Gobblers feel set for Cavs

By BOB TITTLEBAUM
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BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech Coach Bob Humphreys recalls past trips by his team to Charlottesville.

"One year," he said, "we looked so bad that I didn't even let them stop on the way home for something to eat."

Those days would seem to be over for Virginia Tech, now that the program is strong enough to win with more regularity. But this year the Hokies are 7-7 heading into Tuesday's game at Virginia.

The Hokies, though, are starting to get back in the old winning habit. Tech took a doubleheader from Toledo here Sunday by the scores of 7-5 and 6-1 to give the Gobblers five wins in the last six games.

And even Humphreys is mellowing. If the unthinkable happens and Tech loses to Virginia, Humphreys smiles at what he might do about dinner.

"Well," he said after a pregnant pause to think up an answer, "I'd probably stop. But I might let them ride for a while first."

However, the way Tech is hitting the ball, the Gobblers will be very formidable for most of the teams left on the schedule.

Tech had three home runs in both of Sunday's doubleheader games against catcher Wayne Shelton getting his seventh to start the sec-

ond game rout.

Freshman Harold Williams blasted a two-run shot in the opener that gave Tech a big lead. Then the Gobblers had to hang on through some sloppy fielding to down the Rockets.

In the nightcap, Salem's Sandy Hill, Steve Dodd and Tony Metts joined Shelton in hitting homers. Duke Dickerson got the win as he pitched an eight hitter.

Shelton and Hill were the day's top stars. When Shelton wasn't walking, he was producing. He had a double and a sacrifice fly in addition to his home run.

Hill, hitting only .283 before Sunday, got two doubles and a single in the opener. That helped Bobby Fisher of Roanoke win his first game, though he had to struggle past three unearned runs that sliced a 6-1 lead down to 6-4.

"We have a much better team than we had a year ago," said Shelton as he com-
pared the present Tech club to the one last year that won 33 games and went to the NCAA tournament.

As for Virginia, Shelton doesn't look upon the game as being a big one for rival-

ity. "Really," he said, "it means squaring our record at 7-7."

Humphreys agrees. "They're just an-
other game as far as I'm concerned. I'm no more excited about playing them than another club as long as we even our record."

While Dickerson has had little trouble, Fisher had trouble all the way. He snared a hot liner with men on second and third and none out in the first to save what could have been a big inning.

The tying runs were on base with none out in the seventh when a strikeout and double play ended the game.