Buoyed DeVoe Predicts Great Season

BLACKSBURG—Uncertainty over Calvin Wade, a prediction about post-season, is questionable call in the St. Bonaventure game player evaluations and the challenge of Florida State were topics of a talk given by head basketball coach Don DeVoe at the regular meeting of the Blacksburg Sports Club Monday.

Valuable sixth man Calvin Wade, a vital ingredient in the Gobbler attack, had a knee injured in the Florida game Dec. 22 and has tentatively been expected to be ready to play by tonight’s game at Florida State.

DeVoe said, however, that Wade’s knee has been drained several times and still is painful. Wade won’t be ready tonight and his status at least for this week looks iffy.

DeVoe said “A star developed in the Eastern Kentucky game,” referring to Soph Kyle McKee who “really turned it on tonight.” In addition to shots from close range he was “putting it up from downtown and not missing too many.”

Concerning other players.

Craig Lieder: “He has had some great games. If you think he was great against Eastern Kentucky you should have seen him against Southwestern.”

Bobbi Stevens: “He has been a little disappointing. We wanted more leadership from him. When he has time to get set he can be a good shooter. He’s hitting about 35% from the floor (compared to approximately 44% from Thomas).”

Ed Frazier: “He’s not having a good year offensively, but is a great defensive player.”

Duke Thorpe: “I can’t be much higher than I am on Duke. He makes mistakes but shows signs of being a super player. He gives us that strong effort and he makes things happen.”

DeVoe also praised small but aggressive freshman guard Denny Fugate and Soph Mark Cartwright, now eligible to play varsity ball. Cartwright goes with the team to Florida State and “as soon as he is in playing condition we’ll see a lot of Cartwright.”

The coach showed a film of the last seven minutes of the St. Bonaventure 77-75 win which bodes out his contention concerning the last time out of the game.

St. Bonaventure’s coach told the officials he wanted a time out after Charlie Thomas shot two free throws awarded him after a foul with 3 seconds left in the game. Thomas missed both. The ball came down and players on both teams scrambled for possession. Before anyone had possession, the time out was called, giving the loose ball to the Bonnies. A desperation shot from center court missed and Tech preserved the victory.

DeVoe praised Houston, which defeated Tech in the All-College tournament, and said the Cougars probably will be in a post-season tournament. He said of last weekend’s opponent: “I’m sure St. Bonaventure will be in a post-season tournament.”

Concerning recent Roanoke press criticism because he used substitutes and didn’t run up a tremendous score against the U. of Florida, DeVoe said: “I’m not in the business to see how much of a drubbing I can give someone. We go back to Alligator Alley next year.”