After a week-long layoff, the Hokies return to action this Saturday against the William and Mary Indians. This home contest is a very important one for Tech, for the Hokie offense hasn’t seemed to get in full gear yet. A big win would certainly help the Hokies regain the momentum which Wake Forest started for them.

In William and Mary, Tech finds a good opponent, probably the best in the state. After opening wins over VMI (34-20) and U. Va. (14-0), the Indians barely missed a victory over East Carolina last week, losing 20-19. This is the same East Carolina which beat N.C. State the week before and Southern Mississippi 48-0 in their first game. The Indians boast an explosive offense along with a better-than-average defense.

Tech coach Jimmy Sharpe emphasized offense when questioned about William and Mary. “They’re a real good football team, a real skilled bunch. They’ve got a real good quarterback,” commented Sharpe. "Their fullback, Fimian, is also good. "We tried to recruit him a while back." It seems clear that the Hokie defense will need another superlative performance to stop the William and Mary attack.

Tom Rosantz is the key to the Indian offense. The versatile quarterback for a team which is a threat both running and passing, Rosantz is a threat either way. Keith Fimian, the “I” formation’s fullback, is the other major threat on offense, averaging 81.3 yards a game on the ground.

Injuries could be debilitating for the Indians, however. Halfback Jim Kruis, leading rusher averaging 113.7 yards a game, is questionable this week due to a concussion suffered against East Carolina. Last year’s leading receiver, Joe Manderfield, is out for the season as are cornerback Keith Potts and defensive tackle Dave O’Neill.

Although Tom Butler is filling the wide receiver spot admirably (leading receiver so far with 10 catches for 141 yards), too many holes are popping up for Indian coach Jim Root to fill to full effectiveness. It is very possible that the Indians will be physically down after playing tough East Carolina, much the same way Tech was after playing Texas A&M.

Tech also has its problems, though of no comparison with William and Mary’s. The Hokie wishbone has had a tough time of it as springing Roscoe Coles’ legs or Michael Barnes’ arm very often. When asked if he has done anything to pep up the offense this week, Coach Sharpe commented, “There’s nothing wrong with our offense. The goal of the game is to win. I don’t care if we have a one-point game as long as we come out on top; it’s still a win.”

William and Mary coach Jim Root was pleased with his team’s performance last week, calling East Carolina “the best team on our schedule.” When asked for his opinion of this remark, Sharpe replied, “Just might be. He can say what he likes. We don’t worry about the other folks. We just worry about ourselves. As long as our group gets together, we’ll be all right.”

Quiet confidence seemed to be the mood for the Hokies this week, as exhibited by Sharpe’s comments. This game kicks off, a three-game in-state series for Tech, with V.M.I. and Virginia coming up as opponents. A big win this week could set the pace for a three game romp. While coach Sharpe called this week a “regular week,” one can be sure that the Hokies will be more than ready Saturday.