

BLUEPRINT FOR A PERFECT RUNNING BACK

TEXT BY DAVID TEEL
GRAPHIC BY WAYNE ELFMAN



"VISION"

Terry Kirby came by his instincts honestly, avoiding tackles in sandlot games on Cary's Chapel Road that included older brothers Kenny and Wayne. At Tabb, he became the most productive tailback in state history.



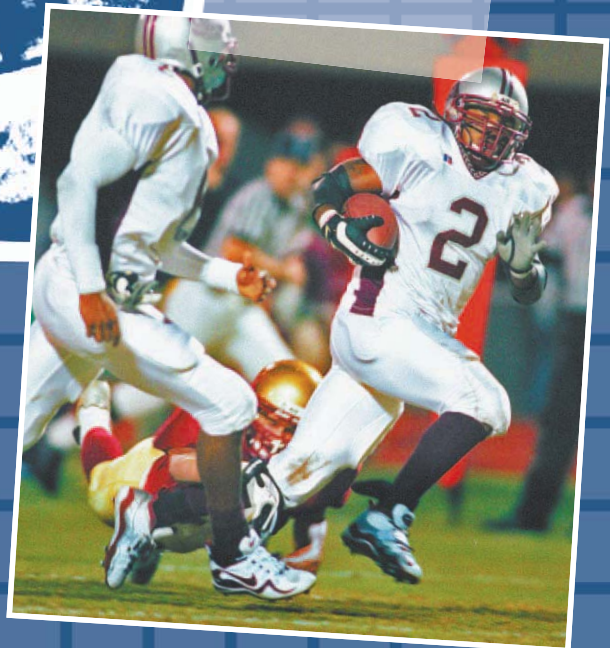
"TOUGHNESS"

Who says durable backs have to weigh at least 180 pounds? Mel Gray was about 20 pounds lighter, but at Lafayette High and Purdue University he often carried the ball 25-35 times in a game. His high at Purdue was 36.



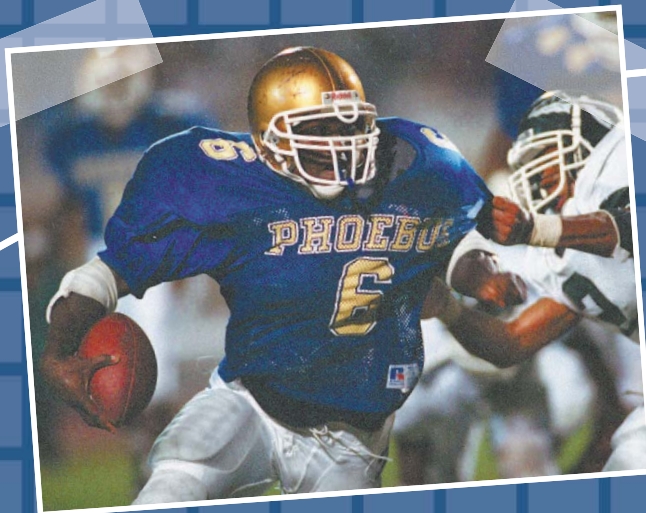
"HANDS"

Carver High graduate Leroy Keyes could be the poster child for any of these traits except raw speed. He was an outstanding pass-catcher and set a then-Purdue record with 184 receiving yards on six receptions against Northwestern in 1967.



"SPEED"

Michael Johnson dusted competitors at the 2002 Group AAA state track meet, winning the 100 meters in 10.59 seconds. As a tailback at Heritage High, he had 10 runs of 90 yards or longer, and in 2000 he helped the Hurricanes win a state title.



"QUICKNESS"

Phoebus coach Bill Dee says Antwoine Womack is the finest cutback runner he's seen during his 24-year tenure, and he's seen plenty. Womack's footwork made him an all-state selection in high school and all-ACC at Virginia.

DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTOS, KIRBY PHOTO FROM UVA, GRAY AND KEYES PHOTOS FROM PURDUE

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: August 2008

VERSION 1