COVINGTON — Virginia Tech continued its recent hitting spree with a dozen hits and Steve Dodd broke the baseball game wide open with a fifth-inning grand slam home run as the Hokies routed VMI, 12-7, here Thursday night.

VMI, playing the Gobblers in a benefit game as its opener, trailed only 5-4 going into the bottom of the fifth when starting pitcher Mike Vela walked Sandy Hill with one out. He also walked Wayne Shelton and a passed ball by catcher Billy Young moved advanced runners to second and third. Dennis Duff was given a free pass and Dodd, hitting .333 but with no homers, sent the next pitch over the fence for a 9-4 Tech advantage.

It was one of three Gobbler homers in the game. Freshman Harold Williams cracked his second of the year, a two-run shot, in the fourth inning and Shelton hit a solo shot in the seventh.