VPI ‘Kiddie Corps’ Hosts Florida State

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Virginia Tech's football fans get a chance to see the Gobbler "Kiddie Corps" in the familiar confines of Lane Stadium Saturday when they entertain Florida State.

In times past, this would have been a major intersectional football game, and conceivably could have enjoyed some television coverage. Not this year.

The Seminoles are winless in eight tries, while the Gobbler have managed to defeat only Virginia in nine outings.

This was to have been a big year for the Gobbler. That was the word from the coaching staff after Spring practice, but the results just haven't been able to match those expectations.

To salvage some good out of the season, Coach Charlie Coffey has gone to his younger players with the accent on freshmen.

Salem's Eddie Joyce is a case in point. He will make his debut as a starting quarterback at home. Joyce has been at the helm for two road contests. His adrenaline should be flowing for this appearance.

The 6-foot-4 freshman has completed 29 of 54 passes for 272 yards. This works out to an average of 9.38 yards per completion.

If Joyce can sustain this average, he could lead the team to its second victory of the year. He'll be working with good receivers like Ricky Scales and Billy Pardee in the outside slots and Skip Creasey at tight end.

Running backs will be Phil Rogers, who leads the team offensively with 966 yards on 145 plays. Of this 783 have come on the ground, where senior James Barber has 676 yards to his credit.

The offense will have to work because Florida State's strong suit is its defense. The Seminoles haven't been able to score a lot, but Coffey feels that's because they've fallen behind and had to "go for broke" in most of their games.

"We had a good week of practice with our offense unit, but again the defense looked bad."

The defense has been Coffey's albatross all year. In the last two games, the Gobbler have given up a total of 126 points. The average yield this season is 38-plus points a game.

Florida State has been having trouble getting on the scoreboard all year. The Seminoles would like nothing better than to turn things around Saturday.

PHIL ROGERS
Leads VPI Attack