defense to concentrate on stopping Tech 's run game . Virginia Tech running back Branden Ore suffered an ankle injury in the Hokies ' regular @-@ season game against Wake Forest , but still took the field in the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl . The same could not be said for Georgia , whose original starting running back , Thomas Brown , suffered a season @-@ ending knee injury in

October . Filling his role were two inexperienced players : Kregg Lumpkin and Danny Ware . Making up for this inexperience , the two players were coached by Tony Ball , a former Virginia Tech wide receivers coach with insights into the Tech defense .

With Ore still not fully recovered from his injury and two inexperienced players on the Georgia side , it appeared that the teams ' passing offenses would have to take up the slack . Virginia Tech 's Eddie Royal , with 452 receiving yards , led both teams in receiving yardage coming into the game . Georgia 's receiving corps was led by wide receiver Mohammed Massaquoi and tight end Martrez Milner . Massaquoi caught 28 passes for 348 yards and two touchdowns coming into the game , while Milner had 27 receptions for 376 yards and two touchdowns .

= = = Defensive matchups = = =

Each offense would face tough defense in the air and on the ground . The Virginia Tech defense , led by junior linebackers Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi , was expected to present a challenge for the Georgia offense . " You try to find some kind of mismatch , but it 's very difficult to do " , Georgia head coach Mark Richt said before kickoff . " That 's why they 're the best ( defense ) in the country . Their interior defensive linemen are very , very strong and physical , and , really , everybody else is built for speed . Their edge rushers are tremendous , and their linebackers are outstanding and physical . Their defensive backs can all run and hit . It 's going to be a real challenge . " Of particular concern for quarterback Matt Stafford were Virginia Tech 's cornerbacks , whom he would have to go through in order to complete passes to his receivers . " They play kind of a different scheme than a lot of teams so it would be tough if you only had one week to try to prepare for these guys " , Stafford said in an interview prior to the game . " They trust their corners a lot , but they 've got good ones and can . They lock up a lot of time single receiver side because they 've got a good corner down there that plays on the boundary . "

Georgia 's defense , ranked fifth in the SEC , was no less a concern for Virginia Tech 's offense . " Defense is one of the major aspects of the SEC " , said Georgia center Nick Jones before the game . " You face great defenses week in and week out , and we face a great one week in and week out in practice against our defense . We 've been up against great defenses and great personnel , so it 's nothing new for us . " Heading into the game , Georgia was ranked ninth in total defense , giving up only 264 yards per game , and 22nd in scoring defense , allowing an average of just 17 @. @ 1 points a game .

= = Game summary = =

The 2006 Chick @-@ fil @-@ A bowl kicked off on December 30 , 2006 at 8 : 00 p.m. The game was nationally televised on ESPN , with over 5 million households tuning into the game at home , enough to earn ESPN a television rating of 4 @. @ 8 for the broadcast . 75 @, @ 406 people attended the game in person , making it the 10th consecutive Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl sell @-@ out , the first since the word " Peach " was dropped from the title , the largest crowd ever to attend an event at the Georgia Dome , and the third @-@ largest bowl game in terms of attendance for the 2006 ? 2007 season . 31 @, @ 922 people attended the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A " fan fest " prior to the game , setting a new attendance record . Due to the proximity of Atlanta to the University of Georgia 's main campus in Athens , Georgia , gave Georgia a home @-@ field advantage. but the Virginia Tech fans , known for traveling well to their bowl appearances , quickly bought out their school 's allotment of tickets and ensured a divided crowd .

= = = First quarter = = =

Defense dominated in the first quarter of the game . Virginia Tech received the opening kickoff , but failed to capitalize on its opening drive thanks to a personal foul penalty that forced the Hokies to punt . On its first possession , Georgia moved into scoring position courtesy of a 26 @-@ yard run by Kregg Lumpkin . Failing to advance the ball further , Georgia sent in kicker Brandon Coutu who

kicked a 39 @-@ yard field goal to give Georgia the early lead , 3 ? 0 .

