W&M TAKES BREAK

Gobblers, Virginia Clash; VMI Home, Spiders At ECU

By MIKE KEECH
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Will success spoil Virginia Tech and Virginia Military Institute? Virginia and The Citadel, their underdog gridiron foes today, hope so.

Jimmy Sharpe's Techmen, fresh from their initial win of the campaign, take on winless Virginia in a 1:30 p.m. scrap expected to draw over 40,000 fans to Lane Stadium, the largest turnout ever for a clash of the Big Five rivals.

Meanwhile in Lexington, the 2-2 Keydets of Bob Thalman, still savoring last week's rout of Richmond, attempt to enhance their Southern Conference title hopes with a triumph in the "Military Clash of the South" against The Citadel, 3-2, at 2 p.m.

AREA MAJOR COLLEGE SLATE
Virginia at Virginia Tech, The Citadel at Virginia Military Institute, Richmond at East Carolina (night), North Carolina at North Carolina State, Clemson at Duke, Maryland at Wake Forest, Marshall at Furman, Lenoir Rhyne at Appalachian State (night), Illinois State at Tennessee-Chattanooga (night) East Tennessee at Western Carolina (night).

Richmond, 1-4, again faces tough sledding on the road in a 7:30 p.m. tussle with once-beaten East Carolina. William and Mary enjoys a welcome day off to rest up for next week's visit to Navy.

In Blacksburg, Gobbler boosters are smacking their lips at the prospect of huge success against a Virginia team that has been outscored 157-7 this season. Those folks should keep in mind the winning margin in the last three meetings of the two teams has been seven points or less despite the Cavaliers' poor records.

Unfortunately for Virginia's anemic offense, the Gobbler defense appears to have found itself after an inconsistent start. Linebackers Rick Razzano and Jerry Sheehan have been joined by tackle Danny Hill in aggressive play against the run, while strong safety Gary Smith has returned from a preseason injury to stabilize the secondary.

Quarterback David Lamie, his confidence bolstered by last week's selection as the MVP of the Tobacco Bowl, might be inclined to test Virginia's secondary after its yield of 244 yards via the airways against Clemson.

One of the junior field general's primary targets could be freshman wide receiver Ron Zollicoffer from Virginia Beach.

The Cavalier defenders have stiffened against the rush in recent outings thanks to the efforts of nose guard Sam Pfabe, linebacker Tony Blount and tackle Grant Hudson.

Of course, that crew must contend with Gobbler tailback Roscoe Coles, who is due for a big game after a thus far disappointing 63.3-yard per game average.