VPI In Road Game Tonight

By STAN SHALETT
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Virginia Tech's basketball team tries to extend its three-game winning streak tonight at Florida State while Virginia Military Institute hopes to end its four-game slide in a home contest with Salem (W. Va.) in the only games among the State's major college teams.

The Seminoles, 9-4, are hard to beat anywhere but in tiny Tully Gym (seats 4,500) they are nearly invincible.

"We'll have to have Lady Luck smiling on us," Virginia Tech Coach Don DeVoe says. "They have great height; 6-foot-11 Larry McCray and 6-9 Greg Grady give them a strong inside game. They might just throw the ball up and let the big guys bang it in off the boards.

"We'll have to play better defense than we did against St. Bonaventure. We couldn't stop them at all."

The Gobblers, 6-5, got a lift from sophomore Kyle McKee in their victorious effort against the Bonnies. The 6-8 Ohioan scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. He shot 9 of 13 from the floor, hitting from under the basket and on the outside.

"We have to get going if we're going to a tournament again. This is our stretch drive," DeVoe adds. His team won the National Invitation Tournament a year ago.

"We have some help from our young players, Duke Thorpe, Geoff Wiggins and Dave Sensibaugh must help us now. Thorpe and Wiggins give us board strength while Sensibaugh has been spelling Bobby Stevens as our quarterback.

"Stevens has been cold as a shooter. We hope he regains his touch but we can't sit around waiting for that to happen."

DeVoe says senior Calvin Wade may be through for the year. He reinjured his knee in practice and may require surgery.