Hokies Plan-Stop Rozantz

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Virginia Tech begins in-state football warfare Saturday at Lane Stadium by hosting a dangerous William & Mary Indians squad.

The Gobblers defense will be going up against perhaps the best quarterback to ever play in Lane Stadium since Jimmy Sharpe's regime took over three seasons ago. Game is set for 1:30 p.m. Tech will be defending two six-game winning streaks against the Indians. Gobblers have won six straight against in-state opponents and have reeled off six consecutive wins in Lane Stadium.

William & Mary is 2-1 with a 34-20 win over VMI, a 14-0 surprise over Virginia, then narrowly lost last Saturday to powerful East Carolina,20-19 on a late field goal.

What makes the Tribe go? Well, Virginia Tech Defensive Coordinator Buddy Bennett feels that it's sophomore quarterback Tom Rozantz. East Carolina coach Pat Dye said Rozantz is the best quarterback he's seen in a while.

Bennett echoes the same sentiments.

"He's the best quarterback we've seen since I've been here. He throws well, he has great quickness and is an excellent faker," points out coach Bennett.

So far this season Rozantz has rushed for 91 yards, but has been lethal with his aerial attack, completing 25-of-38 for 372 yards and four touchdowns.

It sounds like the key is stopping Rozantz. "We're just working a little harder at containment this week. When you get a man like Rozantz loose in the secondary, it can be dangerous."

William & Mary has a very potent offense, led by Rozantz and tailback Jimmy Krus (5-10, 188, j.r.), who came on strong last season and is currently the hottest number in a gold and green uniform. Krus has rushed for an average of 113.7 yards per game.

He's joined in the backfield by fullback Keith Fimian (6-1, 220, jr.), who's averaging 81.3 yards rushing per game. Fimian emerged as a top rate fullback after playing the first half of last season at slotback.

The top two receivers for the Indians are Tom Butler (10 receptions for 141 yards), and tight end Ken Cloud (4 receptions for 63 yards and two touchdowns).

William & Mary has always been a wide open type offense, averaging 377.3 yards per game total offense this season. A total of 253.3 of that is from the ground and 124.0 through the air.

"We feel we have as good a defense as there is in the nation," Bennett said firmly noting that since the Tribe is more wide open, it does present some problems. "They (W&M) give you more learning problems. They do so many things, again we just have to work harder on recognition."

"The more teaching you have to do, the more margin of error you risk."

But Tech is healthy defensively after a week off from the grid wars. Defensive tackle Tom Beasley is well again, nursing some bruised ribs, and Bill Housewright is again ready to play.

How does Tech physically matchup in the pits. "We don't look at it in that respect," Bennett said. "We just prepare our people, to do the best job they can and don't worry so much about the other team."

Although Texas A&M had a good passing attack, it caught the Gobblers a bit off guard. Southern Miss passed, but mostly when it had no other choice. Tech will be expecting anything from William & Mary Saturday, and the Gobblers' defense will be tested.

It's like Sharpe himself said: "William and Mary has a good, physical football team. And they would rather beat us than eat when they're hungry."

For the Tribe, a victory would be worth the fast.