Tech nixes Roanoke

Virginia Tech basketball Coach Don DeVoe recently was talking about next year’s schedule and he revealed some information that should interest all college division teams in the state.

One is that Tech will leap on the bandwagon of the theory that goes, “Let’s open with a patsy.” Tech has scheduled rough and tough Sewanee as its first game next year.

If you don’t know, Sewanee is in the same league as Washington and Lee. Namely, it’s a division three school that gives no athletic aid.

But it’s another home game that gets me. The Gobblers have also scheduled Akron for a contest in Blacksburg.

Akron is in the same league as Roanoke College which brings up the obvious question of why Tech didn’t pick the Maroons as the more attractive team for the area fans.

But the Zips have another disadvantage compared to Roanoke. They are not opposed to using players scholastically ineligible. They used one to beat Roanoke last winter and then didn’t forfeit the game when the error was discovered. Some people call schools like these “outlaw” and that makes me wonder how DeVoe got mixed up with Akron.

It is a slap at Roanoke and other state schools that DeVoe should accept a game against Akron. So I called DeVoe and here is his reason:

“I don’t want to play Roanoke. I don’t have anything to gain. We will have good crowds in Blacksburg regardless of whom we play.”

Asked if he wouldn’t stand to lose just as much if Tech were defeated by Akron, DeVoe replied, “We don’t have as much to lose in state and local pride to Akron as we would to Roanoke.”

DeVoe is wrong. It is the first thing I have felt he was wrong about since he came to Blacksburg. Devising a schedule this way ruins a good area rivalry and provided fans with a game that means nothing. It is unfair to area basketball fans.