Sports Scope

With Jerry Ratcliffe
Times Sports Editor

VIRGINIA TECH AND VMI will break tradition this year and will play their annual game at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg.

The game usually is played at Victory Stadium in Roanoke, where only about 12,000 show up for the obsolete rivalry. Makes you wonder what Lane Stadium will look like.

VMI may be better this year, but what does better mean when you're speaking of VMI? Two wins, maybe three in a season?

I have always enjoyed watching the cadet or keydet corps battling it out at the game rather than the action on the field. VMI puts up much better licks down in the end zone or behind the stands. Tech has nothing to gain and everything to lose by playing VMI. Only a few years ago the Gobblers ripped the Keydet something like 70-12, and announced they would drop VMI due to no competition.

The next year VMI upset the Gobblers and the Hokies were the butt of all football jokes in the state for a year or so. Nevertheless, Tech will play VMI in '74 and '75, either at Roanoke or Lexington.

HOW DOES VMI feel about playing Tech in the 50,000 seat Blacksburg stadium?

According to Bob Currie at VMI, "what's the difference!"

"As far as VMI has been concerned, especially in the recent past, the Roanoke game has been just like any other road game, with, of course, the increased rivalry of the series. Virginia Tech has traditionally had more fans at that game than has VMI," Currie says.

The VMI sports information director goes on to say, "Our fans are loyal, however, so we expect to have good representation in the stands of Lane Stadium. The college atmosphere of the Tech campus and stadium coupled with the improved play of the teams in the past year should add to the crowd at Lane Stadium. We hope that this arrangement will be more profitable for both sides. We feel as though the VMI-Tech game should be an outstanding contest no matter where it is played."