UVa Faces Tech In Border Clash

It might be called a “border clash.”

The question to be resolved is whether the Commonwealth of Virginia is “Cavalier Country” or “Tech Territory.”

The answer will come later this afternoon at the conclusion of this year’s Virginia-Virginia Tech football game.

The contest begins at 1:30 p.m. at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg. A capacity-plus of 38,000 is due and tickets haven’t been available in weeks.

Strangely, the excitement of the game seems to be enhanced by the fact neither team is doing well this year. Tech stands 0-6 and UVa is but 2-4. With those records, neither team can afford to lose today and both teams know it. The result may be one of the wildest slugfests in the 57-game history of the series.

A high scoring battle would be somewhat incongruous with past games, however. Virginia won last year 24-20, but in 1971 Tech won 6-0 and in 1970 UVa won 7-0.

The two teams enter the game with similar problems—a good offense but a weak defense. The Cavs are second in the ACC in total offense, averaging 361.7 yards per game. The Hokies’ offense has been going at a rate of 341.5 yards per game.

But the porous Wahoo defense has allowed 413.8 yards a game, 191.3 through the air. And the Tech defenders have allowed 433.7 yards a game.

Although the game is not likely to settle into a low-scoring defensive battle, the outcome will probably depend on which team can come up with a good defensive day. That team has a big edge.

The teams enter the game rated relatively even with Tech given a slight edge on the basis of its home field advantage.