Virginia's Cagers Host VPI
In Game Tonight At Hampton

By TOMMY SEWARD
Associate Sports Editor

Virginia Tech, at 5-4 is playing this season with the intensity as well as with the victories to serve notice the Gobblers want back in again when the NCAA playoffs begin in March.

The University of Virginia also played in last year's NCAA post-season tournament lineup after winning their first Atlantic Coast Conference tournament championship, but so far the Cavaliers are stumbling along, winning only half of their 10 games.

But with a three-game losing streak, Virginia's Coach Terry Holland certainly hopes the good luck charm of the Hampton Coliseum is working for his Cavaliers tonight when the tipoff against Virginia Tech comes at 8.

This is Virginia's home game, while next month the Virginia Tech home game with UVA will be played in Roanoke.

Over the years, UVA has never been a loser in five games at Hampton. Virginia, because of early successes in the long series against Virginia Tech which began in 1915, enjoys the edge with 27 victories to 26 for the Gobblers.

However, the Gobblers since 1959 have beaten Virginia 18 times while losing only 6. The most conquest over the Cavaliers came just two weeks ago in the championship game, 65-60, of the Richmond Times-Dispatch Invitational.

Virginia Tech guards Marshall Ashford and Ron Bell, each with 19 points, were instrumental in the second-half comeback to beat the Cavaliers in Richmond.

The Gobblers have taken the measure of the Cavaliers in four of their last six meetings.

Oddly enough, in that Richmond tournament game, both Ashford and Bell scored six points in the first half and then each more than doubled their outputs to carry the Techmen to a rather easy victory.

Both Virginia and Virginia Tech have players from the Peninsula area. Forward Duke Thorpe starred at West Point High School before going to Blacksburg, while Virginia's sophomore guard Bobby Stokes played his pre-college ball at King William High, one of the arch rivals of the Pointers in Tidewater District Group A.

Thorpe is the leading scorer and rebounder for the Gobblers. The 6-foot-5 senior is averaging 16.7 points this season with a total of 90 rebounds. The West Pointer has been hobbled with a series of injuries of late, including a groin injury, charley horse and back pains.

Stokes, at 5-10, is the shortest Cavalier, but is averaging just under 10 points, while among the leaders in assists.

With 6-10 sophomore center Otis Fulton playing with elbow and knee injuries and 6-8 forward Mark Javaroni ill with the flu, the Cavaliers will find the going tough under the boards against the Gobblers, who besides Thorpe have 6-10 senior center Ernest Wansley.

Virginia's Billy Langloh, more at home at guard and as the team's "quarterback," has been shifted to forward by the injury status of Fulton and Javaroni. The team's leading scorer, Langloh played forward for three games after Fulton was injured in the season opener.

FREE THROWS — It seems Virginia is constantly chasing Virginia Tech. After the Gobblers built their 10,000-seat coliseum, the Cavaliers came up with an 8,000-seat building. Then Tech increased the size of Lane Stadium for football to 50,000 not long ago. In 1978, Virginia's Scott Stadium will be increased to about that number, but Virginia Tech has announced Lane Stadium in 1978 is to be increased again to 50,000.

 MARSHALL ASHFORD
Grovers' Sparking Guard

 GUARD BOBBY STOKES
Cavalier Back In Area