VPI Holds Experience Edge Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Fran Curci expects Virginia Tech to become one of the "better teams in this area," but hopes the Hokies wait until after Saturday's meeting with Kentucky to do it.

Curci, new head coach at Kentucky, said Tech's 31-24 loss last weekend to William and Mary was "like a bomb dropped in the lap" of the Hokies.

"They're skilled people, but in their enthusiasm they consistently stopped themselves," Curci said. "But as they develop, they could become one of the better teams in this area."

The 1:30 p.m. EDT game will be the first in Kentucky's new 58,000-seat Commonwealth Stadium, which except for some frills is virtually completed.

One thing missing, however, is telephone service for either the public or the press. Because of a local telephone strike, no lines have been installed.

Arrangements have been made for the radio broadcast of the game to be beamed by microwave to a local television station and, from there, fed into the network that usually carries it.

For the fourth time in his coaching career, Curci said, he finds himself opening a season against a team that already has had a game, so he expects Tech "to be much more efficient than they were last week."

At the same time, Kentucky benefits from the situation, he added, because "they don't know what to expect from us."

In fact, Curci said, he doesn't know what to expect, either. "Our offensive line? That is a question mark. Our defense? That's a question mark, too. In fact, there are a lot of question marks. I don't know what to expect when they go out there on the field," Curci said.

"But I do know that this bunch of kids wants to play and, in practice, they've worked hard and have paid the price and want to win," he continued.