Forecaster Sees Tech Losing Game

If forecaster Bob Harmon is correct, it will be a long weekend for Virginia college football fans. Four of the state’s five teams are projected losers, with VMI the only bright spot in the forecast.

Virginia Tech is playing underdog to a touted squad from Texas A&M, while Richmond, William and Mary, and Virginia are expected to drop their respective games against North Carolina, Pitt, and Texas. VMI goes against Army.

HIGHLIGHTS

Alabama-Nebraska . . . could be the preview of a post-season bowl game. The two powers have only met three times on the football field, Alabama holding a two to one edge. And it’s the goal for both teams to return to the top of their respective conferences. Though the Crimson Tide has to do the traveling, home field shouldn’t make that much difference. We’re picking the Southeast Conference to win this one . . . Alabama by 9.

Maryland-West Virginia . . . the champions of the Atlantic Coast Conference tangle with the always dangerous Mountaineers of West Virginia. The Terps won last year, 24-3, but with 37 lettermen returning to Morgantown, the score may be a mite closer. Maryland will win by just one point . . . maybe!

The Biggest Two of the Big Ten (some year it may change—S’pose by 2001?) appear to be in no trouble. Michigan entertains Duke and Ohio State will probably do anything but entertain any stray Minnesota fan who ventures too close to Columbus. Plain and simple, the Blue Devils and Gophers both have something in common: t-r-o-u-b-l-e! The Wolves are favored by 33 and Ohio State is the choice by 19.

Incidentally, the reason that neither U.C.L.A. nor Houston is listed in our Top 20 is that our ratings were made on Sunday. The two did not play until Monday night.

And both the Bruins and Cougars run right into heavy opposition Saturday. U.C.L.A. tussles with Kansas of the Big Eight and Houston meets national-championship-minded Penn State. With only four days rest, they may have problems. Penn State is a slim 7-point favorite to beat Houston while U.C.L.A. will whip Kansas by seventeen.

Looking elsewhere among the top major teams in the nation, a number of them should breeze to rather easy wins. Oklahoma meets Utah in Norman and the Utes should pose no big hurdle. The Sooners will win by 26 points.

Pacific 8 power Southern California will be 39 points too strong for Oregon State. Texas Tech and Texas A&M are big favorites over New Mexico and V.P.I., the Red Raiders by 20, theaggies by twenty-six.