Emotional Keydets Challenge Coffey's Techmen Saturday

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The Virginia Military Institute football team that takes the field Saturday against Virginia Tech will be playing at "100 per cent above their potential."

This is the word of Gobbler Head Coach Charlie Coffey. "This game is going to be one of emotions. We know they'll come into Lane Stadium sky high.

"We have to hope our team is 'up' for the contest. When you play intra-State rivals, you have to be ready to play 'over your head' as the other team will play that way."

Coffey paid high tribute to his small corps of departing seniors. "Such people as James Barber, Dennis Dodson, Jerry Scharnus, Pete Horosko, Bruce Lemmert, Kent Henry have displayed great character and moral fiber. Whatever they do, they'll be successful. You take a boy like Chip Lawson. He spent three years on the 'B' squad, but he never quit."

Coffey sees the game as a stern test for his team's defense. "Our pass defense is suspect, and they throw the ball very well. Ronnie Moore is as good a receiver as we've faced all year. He runs his pass routes very well. He can really be damaging."

Moore, who graduated from Ferguson High School, has 39 receptions for 598 yards and four touchdowns. The Gobblers' top pass catcher, Ricky Scales, has 29 receptions for 630 yards and six touchdowns.

"We have a chance to finish our season on a strong note. We need to win just about the way we did against Florida State.

"We need the defense and the offense to have good days. With a couple of solid performances, we can look forward to next season.

"We'll attempt to use a balanced offense. I know our passing game was less than spectacular last week, but we were able to throw the ball enough to keep the Florida State defense loose."

We hope we can have the same kind of balance Saturday."

In the 36-13 victory over Florida State, the Gobblers used a strong running game with Phil Rogers and Barber. Rogers, a sophomore, is only the second running back in the last years to be the total offense leader for the Gobblers.