Buckeyes Pose Threat To VPI’s Home Streak

By ED RICHARDS
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If Virginia Tech’s Gobblers don’t find their shooting eyes tonight, they’re apt to go down to one of their rare defeats at home.

The Gobblers have been near-invincible at home in recent years, but Ohio State is talented enough to turn the trick once again tonight if the Techmen don’t show some marked improvement.

In the past 26 games in Blacksburg, the Gobblers have lost only once — by a mere 78-76 to South Carolina two years ago. They’ve posted victories in their past 12 games at home.

The Buckeyes bring a 2-2 record to town. They own triumphs over Texas-Arlington (90-62) and Penn State (72-65), with setbacks coming against nationally-ranked Notre Dame in overtime (76-72) and Missouri (71-68) on the road last Saturday.

Last year Coach Don DeVoe’s “Cinderella” team upset the Buckeyes, 67-62, so he knows the Ohio outfit will be keyed up for some revenge.

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“We certainly need to find our shooting eyes,” points out DeVoe. “Without that we’ll have a tough time finding the winning combination that we’re convinced is within the capabilities of this squad.”

In their first three games, which included a victory over Virginia Military Institute and losses to Auburn and Alabama, the defending NIT champs have shot a miserable 35.5 per cent from the field.

“We started slowly last year, especially Craig Lieder,” explains DeVoe, “and I’m confident that we’ll start hitting. But we’ve got to keep looking to find a winning combination.”

The VPI skipper plans to make a couple of changes in his starting lineup. He’ll open up with 6-foot-9 sophomore Kyle McKee in place of 6-5 senior Craig See Citadel, Pg. 14, Cols. 2-3