Visions of Ranking Floating in Hokies' Heads

By DENNIS LATTI

Clutch shot...Dennis Latti for 1034x332.

Dust off your raccoon coat, fold out the rumble seat and fill up the flask. The college football season is in full bloom. For Virginia Tech, this is the first week of college games, football will be played today. Every college that can find 11 healthy players will have a game.

Virginia Tech, Virginia and William & Mary will be playing their first game. Virginia Tech and Richmond are old veterans, having started last week. Virginia travels to William & Mary to meet W&M in a Southern Conference encounter and Richmond plays Maryland, an unbeaten team all its glory.

The Cavaliers wander all the way to Seattle to play Washington in a game that highlights.

Virginia is not only the place where everyone remembers if or Dick Bivestock created a miracle.

But the most important game is proba-

ble Tech at Virginia. The Hokies have big hopes this year. They're thinking of na-

tional rankings and big things, but all that will quickly disappear if they don't face well against the 14th-ranked Aggies. This is probably the biggest game on Tech's sched-

ule and the Hokies know it.

"Tech is going to come in here very emotionally because they think A&M is a key game," admitted Texas A&M coach Emory Bellard. He said that he believes the Aggies are good enough to beat the Hokies.

The Hokies might be trying a few new things today. In their opener, they showed a new formation that could be called a double wing instead of the wishbone. Also, Tech's running game looked much improved. The Aggies will be seeing some plays they won't expect from the Hokies.

William and Mary will also probably be looking for a new formation to discern. The Hokies have hinted at it might be shifting people around in their backfield so it can run the op-

tion instead of the running game.

Exactly what offense VMI will use is unknown, which makes it hard for a team to prepare.

Last year, William and Mary was win-

less when it ventured to Lexington. The Indians scored a 157 with over VMI's 144 meet-

ings between the two rivals. VMI has won 20, W&M 21 and there have been three ties.

For the last season in the Southern Conference for both teams. Both would likely to follow Richmond's act and win the title in their last year. But the loser of today's game would have little hopes of doing that.

The Keydets have more depth this year and will have the ball first with 12 or 13 players, 33 last year, but lost their first two games by a point each.

William and Mary will have experience this year. The Indians lost their first eight games last year before winning two of their last four for a 2-6 record. VMI fans will be watching from afar, far, far away, if it Bestwick has changed things with the Cavaliers. UA will have a big underdog (two touchdowns or more) but it isn't winning that is really important.

Last year, the Cavaliers were embar-

rassed to be polite. Bestwick is using a young team, 20 of the top 44 players are returning. The Cavaliers are trying to change that image. If his Cavaliers just play a respectable game it will be a big accomplishment.

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