Lineup changes? Only DeVoe knows

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Virginia Tech Coach Don DeVoe is toying with a change in the starting lineup again.

But DeVoe has done this before and always used the same starting five. Tonight's possible starters when William and Mary visits Blacksburg are Mike Collins and Duke Thorpe.

"They might go in with Craig (Lieder, 6-8 forward)," said the Tech coach. "The other night (at Northern Illinois) Thorpe and Collins got 22 of our 43 rebounds and 31 of our 33 points. But they didn't make some mistakes down the stretch."

Thorpe is a 6-5 freshman forward who has played well on several occasions. Collins, a husky 6-7 forward, played well early and then dropped off some in the All-College tournament at Christmas.

The Indians came to Blacksburg with a 6-10 record.

"We've played well the last five games and won only once," said William and Mary Coach Ed Ashman.

The latest example of this was a one-point home loss to Rutgers on Tuesday. Rutgers finished in fourth place at the All-College tournament three notches better than Tech did.

"I've told our team that from now on if we lose to a team with a losing record," said DeVoe, "we could forget any type of game after March 2 (the final regular scheduled contest)."

The Indians bring a lot of height to Blacksburg. William and Mary will probably open with a pair of freshmen - 6-10 Dennis Vail and 6-2 guard Ron Satterthwaite, a running mate of Virginia freshman Billy Langholl last year at DeMatha High School. The other starters probably will be 6-10 guard Ron Muszelman, 6-5 sophomore forward Mike Atkinson and 6-4 senior forward Mark Ritter.

But 6-3 Matt Courage also can come off the bench for the Indians.

"They have a lot of size and a lot of offensive punch," said DeVoe. "Last year, they scored 90 points on us here. But of course we got 127!"

Ashman, who is on a hot streak as far as remaining at William and Mary is concerned, said that Tech's long streak (dating back to 1897) at home against state teams doesn't concern him.

"Everyone is aware of the long streak," said the fiery and controversial Indian coach. "It gives everyone a special incentive, but it hasn't worked that well."

DeVoe won't change one thing. He'll open with guards Bobby Stevens and Charles Thomas. The Hokies are 9-7 and riding a two-game win streak.

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