The two teams proceeded to trade possessions , with no side able to gain an advantage over the other 's defense . Tech received the kickoff from Georgia , but was again hampered by penalties after earning a first down . After the Virginia Tech punt , Georgia went three @-@ and @-@ out , punting to the Hokies , who also went three @-@ and @-@ out .

After taking possession on his own 16 @-@ yard line , Georgia quarterback and true freshman Matthew Stafford caused the first turning point of the game as he threw an interception to Brenden Hill of Virginia Tech . Starting deep in Georgia territory , Virginia Tech was further aided by a personal foul on Georgia , which set up a first @-@ and @-@ goal situation for Virginia Tech on the Georgia 6 @-@ yard line . A two @-@ yard run by Virginia Tech tailback Branden Ore brought the ball closer to the goal line and ended the first quarter of play .

At the end of the first quarter , Georgia led Virginia Tech 3 ? 0 .

= = = Second quarter = = =

The second quarter began with Virginia Tech inside the Georgia 10 @-@ yard line . After two unsuccessful plays , Virginia Tech was finally able to reach the end zone on a Branden Ore one @-@ yard rush in a fourth @-@ and @-@ one situation . The touchdown and extra point gave Virginia Tech a 7 ? 3 lead with 13 : 23 left in the half .

Georgia began its first possession with a 25 @-@ yard kickoff return , but failed to earn a first down in the face of a tough Hokie defensive effort . Georgia punter Gordon Ely @-@ Kelso kicked a 56 @-@ yard punt following the Virginia Tech defensive stop . A breakdown in special teams coverage by Georgia allowed Virginia Tech kick returner Eddie Royal to break free , returning the kick 56 yards back to the original line of scrimmage . As a result of the excellent field position provided by the return , Virginia Tech was able to drive the remaining 30 yards to the end zone . Branden Ore earned his second touchdown of the game , making the score 14 ? 3 with 6 : 13 remaining on the clock .

After a short return , Georgia QB Stafford went to work on the Georgia 24 @-@ yard line . Two incomplete passes and one sack later , Georgia was again punting . Virginia Tech again was in excellent field position , starting on their own 47 @-@ yard line . Instead of rushing the ball , as had been the trend for the Tech offense up to that point , Virginia Tech head coach Frank Beamer called for a trick play . At the snap , quarterback Sean Glennon lateraled the football to wide receiver Eddie Royal . Rather than running the ball , Royal threw the ball downfield , catching the Georgia defense off guard . Tight end Sam Wheeler , the target of the throw , had been left uncovered by a defense expecting a run . The pass was completed , and Wheeler ran unimpeded 53 yards for a touchdown . The play took 19 seconds to execute , and gave Virginia Tech a 21 ? 3 lead with 4 : 00 remaining in the half .

Georgia was again unable to earn a first down in the ensuing possession , and attempted three straight rushing plays that earned a total of six yards . After a Georgia punt , Virginia Tech ran two rushing plays before attempting the same Royal pass that had gone for a touchdown earlier . Georgia , having anticipated the play , sacked Royal for a loss of two yards , ending the first half .

At halftime , Virginia Tech led Georgia 21 ? 3 .

= = = Third quarter = = =

Because Virginia Tech had received the opening kickoff , Georgia received the ball to open the second half . Stafford was able to connect with wide receiver Mario Raley for a 24 @-@ yard gain , taking Georgia to the 50 @-@ yard line , but Virginia Tech 's defense stiffened and Georgia was forced to punt . Pinned at their ten @-@ yard line by the Georgia punt , Virginia Tech went three @-@ and @-@ out and was itself forced to punt .

A 19 @-@ yard punt return by Mikey Henderson put Georgia into good field position . Stafford capitalized on the opportunity , completing a 26 @-@ yard pass to put Georgia into field @-@ goal range . After three unsuccessful plays , kicker Brandon Coutu connected on a 51 @-@ yard field

goal to cut the Virginia Tech lead to 21 ? 6 .

