Tech Loses Two To Richmond

Two disappointing losses to Richmond, sandwiched around three victories, spoiled what would have been a perfect week for the Virginia Tech baseball team. The Hokies won three of the five games they played and raised their record to 21-9.

The two games with Richmond, the first in Blacksburg and the second at the Spiders' field, could not have been more unlike each other.

On Wednesday the two locked-ed up in one of the biggest slugfests matchups either has been involved in for quite some time with Richmond eventually pulling it out, 15-14.

Then, in the return match, it was a pitchers duel with the Spiders gaining the victory, 1-0, with two out in the tenth inning.

The slugging produced a little bit of everything including 29 runs, 36 hits, nine doubles, a triple and five home runs. Tech was paced by Tony Verboncoeur who was a perfect five for five including a double and triple, while Paul Adams had a pair of home runs and a double among four hits. Sandy Hill added a double and two singles.

The home runs, besides, Adamses were hit by David Halstead and Lewis Dillon and Richmond's Rob Mitchell.

But in the game at Richmond on Monday, the Spiders' David Brooks and Tech's Mike Arrington were strong and Richmond finally won it in the 10th when Rob Vernon walked, stole second and scored on a single by Kevin Harvey. Brooks struck out four and limited Tech to just three hits. He had been Richmond's starting pitcher in the first meeting and had yielded seven runs and eight hits in two and two-thirds innings.

Arrington fanned nine while allowing seven hits.

On Saturday, Tech took its second victory of the year over William & Mary in another 10-inning game.

The Hokies won 8-5, on Gene Parnas's two-run single up the middle with two out in the 10th.

Tech had held an early, 4-0 lead, but William & Mary drew even at 4-4 in the eighth inning.

David Halstead got the victory for the Hokies running his record to 9-2.

Sunday the Hokies swept a doubleheader from Old Dominion for the second time this season.

They took the first game, 10-9, behind a 12-hit attack which included home runs by Verboncoeur, Adams and Wayne Shelton. Meanwhile, Jim Puglisi was scattering five hits en route to his fourth win against two losses.

In the nightcap, John Neilson hurled a three-hitter as Tech won, 7-1. The Hokies got home runs from Tom Acree and Adams again. Adams was in the sixth inning with a pitch over the right field fence to score a pair of runs.

In the year's first meeting, the Spiders' Rich Johnson hit a three-run home run in the first inning.

The Hokies stay on the road, traveling to Marshall on Wednesday, but then return home for a doubleheader Thursday with West Virginia. Saturday the Hokies host William & Mary and Sunday they visit Morris Harvey for another doubleheader.