VPI Cagers Seek Repeat Of NIT Win Over Alabama

By ED RICHARDS
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Virginia Tech's basketball team would like to get some tasty revenge for its football squad against the University of Alabama tonight, but the Blacksburg cagers are expected to have their hands full, too.

Contrary to what many "Bear" Bryant followers might emphasize, they play something other than football at Alabama.

Nobody knows that any better than the Gobblers, who will be seeking their second consecutive upset over the Crimson Tide.

The Gobblers applied their first stunning blow against the Alabama cagers last Winter in the National Invitational Tournament, edging them (74-73) in the semifinals.

While the Gobblers would surely crave an impressive victory in memory of their football brethren, a 77-6 corpse by the time the No. 1-ranked Crimson Tide had unloaded its mighty punch, Coach Don DeVoe would be happy with a one-point triumph.

The Alabama cagers also are loaded with talent. A positive indication of that are the Crimson Tide's 88-64 victory over Georgia Tech and 96-73 success over Oklahoma State in its two games.

Thus far, the Gobblers have failed to live up to preseason expectations. They opened with an unimpressive triumph over Virginia Military Institute (62-51), and then couldn't find the range in bowing by 76-74 to Auburn Saturday.

Hitting only 29.7 per cent