No Game for VMI, Tech

By BILL BRILL

VMI and Virginia Tech will not play basketball next season, although both coaches are interested in having the series resumed.

Tech was willing to play a game at a neutral site, perhaps Roanoke or Richmond. But VMI’s schedule won’t allow the game, Athletic Director Tom Joyner said Thursday.

Joyner said VMI’s 77-78 schedule already is full, although there is the possibility of some changes. One of the changes, however, won’t be adding Tech.

“I know they don’t want to play in ‘The Pit,’” Joyner said, “and we’re looking for more home games.”

Unlike this season, when VMI had 15 games scheduled in its cosy 3,000-seat fieldhouse, next year the Keydets have just nine scheduled. “I’ve got to get one more home game some place,” said Joyner, “and actually I’d like to have 12 games in Lexington for the students.”

When VMI elected to remain in the Southern Conference, the Keydets had to play 10 league games. The kicker is that the Keydets are in three tournaments next season.

“We are playing in the Virginia Tipoff tournament,” Joyner said, “and then we’re in a tournament at Siena, N.Y., and one at Toledo. The three tournaments provide six games.”

“With those six games, and road dates we owe Old Dominion, Roanoke, Furman and Davidson, that’s 10,” Joyner said. “That just leaves up 18 games, and most of them are in the conference.”

Actually, the VMI schedule is much tougher next year. Not only are there far more road games, but the Keydets will be playing all Division I schools except for Roanoke and Alderson-Broaddus.

Joyner would actually like to drop the A-B games, which, he said, could be replaced with a home game against Old Dominion. “ODU would like to play us home and home.”

Joyner tried to get Roanoke to move its game to Lexington, but the Maroons weren’t interested. “Ron Carter will be a senior, and they think it will be a good gate for them. I don’t blame them.”

“We’d like to play Tech again. I want to play, and so does Charlie (Coach Schmaus). I hope we can get together for the year after next.”

The Tech-VMI series was canceled in 1963 after a Hokie player, Frankie Arva, slugged a VMI cheerleader prior to a game in Lexington. The teams met once in Roanoke in a two-day set of doubleheaders with the Keydets upsetting Don DeVoe’s first Tech team, 77-66.

They met in the season opener of the 73-74 and 74-75 seasons, first in Blacksburg, then in Lexington, with Tech winning both games.