Gamecock Coach, Receiver Out Of VPI Tilt Saturday

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South Carolina comes to Blacksburg Saturday to play Virginia Tech in a homecoming battle with a 1-2 mark, a sick head coach and minus its leading pass receiver who quit the team and left school during the week.

Jimmy Collins, who had caught eight passes for 106 yards, missed practice all week and went home for "personal reasons."

Missing from the sidelines Saturday will be the Gamecocks' head coach, Paul Dietzel. Dietzel has been hospitalized with an abdominal infection and his condition won't be completely diagnosed until next week. The team will be coached by Pride Ratterree this weekend.

Virginia Tech's offense coordinator, Dan Henning, says the Gamecocks have a different defensive philosophy than the Gobblers' four previous opponents, all of whom defeated the Techmen.

"They are small and light, so they attack the offense, rather than waiting to 'read' the play," Henning stated.

"The Gamecock defense unit weighs about 700 pounds less than Southern Methodist's. For example, the South Carolina defensive backs weigh about 155 pounds to 180, the line weighs about 210 to 235 while SMU had defensive backs that ranging from 180-200 while their defensive line went from 235 to 260.

"They have to come fast to get to the ball. Their linebackers blitz. They use man-to-man coverage in the deep secondary.

"They also offer a different set of problems to us, but we should be able to solve them."