Va. Tech Hosts Virginia Saturday

By DAVE BISSET

It will be a sellout of some 38,000 plus at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg Saturday when winless Virginia Tech (0-6) takes on disappointing University of Virginia (2-4) in a state football headliner.

Disappointing is the only word to describe the performance to date of both teams whose hopes were high some six weeks ago. But now the bloom is off the rose.

For Tech however a victory could mean that things might be looking up, and there is chance the Hokies could have a 4-7 season if they can put it all together starting tomorrow against the Cavaliers.

With the season now at the midway point, Hokie rooters are hopeful that the young Tech defensive line has the experience to cope with the future. As for the offense Tech has put points on the scoreboard and with soph quarterback, Rick Popp, showing improvement the Technmen have potential.

Running backs James Barber, Phil Rogers, cannot be faulted, while receivers, Ricky Scales and Billy Hardee, have shown ability catching the football.

As for Virginia, the Cavs have 17 starters from 1972 as a nucleus, but will also rely upon a sophomore, Scott Gardner, to quarterback with senior George Allen, the backup.

While Tech has had first half scoring woes, Virginia has been the opposite, starting fast then fading in the final two periods. Naturally both teams hope for more consistency on offense, and a tougher defense as they meet for the 52nd time since the turn of the century.

Tech leads the series 25-22-4. Wide receiver Harrison Davis and speedster, Kent Merritt, will spearhead the Cavalier offense with All American candidate, center Paul Ryczek, the heart of the offensive line.

The Cavaliers have defeated VMI and Duke for their two victories, while losing to North Carolina State, Missouri, Vanderbilt and Clemson.

For Tech it’s been the same each outing. Successive defeats at the hands of William - Mary, Kentucky, West Virginia, SMU, South Carolina, and Houston.

Kickoff time is 1:30 p.m.