Mason On Sports

When the Virginia Tech Hokies knock on the door of Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, Ky. Saturday they won’t say “trick or treat” despite the nearness of Hallowe’en.

The only treats at the mammoth Southeastern Conference facility are at the concession stand and you don’t ask a team with a high national ranking for a trick.

Tech is in a “go for broke” situation a little reminiscent of the one it found itself in a few years ago against Auburn, which was rated to beat the Hokies by a ton and wound up losing to an inspired Maroon and Orange machine.

The difference is that Auburn had been rated highly in the preseason on the basis of what sportswriters thought it could do. Kentucky is rated highly for what it already has done, for instance beating Penn State and other people.

There is no doubt that Curci’s Cats are for real.

Does Tech have a chance of springing an upset? It will depend on whether the Hokies can unleash any lightning in the first quarter. The Cats are fast-starting and explosive although an extremely good defense can hold them in check in the opening minutes.

Kentucky really didn’t bomb LSU until the second half and the Hokies effectiveness early in the game will be critically important.

The Hokies went through some bruising workouts on the practice field this week, not looking like a team whose trophies, with the season more than half gone, consisted of one victory and a tie.