MORE ON 'BIG FIVE' FOOTBALL

One of Virginia Tech boosters telephoned Monday and pleaded: "Don't knock the Gobblers yet; they had an off-day" beating Southern Mississippi just by 16-7. In reply this old coach's cliche was offered: "When you don't win at all, but you just come up praying, the Lord's blessings.

In contrast, Mrs. Harriet Storm of the Peninsula could not wait to express concern when William and Mary gained yardage almost at will yet led Virginia only by 7-0 at halftime. - Still, William's press box and somberly discussed the Indians' chances of beating themselves.

Later on, Coach Jim Root and many of his charges were deep in thought over four-touchdown losses, with one guess being they could have won by four-touchdowns. Regardless, our message to Root & Company is this: "There's no wrath so great as that of an angry Mrs. Storm." "RUNNING BACKS IN LIMELIGHT"

Reflecting on the above, and having seen three of the State Big Five play, the strong notion persists that Tech and W&M - even UVA - have the running backs to put a lot of TDs on the scoreboards. - Seeing unseen, you can include Richmond's 1600 yards.

PARSONS, TAYLOR RUSH TO CENTER

Paul Adams and George Heath are relied on mostly, but Tech actually has a stable of fullbacks and sprinters. W&M also can boast of depth, but just mentioning Keith Fimian and Jim Kruis is quite a mouthful; those two are "overlook quarter-back Tom Rozantz when he decides to keep and test rival flank defenders."

In Charlottesville, if Dick Bestick truly has hopes of revitalizing UVA's Cavashington, it's a sure bet he's counting on the consummate running talents of Jim Copeland and Dave Sloan. Richmond, of course, has a premier performer in Ed Kreulis plus several others (including Hamptonian Al Newby) yet in the developing stage.

' AIR GUNS' KINDA QUIET

Puzzling has been the failure of anyone to live up to expectations for VMI, although freshman quarterback Robbie Clark from Foxpaw on occasion has demonstrated he has the potential to lead. - Unless two of his newer cohorts will soon begin to deliver. Meantime, something else can start you wondering.

Anyone who has been around college football for a while surely remembers this portentous statement: "Any day is passable if the pass is not the pass by the pass." (and sometimes twice as fast).

Well, so far, none of the Big Five has been living by putting the ball in the air, but UVA was surely killed by it against W&M.

'EMBOSSING ON THE LAM'

Sports writers have noted one of the major benefits of a strong running game is the way it opens up the air lanes - either to be used discreetly or for a barrage, depending on the rival's defenses. So far, only W&M's Rozantz (or his bench) has a consistent passing game that works. Otherwise the backfield is backfired (as they can) almost disastrously against UVA.

PASS-CATCHERS SORTA NEGLECTED

However, starting Saturday, you may see run-pass (75% of the time) passing used. Although Tech is idle this week, the Gobblers and W&M must take advantage to the fullest to keep winning; as for Richmond, VMI and UVA - they must to start winning.

' MAYBE MORE OR MERE USE OF AERIAL ATTACKS IS NOT A NICE DIRENESS (yet), but from here it looks like a pass-catching talent could be going to waste. To name a few, W&M's Tim Butler was hot last week: ditto UVA's Joe Senior - and one of the five is this tactic well, though others backfired (as they can) almost disastrously against UVA.'