Virginia Tech Plays Michigan In Cage Battle

By ED RICHARDS
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Virginia Tech Basketball Coach Don DeVoe would be just about ready to play Santa Claus for the youngsters in Blacksburg if he could come up with a couple more victories this week by one point.

However, it seems the Gobblers' chief has already received his share of early Christmas presents, three triumphs in the last five games by the same margin, one point.

The victims include Florida (86-85), Auburn (83-82) and Ohio State (72-71) - all highly-respected teams.

DeVoe, nevertheless, is still hoping for more good tidings and he'd certainly settle for another squeaker tonight, especially when the opposition is rugged Michigan in the opening round of the Wolverines' own tournament.

The Big Ten cagers are 3-1.
The Wolverines boast four of their starters from last year's squad which made it to the NCAA playoffs, losing to national runner-up Marquette.

If perchance the Gobblers pull another upset, they're still in for trouble Saturday against the winner of the Washington-Manhattan game.

The Huskies are one of the top surprises in the country. They're 5-0 and coming off an impressive verdict over Kansas for the Jayhawk Classic title.

West Point's Duke Thorpe could play an important role for the Gobblers. He came off the bench to tally 12 points against Ohio State, his top offensive performance of the season.

Action also begins tonight in several other toursneys.

In the Carolina Classic at Columbia, S.C., Duke (2-0) faces Louisiana State (2-2) and Princeton (4-2) collides with South Carolina (2-1).

The Gamecocks, ranked 13th nationally, may be without the services of their big man, 6-foot-9 center Tom Boswell. He is hobbled with a turned ankle.

Elsewhere, Clemson battles LaSalle and Texas Tech in the Dayton Invitational. Jacksonville bumps heads with New Mexico and Vanderbilt matches talent with Southern Cal in the Trojan Classic; Long Beach State, takes on Santa Clara and Michigan State opposes San Francisco in the Cable Car Classic; Nebraska tackles Southern, Methodist, and Creighton goes against Indiana in the Indiana Classic; and Oklahoma State squares off against Villanova and Washington State faces Kentucky in the UK Invitational.