W&M Big Threat
For Virginia Tech

By STAN SHALETT
Daily Press Sports Writer

William and Mary's improved football team poses a strong threat to Virginia Tech Saturday when the teams open their 1973 seasons in Tech's Lane Stadium.

This is the feeling Charlie Coffey who is concerned about his team's ability to contain the Indians who averaged 395.4 yards a game in 1972. "They had a strong offense last season and they'll certainly be better this year," Coffey said. "They have 18 starters back.

"We haven't stopped anybody with our defense since the Southern Methodist game last year. We'll certainly have to have a better defensive effort to halt William and Mary."

Coffey had high praise for junior quarterback Bill Deevey who led the Indians to a 12-16 upset of the Gobblers in last season's Tobacco Bowl in Richmond. "I think their defensive unit hung in and gave us fits last season," Coffey added.

A review of the game statistics of their 1972 meeting shows the Gobblers were rushed for only 62 yards. True, they passed for 339 but Don Strock, the ace quarterback, is now with the Miami Dolphins and the Gobblers are expected to go to a running game.

"I've pushed our team hard and long and right now they're tired and confused. We've made a lot of mistakes in practice but I believe, I certainly hope that these have resulted from the way we've been driving the players.

"We've finished with all our long hard scrimmages. We've got one more short college scrimmage left.

"I believe we'll be able to get everything sorted out this week. We're in good physical shape. We have two injuries that may affect our plans for Saturday."

"(Peninsulars) Howard Keyes and Alex Hill have some bruises and are question marks. We've set our starting team and we'll have James Barber and Phil Rogers at the back."

Coffey has said that he intends to use two players at each of the skill positions throughout the season. This means he will be playing two quarterbacks four running backs, two flankers, etc.

"I don't believe that William and Mary has changed much since last year, and I know we haven't so I don't expect any surprises."