Tech Air Attack Is Facing Cavs

Quarterback Don Strock is in learning school with the Miami Dolphins.

Last year he had Virginia Tech at the top of the national passing statistics.

Strock would still be welcome at Blacksburg but the Gobblers aren't exactly passless in his absence.

SELLOUT DATE

There's a feeling at the Tech campus that "victory through air power" might well be the theme for Saturday's sellout date with Virginia at Lane Stadium.

It's a battle between the what might have been giants of state football.

Down on their luck, both have taken back seats to Richmond, the Big Five's first 5-0 team in decades, and William and Mary.

Tech is 0-8. Virginia is 2-4.

And fans are muttering.

The advance line suggests the game is a tossup. Any edge to Tech would be based on a surprisingly potent aerial game.

With the departure of Strock, Tech figured to abandon abandon the national statistical tables.

PASS DEFENSE?

Wrong. The Gobblers are No. 15 with an average of 184.3 with quarterback Ricky Popp and wide receiver Ricky Scales largely responsible.

And how are the Cavaliers when it comes to defending against the pass?

Rather terrible, might be the answer.

In the Atlantic Coast Conference teams rub their hands in glee on contemplating the Cavalier pass defense. It is the worst in the league with an average yield of 191 yards. Mercifully the national statistics don't include the most porous pass defensives so the Virginia stature in this department isn't known.

Last week Clemson passed for 227 yards against the Cavaliers and the Tech scouts took due note.

The game is almost certain to draw 37,000 to Lane Stadium. It is one of the few advance sellouts in state collegiate history.