Once ‘Lucky to Win One,’
Hokie Streak Now Four

It hasn’t been the kindest of seasons for Virginia Tech Coach Don DeVoe, who was brought in to rebuild the Gobbler basketball fortunes which had dipped since reaching 20-7 and the NCAA Mid-Atlantic final five years back.

On hand was not the kind of team you build too many fortunes with, but the Gobblers won a few and lost a few and were only down one in the loss column (7-8) when home began beckoning again.

“The road schedule has been vicious,” said MeVoe, who also got a big of viciousness from other directions at times. “I felt we’d be lucky to win one.”

They did, going two overtimes to trip West Virginia.

Then, and only then, did DeVoe, who came to Blacksburg after five seasons as an assistant at Army (when the Cadets were getting NIT bids) and one at his alma mater, Ohio State, which reached the Mid-Atlantic Regional final before an overtime loss to Western Kentucky, see an upturn.

“I told the kids,” DeVoe continued, “that if we played well, we could win nine of our last games.”

They have now played well enough to win four in a row, up the record to 11-8 and now have four of the last seven at home—friendly Tech Coliseum, where they edged Clemson, 48-44, Wednesday.

The latest of the Gobbler wins was Saturday night over Richmond, 82-65, at the Coliseum and was built, to a large extent, on the first-half play of allan Bristow. The Henrico graduate hit 17 of his game-high 29 points and pulled down 14 of his 21 rebounds the first 20 minutes to puch Tech to a 43-25 halftime advantage.

Next in sight? Nationally (No. 7) ranked Virginia (15-1) tonight before a sellout at University Hall in Charlottesville.

; Tech’s bombing of the Spiders was but one of several in the battles fought by state teams.