Gobblers, Buckeyes Still Around; Where's DeVoe?

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There's going to be a party tonight at Blacksburg, and the only guest missing will be Devo. Everyone remembers Devo. He was the coach at Virginia Tech who applied for the Ohio State job last year. When the action was over, DeVoe was out at Tech, lost the Ohio State job to Edmon Miller and he is now out in the boondocks in Wyoming where his team has a 1-1 record.

Devo also lost his last game at Tech to Miller. That's nothing about because Miller's Western Michigan team beat Tech in the NCAA regional tournament right before the coaches started playing in recruiting chairs.

Strange to say, this sequence of events really hasn't crossed Miller's mind as he brings his Ohio State team to Blacksburg for a game against the Gobblers tonight.

"I'll be honest," said Miller. "I didn't think about all that. We try to concentrate on things that are important."

That's reasonable and tonight's game is an important one for both teams. Tech is coming off a loss to West Virginia while the Buckeyes have crept to pair of early non-conference wins.

Miller also is unable to compare this year's Tech team with the one his Western Michigan faced last year. That's because he didn't see the Gobblers Wednesday night when they played West Virginia.

"But the coach that scouted Tech thought they should have won the game," Miller said.

"I know Duke (Thorpe) as a great player and Thieneman (Phil) as outstanding. We were impressed with both of their centers."

Ohio State doesn't present height problems for Tech as 6-7 Jimmy Gillhousen starts at center flanked by 6-6 Clarence Hammond and 6-3 Mike Daughtery at forwards.

"But they're awfully quick," warned Tech coach Charlie Moore. "They have good pressure defense and get outstanding leadership from their guards.

One of the guards is six-footer Larry Bolden, rated one of the top players in the Big Ten. Morin plans to keep Thieneman at forward where the senior has been more effective. He can do this against a smaller team. Tech will either use Ron Bell or Ron Edwards at starting guard along with Marshall Ashford while White is seeded 6-1, 6-11 senior, will be at center.

Virginia also has an important game. The unbeatrn VM offense trip to Pittsburgh while West Virginia is without 6-11 sophomore center Otis Fulton. He'll miss the entire rest of the trip that concludes Tuesday night at Pennsylvania.

Virginia Tech guard Terry Holly will probably start 6-10 Steve Catlett, 6-9 Marc Lavazani and 6-6 Mike Owens on the front line as he shuns the three-guard offense used to whip a smaller Tech club last year.

It is all because Pittsburgh has 6-11 Ed Scheurmann on the front line flanked by 6-8 Mike Blue and veterans center 6-6 Larry Harris, who averages 22 a game.

The question is what will Virginia do when one of the front line tarts or is in foul trouble? "Who does that leave as a sub?" asked Hol- land: "That's a good question."

It will come from 6-6 Ed Schettlick, 6-4 Mark Newgard or swaying guard Billy Longfellow to a forward spot.

VMI is also on the road at East Carolina where the Keydets will be hoping to push over the 500 mark.

Defensive guard John Krive is fit for duty after injury and knee but Saturday night. Keydet Coach Charlie Schmaus might see a duplication of his club at East Carolina, like VMI, runs the motion offense.

Roanoke College will open its home season against Lynchburg College as the Maroons seek their first win. Both clubs enter the game with 0-2 marks.

The big question for Roanoke concerns the strength of its offensive center Dave Beckom. He's been in the hospital much of the month with a stomach disorder, but practiced for the first time this week on Friday.

"Won't see him," said Maroon Coach Mel Hinkson. "He'll only use him sparingly," Tim Aldinger, a 6-5 sophomore, who start in Beckom's spot on the front line.

William and Mary opens Southern Conference play against the Citadel. The Indians has butched a pair of college division clubs and now play their third straight game at home.

Richmond and rival Virginia Commonwealth University square off at the Richmond Coliseum. The Spiders will be hoping bounce back from a loss to Auburn while VCU is 2-0.

In the Atlantic Coast Conference, Clemson will be a prohibitive favorite for its fourth victory against Georgia Southern at home. Maryland will try to find itself in a home game against tough Princeton. North Carolina State will be looking for its first win at home against Penn State and Duke will get the leftovers from Baltimore on the Wake Forest game in Durham, N.C.

In the Southern Conference, Davidson goes to Brown, Furman home to Wake Forest and Leno- rhorne to Appalachian State.

Madison College defeated Georgia State 68-68 and South Alabama downs Rider 102-80 last night. Madison and South Alabama meet in Harrisonburg tonight for the championship of the Madison Invitational.

In college division games, Washington and Lee goes to Emory and Harvey this afternoon at 2 while Messiah plays host to Bridgewater.