Gobblers In Dark On Loop

From Wire Dispatches

While Pitt Athletic Director Casimir Myslinski said that Cincinnati, Louisville and Virginia Tech had expressed interest in a proposed "Eastern Eight" basketball conference, Gobbler AD Frank Moseley denied knowledge of the league.

"I have not been contacted by anybody and I haven't contacted anybody," Moseley said Friday. Asked if Tech were receptive to the idea, he remarked, "I'd say right now, no. I'd have to get more information on it before ruling it out, though."

Myslinski said geography has made Syracuse reluctant to join the conference which has tentative commitments from Pitt, Duquesne, West Virginia, Penn State, Rutgers, George Washington and Villanova.

Louisville, a Missouri Valley Conference member ranked sixth nationally with an 18-2 record, and Cincinnati, an independent, are the most likely candidates should Syracuse withdraw.

The athletic directors of the eight schools are scheduled to meet in Harrisburg, Pa., Mar. 2-3, to make further arrangements and perhaps arrive at a pact.

The conference could operate next season since most of the teams are scheduled to play each other at least once, Myslinski said. Future schedules match teams home-and-home each season.

Preliminary plans for the conference, which as yet has no official name, would include a post-season tournament with proceeds shared by tourney participants only. It has not been decided if all eight or only four top teams will take part in the tourname