Breather (?)  
For Tech

The fans and the Virginia Tech basketball team might all have trouble getting excited about it, but the Gobblers play Vermont tonight in the Tech Coliseum.

Vermont is 4-2 after losing to Tennessee Monday night, but it isn’t one of the bigger names in college basketball. Since it is New Year’s Eve and the students are gone, a small crowd is expected.

“We won’t have an empty house by any stretch of the imagination,” said Tech Coach Don DeVoe. “We should have 4,000-5,000.”

But DeVoe isn’t really worried about the fans. It is his team that has him concerned. “We’re scouting Vermont at the Tennessee game but we don’t really know much about them now,” DeVoe said Monday.

“The team has to realize that this counts as one game like Alabama or any other team. We cannot afford to lose this game any more than any other game. Since we’re an independent, we have to win them all.”

The Gobblers will be playing for the first time since a road trip where they beat Ohio State and Washington but lost to Michigan.

“Hopefully Christmas vacation will help us. We took four days off and came back Saturday. Everyone is healthy and ready to play,” DeVoe continued.

This will be just the third home game of the season for the 6-3 Gobblers. “In our only two games at home this year, they both went down to the wire.

“Vermont has some good players. Terry Green is averaging 19 points for them and Warren Pehmus and Joe Greco both have 17-point averages.”

The Tech-Vermont game was originally scheduled for Monday night but was changed at Tech’s request. The Gobblers had the possibility of playing in a holiday tournament in South America and made the switch to make the trip possible.

“We switched dates with Tennessee. Vermont and Tennessee didn’t mind and so it worked out well,” explained DeVoe. “But then the deal fell through.”