By BOB KEITLERAUM

Charlottesville, Va. —

Just before last night’s game, the public address announcer told the audience and the University of Virginia basketball team that the Cavaliers were now the No. 6 team in the country.

Pressure? Was the elevation getting to be too much for the Hokies? No, the Cavaliers went out to down state rival Virginia Tech 107-85 and then made light of any pressure that should be associated with being one of the country’s top teams.

“Last year,” said guard Tom Trice, “we just held up in the first half and got blown right back out again.”

The thing for us to do is not to lose to anyone we’re not supposed to,” coach Frank DeWitt feels there is a difference between last year and this season. “Last winter we were awed by being nationally ranked. This year we have more depth and deserve to be nationally ranked,” said DeWitt.

“Just when you think things can’t get any better, they do,” DeWitt said. “So it’s like, ‘Well, we’re so much better than them because there is no way they can beat us. We’re so much more confident.”

What about the Hokies’ leader? That would be Barry Parkhill, who makes most of the burden of Virginia’s ultimate success or failure. “I don’t feel the pressure at all. You get a year under your belt, a feel a lot better. I’m playing better,” Barry said. “I think we’re the best team in the country.”

U.Va.’s Jim Holahood goes in for easy layup past Tech’s Ed Frazier

Tech’s Tom Trice tries to wrest ball from Scott McCandlish, Tim Rash

Virginia Tech’s Ed Frazier Plays Defense In Vain

Virginia had several players who grabbed the spotlight. One, of course, was Parkhill, who led all scorers with 31 points. Another was Holahood, who refused to miss with his long, hopping one-handers. He wound up with 25 points, making 11 of 16 shots from the field.

A third was an unexpected reserve guard Al Drummond. The sophomore came off the bench to put in 14 points—12 of them in the final stretch. Holahood was pulling away from the bewildered Tech bench. “I’ve had a tendency to pass off on a lot of my shots,” said Drummond, the only black player on the UVa. squad. “I was getting down on myself and coach (Bill) Gibson told me if I have the shot to take it. So tonight I took it.”

The Cavaliers have now won 16 of 17 games. They have one more win than a year ago and take on West Virginia tomorrow night in Charleston, W.Va. The Hokies are 11-9 and will face Mary and Larry Williamsburg on Thursday.