'OPERATION' SUCCESS

VPI Romps 96-64

By ALAN HIRSCH
Daily Press Sports Writer
LEXINGTON — Virginia Tech’s 96-64 whipping of Virginia Military Institute Saturday night was what one might call the perfect operation.

In dissecting the Keydets, Tech Coach Don DeVoe said he would have to stop top-scoring guard John Krovic by utilizing the defensive skills of Larry Cooke, the Gobblers’ jumping jack junior college transfer.

Not only did Cooke destroy Krovic early with his defense, but the junior stole a pair of passes in the first six minutes and scored six points a Tech zoomed to a 24-8 lead just 8:39 into the contest.

Cooke’s offensive prowess failed (he finished with just 10 points, making 3 of 17 shots), but another JUCO transfer, Russell Davis, continuously poured in points from different distances.

The 6-foot-5 1/2 junior had 14 points at halftime and finished with 29.

When Cooke picked up his third foul early in the second half, though, Krovic led a brief VMI charge.

From the 10-minute mark on, however, it was Davis and company pumping the lead to as many as 31 before the substitutes ran off six quick points in the last 30 seconds to boost the margin to its final 32.

West Point’s Duke Thorpe led Tech with 10 rebounds and had 12 points in the balanced attack.

“I was very concerned about not being able to add to the lead during the first 10 minutes of the second half,” DeVoe said. “We picked up some fouls in potentially bad situations. Mike (Collins) got fourth so early in the second half and then we came back down and Larry got his third.”

DeVoe was more than pleased overall, though.