Weight gain no problem for Frazier

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Ed Frazier, Virginia Tech's anemic looking forward, has gained weight.

Fifteen pounds or so. But for Frazier, unlike most athletes ready to start a grueling year, the additional weight is a real plus.

It isn't slowing him up and it makes him another of a factor under the boards where he'll be tomorrow night when Virginia Tech opens its 1973 basketball schedule against VMI in Blacksburg.

"Why the gain in weight?"

"Home cooking," replied Frazier.

But there's a reason. Frazier is a new bridegroom and, like most of his male counterparts who get married, he's experiencing a rise in weight from better eating habits.

The 6-5 junior native of Seneca, S.C., has been married three months and most people will readily say the new life agrees with Frazier.

"Well," said the 6-3 senior, "I really haven't gained any weight. But last year I lost 20 pounds in pre season practice. I was down to 180. I haven't lost any weight this fall and I'm at 186 now."

Tech Coach Don DeVoe says the additional weight has given Frazier more endurance.

"Even though he's picked up the 15 pounds," DeVoe remarked, "he's quicker."

But there are other indications that this will be Frazier's year. For one thing his defense, always one of his strong points, is even better. He doesn't foul like he has been prone to do.

Frazier is also burning the nets during preseason scrimmage games. Although he didn't average in double figures per game, he did average in three times in the NIT.

"I think I've been wiser in drawing my fouls during pre season games," said Frazier. "I had three in one game, but that was the most I've made."

"I don't get stupid fouls. I don't gamble as much. Coach DeVoe told me that I shouldn't take chances this year."

Of course this will help Frazier in other departments. "I usually get taken out of games because I foul," he pointed out. "I want to play more this year."

Frazier isn't concerned about increasing his average.

"Personally, I'd rather win than average in double figures," said Frazier who realizes Tech has a surplus of offensive firepower.

"I think I can score. But I won't press it. If I'm open I'll take the shot. I won't pass it off. My shooting has improved."

There is little doubt that Frazier is ready for a big season. Just like everyone is at Virginia Tech.