W&M players up

Two of the offensive leaders for William and Mary admit they are about as psyched up for the Virginia Tech game as they could possibly be.

But they both say the Gobblers should be even more excited about the game.

"Sure, I'm psyched ... probably more than for any game," said Joe Montgomery, co-captain and center from Lynchburg. "Back home all I hear is Virginia Tech ... now I have the chance to beat them two years in a row.

"But Tech ought to be more psyched. I know I would be. It must have been a bitter blow to lose to us last year. They were supposed to be the kings of the state. They must know it would be a disaster to lose to us twice."

Bill Deery, the confident junior quarterback who paced the 17-16 victory last year, agrees with his center.

"Tech has three big things going for them," Deery said. "They have a lot of money, a lot of outstanding players and a lot of talk. But if we beat them, I guess there will be a lot less talk."

Montgomery, a 6-3, 240-pound pro prospect, could be slowed for the game. He is recovering from a strained back and may see only limited action.

"I'll be there," Montgomery said. "They'd have to haul me out feet first before I'd miss this game."

Both Deery and Montgomery like things in Williamsburg and neither expressed any question about wishing to attend another school. They like the idea of no athletic dorms. But they also appreciate the togetherness the Indians have found this season.

Deery isn't large as quarterbacks go. He's only 5-11, 175. But he amassed more than 1,700 yards in total offense last season and is regarded as the type of back who can break open any game.

Montgomery is a two-time All-Southern Conference selection and last season was runner-up to Richmond's Barty Smith for the Jacobs' Blocking Trophy. But he claims his biggest thrill was when he was elected a co-captain by his football mates for the coming season.

Tech doesn't have a good record with opening home games. And Coach Charlie Coffey has lost both of his two previous road openers.

The Gobblers haven't won a season opener at home since 1954 when they beat North Carolina State 30-21. The last three times they opened in Blacksburg, the Hokies came out on the short end of the score—a 17-13 loss to Alabama in 1969, a 7-0 defeat by Virginia in 1970 and a 20-9 loss to Wake Forest in 1971. Last year, Tech lost 24-20 at Virginia in it's opener.

Deery had a great game last year against Tech in the mud at Richmond. He hit on 13 of 20 passes for 175 yards and one touchdown. He claims it was one of his biggest thrills.

Deery doesn't feel W&M will have to do anything special to beat Tech.

"We'll just have to tend to our own business," Deery said. "We don't plan anything fancy ... just plain football.

"This is the season we have been looking for," Deery said. "We are all tired of being 5-6 (the W&M record each of the past three years). And we can't improve unless we win our opening game. This is the one we have to get."

By BOB McLellanD
Sports Editor

James Barber
Jerry Scharnus

BLACKSBURG (AP) — The two best performers throughout preseason football practice at Virginia Tech, running back James Barber and safety Jerry Scharnus, have been named by coach Charlie Coffey as co-captains for the season opener here against William & Mary Saturday.

The Gobblers had a good practice on both offense and defense here Wednesday.

"It was obvious that everyone was playing down mentally. I hope it has some carryover to tomorrow," Coffey said.