Survive 15-Hour Bus-Plane Trek

Gobblers Face Houston Tonight In Tournament

By STAN SHALETT
Daily Press Sports Writer

If Virginia Tech's basketball team is slightly tired tonight when it tangles with Houston in the first round of the All-College Tournament in Oklahoma City, Okla., there's a very good reason.

The Gobblers left Blacksburg by bus at 6:30 for Roanoke Wednesday and a plane ride to Washington for a connection to their destination.

The Roanoke airport was socked in by fog. The team, coaching staff, trainers, publicity man, piled back into the bus and went by road to Washington.

After missing their original flight, the Gobblers made connections and arrived in Oklahoma City at 9:15.

"We're a little bit tired, but we're on our way for a short practice," Coach Don DeVoe explained. "We had a bad trip with a lot of waiting around in airports, but we'll be ready tomorrow night."

The Gobblers are top seeded in their bracket and meet a tall Cougar team that has a 3-4 mark with victories over University of Nevada-Reno, Wabash and Florida. They lost to North Carolina, Louisville, Texas Tech and Southern California.

The Gobblers are 3-3 with triumphs over Virginia Military Institute, Florida and Ohio State and losses to Alabama, Auburn and North Carolina.

"I think we're going around," DeVoe added. "We may be hampered as Calvin Wade, our 'super sub,' Wade has a strained ligament from a fall in the Florida game.

"We may go to Mike Collins or freshman Duke Thorpe. Thorpe has been coming and should be tough over the rest of the season."

In tonight's other game, Weber State meets Oral Roberts. The teams in the tourney's other bracket are Southern California, host Oklahoma City, Southwestern University and Rutgers.