Gobblers' Tatem Does Everything Except Win

Yesterday Jack Tatem was, as they like to say wherever sports cliches slip out, doing it all.

But the phrase is more true than trite in Tatem's case. There was little the Virginia Tech pitcher could have done that he didn't.

To wit, the righthanded junior Gobbler limited the University of North Carolina to five scatter singles in yesterday afternoon's game at Blacksburg, didn't allow an earned run, lashed a double - Tech's only extra-base hit of the afternoon and lost the game, 1-0.

That's right, he lost it, and without much help. Tatem broke up the shutout late in the game when he walked UNC's Tom Gillis, then threw wild to first in a pickoff attempt that allowed the runner to third base from which he scored on a sacrifice fly.

In other games yesterday Pembroke State thumped Maryland, 15-11, and Southern Connecticut overpowered Virginia Military, 15-6.

At Tech Tatem would have been happy with a little less "doing it all." His teammates managed only two singles to go with his double.

"We just didn't hit the ball," said veteran Tech coach Red Laird. "That's where we really lost the game."

Only a few days ago Laird was saying of his team, "we have great potential. The statistics show what we are capable of but we just have to be consistent."

The Gobblers have had their ups and downs. After losing five of their first six games on a southern trip, Tech came back to take five straight before yesterday. The record is now 6-6.

The hitting has been particularly good, especially in the infield. Catcher John Van Arnhem captains the team and holds a hefty .385 mark. Frosh third baseman Tony Varboncoeur is registering a .522 clip and Gene Fornash, a first-year second baseman who played high school ball at Henrico, is hitting .340.

Fornash, who got one of the singles yesterday, has impressed Laird with his work in the field and at the plate.

"He hits a lot of line drives," said the coach. "Nobody will keep them all from falling in. And at shortstop he's got range and a throwing arm as good as anybody we've had for a number of years."

The Tech pitching staff has compiled 3.07 earned run average has veterans Burky Cundiff, Tatem and Dave Rowen. Freshman Mike Arrington has struck out 21 batters in 13 innings and may see more action.

One of those trying to nail down a starting spot in the outfield is Richmond's Billy Lukens.