Tobacco Bowl Meeting
71st In Series With VMI

Staff Writer

Virginia Tech and VMI will meet for the 71st time in their history Saturday in the Tabocco Bowl in Richmond. This series, which began in 1894, is the oldest in Tech football history. The Gobblers lead, 41-24-5.

Tech defeated VMI last season, 33-0. In a Tobacco Bowl encounter two years ago, VMI edged the Hokies, 22-17.

So far this year VMI is 1-3, getting its first victory last week by upsetting Furman 17-3. Previously VMI had lost to Richmond 43-0, Appalachian State 31-12, and William & Mary 34-20.

Tech, of course, is 2-2, and is coached by Jimmy Sharpe, whose career record at Tech is 14-12. Bob Thalman is in his sixth season at VMI where his record to date is 17-42.

Tech has won six of the past nine games in the series, and Saturday's battle on the artificial rug in City Stadium in Richmond is expected to draw 20,000 fans.

VMI runs the multiple I offense, the fifth defense opposed to Tech's wishbone offense and fifty-two defense.

"Tech is a great rivalry," says Thalman. "We always look forward to the game. This year we are especially pleased that it is in Richmond, because we have been wanting to go back there and redeem ourselves.

Coach Sharpe stated on his TV show that I'll have our team all jacked-up and foaming at the mouth to beat Tech. He's right."

As of Monday, the game was not a sell-out. If it does not sell-out it will mark the first time in anyone's memory that a VMI-VPI game did not draw a full house when they played outside of Lane Stadium in Blacksburg.

VMI's Craig Jones is ranked fourth in the nation in field goals with 7 of 8 for a 1.75 per game average.