Richmond Visits Keydets; Tough Tigers Host UVA

By ED RICHARDS
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When William and Mary and Virginia Tech square off, it's something akin to the Battle of the Alamo — a fight to the finish with no quarter given.

The battlefield this year is Richmond’s Tobacco Bowl, where opening shots are set to be fired at 1:30 p.m.

"Beat the Turkey" has been the biggest battle cry Tribe Head Coach Jim Root has heard since coming to Williamsburg six years ago.

Thus far, he’s done his best to answer the call and treated W&M fans to three victories in five years.

All were upsets, including the last time they locked horns in the Tobacco Bowl. That was in 1972, when the Tribe escaped with a 17-16 verdict.

The Indians, despite a winning re-

AREA COLLEGE SCHEDULE

W&M vs. Virginia Tech in Richmond, Tobacco Bowl, 1:30; UVA at Clemson, 1:00; Richmond at VMI, 1:30; Duke at South Carolina, 1:30; Syracuse at Maryland, 1:30; Wake Forest at North Carolina, 1:30; North Carolina State at Auburn, 1:30; Appalachian State at East Tennessee, 1:30; Citadel at Delaware, 1:30; Randolph-Macon at Davidson, 1:00; Furman at Wofford, 1:30; Marshall at Miami (Ohio), 1:30; UT-Chattanooga at Western Carolina, 7:00.

cord of 3-2, find themselves in an underdog role again against winless Tech (0-3).

"We feel right at home being a 6, 8, 10 or 12-point underdog. That's very relaxing," says Root.

In other games involving the Big Five today, the University of Richmond visits Virginia Military Institute for the first time since 1969 and Virginia is on the road against Clemson in an Atlantic Coast Conference battle.

Root emphasizes that previous records mean nothing when the Indians and Gobblers get together. In fact, he acknowledges that "we could be 0-3, too, if we had played Tech's schedule."

The Gobblers’ losses have come against Texas A&M, Memphis State and Clemson, all tough cookies.

The Indians are hoping for a repeat of last year’s 27-15 performance against the Techmen.

"Our best performance last year was against Tech. We’re going to kind of miss the drive to Blacksburg. We are 2-0 over there," notes the W&M mentor.

Quarterback Tom Rozantz and field goal kicker Steve Libassi played instrumental roles in the victory last year. Rozantz converted crucial third down plays all day long and Libassi booted two field goals in the second half.

The key to the game could be Tech tailback Roscoe Coles, who has yet to explode this year.

"As Roscoe goes, so goes the Turkey," insists Root. "Give him a little room to run and he’ll make you pay for it."

One of the more interesting battles in the pits sees W&M’s 285-pound offensive tackle Dudley Johnson going against VPI’s Doug McDougall, a 6-6 and 260-pound defensive tackle.

The Keydets have had two weeks to prepare for Richmond after enjoying an open date last Saturday.

"This is an important game for us," says VMI Coach Bob Thalman.

"Besides being a Big Five game, it also counts in the Southern Conference standings for us."

The Keydets, victims of narrow losses to Army and East Carolina after an opening triumph over W&M, will be seeking to end a 16-game losing skein against the Richmonders.

The Spiders are coming off a 47-14 licking administered by rugged North Texas State.

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