By MIKE KEECH
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Virginia Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe readily admits knowing what to expect from awesome Texas A&M, his team's season-opener of year today, but the $64,000 question is how will his Gobbler handle the monumental test?

One of the keys for the host Techmen is the how well junior quarterback David Lamie can move the attack against the Aggies' very big and quick defense led by giant tackle Johnnie Donahue (6'6, 284 pounds) and linebacker Kevin Monk.

Lamie saw very limited action subbing for starter Mitchel Baneh last season, throwing only four passes and rushing for 34 yards.

Should Lamie falter, sophomore Don LaRue is waiting in the wings, bolstered by a fine effort in Tech's final preseason scrimmage.

Sharpe's squad has a lot of company cast in an understing role among the State's major college entries as 1-1 William and Mary visits nationally 16th-ranked Pittsburgh (1-0), Richmond (6-1) invades North Carolina (6-1), Virginia (0-1) travels to No. 16 Texas (1-0) and Virginia Military Institute (1-0) battles host Army (1-0).

Nelson Stokely, the Techmen's offensive coordinator, is confident the quarterback situation is in good hands. "Having Lamie and LaRue at this stage in their careers, I'm much more comfortable with our quarterback situation than I've been in any of our three previous seasons."

In the defense department, veteran linebacker Rick Razzano, who enjoyed one of the finest efforts of his career against the Aggies last season, must spearhead a determined effort against the Texans' talented rushing tandem of mammoth All-American fullback George Woodard and sophomore speedster Curtis Dickey.

At Chapel Hill, Richmond's defense also must contend with a truck-like ball carrier. That's 250-pound Tar Heel tailback Billy Johnson from Buckingham, Va.

William and Mary Coach Jim Root hopes Pittsburgh continues the bad case of fumblistics it suffered against Notre Dame last week.

"Defensively, Pitt is as fine a team as you'll see in college football. After that tough loss to Notre Dame, they're going to be breathing fire. We'll have to be as line more consistent on offense than we have been."

One of the chief instruments for gaining that consistency is Tribe senior slotback Gray Oliver. Quarterback Tom Rozantz must click in passing to the likes of Oliver and Joe Manderfield before there are any serious ideas of upsetting the Panthers.

In the Atlantic Coast Conference, all seven league members do battle with non-loop foes. Eleventh-ranked Maryland hosts highly-touted West Virginia in the feature game.

A sellout crowd in excess of 45,000 is expected for the Byrd Stadium clash, which spotlights passing by West Virginia great Dan Kendra and the Steve Atkins-led Terp ground attack.

Virginia Military Institute's secondary faces a stern test from brilliant Army passer Leonam Hall, who threw for five touchdowns in the Cadets' victory last week (34-10) over Massachusetts.

Duke must contend with a Michigan crowd of over 100,000 in addition to the No. 1-ranked Wolverines. Hamptonian Mike Duna is matched against the Wolverines' Rick Leach in a battle of two of the nation's best quarterbacks.

Coach Dick Bestwick's young leash should get quite an indoctrination from the personnel-deep Longhorns. First-year Coach Fred Akers has added the pass to Texas' offense.

North Carolina State should have much easier going at Syracuse than most of its ACC counterparts. If Johnny Evans and the Wolfpack attack can eliminate the looseness to turnovers that has plagued them, a 2-1 record is likely for Bo Rein's team.

Wake Forest Coach Chuck Mills is very wary of a Vanderbilt team that gave Oklahoma fits before losing last week. The Deacons' skipper wasn't even bolstered by the fact that famed prognosticator Jimmy the Greek favored his club.

"Beware of Greeks bearing odds," Mills quipped.