Battle Of Passers Predicted Saturday
When Florida State, VPI Meet Head-On

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Out of the frying pan into the fire.

This cliche sums up the situation for the Virginia Tech football team. The Gobblers, losers to Virginia, 24-20, Saturday, face Florida State, ranked 16th by United Press and 17th in the Associated Press poll, Saturday in Tallahassee.

What makes matters worse is that the Seminoles (2-0) boast one of the nation's best passers in quarterback Gary Huff, a 6-foot-1, 190 pounder from Tampa who completed 33 of 58 passes in victories over Pittsburgh, 19-7, and Miami, 37-14.

Huff has connected for six touchdowns in the two games and has been intercepted only three times.

In a pre-season analysis one of the top football writers in the country predicted "The Florida State-Virginia Tech game could be the best passing contest in the country this year."

Charlie Coffey, Gobbler coach, agrees. "I wouldn't be surprised if there were over 70 passes in the game.

"Florida State is better than last year, and we're better than last year, but I don't look for a whole lot of scoring.

"Our series with Florida State is a good one, and I expect this game to be tough," Coffey continued.

Virginia Tech is a definite underdog, with an early "line" rating Florida State a 17-point favorite. The two have played 15 games with each school winning seven. The 1969 game ended in a 10-10 tie. The Gobblers haven't won since then losing last year, 17-3.

Coffey said the Tech coaching staff had made some adjustments in pass defense and promoted Tom Shirley, a 6-2, 222-pound sophomore from Roanoke to the starting middle-linebacker slot.

The coach added that Tech's offensive line would have to do a better job of blocking for the passer and the defensive pass rush would have to be better if the Gobblers are to have a chance with Florida State.

Another change in the Gobbler line-up will see freshman Paul Adams starting at fullback. Adams came into the Virginia game as a reserve and was the team's leading rusher with 72 yards in 13 carries. He was instrumental in Tech's first scoring drive.

Coffey felt that, if his team had come off the field at the half leading, 14-0, instead of See Freshman, Page 17, Col. 3