Gobblers, Buckeyes Still Around; Where's DeVoe?

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There's going to be a party tonight at Blacksburg, and the only guest missing will be Don DeVoe.

Everyone remembers DeVoe. He was the coach at Virginia Tech who applied for the Ohio State job last year.

When the action was over, DeVoe was out at Tech, lost the Ohio State job to Eldon Miller and he is now out in the boondocks in Wyoming where his team has a 1-1 record.

DeVoe also lost his last game at Tech to Miller. That came about because Miller's Western Michigan team beat Tech in the NCAA regional tournament right before the coaches started playing musical chairs.

Strange to say, this sequence of events really hasn't crossed Miller's mind as he brings his Ohio State to team to Blacksburg for a game against the Gobblers tonight.

"To be honest," said Miller, "I didn't think about all that. We try to concentrate on things that are important."

That's reasonable and tonight's game is an important one for both teams. Tech is coming off a loss to West Virginia while the Buckeyes have raced to pair of early non-conference wins.

Miller also is unable to compare this year's Tech team with the one his Western Michigan faced last year. That's because he didn't scout the Gobblers Wednesday night when they played West Virginia.

"But the coach that scouted Tech thought they should have won the game," Miller said.

"I know Duke (Thorpe) is a great player and Thieneman (Phil) is outstanding. We were impressed with both of their centers."

Ohio State doesn't present height problems for Tech as 6-7½ Jim Ellinghausen starts at center flanked by 6-6 Clarence Hammond and 6-3 Mike Daughterty at forwards.

"But they're awfully quick," warned Tech Coach Charlie Moir. "They have good pressure defense and get outstanding leadership from their guards."

One of the guards is six-footer Larry Bolden, rated one of the top players in the Big 10.

Moir plans to keep Thieneman at forward where the senior has been more effective. He can do this against a smaller team. Tech will either use Ron Bell or Ron Edwards at starting guard along with Marshall Ashford while Ernest Wansley, a 6-11 senior, will be at center.

Virginia also has an important game. The unbeaten Cavaliers go to Pittsburgh and will be without 6-11 sophomore center Otis Fulton. He'll miss the entire road trip that concludes Tuesday night at Pennsylvania.

Virginia Coach Terry Holland will probably start 6-10 Steve Castellan along with 6-9 Marc Iavaroni and 6-6 Mike Owens on the front line as he shuns the three-guard offense used to whip a smaller VMI club last week.

All this is because Pittsburgh has 6-11 Ed Scheuermann on the front line flanked by 6-8 Michael Rice and leading scorer 6-6 Larry Harris, who averages 22 a game.

The question is what will Virginia do when one of the front line tires or is in foul trouble?

"Who does that leave as a sub?" asked Holland. "That's a good question."

It will come from 6-8 Ed Schetlick, 6-4 Mark Newlen or by swinging guard Billy Langloh to a forward spot.

VMI is also on the road at East Carolina where the Keydets will be hoping to push over the .500 mark.

Starting guard John Krovic is fit for duty after injuring a knee last Saturday night. Keydet Coach Charlie Schmaus might be seeing a duplication of his club as East Carolina, like VMI, runs the motion offense.

Roanoke College will open its home season against Lynchburg College as the Maroons seek their first win. Both clubs enter the game with 0-2 marks.

The big question for Roanoke concerns the status of sophomore center Dave Beckom. He's been in the hospital much of the week with a stomach disorder, but practiced for the first time on Friday.

"We'll not start him," said Maroon Coach Mel Hankinson. "We'll only use him sparingly." Tim Aldinger, a 6-5 sophomore, will start in Beckom's spot on the front line.

William and Mary opens Southern Conference play against The Citadel. The Indians have butchered a pair of college division clubs and now play their third straight game at home.

Richmond and rival Virginia Commonwealth University square off at the Richmond Coliseum. The Spiders will be hoping to bounce back from te a loss to Auburn while VCU is 2-0.

In the Atlantic Coast Conference, Clemson will be a prohibitive favorite for its fourth victory against Georgia Southern at home, Maryland will try to find itself in a home game against tough Princeton, North Carolina State will be looking for its first win at home against Penn State and Duke will get the leftovers of Washington from the Wake Forest game in Durham, N.C.

In the Southern Conference, Davidson goes to Brown, Furman is home to Wofford and Lenoir Rhyne goes to Appalachian State.

Madison College defeated Georgia State 69-68 and South Alabama downed Rider 102-80 last night. Madison and South Alabama meet in Harrisonburg tonight for the championship of the Madison Invitational.

In college division games, Washington and Lee goes to Emory and Henry this afternoon at 2 while Messiah plays host to Bridgewater.