VPI Renews VMI Series This Saturday

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After a year’s absence from each other’s schedules, Virginia Tech and Virginia Military will renew their old rivalry Saturday in Lane Stadium, Blacksburg.

Kickoff time is set for 1:30 and it will be the first appearance ever for VMI in Lane Stadium. The series had previously been played in Victory Stadium Roanoke on Thanksgiving Day, and it used to be one of the premier Turkey Day rivalries when the two schools were matched up as VPI vs. VMI.

“We’ve gained some momentum for VMI,” said Tech coach Charlie Coffey. “I’m certain that enough of our squad members are familiar with the traditional aspect of this contest to know that we have to prepare ourselves mentally just as hard as we did last week against Florida State. In some ways it’s amazing to me that this team has hung together as well as it has over the course of this season. It has demonstrated character that I believe will let us close on a winning and futuristic note,” Coffey declared.

The teams will be going into the game with identical 2-8 records. Tech has beaten Virginia and Florida State. VMI has beaten Davidson and The Citadel.

Although their records are similar, the two teams’ offenses are very different. Tech uses the ground game much more, with backs “Phantom” Phil Rogers and James Barber.

The Keydets, on the other hand, will come to Tech with the best passing combination in VMI history—Tom Schultze to Ronnie Moore. Despite the fact that Schultze is a junior quarterback and Moore is a soph, the two have already set numerous VMI records.

Schultz has completed 102 of 244 for 1,193 yards, while Moore has caught 39 of those for 598 yards.

Tech’s Phil Rogers has the opportunity to break the 1,000 yards rushing mark for one season, since he has gained 938 thus far. Barber has an even 800.

There have been 67 games in the series, and Tech leads it 40-22 with five ties. The series dates back to 1894.