On the kickoff following the field goal , Georgia head coach Mark Richt ordered an unorthodox onside kick . Surprised by the unexpected play , the Virginia Tech coverage team was unable to recover the ball , which was leapt upon by the kicker , Brian Mimbs . With a new chance at offense and a sense of optimism triggered by the successful onside kick , Georgia drove down the field . Aided by 20 yards in penalties against Virginia Tech , the drive resulted in a six @-@ yard touchdown pass to Martrez Milner . The touchdown and extra point boosted Georgia 's morale and cut the score to 21 ? 13 , Virginia Tech leading by eight .

The third quarter came to a close as Virginia Tech struggled to answer the two Georgia scores . Tech quarterback Sean Glennon connected on a 29 @-@ yard pass to Eddie Royal , driving the Hokies to the Bulldog 47 @-@ yard line as the clock hit zero .

At the end of the third quarter , Virginia Tech still led Georgia , 21 ? 13 .

= = = Fourth quarter = = =

The fourth quarter began with Virginia Tech searching for a way to answer Georgia 's previous two scores and quash the momentum Georgia had picked up . On the third play of the quarter , however , Virginia Tech quarterback Sean Glennon threw an interception to Georgia 's Tony Taylor . Beginning on their own 35 @-@ yard line , Georgia capitalized on the mistake quickly , courtesy of a 15 @-@ yard personal foul penalty and a 41 @-@ yard completion from Stafford to Milner . Georgia , hoping to tie the time , attempted and completed a two @-@ point conversion . The resulting scores tied the game at 21 ? 21 with 12 : 39 remaining in the game .

Virginia Tech 's hopes to answer were smashed on the first play after Georgia 's kickoff as Glennon fumbled the snap , losing the ball to Georgia 's Quentin Moses . Georgia failed to pick up a first down following the turnover , but the fumble did turn into three points for the Bulldogs , as kicker Brandon Coutu connected on his third field goal of the day , giving Georgia its first lead since the first quarter , 24 ? 21 .

After the Georgia kickoff , Glennon was again intercepted by Tony Taylor , who earned his second interception on the day and created Glennon 's third turnover . Taylor returned the ball 16 yards to the Tech one @-@ yard line , setting up an easy touchdown for the Bulldogs . With 6 : 54 remaining , Georgia took a 31 ? 21 lead over Virginia Tech .

On the ensuing Tech possession , Tech 's quarterback continued to play poorly . On the third play following the kickoff , Glennon was intercepted for the fourth time in the game . The downfield interception set up Georgia at their own 11 @-@ yard line . Georgia rushed the ball three times , forcing Virginia Tech to use two timeouts in order to stop the clock . The punt by Georgia 's Ely @-@ Kelso was poorly done , and traveled only 15 yards before going out of bounds .

As a result of the excellent field position , Virginia Tech seemed in position for an easy score . However , after a quick Tech first down , the Georgia defense stiffened and Tech was forced to settle for a field goal . The 28 @-@ yard kick by Brandon Pace cut Georgia 's lead to 31 ? 24 , but only 3 : 42 remained on the clock . Due to the short time remaining , Virginia Tech was forced to attempt an onside kick in order to have another chance at offense . The kick was recovered by Georgia , however , and the Bulldogs proceeded to rush the ball in three consecutive plays , forcing the Hokies to use their last timeout in order to conserve time for one final drive .

Georgia 's punt rolled into the end zone for a touchback , and with 1 : 28 remaining in the game , Virginia Tech began the final drive on its own 20 @-@ yard line . Any tension was soon defused by the Georgia defense , which forced three incompletions and a sack . Glennon 's attempt at a Hail Mary pass fell short , giving Georgia the win with a final score of 31 ? 24 .

