Tech-UVa 'Won't Be a Scoreless Tie'

The way this season has been going for both teams, it should come as no surprise to discover that there is a discrepancy in the series record between Virginia and Virginia Tech. It has been publicized — in fact will be in the game program — that Tech holds a 25-24-4 lead in the rivalry that began in 1895 and continues this afternoon in Blacksburg.

That is what the Tech grid brochure lists. UVa, on the other hand, gives Tech credit for a 26-24-4 margin. A check of the records, game by game, indicates this is the proper figure.

There are, however, several other disagreements in the two record books. Tech lists the 1929 game as a 32-13 Gobbler victory. The UVa book credits Tech with a 34-12 win. The actual score, the Roanoke Times library shows, was 32-12.

Although Tech's figures show the Hokies leading in points scored, 757-627, the actual point totals should be 570 for Tech and 764 for UVa, which won by some wide margins at the start of the series and again in the late '40s and early '50s.

The UVa book, in fact, gives Tech credit for winning last year's game, 24-20, although the Cavs won by that score.

For two schools having their troubles, there isn't much else that can go wrong. Although UVa has won just twice, over 1-5 VMI and 1-4 Duke, and Tech has yet to scratch in six games, a capacity throng of 38,000-plus will attend the game, second largest crowd ever for Lane Stadium. The 1969 home opener with Alabama attracted 40,000.

Despite its troubles, Tech is a slim three-point choice to whip UVa, which has had as many defensive problems as the Hokies.

This will be the third meeting between the two embattled coaches, Tech's Charlie Coffey and UVa's Don Lawrence. Thus far, they have a 1-1 standoff, each winning a mild upset.

Tech won in 1971 by a 49-7 count. The real surprise of that game was that neither team scored a touchdown, with the Hokies winning on a pair of Dave Strock field goals.

Since neither Tech nor Virginia had a defense that year, either, that was probably the most shocking score of the current series.

Last year, Tech opened at Virginia and tried to establish a running game with the Cavaliers. It didn't work, and UVa won, 24-20, with the last Tech TD coming at the final gun. After that, the Hokies let Don Strock pass and went on to a fine 6-1-1 record, while UVa slumped to 4-7.

Tech Coach Charlie Coffey, taking note of the defensive woes on each side, has made only one forecast: "If I won't be a scoreless tie," he said. But that's what everybody thought two years ago.

On paper, the game could be the wildest scoring orgy ever. Each team scored 27 points last week — and lost.

Tech has gotten better offensively every week with the steady improvement of sopho-