Runners Optimistic

By Charlie Aschmann

Although the Va. Tech cross country team opened its season rather dismally last Saturday, losing to Marshall 19-44, the year's outlook is pretty bright. Coach Russ Whitenack says that he is pointing the team for later meets like the NCAA Regionals in November instead of burning the runners out early.

Despite the fact that Whitenack is emphasizing strength workouts at this point, this year's times have surpassed those of last year. Freshman Jim Elmlinger, who finished number one for Tech Saturday, ran the six-mile course in 30 min. 20 sec. It was the fastest time ever for a freshman on the course and Whitenack feels that Elmlinger" will be a tremendous success."

Other top runners, in order of finish on Saturday are senior Alan Carwile, sophomore Robbie White, and senior Guy Crane. Coach Whitenack said that he "expects a lot" out of Gene Crane, Paul Mundy and Ken Lily also.

This fall's schedule "is no push-over" commented Whitenack. "Marshall is tough as we know, N. C. State was third in the ACC last year, and West Virginia is very strong at home."

Concerning the Marshall meet Whitenack commented: "They were just in better shape. If we stay healthy we should beat them at regionals." He said that he felt that the Marshall coach may have miscalculated and might peak his team too early.

"We run Madison three days after the Lynchburg Ten Miler," the coach, said, "which will give us a good indication of how strong we are." The ten miler is this Saturday and the Madison meet is here on Tuesday.

One of the big plusses for the team this year, according to Coach Whitenack, is having home meets. "Thanks to Dr. McCombs (head of the Horticulture Dept.) we have the finest course in the State," he said. The home course for the Hokies is located on the Horticulture Research Farm on the 460 Bypass across from the Corning Plant.

Cross Country Schedule

Date	Schedule	Place
Sept. 18	Lynchburg 10-Miler	Lynchburg
Sept. 21	Madison (4 p.m.)	Home
Oct. 2	W&M	Home
Oct. 9	UVa, VMI, Richmond	Lexington
Oct. 16	State Meet (at VMI)	Lexington
Oct. 30	West Virginia	Morgantown
Nov. 13	NCAA District Meet	Greenville, S. C