VPI's David Lamie
Quarterback Against Spiders?

VPI, Richmond
Join In Chorus:
'We Can't Lose'

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The most significant aspect of Saturday's State Big Five football clash in Richmond City Stadium (1:30) is that neither Virginia Tech nor the University of Richmond's host Spiders figure they can afford another loss.

Since the invading Gobbler insist on entertaining bowl hopes, no matter how faint, they should have an edge in the psychological incentive department. Still, Richmond wants to salvage as much as possible from what was once thought could be a bright season, and that kind of motivation is hard to measure.

The oldsmen are on the side of Coach Jimmy Sharpe's squad, because Tech is favored by at least 16 points — and it could be more if they'd really taken into account what injuries have done to decimate the Spiders' personnel.

Even with sophomore David Lamie subbing for Mitchell Barnes as the Gobbler's starting quarterback, the odds against Richmond probably don't lessen, mainly because of two factors.

Item One — If Tech is to sharpen the interests of any bowl promoters, it must win BIG. Even that may not be enough.

Item Two — Someone who can supply a lot of firepower toward mounting the final score is Roscoe Coles, because the Virginia Beach breakaway artist could be best on establishing a few more school records.

One of the standards within his range is the career record of 36 touchdowns put in the books by J.B. Barber (1971-77).

Coles already has 24, so he could take a long stride toward that plateau this Saturday and make it or break it in the season finale. It will be Ed Florida State next week at Tallahassee. If not, well...there's still next season ahead of them.

Of the lesser, personal marks within his reach are another 1,000-yard season and another game of over 100 yards, which would be the 13th in his three seasons so far.

However, Coles isn't the only dangerous runner to be aiming at Richmond's injury-tiddied defenders, which will be missing such top-flight operatives as Dick Childress and Mike Opiery, middle guard and linebacker, respectively.

The net result of duty in workouts this week have been Paul Adams, George Heath, Chuck Nuttymbe and Billy King. Adams and King have been alternating in the fullback's role while Heath and Nuttymbe have been sharing the right halfback's role.

At the moment, there seems little hope Barnes can see duty in Tech's quarterback. Early in the week x-rays indicated he had a hairline fracture just above the wrist. Thursday, though, there were indications that the x-rays were somewhat inconclusive, so new ones will be taken.

Coles and star lineback Rick Razzano also have been nursing bruises.

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Kruis, Coles
Hold Firm
Statistically

Continued from Page 25 throughout the week, but that isn't expected to limit their efforts come Saturday day afternoon.

Carrying the work load for Coach Jim Kruis and his Mountaineers are Mike Ruffin and Will Ruffin. In nine games, Kruis has averaged an output of 75.2 yards, while Ruffin is 56.4.

However, all of the running backs in action, only Coles is ranked nationally. Latent Virginia and West Virginia Collegiate Athletic Association list Coles that with a per-game production of 102.9 yards. A couple notches ahead of him is William and Mary's Jim Kruis with 104.

Tech has one other performer high in NCAA statistics. Punt returner Greg Payne, a product of Hampton's Bethel High, has averaged in 11.3 yards per return.

Richmond claims some prestige through punter Bruce Allen, son of Washington Redskins' coach George Allen, and free safety Jeff Allen. Allen is 15th among the collegiate world's punters with a 43.7 average on 59 kicks, while Dinio is tied for fifth place in number of interceptions with six in nine games.