'U' plans no changes

Offense healthy for Tech

No changes are planned in West Virginia's starting lineups for the home football opener with Virginia Tech on Saturday at Mountaineer Field.

"We'll go with the same offensive and defensive units," Coach Bob Bowden announced yesterday after a good practice session in which the players polished blocking and tackling.

This means Dwayne Woods will start at tackle, as he did in last Saturday's 20-13 comeback conquest of Maryland.

"He's No. 1 until somebody beats him out," Bowden said. Artie Owens had been the tagged starter until slowed by a sprained toe. He is expected to be available for action Saturday.

Quarterback Ade Dillon, fullback Mike Nelson and flanker Damien Buggs will complete the backfield.

Up front on offense will be end Marshall Mills and Dave Jagdman, tackles Dan Larcamp and Bob Denitros, guards Walt Bragg and Dave Van Halanger and center Al Giuchoski.

Defensively, Andy Peters, John Adams, Jeff Merrow and Ron Brown will be the "front four," with Tom Zakowski, Bruce Huffman and John Sprague as linebackers.

The secondary will show Charlie Miller, Jack Eastwood, John Harcharic and Marcus Mauney.

Despite losses to William & Mary (31-24) and Kentucky (31-26), Virginia Tech is expected to provide another tough test for West Virginia, whose offense has yet to get going.

"They're about due to break out," Bowden said of the Gobblers. "And we hope it's not against us."

WVU coaches noted considerable improvement in the Tech team from its first game to the second, and they expect the visitors to come here with "a lot of enthusiasm."

All but nine of Tech's 50 points came in the second half, indicating that its chief trouble has been a slow start.

"Rick Popp, who has completed 21 of 28 passes for 189 yards and two touchdowns, will be directing the Tech offense. He'll share the job with Bruce Arians, who has hit on 14 of 29 passes for 143 yards and one TD.

Fullback Jim Barber and tailback Phil Rogers are the leading rushers, with 195 and 175 yards, respectively.

Jim Younghlood, WVU assistant who scouted Tech, was impressed by its passing attack. He also lauded the fine running of Rogers, whom he compared to Maryland's Louis Carter.

Bowden praised West Virginia following yesterday's workout, calling it a "good" session.

During the drills, WVU emphasized its offensive game inside the 20-yard line and its pass defense.

Artie Owens, Tree Adams, Bruce Huffman and Marcus Mauney all participated in the drills, but Bowden said they were still only at half-speed because of injuries.

End-zone tickets remain available for Saturday's 1:30 p.m. game, but a near-capacity crowd of 27,000 is expected.