Gobblers Visit GW

By JERRY VERNON
Sports Writer

Frankie Allen's voice quivers just a bit when he talks about George Washington University basketball.

The Virginia Tech assistant basketball coach probably knows more about the 11-5 Colonials than any other person associated with the Hokie cagers. Allen has scouted GW twice this season, watching it lose once and win once. He doesn't look forward to traveling to Washington, D.C. for this Saturday's clash in Smith Center where the Colonials have dropped only one game since the 5000 seat coliseum opened this season.

The loss came at the hands of Rutgers last month, 87-84, in a game, in Allen's words, "GW should have won. They missed about eight bonus shots in the end and that cost them the game," admitted the assistant coach.

Allen peeked for a second time at Colonial basketball this past Saturday in College Park, Md. and left with even higher respect for GW. The visitor's act was awesome as GW, whipped the perennial Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouse Maryland, 86-76. Guard John Holloran, as he has done all season in building a 21.3 point average, led the Colonials' resurgence.

"He had 38 points against Maryland the night I saw him," warned Allen of the 6-1 senior. "He's a 40 minute performer and he plays at both ends of the court. He's one of the keys for us to beat them. We must stop Holloran and send the ball to the other guard — Tom Tate."

Tate, a 6-1 sophomore, averages a meek 2.8 points a game, in Allen's words, "because he's probably their weakest player and he is just a sophomore." The first year starter's average also reads low since he shoots only when a passing option is open and rides himself of the ball as if it is the proverbial hot potato.

"I think if we can make Tate turn the ball over some we can hurt them," warned Allen.

The first move Tech must make to force turnovers from Tate is to keep the ball away from Holloran who passes as adeptly as he shoots. Hokie guards Ron Bell and Marshall Ashford will carry that load in D.C.

"I imagine it will be Bell because of his speed," surmised Allen. "We may alternate though since Marshall is a little taller (6-2). I don't think anybody is going to completely shut Holloran now, but I do think you can do a respectable job on him."

Taking care of Holloran, in the same breathe, means stopping 6-4 junior forward Les Anderson who averages 15.1 points and leads Colonial rebounding at a 9.6 rate.

"A lot has been said about Holloran," explained the Tech assistant, "but in the long run I think the game will be won on the inside. It's going to be one of those games where there's going to be blood in the lanes. Take Anderson; he's a strong leaper and plays very physically. Even against Maryland he would get the ball low and either just go over them or stuff it."

The Colonials' other starting forward, 6-6 senior Jim Smith, ironically carries a weaker point average (6.7) than 6-7 freshman reserve Tom Glenn who pops 8.3 points and pulls down 4.8 rebounds a game. Last season Tech recruited Glenn without any success.

"We wanted him," admitted Allen. "He has a pretty good shooting touch and he can hit 18-footers. When I saw him in prep school (Fork Union Military Academy) I didn't think he was as good as he is turning out."

The final starter for the Colonials, 7-2 center Kevin Hall, may turn into Tech's own undercover ace. Despite the towering senior's height, Hall has managed to pull down only 5.7 rebounds a game this year. The Hokies' 6-10 center, Ernest Wansley, carries higher credentials despite his smaller stature with a 6.9 board average. Allen figures Wansley can control the pivot point, as the assistant coach put it, "because he's a better player than Allen."

Tech's matchup on the inside will find its usual duo, 6-6 Duke Thorpe and 6-5 Phil Thieneeman working against Anderson, Smith and Glenn. Thorpe leads Hokie scoring with a 16.1 average and rebounding with 8.4 snare a game. Thieneeman's 11.2 point and 4.7 rebounding average gives the senior at least a statistical edge over Smith and Glenn.

"I think we've got to keep Anderson and Glenn from hurting us inside to win," said Allen. "We have to keep them off the boards in order for us to run the fast break."