High-Scoring Buckeyes Pose Stiff VPI Road Test Tonight

By ALAN HIRSCH
Daily Press Sports Writer

Virginia Tech (4-1), fresh from its second last-second victory of the season, goes after Ohio State (3-1) tonight in Columbus.

The Gobblers, who nipped Auburn 83-82 on Russell Davis' two free throws with a second to play, also topped the University of Florida 86-85 earlier in the year on Larry Cooke's field goal in the final seconds.

Davis and Cooke lead Tech with 21.8 and 15.2 scoring averages, respectively.

Ohio State, meanwhile, has been scoring as no team in recent Buckeye history has done, averaging 90.7 a game. All five starters are in double figures, led by 6-foot-7 forward Bill Andreas at 17.7 and 6-5 forward Andy Stiegemeier with 17.0.

Ohio State's switching man-to-man defense has not been all that effective, though. The Buckeyes have given up 77 points an outing.

Cooke, a guard, should give the hosts a problem. At 6-4, he is three inches taller than either starting Buckeye guard. His leaping ability makes him even more dangerous.

Ohio State is unbeaten in three home games and is shooting 50 per cent from the field. The team's free throw shooting has been less than desirable, though. The Buckeyes had their best charity stripe night while beating Ohio University Saturday night to up their percentage to 63.9.

In the only area college conflict, Clemson (3-1) is at Louisville (3-0).

Ohio State's rebounding has been suspect. Center Craig Taylor (6-10) leads the team with just a 9.1 average and the Buckeyes have outrebounded their foes by just four.

Other victories by Ohio State were over Butler and Ball State, while the loss came at the hands of the Southern Conference's Davidson.

Clemson, coming off an 11-day layoff, has a big task ahead in trying to beat the Cardinals. Louisville is fourth-ranked in the nation.

Clemson's only loss of the season came at the hands of Pennsylvania, currently ranked ninth. The one-point defeat was in the Tigers' tournament finale.