Tech Faces
Auburn, Bama

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech, unimpressive in an opening game win over VMI, will continue to "follow the Lieder" on an important two-game swing to Auburn and Alabama this weekend.

Craig Lieder, 6-6 senior pivotman and captain, garnered only one rebound and eight points, including three of 10 field goal attempts, in the opener, but Coach Don DeVoe isn’t worried.

"It’s true that we have to develop our inside game," DeVoe points out, "but I know that Lieder has capabilities that took several games to develop at the start of last season."

As a matter of fact, Lieder was shut out in last season’s first game, and after the first six games he was averaging a meager 6.2 points. But he wound up the season as no. 2 scorer, with 53 per cent field goal accuracy.

"He’s a pure shooter," DeVoe says. "Right now he’s adjusting to playing pivot. We went through the same thing last season with Allan Bristow—a natural forward who has to operate somewhat differently than he’s used to."

In a sense, the Gobblers look to Lieder, but the plain fact of the matter is that the 1973-74 Techmen likely will be the best balanced team Tech ever has had, and that is apt to be especially true in scoring.

The Gobblers had been exceptionally sharp in pre-season practices, but they were overanxious in the opener.