Virginia Tech Needs Win Badly

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
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A near sellout crowd should be on hand in Blacksburg’s Lane Stadium Saturday when the Virginia Tech Gobblers try to get some homecoming relief by hosting South Carolina.

A few things will be missing from the visiting Gamecocks army, however. Coach Paul Dietzel will miss the game, having been hospitalized Monday and doctors say some more tests have to be run before the USC coach can go back to his job.

Also, the ’Cocks leading receiver, Jimmy Collins, quit the squad Thursday, leaving the team and saying he just didn’t want to play football anymore.

Several usual Tech starters may be missing too, with several freshmen expected to be in the starting lineup, maybe as many as four.

Virginia Tech, 0-4, needs a win badly here to turn their season around. Tech people are optimistic about Saturday’s game, even though the Gamecocks have been no pushovers. USC has a 1-2 record after whipping Georgia Tech, then falling to Houston and Miami of Ohio.

“We desperately need a win, and I believe we’re going to get it,” says a proud Charlie Coffey. He deserves a win.

The Hokies killed South Carolina last year, 45-20, but this team is improved over last season.

Dietzel will miss the game, which would have been a chance for him to grab his 100th win.

Using their new offense, the Gamecocks have put the “Veer” to work.

Jeff Grantz has done a fine job of running the veer for the Gamecocks and has talented Jay Lynn Hodgin to call upon to carry the ball. Also available is little Russ Jackson, a 5-8, 173-pound soph who picked up 63 yards in 10 tries in his first varsity start.

Grantz’ most likely receiver would have been Collins who quit. But tight end Marty Woolbright is there and hauled in several passes in the first two games.

Defensively the player to watch should be left tackle Dana Carpenter who was the Gamecocks’ leading tackler in 1972.