Tech's foe tonight
an unknown quantity

By STEVE WAID
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Don DeVoe doesn't know what his Virginia Tech basketball team is getting into tonight.

The Hokies, back from a disappointing trip to Florida State where they lost an 85-80 squeaker, will play Athletes in Action, a touring evangelistic team, tonight at 8 in Blacksburg.

"We really don't know just what kind of team they are," DeVoe said of the Hokies' adversaries tonight. "We have no scouting report on them at all.

"But maybe it will be good for us to play in a situation like this, just in case something like this occurs when we play a regular season game," DeVoe added.

The game tonight is listed as an exhibition. It will not count on Tech's record and it will afford the Athletes in Action group a chance to expound on the virtues of Christianity to the attending fans.

"We're really not overly concerned about the game," said DeVoe. "But we will start our regular starting lineup and then we hope to add our top reserves quickly so that they can get some experience and iron out a few wrinkles."

Among the reserves DeVoe plans to send into the game early are Dave Sensibaugh at guard, Mike Collins at forward, guard Denny Fugate, forward Dennis Shrewsberry and guard Duke Thorpe.

"We have to remember that we have a tough week upcoming with West Virginia and Oral Roberts at home next week," DeVoe added. "We want to get as much as we can out of everybody without really pushing everything too far."

Athletes in Action, founded in 1966 and affiliated with the Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, is a team composed of recent college graduate players.

Leading the team is Vince Smith, a 6-4 forward from Wichita State, who leads in scoring with 14 points per game. He is followed in scoring by Jimmy Blacklock, a 6-6 guard from Texas Austin, who led the team in scoring last year with better than 16 points per game.

Following tonight's game, Athletes in Action brings its tour to Roanoke Wednesday at the Salem-Roanoke Valley Civic Center and then to the University of Virginia Jan. 14.

In another area college game tonight, VMI gets a Southern Conference test from East Carolina in Lexington.