Tech Leaves For
Dayton Invitational

BLACKSUG--Virginia Tech's 32-3 basketball team was scheduled to leave this morning to board a plane at Roanoke's Woodrum Airport enroute to the first of two holiday tournaments on its schedule. The Hokies take on the University of Dayton at about 9 p.m. Friday in the opening round of the Dayton Invitational.

The Flyers, with 11 out of 12 members of last year's squad back, are coming off a win. Dayton defeated Loyola-Losa Angeles easily last Saturday night, 71-48. Tech is eager to get back on the winning side after dropping a disappointing 84-70 decision to the North Carolina Tar Heels at Roanoke Civic Center on Saturday.

More Action Ahead
For Hokie Freshmen

BLACKSUG--Virginia Tech, which has played very respectively despite a 3-2 record, is apt to take on a more youthful appearance as the Hokies forge into the second half of a nearly December stint.

"Somewhere, we've got to create more playing time for our three freshmen," Coach Charles Moir points out.

Two of the freshmen, 6-5 Les Henion and 6-6 Wayne Robinson, have played in each of the first five contests, and 6-2 guard Chris Scott has been in all but one. Still, Moir would like to take better advantage of their abilities.

While the Hogsiers three seniors, 6-6 Duke Thorpe, 6-11 Ernest Wansley and swingman Phil Thieneman, are providing the staples, Moir believes the freshmen can and will add new dimensions to the Hokies.

Henson, quick and a fine leaper, "makes things happen," Robinson, becoming more aggressive with experience, poses problems for opponents.

"He's tough to keep him from getting off-and usually making (71 percent) his jump shot.

Scott is a good ballhandler and shooter who should play an increasingly important playmaking role.

Tech will meet Dayton Friday night in the second hotel Flyers' tournament. The Hogsiers will face either Alabama or Alabama State, depending on Friday's outcome.

The Hokies will be playing three games in four days, December 26-27, when they return home to entertain Northern Illinois College on Monday night.

The Hoggsiers will have a few days off for Christmas before returning to get ready for the Richmond Times Dispatch tournament in the state capital, Dec. 29 and 30.

Thorp, who has taken up night school where he left off last season with 66 percent accuracy from the floor, is still the Hokie leader, averaging 18.8 points and 10.2 rebounds, but he was well balanced and could be even more so if Moir can maneuver the freshmen into the lineup even more than he already has.

The tournament schedule released by the U. of Dayton shows practice times for the four participating teams will be set up between noon and 5 p.m. Thursday at UD Arena.

The tournament opens at 7 p.m. Friday when the Crimson Tide of Alabama faces the Oklahoma State Cowboys. The Dayton-Virginia Tech game follows at approximately 9 p.m. If the first game runs late, Tech's game will start at least 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Alabama-OSU game.

A consolation game will precede Saturday night's championship game. After the game at Most Valuable Player trophy will be presented to an All-Tournament team for the fifth annual U. of Dayton Invitational to be named.

In previous games, Tech defeated Marietta 92-62, Charleston Baptist 98-70 and Ohio Valley 94-84. While losing to Western, 74-73, and the Tarheels.

Duke Thorpe leads Hokie scoring and three freshmen are in double figures. Figures, going into the North Carolina game, Thorpe's average was 18.3 points. The 6-5 Henion, 6-6 Wansley, 6-5 Henion, 6-6 Wansley, 6-5 Henion, 6-6 Wansley, 6-5 Henion, 6-6 Wansley.

Tech put on strong rebounding shows against both Ohio State and North Carolina. Tech is outrebounding its opponents by a composite clip of 45 to 36 per game.

The team is shooting free throws at a percentage of 538.

Virginia Tech's basketball team could settle an old score Friday night at UD Arena when they take on the Dayton Flyers.

Dayton defeated Tech in the last meeting between the schools. The Flyers won on a neutral court in 1967, 71-66. However, Tech has been triumphant at the moment, but having a strong December is all important to Tech's aim of a better-than-successful season.

So Tech is ready in the opening game Friday to have a chance Saturday at Alabama or Oklahoma State, development whether the Tide or Cowboys win Friday's earlier game.

If the Hokies play Alabama it represents a chance to avenge a loss within the playing career of Duke Thorpe and Phil Thieneman on the current squad.

Alabama handed Tech a rare home court loss 77-73 in the first game of the Tech season in October. Anthony Murray is rated as one of basketball's top backcourt men.

The Hokies have reason to approach the Dayton tournament with confidence. Their earlier loss to hotter than hot West Virginia with Tech, the Tech point and the extent reach of pulling an upset on North Carolina until the final minute of the game.

Tech is young and learning and should assert itself in the tournament.

TD Showdown

The Times-Dispatch Tournament coming up Dec. 29-30 has the foreshadowing of a stronger basketball free-for-all than had probably been expected. Although the finals probably will be a confrontation between the Hokies and the Virginia Cavaliers.

The Richmond Spiders who have in recent years occupied the basement of the Southern Conference basement, have started the season looking as if they could surprise some people.

The now-independent Spiders came close to pulling off a major upset in their recent game against the Duke Blue Devils Dec. 17.

Tech took the last-second wizardry of 7 point guard Tate Armstrong to cool things.

It really too early to predict how strongly any of the participants will be able to participate in the TD affair, the Northern Illinois Huskies at home Dec. 20.

The Hokies are determined to improve on their last two tournament appearances. In the NCAA post-season affair following last season they lost to the Colts of Western Michigan in overtime.

In the Indiana Classic a year ago at Bloomington they routed the Oregon Ducks but fell victim to the awesome Indiana Hoosiers who had just returned two of the nation's top teams in the history of the rebounding sport.

High School Hoop Scene

The scholastic basketball season could hardly have started on a more exciting note.

Christiansburg, Shawsville and Auburn wasted little time getting into gear in their first few games and Blacksburgh pulled an impressive finish in its first game against Carroll County.

The Demons were the first victim of a strong, impressive Franklin County team that hadn't lost a game going into this week's games, and also lost to Narrows. They asserted themselves against strong-starting Floyd County to carve out a hard-earned win with center Terry Epperly (who had 20 points) getting help from guard Mark Vaughn, emerging as a scorer, with 21.

Shawville, with youth, enthusiasm and consistent high scoring from Jesse Shoewalter, looks as if it will go for a young, mostly inexperienced team.

Asburn, still too inconsistent to look like a threat for the Mountain Empire district title, if awesome at times but not so that impressive at others.

Based on their first game the Indians look like scramblers who can get the job done but it may be a few more games before they can assert the mastery of the district that is still expected of them.

A Great Year

At the risk of repeating something that all area field fans already know, the Blacksburgh Indians had just what coach David Cottred told the Blacksburg Sports Club they had--a great year.

The Indians were guests of the club Monday and were honored on the home campus morning when the fall sports awards were presented.

The facts of the season already are well known and the most promising thing Blacksburgh football holds out for the future is the continuity Day in and out.

Part of the credit obviously goes to the coaching of Cottred, North Carolinas Coach of the Year, whose teams have had two losses in two years, one of them in post season play and won all the rest.

Another part goes to the players, all 47, who gave their best. It can be said now with more certainty than it was in said in this space a year ago--Blacksburgh football has turned around.

The team may not have had the dynasty but they have a good hold on a tradition of winning.