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UVa, VMI Play

Oral Roberts Invades Tech In TV Game

It seems as if Oral Roberts cast his eyes heavenward a few years back and said, "Dear Lord, send me a basketball team to go along with my university," and the Lord reciprocated nicely.

ORU has never really had a poor team, and this season's is no exception. Virginia Tech is very likely going to find that out tonight when the Hokies meet ORU in Cassell Coliseum in Blacksburg.

The game will be televised by WDBJ, Channel 7, beginning at 8 p.m.

Oral Roberts is 12-4 on the season, which is respectable in itself. But what gets ORU the attention now is the scoring of forward Anthony Roberts. Roberts is the NCAA's second leading scorer, hitting for a 31-point average and leading the Titans in rebounds with nine per game.

To give you an idea of Roberts' scoring potential, consider that he racked up 48 points against Bowling Green and 46 against the nationally ranked Tar Heels of North Carolina.

He has scored over 40 points in four games this season for the Titans.

Behind him in scoring are freshman center Chuck Dahms, who gets 11 points per game, and sixth man Arnold Dugger, a former starter, who gets 10 points per game.

Noting that Dahms and Dugger can manage only about one-third of Roberts' output, it becomes obvious how vital Roberts is to the Titans.

ORU's losses have come at the hands of No.1 San Francisco, No. 5 UNC, Austin Peay and Kansas, the latter two being strong teams, also. Conversely, the Titans haven't beaten any team of note—perhaps their most notable win has been against Southern California.

Other Titan victims have been such teams as Quincy, Oklahoma State, Tulsa (twice), Bowling Green and Oklahoma.

Tech, 9-5, will be led by Duke Thorpe, the team's leading scorer with an average of 16.3 points per game. Fellow forward Phil Thieneman checks in at 10.8, with guard Marshall Ashford coming in at 10.6 and center Ernest Wansley with a 10.2 average.

The game will be the first of two home encounters this week for the Hokies, who play Fairleigh-Dickinson Saturday.

In other key games tonight, Duke is at Virginia in an ACC contest while VMI will try to keep its Southern Conference record unblemished in a game against the Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

Roanoke College (2-12) will be continuing a brief midwestern road trip with a game at Indiana State-Evansville.

The Schedule For Tonight

VMI at The Citadel
Oral Roberts at Virginia Tech
Duke at Virginia
Roanoke at Indiana State-Evansville
Western Carolina at Old Dominion
Charleston Baptist at Madison
Liberty Baptist at Elon
Johnson C. Smith at Virginia State
Elizabeth City at St. Paul's