By BOB TEITLEBAUM
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — It’s the little things which count. That is if you figure 14 missed free throws as little. For Virginia Tech they were big. Extra large as a matter of fact because Davidson missed only five and it was the annie oakleys which proved the Gobblers’ undoing.

Davidson won the Charlotte Invitation Tournament here Thursday night because the Wildcats could hit the free throws and it meant an 83-73 win.

Tech got the consolation prize, one more field goal. But it didn’t matter because the Gobblers were right back in their pattern of win one lose one. It’s been that way for eight games and Tech is all even at 4-4.

In the game for third place Rutgers walked all over Georgia Tech 89-64 as the Yellow Jackets earned the booby prize of this tournament for looking the least like a basketball team of the four squads.

Before Hokie coach Don DeVoe saw the statistics, he was unaware of the difference in free throw shooting. “I don’t know what the hell we shot,” said DeVoe who was upset at his team losing.

“Our defense falls apart on us everytime we have to get down to it,” DeVoe continued. And he was right because Tech was two to four points behind most of the game until the Wildcats broke free in the final few minutes.

“We make things go bad for ourselves and then other things go bad. One of them is we win one and lose one. Some day we’re going to lose two in a row and I don’t know what we’ll do,” said DeVoe.

About this time he received See Page 11, Col. 6

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Davidson Whips Tech

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a copy of the statistics.

“They shoot 25 of 30 and we shot 17 of 31,” the rookie coach said in disbelief of the free throw shootings. “How can we beat anyone? We got 12 more shots from the field.

“I don’t know the explanation of the free throws. I guess it’s concentration. We work as much as we can.”

But DeVoe has a sympathizer, in Davidson coach Terry Holland. “Before Christmas we lost a couple of games at the free throw line,” Holland was explaining.

“At N.C. State we were down by one point at half and had made only four of 16 free throws. Several misses were the first of a one-and-one situation. We also made only 13 of 26 in a loss at East Carolina.

“So when we started work this week we were shooting free throws and when the kids missed they would sprint to the other baseline and back.” Obviously this strategy worked and it also kept the Wildcats in shape.

John Falconi finally opened up a little daylight for Davidson in the close game. He hit a jumper with 3:12 left for a 72-68 lead, then stole the ball and got a crip for a six-point lead.

After this the Wildcats slowed things down. Tech fouled. And Davidson was converting free throws to up the final margin to 10.

The game was a victory of sorts because Charlie Lipscomb snapped his slump for Tech with 24 points and 15 rebounds. But at the same time usual leader Allan Bristow came up with his worst night of only 15 points and eight rebounds.

Tom Trice, a starting forward for Tech, injured a knee in the first half and sat out most of the game. The extent of the injury will not be known until the team returns to Blacksburg Friday.

Tech’s next game is right back here Wednesday night.