= = Final statistics = =

The 18 @-@ point comeback was the largest for Georgia under coach Mark Richt up to that point . In recognition of their performances during the game , Georgia linebacker Tony Taylor and quarterback Matthew Stafford were named the defensive and offensive MVPs of the game ,

respectively . Taylor 's two interceptions tied the Georgia bowl record for interceptions , first set by Scott Woerner and Ronnie Harris . The four Virginia Tech turnovers resulted in 18 Georgia points . Georgia 's sole turnover resulted in seven points for Virginia Tech .

= = = Georgia statistical recap = = =

Over a third of Georgia 's 71 rushing yards came on a single 26 @-@ yard run in the first quarter by halfback Gregg Lumpkin . After the run , Lumpkin would amass only 13 additional yards in the remaining three quarters of play . Over half of Georgia 's total offensive yards ( 200 total yards ) came through the air from Stafford , who finished with 129 passing yards , one interception , and one touchdown . Approximately a third ( 41 yards ) of Stafford 's passing yards came on a single completion in the fourth quarter . Another long pass play netted Stafford 24 yards . Together , the two plays accounted for half of Stafford 's total passing yards . Seven other completions netted only 64 yards , an average of just over 9 yards a play .

Georgia 's kicking game had a far more active day than its offense . Punter Gordon Ely @-@ Kelso booted seven punts and kicker Brandon Coutu nailed three field goals . The field goals , kicked from 39 , 51 , and 28 yards away and two extra points made Coutu Georgia 's leading scorer in the game , earning 11 points . Ely @-@ Kelso netted 264 yards in punts , an average of 37 @.@ 7 yards per kick . Though not long , the punts were high enough in the air to allow Georgia 's special teams to get downfield and prevent long punt returns . Only two of Ely @-@ Kelso 's punts were returned by Tech kick returner Eddie Royal , and one return was for negative yardage .

Georgia 's defense managed a strong performance statistically and in real terms . The most obvious examples of this were the three interceptions and one forced fumble that proved to be the turning point in the game . Two of the interceptions were caught by linebacker Tony Taylor , who also had nine tackles , two for a loss of yards . The tackles tied him with Paul Oliver , who also had nine . The third interception came from Kelin Johnson , while the fumble was forced by Charles Johnson . Johnson had an active day as well . In addition to the forced fumble , he recorded four tackles , two sacks , and a pass break @-@ up .

The defensive play of Taylor , Oliver , and Johnson greatly affected the course of the game and is apparent in Georgia 's time of possession and average starting position in each of the quarters . During the first and second quarters , Georgia had average starting positions on their own 19 and 26 @-@ yard lines , respectively . Their first @-@ quarter time of possession was just 5 : 41 , and their second @-@ quarter possession time was 6 : 34 . During the third and fourth quarters , when all four Virginia Tech turnovers took place , Georgia 's time of possession jumped to 10 : 41 and 7 : 47 , respectively . In the third quarter , their average starting possession gained ten yards to the Georgia 36 , and during the final quarter , their average starting position was the Virginia Tech 36 @-@ yard line . This fact allowed Georgia to capitalize on the Virginia Tech turnovers , turning them into points on the scoreboard .

= = = Virginia Tech statistical recap = = =

Sean Glennon 's four turnovers tied a career high for interceptions and brought his season interception mark to 11 . He completed 13 of his 26 passes for 94 yards and a completion percentage of 50 % . The passing total of 94 yards was the second @-@ lowest total in the entire season , coming behind only a November 4 game in Miami where Glennon passed for just 86 yards in the face of a tough defense . In a statistic unusual for the 2006 season , Glennon was not the only Tech player to complete a pass . Wide receiver Eddie Royal 's 53 @-@ yard TD pass made him just the third Virginia Tech player to complete a pass during the 2006 season . The play on which Royal made his throw , a lateral WR pass , had been attempted once previously in the season during a 38 ? 27 loss to Georgia Tech .

