Tech at home

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Here is the first part of January and Virginia Tech basketball fans will have to go
yet to win two games in a row. Right now, as a matter of fact the Hokies have only a
4-5 record to show as defending NIT champs.

However, Tech hopes to reach the .500 plateau again this evening when Eastern
Kentucky visits Blacksburg at 8:30.

The two-in-a-row jinx also faces Tech, for the Goldillas polished off Southwestern
University 102-61 in their last contest for a spot in the All-College tour-
ament.

Eastern has only a 1-5 record and the front line is more in keeping with Tech's
as far as size is concerned. Still, Tech Coach Don DeVoe isn't about to make anyone
up in the win column yet.

"Right now," said DeVoe "we're (Eastern) in a hole slump. But if we had played
Maryland, Oral Roberts, South Carolina, Florida State, Louisville and Alabama, we'd
be trying to win the All-College tourament instead of being in a slump . . ."

That's an imposing list and Eastern has lost so many players to those teams. All of those clubs
are considered to be national powers. Oddly, the one club that was against Indiana State, a
team that upset Florida State last week.

DeVoe isn't about to change the starting lineup for Tech, in order to rack up two in a row.
This means that 6-8, Kyle McKee will be at center, while the forwards will be 6-6. Craig
Linder and 6-5 Ed Frasner, Charlie Thomas, at 6-3, and 6-9 Bobby Stevens are the guards.

Eastern's front line includes 6-8 sopho Howard Baker while Robert Brooks and Rich Stan-
field are a pair of 6-5 forwards. The guards are 6-4 Carl Brown, the team's leading scorer with an
18 point average, and 6-1 Ronnie Smith.

DeVoe indicated that subs Duke Thorpe and Gene Wiggins will see a lot of action
throughout the game.

"Geoff could add some playing depth for us," said the Tech coach. "Duke's hitting 62
per cent from the floor and he's about ready to play."

DeVoe also indicated that McKee, a sophomore, who did not do well offensively in the
All-College tournament, has had a good week. "He was down at the 6:30 all-star game, but
Kyle's had some great practices this week," his coach said.

Calvin Wade, Tech's 6-6 sixth man who usually is the first sub into the game, will
again sit this one out with a broken hand.

"There's a possibility he'll play against St. Bonaventure (in Blacksburgh at 7:30 this
Saturday)," DeVoe explained. "They took some fluid off his knuckles last week and it feels a
lot better."

DeVoe feels this is the time for his team to make its move as it is indeed to make one this
season.

"To get in 65-70 per cent wins we'll have to start beating people one right after the
other," DeVoe observed.

Tonight's game is not a sellout, though a nice crowd is expected at the students

Cookies seeking 2 wins in row

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return to the campus after the Christmas break. Saturday's game against St. Bonaventure is a sellout.

Coach Danny Monk brings his Palmer Junior College, of South Carolina to Blacksburg
tonight to meet the Virginia Tech jayvees in a pre-
liminary to the Tech-Eastern basketball game.

Palmer has a 7-4 record. The team won the Turkey Classic in Beavert, N.C., and
was run-up on in the Dauphin Invitational in Daulton, Ga. The losses included a one-
point decision to Clemson and a 10-point game to Davidson. But Palmer also has a win over
North Carolina JV's.

Four Roanoke area players will be in the Palmer lineup. Dennis Sullen of William
Fleming has been a big rebounder up front. Two guards from Halifax County—Howard
White and Jerry Brooks—are averaging 17.4 and 11.1, respective.

Wooden Casey of Franklin County has an 11.2 average. The top scorer for Palmer is
Steve Singleton, a 6-7 forward from Orangeburg, S.C., who has a 22.2 average and a
shooting percentage of 67.1.