DeVoe Planning
One VPI Shift
In Cage Debut

By STAN SHALETT
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Dave Sensibaugh, a 6-foot sophomore from Cin-
cinnati, will probably start at guard for Virginia
Tech's basketball team Saturday night when the
Gobblers host Virginia Military Institute as both
teams begin their 1973-74 campaigns.

Sensibaugh replaces
Charlie Thomas in the lineup.
Thomas is recovering from a
hairline fracture and Coach
DeVoe feels his star back-
court man may not be ready.

"Charlie's only been run-
ning for about a week and
might not be in condition to
start Saturday," DeVoe said
early this week. "There's no
point in playing him if he's
not ready. The season is too
long. We want him ready for
Auburn and Alabama next
weekend."

DeVoe noted that Sen-
sibaugh's quickness makes
up for his lack of size. "He's
a pure guard and has so
much court savvy, he's
bound to help us."

Sensibaugh joins Bobby
Stevens in the backcourt.
The front line includes Ed
Frazier and Calvin Wade as
forwards and Craig Lieder
at center.

"I hope the first unit can
get the game decided early
Saturday," DeVoe said. "I
want to play as many
people as I can. We have a
good bench. I'd like to be
able to go to it."

Awaiting the call to action
will be big men Kyle
McKee, Mike Collins and

Charles "Duke" Thorpe.

Thorpe, a freshman from
West Point, makes DeVoe
excited when he talks about
him. "Duke is a very fine
athlete. He fits into our
system because he can get
the ball off the offensive
boards, make the outlet
pass for the fast break and
come down the court to
score if the first shot is
missed.

"He scores well inside but
has to learn to shoot with
more consistency further
away from the basket."

DeVoe said he doesn't
know much about VMI but
expects a tough scrap.
"They'll come up here
looking for a win the same
way their football team did.
We know they have good,
quick guards. They like to
run. We expect them to use
a trap and to throw a press
at us at different points on
the floor. One thing is for
sure, we're not looking for
an easy game or looking
past them."

After VMI, the Gobblers
go on the road for a Satur-
day-Monday set with
Auburn and Alabama. They
return home to play Ohio
State Monday, Dec. 17.