UVa, Tech Play Tonight

This is Jan. 11, which happens to be one month after Dec. 11, which happens to be the last time that the University of Virginia played a home basketball game.

The Cavaliers won't be at home tonight, either. They will be playing at Blacksburg against Virginia Tech, which isn't all that familiar with the home court advantage.

This is the only meeting of the year between the state rivals, although in future years UVa and Tech probably will play twice each season, once on a neutral court.

Perhaps because basketball is a homecourt game, neither team is doing very well at the moment. What a capacity crowd of 10,000 and a regional TV audience (Channel 7, 8 p.m.) will see is two teams mired in losing streaks.

Tech dropped its second straight against South Carolina, 81-77, and now stands 7-5 on the year. Although it was Tech's fourth home game, it was the first before the student body.

UVa won its three home games, but now stands at 4-4 after losing three in a row by margins of 17, 18 and 17 points.

Each coach, UVa's Terry Holland and Tech's Don DeVoe, has reason to be concerned with guard play. Virginia's guards couldn't handle Wake Forest's backliners the other night. Skip Brown and Jerry Schellenberg had 20 points apiece and the Cavalier guards handled the ball like it was a hot potato.

South Carolina got 42 points out of guards Mike Dunleavy and Jackie Gilloon against Tech, with Gilloon getting the two winning baskets. Meanwhile, Tech's only outside shooting came from reserve guard Mark Cartwright.