Moir Respects Carolina

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
Senior Sports Editor

Virginia Tech basketball coach Charlie Moir says there's no real key to beating North Carolina.

"You just have to play awfully well and execute well against a good defense and keep mistakes at a minimum," noted the Gobbler chief today in reference to Saturday's upcoming game with the nationally ranked Tar Heels at a sold-out Roanoke Civic Center.

Moir, whose Tulane team of a year ago lost to the Tar Heels in four overtimes, realizes what a victory over the nationally prominent ACC team means to his own program at Tech.

"They've consistently been in the national rankings and any time you beat a team that is ranked, its just great. It gives your players confidence, it helps in recruiting and in so many other ways."

The game will be at Roanoke Civic Center and the contest has been sold out for over a week now. "I believe we'll have the home crowd even in Roanoke. I'd prefer to play Carolina in Blacksburg with our students there. It would be more of an advantage playing them at Cassell Coliseum," noted the Hokies chief.

Carolina, with a lone loss to Wake Forest in the Big Four Tournament in Greensboro, will be genuinely tough. Among the stars of the team are three members of the U.S. Olympic team which captured the gold medal in Montreal this past summer.

Center Tommy LaGarde, forward Walter Davis and guard Phil Ford, all very experienced players, will make things rough on Tech which actually is a young basketball team.

"Im very familiar with their personnel since we played them last year. I have a lot of respect for their players. They're well coached," he complimented of the Heels and Coach Dean Smith. "They're going with O'Corn a lot. I saw him seven or eight times because we were also trying to recruit him at Tulane."

"Then they have Bruce Buckly and sophomore Dudley Bradley that plays a lot," noted the Tech boss.

Moir notes that the Hokies have had good practices so far this week. That is one advantage, having an entire week to prepare for the Tar Heels.