Tech Opens Season

By DAVE BESSET

Charlie Coffey's Virginia Tech Hokies helped open the Virginia college football season Saturday when they hosted William-Marsh College in a critical Big Five opener for both teams.

Coffey's efforts this third season as boss of the Hokies will field his most experienced crew, but even at this late date he is undecided as to who will replace Don Strock, the greatest passer ever to wear the Orange and Maroon, at quarterback.

Bruce Ariens, a 6-2, 200 pound junior, who saw limited action playing behind Strock in 1972 will probably get the nod. However, soph. Rick Prop, 6-8, 175, should also see action for the Hokies.

Rogers, who is at the helm, the Techmen figure to be more of a running team than Tech eleven of the last two seasons, when Strock's passing was the heart of the offense.

Tech's defense will be spearheaded by All-American potential, linebacker, Tom Shirley, a junior, and a safety, Jerry Scharnus, one of nine seniors among the Tech starters.

William-Marsh has a fine quarterback in Junior Bill Deery, who rushed for 823 yards and passed for 860 more last year. Top runner is senior tailback who Terry Regan rushed for 402 yards and is also the Indians' kicking specialist. Wideout-tight end, Dick Pawlowski is also another key performer.

Tech's defenders will be soph. Phil Rogers, 170, rated as a future star, and tough James Barber, a 190 senior.

The Indian offensive line will be anchored by All Southern Conference, performers, center, tackle, and guard, Stan Victory.

Eight starters return on defense, where the Indians have outstanding talent. Hopes for winning campaign rest with the defensive talent-short thing, while the offense develops.

Defeating Tech is something the Tribe has had difficulty in doing although they pulled off a big upset last season when they edged the Hokies 17-16 in City Stadium, Williamsburg.

Tech leads the series 28-16-4, and has won 13 of the last 18 meetings between the two teams. However, Tech hasn't won an opening football game since defeating Temple 17-3 in 1967.

Under Coffey the Techmen posted a 6-7 record in 1971 and a 6-4 mark last year. W&M was 5-6 last year with the victory over Tech the highlight of the season for the Green and Gold, the first year that Coach Jim Rook has been head coach at the Williamsburg college.

A crowd of some 17,000 is expected to be on hand for the contest as the Tech student body does not return to Blacksburg until mid-September.