On the ground , the Hokies had even less success than they did in the air . Branden Ore , Tech 's starting tailback , earned 42 yards in 20 short rushes during the game . With a long run of eight yards , Ore was kept in check by Georgia 's defense . The only other Hokie to achieve positive

yardage on the ground was backup tailback Kenny Lewis , who only managed five yards . Glennon was sacked three times , once fumbling the ball . These sacks wiped out the 11 rushing yards he managed to gain during his scrambles for yardage . In the second quarter , Virginia Tech was aided by excellent field position , enabling them to score three offensive touchdowns . Tech 's average starting field position in that quarter was the Georgia 48 @-@ yard line , allowing for easy scores even for a struggling offense .

As with Georgia , Virginia Tech 's kicking and special teams proved to have more success than either aspect of the offense . Virginia Tech kicker Brandon Pace scored a single 28 @-@ yard field goal late in the fourth quarter , and punter Nic Schmitt blasted four punts for a total of 195 yards , averaging 48 @.@ 8 yards a punt . Pace 's field goal helped to trigger a late @-@ game rally by Virginia Tech , which had been stunned by a Georgia onside kick and several interceptions thrown by Glennon . Schmitt 's long punts , meanwhile , denied Georgia good field position in the first half of the game . Only in the second half , when Glennon 's interceptions allowed Georgia to start on the Tech side of the field , was the Georgia offense able to reach the end zone . In the first and second quarters , Georgia 's average starting position was their own 19 @-@ yard line and own 26 @-@ yard line , respectively .

That starting field position proved a boon for the Virginia Tech defense , which only allowed 200 total yards in the game . Tech linebacker Vince Hall led the Hokies and all defensive players with 13 tackles in the game . Tech recorded one interception during the game , courtesy of Brenden Hill , who also made three tackles . Georgia 's offensive line , despite starting only six scholarship offensive linemen , allowed just two sacks to the Virginia Tech defense . Chris Ellis and Noland Burchette each earned a single sack , accounting for a loss of 15 total yards .

= = Postgame effects = =

The win over # 14 Virginia Tech enabled the Bulldogs to break into the Top 25 rankings in the final college football poll of the season . Georgia was ranked # 23 in the country thanks to its win over the Hokies , who dropped to # 19 nationally following the loss . The loss snapped a six @-@ game winning streak by Virginia Tech and ended the Hokies ' bid at becoming just the fourth team in school history to win 11 games in a season . The 2006 Georgia Bulldogs , consequently , became the first team in school history to defeat three consecutive ranked teams . No. 5 Auburn , No. 16 Georgia Tech , and No. 14 Virginia Tech all fell to Georgia in November or December . The game and the tens of thousands of fans it attracted injected an estimated \$ 35 million into the Atlanta area economy , mostly as a result of food , hotel , and other expenses incurred by visiting fans .

= = = 2007 season = = =

In August 2007 , Frank Beamer closed team practices to outside observers for the first time in 20 years . He cited concerns about unknown individuals watching Virginia Tech practice in Atlanta before the Hokies ' loss to Georgia , potentially leading to the defeat . During the 2007 season , Virginia Tech quarterback Sean Glennon was replaced as the Hokies ' starter by freshman Tyrod Taylor , causing many pundits to point to the four interceptions Glennon threw in the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl as an example of his failure as a quarterback . Brian Mimbs , the former walk @-@ on who kicked and recovered the onside kick that began Georgia 's rally was named the Bulldogs ' starting punter for the 2007 season , partially due to his performance in the Chick @-@ fil @-@ A Bowl .

At the end of the 2007 NCAA Division I FBS football season , both Georgia and Virginia Tech were named to Bowl Championship Series bowl games , indicating an increase over their 2006 performances . Georgia earned a bid to the 2008 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans , Louisiana against the Hawaii Warriors , who they defeated , 41 ? 10 . Virginia Tech , having won the 2007 ACC Championship Game , earned an automatic bid to the 2008 Orange Bowl in Miami , Florida , losing 24 ? 21 to the Kansas Jayhawks .