VPI Favored To Beat Virginia; VMI Choice

By FRED ROTHENBERG
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NEW YORK — The Texas Longhorns, out of the frying pan and into the fire, are playing their second undefeated and unlikely rival in two weeks.

Last week, it was Oklahoma in a game for bragging rights along the dusty barrooms and truck stops in the Texas panhandle. Texas won that one 13-6.

This week, Texas looks east to fight Southwest Conference foe Arkansas, 4-0 and averaging 40 points a game under freshman Coach Lou Holtz.

Both Holtz and first-year Texas Coach Fred Akers are undefeated since leaving last year’s stops on the career coaching ladder. Holtz was either on a higher or lower rung, depending on your perspective, when he coached the New York Jets in the National Football League. Akers was at Wyoming, where he led the Cowboys to an 8-3 season and a Fiesta Bowl loss to Oklahoma.

The argument could be made that the new teams of Holtz and Akers are undefeated because they are better than the old teams.

But that argument aside, the burning question of the day is: Which of the new clubs is better?

Texas, averaging just under 50 points in rolling past four opponents, has surrendered just 21 points. But the game is in Razorback country and Arkansas had a week off while Texas was playing black-and-blue football with Oklahoma.

Throw all the data into the computer and the results stream out: Texas 31, Arkansas 21. The reason: Texas, which has won the last five matchups, just has Arkansas’ number.

Maybe if Oklahoma and Arkansas attacked Texas the same week, the Longhorns could’ve been had this season.

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