Mike Arrington Stymies W&M, 2-1, As VPI Grabs Laird’s Home Finale

By BOB MINGS
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BLACKSBURG — Mike Arrington still is trying to pitch himself into shape.

The former Bethel High standout took a big step in the desired direction Saturday afternoon when he hurled a four-hitter at William and Mary to beat the Indians, 2-1, here.

For Coach G. F. (Red) Laird, the victory had to be a big one since the game represented his last one at home as coach of the Gobblers unless he has a big chance of heart about retiring.

Virginia Tech ends its 30th season under Laird today at Charlottesville, meeting the University of Virginia, in the final for the Cavaliers as well.

Saturday ends the Tribe’s season at 10-15.

Arrington might well have been more proud of his work at the plate, since he drove in what proved to be the winning run with a seventh-inning triple.

When asked about his hitting, which included a single, he just smiled.

The righthander also tended to shrug off the only run, scored against him, a home run drilled over the center field fence by Corky Bishop in the top of the ninth.

He admitted he threw a bad pitch to Bishop.

The homer, disputed by the Gobblers, who claimed it went through a hole in the fence, might well have tied the game but on the preceding play Hunter Robinson had seen a base hit bid thwarted by Paul Allen at second.

Arrington walked Reggie Kidd following Bishop’s blast and Laird paid a visit to the mound. The trip by Laird must have settled down the former—Bruni because he retired Ferris Allen and Steve Becker for his fourth victory in six decisions.

The triumph tied Arrington with former Newport News hurler Jerry Watkins for most on the Gobblers staff.

Today, Berky Cundiff (3-1) can tie the Peninsula duo.

"When we went to Georgia on our Southern trip (to start the season)," said Arrington, "all the pitchers threw and we didn’t get as much work as we’d like to (individually).

"As a result, after the trip you’re still out of shape and you run into control problems because of that.

"I’m still trying to get my control and once I get that I’d like to get the hard stuff going,” said Arrington.

"The Virginia Tech sophomore used the fast ball a lot Saturday but his curve gave him some trouble. He walked four and struck out six.

Arrington said he may play in the Valley League for college players this summer.

"I also would like to work in the shipyard," he added, "and pitch in the Shipyard League."

Arrington and Mike Bujakowski both looked to be nearly unbeatable the first five innings.

In the last of the sixth, however, Mike Dixon of Warwick, playing his last home game, got the home team started with an infield hit. He went to second on a sacrifice and scored on Gene Porsch’s third straight single.

Virginia Tech (14-10) appeared to have locked up its 12th victory in the last 14 decisions with Arrington’s triple that plated Paul Allen in the seventh.

Ferris Allen of the Tribe nearly robbed Paul Allen of a hit but could make no play after snaring a first-hop line drive.