Tech Counting on LaRue Against Kentucky Tonight

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Sports Writer

For all the planning that went into the re-structuring of Virginia Tech's offense this week, the greatest change of all was beyond Coach Jimmy Sharpe's control.

David Lamie, Tech's quarterback for the first six games, was taking part in a simple passing drill Monday when he fell and dislocated a finger on the helmet of an onrushing lineman.

All week, there was hope that Lamie's condition would improve, but, when the Hokies take on the seventh-ranked Kentucky Wildcats tonight at 7:30 in Lexington (Ky.), it appears likely that sophomore Dan LaRue will receive the starting call.

"Lamie's injury was the kind you see in the pros on TV," said Sharpe, who will back up LaRue with Mike Zonk, who received some work from an injured Matt Stafford (who is also expected to see time against Maryland in the ACC title game).

"Lamie will make the trip but, as of right now, we don't plan on using him.

Kentucky, which fell to Baylor in the second week of the season, has won five games in a row and is fresh off a 23-0 romp over Georgia in Athens. A devotee of the wildcat, Kentucky Coach Fran Curci's team shows many looks on offense. With lead

rather than throw deep sideline by a shoulder injury, however, the Wildcats increasingly have come to rely on the talents of quarterback Dertick Ramsey.

Ramsey, Kentucky's second-leading ground gainer with 292 yards in 57 carries, has also completed 52 of 100 passes for 911 yards and five touchdowns.

"I believe it or not, they've had some trouble moving the ball," said Sharpe, whose club is a 21-point underdog. "They put their pressure on you defensively, though, that they rarely have to go over 50 yards to score.

I've watched film, and it don't take any Philadel phia lawyer to see that they intimidate people," continued Sharpe, who was particularly impressed with 6-2, 241-pound defensive end Art Stall.

"I'll be no place for chicanery out there, but, really, I think we'll play well.

"Almost as big an underdog as Tech is Virginia, and they scored to lose by 18 points at Syracuse despite having won two games against a loss for the first time since 1974.

As Russ Henderson kicked a school-record four field goals, the Cavaliers won their first game of the season, 12-10, over Wake Forest last week. But, in Syracuse, they were facing what might be the best 2-1 team in college football.

"I don't know that our kids are that up for Syra cuse," said UVA Coach Dick Bostwick, "but, I think they're excited at the thought of beating a team that could have beaten Penn State and Pitt in fact, should have beaten Penn State.

Bostwick is most impressed by Syracuse's quarter back, junior Bill Hurley. In the past two games alone (the Orangemen lost to Pitt, 33-24, and Penn State, 31-28), Hurley accounted for nearly 900 yards total offense.

"He's the best quarterback we've seen," said Bostwick of the 6-1, 189-pounder. "He runs better, he throws better and he has the guts of a riverboat gambler. I don't know if he's an all-American, but I hear people talk about Mike Dunn (Duke's quarterback) and Hurley's certainly in that class."

Again this week, the Cavaliers will be directed by Chip Mark, a red-shirt sophomore, who has complet ed 20 of 34 passes for 231 yards since replacing Bryan Shumock for the past two games.

"I know people must be wondering where he was the first five games," said Bostwick, "but, hon estly, if we'd had Chip in against some of the teams we played, we might be replacing him right now."

"While Virginia and Virginia Tech face overwhelming odds, VMI (3-3) should become the Big Five's only winning team this afternoon at 1:30 against Davidson in Lexington.

Davidson (4-3) is Division II, but the Keydets know all about the supposedly weaker college division.

The Wildcats were VMI's only loss, another Division III club, and had four defensive starters injured in the process, Neil Stepanovich, Jeff Morgan, Dale Ogg and Mike Aleson.

Quarterback Bobby Clark has recovered from a hip pointer but Thalman doesn't want his team to take that as a sign to let up. "We've been preparing for them (Davidson) like they're the No. 1 team in the country," said Thalman, whose team crushed the Wildcats, 30-0, Oct. 5.

"We're playing with people and they're playing with people and we've got to prove that we're better."

In other games, Richmond travels to Georgia and William and Mary plays host to Rutgers. Rutgers will be directed by assistant Dick Nelson, the head coach Frank Bursc suffered a mild heart attack this week.

The top game in the ACC area will see confer ence leader North Carolina visiting Maryland (WSVT TV, Channel 13, will broadcast the game at 1:30 p.m.). The Tar Heels, 6-2 overall, are 20-in the confer ence, while Maryland and Clemson are both 3-1 in league play.

Clemson, which has won six games in a row, will play host to Wake Forest, which has lost six in a row. Meanwhile, Duke visits Georgia Tech and South Carolina is at N.C. State.

In Virginia, small college games include Randolph-Macon at Madison, Bard College of Washington and Lee, Virginia Union at Virginia State, Hampton at Emory and Henry, Hampton Institute at Howard and St. Paul's at Livingston.

Ferrum, now the third-ranked junior college team in the country, visits Lee-McRae.

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