By CHUCK FRAINIE

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BLACKSBURG — Critics of the Virginia Tech basketball program have said and written that the Hokies could not shoot from beyond 15 feet.

The host Hokies didn’t have to Saturday night when they used a vastly superior inside game to conquer the William and Mary Indians, 87-65, before 7,000 screaming fans in the VPI Coliseum.

The victory raised the Hokies’ season record to 9-4 overall and 5-0 on their home court. They have not lost a home contest to a Virginia basketball team at home since December 1967.

For the Indians, it was their second straight loss and their sixth defeat against two conquests away from William and Mary Hall. Their record is now 5-11 overall, 4-3 in Southern Conference action.

“We lost for the same reason we lost Thursday night,” said W&M Head Coach Warren Hill. “We just couldn’t get the second shot when we had the ball.”

Statistics bore out Hill’s contention as his team was outshot, 34-31, under the boards; 17-13, as the Hokies built their 30-30 halftime lead.

Except for a stretch early in the game when the hosts opened a 16-8 bulge, the Indians were in the game most of the way, although they never led in the contest.

Tech kept the margin at or above the right-point mark through the entire first half, enlarging it to as high as 33 at 35-22 with three minutes to play.

The halftime figures could have been somewhat different, except for some indifferent Indian foul shooting as they converted 19 of 35. Hows came late in the period when the bonus free throw rule was in effect.

Depth played a part in the second half as William and Mary was able to hold the count at about the halftime difference, once closing it to seven points, until foul trouble came into play.

As the fouls built up, Tech Coach Don DeVoe was able to go to his bench and continually enlarge the bulge. The Tribe, with Jeff Tramell, who led the effort with 12 points, out of fouls and its other taller players, Mark Hitter and Jim Warms with four fouls each, simply couldn’t keep muscular Allen Braden and Charlie Lipscomb off the boards.

Tech reeled off 20 straight points in the last 2:35 to produce its widest margin of the night, the one which prevailed.

See VPI Page 3-D, Col. 2-3.