OHIO STATE NEXT FOE

Gobblers Face Tough Week

By ED RICHARDS

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Some people may call this "Suicide Week" for Virginia Tech's Gobblers, who thus far have been enjoying themselves on the basketball court.

Certainly, playing Ohio State on the road (Wednesday), getting into a prestigious field in the Michigan Invitational (Friday and Saturday) and then returning home for a bout next Monday against rugged Alabama is no easy way to a merry Christmas.

The Gobblers, however, appear capable of fooling some more foes.

"Not many people figured we'd be 4-1 now," said Tech Coach Don DeVoe Sunday after his troops' latest conquest — an 83-82 triumph over previously-unbeaten Auburn. "We're not getting too excited yet, though, because we've only played about 20 per cent of our schedule."

DeVoe also labels this a "big week" for Tech. "Ohio State is 3-1. Then we play Michigan in the first round of their tournament and they beat Dayton Saturday. Others in the field are Washington, which just won the Jayhawk Classic, and Manhattan, which I don't think has been beaten."

So with the opposition ahead, the Techmen may not hear any jingle bells.

If they do, the Gobblers have to improve defensively. "Giving up 82 points at home is too much," insists DeVoe, "and we've got to get back down the floor quicker against the fast break."

In contrast, the Tech chief couldn't be much happier with the poise and balanced scoring his pupils showed against Auburn.

"Auburn was easily the most talented team we've met and we didn't panic under the pressure," pointed out DeVoe about the game, won in the last second on a pair of free throws by Russell Davis. "We also had four men in double figures at halftime, and that's a first since I've been here."

In other results over the weekend, Richmond topped Virginia Military Institute 95-90, William and Mary downed Wagner 77-65, The