Mustangs 19th In Country

Tech Faces Tough SMU

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SMU Head Coach Dave Smith hopes lightning doesn't strike twice in the same situation Saturday when his nationally ranked Mustangs host the winless Gobblers of Virginia Tech.

Last year Smith was head coach of Oklahoma State which rode into Lane Stadium in Blacksburg rated 19th in the nation. It was a horror for the Big 8 Cowboys as they went home sidesaddled with a 34-32 loss at the hands of Don Strock & Company.

This year, Smith is head coach at SMU rather than OSU and his Mustangs are 19th in the country.

But he'll be facing Virginia Tech under different circumstances this year. The Gobblers are winless after three games and the Techmen are down after heavy criticism by state press and possibly even fans and alumni.

Virginia Tech could very well be 0-4 after this weekend before they return home to face a strengthened South Carolina team next Saturday.

This Saturday, the Gobblers will play the Mustangs in $30 million Texas Stadium where the Dallas Cowboys play a lot. As most Tech fans remember, the Hokies stunned SMU last season in Blacksburg 13-10.

A thrilling goal line stand in the closing seconds preserved that victory but a defense as good as last year has been disappointing. SMU is off to a flying start, having clobbered Santa Clara 49-7 and bombing Oregon State 35-16.

The Hokies haven't allowed a point in the second half in the last two games, but have given up hosts of them in the first 30 minutes.

SMU returns one of the most explosive backfields in the country. Running back Alvin Maxson gained 1,005 yards last season, his second straight 1,000 plus year. Wayne Morris had 884 yards as one of the top freshmen in the year last season, but both were stopped in their tracks against Tech last year when defensive coordinator George McKinney had his defensive ends primed and had the results to the two Mustangs dumped for several losses on sweeps and pitchouts last year.

Keith Bobo handles the Wishbone offense well at quarterback and has some good receivers in Kenny Harrison, Freeman Johns, and Oscar Roan. Defensive tackle Louie Kelcher was probably the most outstanding newcomer defensively in the Southwest Conference last season.

Linebacker Ernest Knox is also a top candidate for post-season honors. Fullback Gus Lamkin and Brian Duncan are also possible break-away threats.

It will mark only the second meeting of the two schools.