Plays Richmond In Opening Round

Tech Prepares For T-D Tournament

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech's 5-3 basketball team was scheduled to leave this morning at 8:15 for Richmond to participate in the inaugural Times Dispatch Invitational Tournament. The newspaper-sponsored event will be played at Richmond Arena on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

The Hokies will face the University of Richmond Spiders in their half of the opening action while the Virginia Cavaliers, the likely favorites, take on the embattled Rams of Virginia Commonwealth University in the other game.

Tech, which worked out on the home floor after returning from a four-day Christmas break, is expected to hold a light workout at the scene of the tournament.

In their last outing Dec. 20, the Hokies thumped the Northern Illinois Huskies to get back on the winning side after a big loss to nationally-ranked Alabama in the finals of the Dayton Invitational Tournament.

Tech started the season with wins over Marietta and Charleston Baptist at Cassell Coliseum. A loss to West Virginia at Morgantown followed and the Hokies returned to subdue a stubborn Ohio State Buckeye quintet.

North Carolina defeated the Gobblers in a cliffhanger at Roanoke Civic Center. Next came the Dayton tournament and Tech just got by the hot Dayton Flyers in the first game before encountering talented Alabama.

Virginia, led by tall and capable Marc Iavarone, has looked impressive in its few appearances so far, but doesn't appear as strong as it was last season before the graduation of Wally Walker.

The Richmond Spiders have promise and lost to Duke by only two points.

Virginia Commonwealth, in a state of upheaval after the resignation of coach Chuck Noe a few weeks before the season started, has a team that includes five walk-on reserves. The Rams have a 4-4 record for the young season.