Who's best in state?
It's not the Gobblers

Yes, Virginia, your college football season is almost history.
And who would have figured that the surveyors of the Big Five would have to wait until the final week of the season to learn who can claim to be the top team in the commonwealth?

Those who know—or thought they knew (mostly sportswriters)—figured Virginia Tech was going to be 4-0 on an intrastate basis and picked for a bowl game.

Unfortunately for the Gobblers, pre-season talk does not a year make. Richmond and William and Mary joined Texas A&M and Tulsa as Tech conquerors, and that finished both state and national hopes for the Blacksburg team.

So, Saturday at Richmond’s City Stadium, the Spiders will meet W&M in what might be dubbed the Mills Godwin Bowl. Both teams are unbeaten in the state (W&M 3-0, UR 2-0), and the winner of of what seemed almost a meaningless game before the season will be able to talk until this time next year about being the “state” champ.

When W&M blasted Tech 27-15 (the difference between the two teams was bigger than the score), some thought it was a fluke. But no more. The Indians’ 7-3 record indicates that Coach Jim Root has brought the Williamsburg team a long way.

Richmond proved that Tech certainly isn’t invincible as far as the state’s concerned with Saturday’s 16-0 triumph over the floundering Gobblers. If Saturday’s contest was any indication, the Spiders are a good team with a bad record, 4-6.

But don’t tell the people at VMI that the Richmond-W&M contest is the big game in the state this weekend. The Keydets have a crucial one of their own as they shoot for what was once as seemingly impossible pinnacle—a .500 record.

Indiana State (3-6) visits Lexington, where a Keydets’ win will close the season with a four-game winning streak and a 5-5 mark. ISU ended a four-game losing skid Saturday with a 20-17 win over Wichita State.

At Charlottesville, there’s another big game—but not for the homestanding Cavaliers. Maryland visits with hopes of clinching an unbeaten season, a New Year’s day bowl berth, and the Atlantic Coast Conference championship.

Virginia Tech closes in a night game at Florida State, trying to salvage a victory in its final game. The Seminoles are 4-6 after a 21-20 squeaker over North Texas State.

“William and Mary is a great football team with a great record,” said Richmond Coach Jim Tait in one of the stock statements made by coaches that is designed to give the opposition nothing to put on its bulletin board in a psyche job.

But what Tait says is almost correct. Calling W&M “great” is certainly an overstatement. “Good” wouldn’t be wrong. The Indians will be trying for their eighth win this weekend, something they haven’t achieved since a 9-1 year and Dixie Bowl berth in 1947.

W&M blanked The Citadel, 23-0,