Mason On Sports

Virginia Tech, which must win this week or face the prospect of doing all its "bowling" at local lanes, should achieve a balance of offense and defense Saturday against the Golden Eagles of Southern Mississippi in the season's first home game.

Only one of last Saturday's "walking wounded" from the Texas A & M game—promising sophomore kick return Ellis Savage—definitely won't start. The rest of the battered Hokies will be primed to show the Eagles that not all their flak will come from East Carolina.

"So. Miss." has a new coach since Tech played them the last-time (a 27-14 win in 1971), Bobby Collins, whose record is currently 7-5 in his second season.

Collins is a former Hokie, having coached defensive backfield under Jerry Claiborne for three years ending in 1966.

An offensive muscle flexing by the Hokies also would prepare them for an improved and improving William and Mary, impressive in its dusting off of the VMI Keydets in the opener for both teams last Saturday.

Tired of being referred to as "Bill and Mary, biggie of the Bottom Ten," coach Jim Root's charges might topple Virginia this weekend to underscore their new role.

Tech has an open date a week from Saturday and hosts the Indians Oct. 2.